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No. 160

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 16, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

IN MEMORY OF DARYL ANN PENNINGTON

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I share the news that a great friend and public servant has passed away.

Daryl Ann Pennington was a dear friend, trusted member of my staff, and a tireless advocate for Maryland's Fifth District.

For the past 12 years, Daryl served as a caseworker in my office in Greenbelt,

Maryland, serving Prince George's County, Calvert County, and Anne Arundel County. Earlier, she had worked for former Maryland State Senator Ulysses Currie.

Mr. Speaker, she knew the Fifth District and its communities better than almost anyone, and she cared deeply about the people who called, emailed, and wrote to us asking for assistance with Federal agencies and help accessing government services. In particular, Daryl was a fierce advocate for our district seniors, but she was also a mentor to countless young people, including interns who came to our district office and learned lessons from Daryl, not only about serving our constituents but how to approach life through perseverance, faith, and positive thinking.

Daryl drew heavily on her personal faith as a member of the Evangel Cathedral in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, for more than a quarter of a century, and as a partner with Dr. Corinthia Ridgely Boone of the International Christian Host Coalition organizing the National Capital Region's Day of Prayer for many, many years.

Mr. Speaker, she believed strongly that prayer was a powerful tool, not only to connect with her creator, but to connect with others here on Earth, to communicate her love for others, and to spread peace and joy to those around her, which she surely did. Her sense of humor, her wit, her warmth will be sorely missed not only by her colleagues in my office, but by all who knew her.

I and all of us who worked so closely with Daryl will miss her very, very much. Daryl had so many spiritual daughters and the many young women who looked up to her over the years as a mentor and friend, but her pride and joy were her five children: Laura, Christie, Toi, Peter, and Lenny, as well as her grandchildren to whom, of course, she was devoted.

A native of Rochester, New York, Daryl made her final journey home in

July when she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and departed Maryland to seek treatment closer to family at the University of Rochester Medical Center. We had all hoped to welcome her back soon, but sadly, Daryl's condition worsened quickly last week, and she passed away on Saturday morning with her family by her side.

Mr. Speaker, Daryl was a true friend and partner in service to the people of Maryland's Fifth District. She will long be remembered by those she helped and by those of us who worked closely with her.

Her passing is a great loss to my constituents, our office, to this House, and to our country. I hope my colleagues will join me in offering her family the condolences of the whole House and the thanks of a Nation grateful for patriotic Americans like Daryl Ann Pennington who serve their country and communities so dutifully and so well.

Mr. Speaker, now Daryl rests in peace with God, whom she served so faithfully throughout her life.

MEMORIALIZING REVEREND BILLY GRAHAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that a familiar figure within North Carolina's history will soon be featured here in the United States Capitol.

On July 22, I came to the floor and spoke about how the first Republican majority in the North Carolina legislature in over 40 years voted in 2015 to replace the current statue of Charles Aycock in the Capitol with a statue of Billy Graham. A week later, on July 29, a committee within the North Carolina's General Assembly unanimously approved a model of Reverend Graham's statue and commissioned a sculptor to create a life-sized model.

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

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



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The level of expediency in this process is a true testament to how Reverend Graham was revered not only in North Carolina, but also across the world. Recently, President Trump has expressed his support for a statue of Reverend Graham to be commissioned, and he even suggested that Reverend Graham would be memorialized in a new statuary park known as the "National Garden of American Heroes."

Reverend Graham came from humble beginnings in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he was raised on a dairy farm in the early 1920s.

During his lifetime, he counseled foreign dignitaries, numerous Presidents, members of the Royal family, and many other significant public figures.

However, his work was not solely consigned to the upper echelons of government or politics. His life's work was dedicated to the millions of people around the world who sought Jesus Christ as their one true Lord and savior.

He once described being a Christian as, "more than just an instantaneous conversion. It is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ."

In 2018, Reverend Graham passed away at the age of 99, and to say that he left an indelible mark on society would be an understatement. For years, I have advocated for Reverend Graham to have a place within the hallowed Halls of the Capitol, and I am so pleased that the millions of people who visit the Capitol every year will soon be able to view his statue.

IN HONOR OF SARAH M. STEVENSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak in honor of the first Black woman to serve on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board.

One of the cofounders and conveners of the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, not only a queen of the Queen City, but one of the crown jewels, Miss Sarah Stevenson.

Sarah Belle Mingo was born in Heath Springs, South Carolina, in 1925, the first of 14 children.

Her life quickly led her to Charlotte where, like many African-American women of her time, she worked as a housekeeper and did domestic work so that she and her family could achieve a brighter future.

In Charlotte, she successfully integrated the school district's parent-teacher associations, and as an activist and mother of four, helped lay the foundation for one of the most integrated school districts in the Nation.

You could have found her across the street from us on October 12, 1970, when she attended oral arguments at the Supreme Court for the *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* case.

In 1980, she won election to the board of education, which she served for 8 years.

Equity in education was always at the forefront of what she did, because even though the courts declared separate but equal was unequal, too many schools in Charlotte were still both separate and unequal.

What she did made a difference. In 1984, halfway through Miss Sarah's tenure on the school board, President Ronald Reagan made a campaign stop in Charlotte at the height of his popularity. President Reagan had a line in his stump speech that won thunderous applause in cities across the country, and in Charlotte, he repeated it, saying that school busing was a failed social experiment that nobody wants.

The crowd went silent. There was, at best, scattered applause. That is because in Charlotte, activists like Sarah Stevenson worked hard so that Black and White parents could come together in support of Charlotte's "finest achievement"—school integration.

She lost reelection to the school board in 1988 because she continued to value equity and integration even as the political winds changed. Her values were more important to her than winning votes. And that is an example that we can all learn from.

While on the school board, she cofounded the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, a group she continues to convene to this day. The Forum can best be described as the pulse of the community in Charlotte. The Forum has met on most Tuesdays for the past 40 years and is a required stop for candidates for public office in Charlotte and those running statewide.

For these and many other achievements, it goes without saying that Sarah Stevenson has earned numerous awards and commendations over the course of her life. I was honored to be with her in 2007 as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership opened the 130-unit Stevenson Apartments in her honor.

But perhaps the greatest honor she continues to bestow on us, the entire Charlotte community, is her wisdom. Not only her wisdom, but the wisdom of the Forum and its 40 years of guest speakers and attendees.

As is said in a Fourfold Franciscan blessing that often starts the Forum:

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war so that we may reach our hands to them to comfort them and turn their path pain into joy.

May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

I thank Miss Sarah, for working for justice, freedom, and peace, and for

blessing so many people with enough foolishness to believe that we can make the impossible possible.

CONSERVATISM DURING COVID

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

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight.

The American people are wondering what Congress is doing to help folks who are still struggling from the effects of COVID-19 on their health and on all of our economy. They see no movement in negotiations, and I have had folks back home ask me, What are you all doing up there? Well, sadly, the answer is, Not much, really.

Some in this Chamber claim that it is us, the Republicans, who have no solutions on COVID. Nothing could be further from the truth. Let me just speak for myself. I have introduced more than a dozen bills with my colleagues. Some of these bills are bipartisan, and they apply time-tested conservative principles to help people impacted and hurt by COVID-19.

These are bills that expand healthcare access. They support workers. They incentivize telework. They assure safe public housing. They simplify PPP loans. Mr. Speaker, they stop stimulus payments to dead people, of all things. They explore temperature checks at airports. They establish flexible funding for States and localities; a bill that holds China accountable, and helps incentivize a safe reopening of our country, and much, much more. Each and every one of these bills has been denied a vote in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the politics of being less than 50 days away from an election. And I get the political calculation that has been made. The Speaker started this year—right there—by ripping up the President's State of the Union. And she seems intent on ending it by smearing Republicans as enemies of the State and blocking any meaningful bills to help hardworking Americans.

But the American people deserve to know that my Republican colleagues and I, we stand ready to govern and ready to pass commonsense conservative policies that will help them make it through this pandemic.

WILDFIRES RAVAGE WEST COAST

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the wildfires currently ravaging the West Coast of the United States.

More than 85 major fires, spanning from Washington State to Southern California are burning, as I speak. Thirty-five people have died, only ashes remain in hundreds of communities, tens of thousands have fled their

homes and many individuals are still missing. Some survivors compare the site of the flames to the gates of hell.

This year alone, California has seen over 2,600 more fires and a nearly 2,000 percent increase in the acres burned compared to this time last year. That is according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal-Fire.

The frequency and intensity are no accident. We used to refer to early fall as “wildfire season” but the threat of these fires is now present throughout the year.

In San Diego and in other areas of Southern California, dry and arid conditions, paired with high temperatures, can make for a deadly combination. The Valley fire in eastern San Diego County, which is now 87 percent contained, burned almost 18,000 acres of land and prompted the closure of the Cleveland National Forest.

□ 0915

That fire started 10 days ago, but smoke and haze across the county are barely now beginning to clear. The air quality continues to pose a risk for sensitive groups. This fire is only the latest in a long history of destructive fires in San Diego County.

I call on my fellow Members of Congress to accept and recognize this truth: Our actions don't exist in a vacuum. The consequences of our actions lead to rising temperatures and more extreme natural events, including hurricanes, droughts, and flooding.

It is not a matter of belief. Yearly patterns show us how these changes aren't natural. They are man-made. They are climate change.

We owe it to every single firefighter and first responder to act on this issue now. Every day, they risk their lives in the blistering heat, not knowing if they will make it back home. We are beyond grateful for their bravery and their unwavering dedication to public safety.

These conditions leading to the devastation on the West Coast are preventable, but the only way forward is through bipartisan partnerships to address the key drivers of climate change. Saving lives, infrastructure, and our lands from the effects of severe weather require concrete and swift action on the climate crisis now.

RECOGNIZING ALICE JOHNSON ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the birthday of an extraordinary constituent and American hero.

She is a World War II veteran, a U.S. Army Corps nurse, a Purple Heart recipient, a proud American patriot, an activity community member, and a birthday card enthusiast.

She is the remarkable Alice Johnson of Rancho Bernardo, California. I commend her service to our country, love of adventure, dedication to the well-being of others, and fun-loving spirit as she reaches this momentous milestone of 100 years.

Alice Johnson was born on September 12, 1920, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She completed her nursing education in 1941.

After Pearl Harbor, she enlisted in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Her unit arrived in Okinawa, Japan, on Easter Sunday in 1945, where she helped establish a field hospital ahead of the U.S. invasion of Japan.

A few months later, eight Japanese Kamikaze planes descended upon the island, and U.S. troops attempted to shoot them down. Alice was injured in the crossfire and evacuated to Hawaii for surgery. She was awarded a Purple Heart after her service overseas.

Later in life, Alice served as a flight attendant for United Airlines, back when flight attendants were required to be nurses.

Always interested in nursing and travel, she accepted a nursing position at a hospital in Aruba. There, she met and married John Johnson, and together, they had four children.

Alice moved back to the U.S. and continued her nursing career at a private cancer practice, at a burn hospital, and as a public health nurse for vision and hearing tests in schools.

After her retirement, Alice settled in Rancho Bernardo, California, near her family, and remains active, attending Hope United Methodist Church, square dancing with friends, and playing mah-jong at the Poway Senior Center.

Her daughter, Elaine, and son-in-law, Bill, reached out to me to share her life stories worthy of celebration as she becomes a centenarian.

I am overjoyed to wish Alice Johnson the very happiest 100th birthday. On behalf of the constituents of California's 52nd District, we honor her selfless service in World War II, her dedicated career as a nurse, and the joy she continuously brings to all who know her.

I wish a happy 100th birthday to Alice. She is a treasure to us all.

HONORING DOLORES GRESHAM FOR HER REMARKABLE SERVICE TO WEST TENNESSEE

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a terrific Tennessee leader, State Senator Dolores Gresham, who will be retiring from public service this year.

My friend, Senator Dolores Gresham, has been a strong leader in west Tennessee for many years, and I have great respect for her strong career of service and her tireless leadership in education. Dolores Gresham has been highly influential in the political, social, and civic life in west Tennessee.

Before she entered public service as an elected official, Senator Gresham proudly served our country as a member of the United States Marine Corps and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

A champion for education in Tennessee, Dolores Gresham presided over and led the Tennessee State Education Committee during a time of great improvement in academic achievement in the history of the Volunteer State.

Senator Gresham has proved to everyone that citizens can make a difference by being involved in community service and by leading by example.

Roberta and I wish her and her husband, Will, the best in their retirement. We appreciate her friendship, and we greatly appreciate her public service to the Volunteer State.

HONORING ANDY HOLT FOR HIS STRONG SERVICE TO WEST TENNESSEE

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and Tennessee State Representative Andy Holt. Andy is retiring this year from the Tennessee State legislature.

Representative Andy Holt has been a leader and an outspoken voice in the Tennessee State House since his first term began in 2011.

Representative Holt's work on the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, his involvement with the Tennessee Farm Bureau—and I can't forget his famous Hogfest—were all critical in bringing national attention to west Tennessee's agricultural community.

Andy has served as a member of the Finance, Ways and Means Subcommittee, which is a vital committee that helps craft the Tennessee State budget.

Andy Holt has also been a strong voice in the Tennessee State Capitol and has never shied away from speaking and living out his values.

He was part of numerous monumental pieces of legislation, such as the enhanced concealed carry permit and the heartbeat bill, and helped successfully repeal a portion of the Tennessee professional privilege tax.

No matter the politics of an issue, Andy Holt always stood up for what he believed in and always put his west Tennessee family values first.

I am honored to call Andy Holt a friend of mine. He truly understands and cares about the needs of Tennesseans, and he will be sorely missed in the Tennessee State legislature.

Roberta and I wish Andy, his wife, Ellie, and his entire family well as he leaves the stage of public service. I thank Andy for his faithful service to west Tennessee, to Tennessee State government, and to the State of Tennessee.

HONORING MRS. SUZETTE MINK'S PUBLIC SERVICE TO WEST TENNESSEE

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Suzette Mink, from Millington, Tennessee, for her strong service to Shelby County government as she is set to retire in a few weeks.

Suzette's service to Memphis and Shelby County started in 1985 when she began working for the Shelby County Trustee's Office. From there, she

worked for the Shelby County general sessions court clerk, the general sessions criminal court judges' office, and then the general sessions civil court judges' office, where she will retire after 17 years of faithful service to these judges.

In 2019, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris awarded Suzette with the Shelby County Shining Star Award. This award is given to someone who has shown exemplary dedication to their job within Shelby County government, and this award was much deserved.

I know I speak on behalf of all of Memphis and Shelby County, and the judges, when I thank Suzette for her service to our community. When I think of true public servants, we talk about people like Suzette.

I wish her and her husband, Derrick, the best in their retirement.

HONORING VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER AT FITZSIMONS

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the staff and residents of the Veterans Community Living Center in Aurora, Colorado. This Colorado veterans home has cared for veterans, veteran spouses, and Gold Star parents for over 18 years.

The staff at Fitzsimons has acted heroically during this pandemic, risking exposure, facing fears, and continuing to show up for their residents and co-workers. Since March, 26 employees have tested positive, and most have returned to work.

This dedicated team has pioneered new ways of connecting veterans to their communities, including drive-by vintage car shows and coordinating phone calls and Skype visits with family and friends.

We do mourn the loss of 25 veterans who lost their lives to the virus and celebrate the lifetime of selfless service all veterans who live at Fitzsimons have made.

It is with pride that I recognize the staff and residents at the Veterans Community Living Center at Fitzsimons.

RECOGNIZING SALUD FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salud Family Health Centers on its 50th anniversary.

Salud was founded in 1970 to serve the migrant and seasonal farmworker population living and working in and around Fort Lupton, Colorado. Today, Salud operates 13 clinics and a mobile unit in 10 predominantly rural communities throughout northern and southeastern Colorado, serving over 82,000 patients annually.

Salud has grown to provide medical, dental, behavioral health, women's care, pediatric care, and on-site pharmacy services. Prior to COVID, Salud also operated 11 school-based sites to

better serve the needs of the community.

Salud's mobile unit travels mostly rural areas during the evenings to provide quality healthcare to seasonal and migrant workers. In its 50 years, Salud has served 2 million patients.

I am proud to have Salud Family Health Centers serving the people of the Sixth Congressional District.

APPLAUDING AURORA MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we observe Hunger Action Month throughout September to applaud the work of the Aurora Mobile Food Pantry.

While the food pantry is a crucial support system to our community at the best of times, it has been a lifeline to those experiencing hunger during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This summer, Aurora Mobile Food Pantry and its community partners, along with over 750 volunteers, provided more than 475,000 meals to our community. In addition to providing healthy food, more than 30,000 community members who visited the mobile food pantry received 37,000 pounds of pet food, 2,800 books for children, 5,400 water bottles, and \$47,000 worth of diapers and baby wipes.

All told, the Aurora Mobile Food Pantry has provided more than \$1 million in food to our community during COVID-19. It serves as a reminder of what can happen when Coloradans come together to support one another in times of need.

RECOGNIZING HEROISM OF MANJIT SINGH

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Manjit Singh.

Manjit Singh immigrated to my district from India in 2018 in search of the American Dream. On Wednesday, August 5, Manjit died a hero.

After his first day of truck driving school, Manjit was with his family and friends at Reedley Beach near his new home in California. He saw three children caught in the current of the Kings River and selflessly rushed in to help them.

Manjit did not know how to swim, but he knew bravery. Witnesses say he helped pull one of the three children to safety and endeavored to assist another.

While all of them have recovered, an 8-year-old girl named Samantha would later lose her life. I grieve for her and her family.

I stand amazed by Manjit's sacrifice, and I am grateful to his community for recognizing the heroism he demonstrated that day. I am inspired by the humanity and compassion that link all of us together.

DELAYED DIAGNOSIS DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during the coronavirus pan-

demic, American doctors, nurses, technicians, and first responders have cared for patients day in and day out. On the front lines, medical teams have worked tirelessly to care for the coronavirus patients under extraordinary circumstances.

Across the country, we formed a united front against an invisible enemy as medical professions of all stripes pitched in to help, from volunteering their time to donating valuable personal protective equipment to the emergency rooms, the hospitals, and the organizations that needed it the most.

As Americans were asked to stay at home, teams quickly transitioned to telemedicine to provide vital care to vulnerable populations. They took the initiative and developed creative solutions to ensure that patients could receive the care that they so much need.

During this crisis, America's medical community has stepped up during and throughout to provide care and save lives. They truly, too, are heroes.

Now, the work continues. We must acknowledge a secondary healthcare crisis that is occurring in our Nation.

Beginning in March, many hospitals, under the direction of national, State, and local authorities, postponed elective procedures with the goal of slowing the spread of the virus and saving the precious PPE and supplies for those who needed it the most.

Americans, following stay-at-home orders, delayed important medical care, and subsequently, too many have suffered negative healthcare outcomes that could have been prevented.

Earlier this spring, I wrote a letter to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, urging him and his administration to prioritize the comprehensive health needs of all Pennsylvanians during this crisis.

In my experience alone, I have heard tragic stories from colleagues whose patients have died from cardiac emergencies, from drug overdoses, and from other negative outcomes that could have been prevented.

Six months into this crisis, we are facing an imminent need to restore America's full access to care, including preventive screenings.

My good friend and colleague, Dr. Bruce Waldholtz, is a gastroenterologist and also a longtime volunteer leader of the American Cancer Society. Dr. Waldholtz, as a cancer survivor himself, understands firsthand that a doctor, a patient, needs preventative healthcare.

As he told me this week: "Due to the COVID restrictions, all nonemergency colonoscopies were canceled for several months. Literally, hundreds of patients in our practice had their colonoscopies canceled. This delay, compounded nationally, will result in less screening and an increase in colon cancer cases right now and in years ahead."

Colonoscopies and other preventative screenings save lives. Elective procedures are not unnecessary, and in

many cases, they find disease early before they can become metastatic and cancerous and spread.

Today, many doctors are playing catch-up as they seek to safely provide care to their patients. As I said, the work continues.

I urge Americans: Talk to your doctors and schedule the lifesaving screenings that can definitely make a difference in your healthcare.

As we continue to combat the coronavirus crisis and its many ramifications, I thank our medical teams for their unwavering dedication to American patients. Despite the obstacles we face, together, we can improve Americans' access to the quality healthcare and, together, we can save lives.

□ 0930

RECOGNIZING TOM SEAVER

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest baseball players to ever play the game, "Tom Terrific" Seaver, a member of the Miracle Memorable Mets championship season in 1969 that won the World Series. He passed away peacefully earlier this month.

A native of my hometown, Fresno, California, that has had a lot of terrific baseball players, no one ever played the game any better than Tom Terrific. He was a graduate of Fresno High and Fresno City College. During that time, he became a first-round draft pick in 1966. But in between that time, he served in the United States Marine Corps.

Of the many seasons that he played in baseball, he had 12 All-Star appearances, won multiple Cy Young Awards, and was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame when he first became available on a near-unanimous decision—a gifted and once-in-a-lifetime player.

As I said, he served honorably in the Marine Corps.

Last year, he retired from public life after being diagnosed with dementia. His passing has been a terrible loss for the community of Fresno and all baseball fans across the country.

Please join me in celebrating the life and career of one good person, Tom Seaver.

DEVASTATING CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to draw attention to the devastating wildfires burning in the West, throughout Washington, Oregon, and California, and other Western States, and, more precisely, this fire, the Creek fire, that is burning near my district in the central Sierra Nevada.

Let me first salute the incredible men and women, the firefighters, the first responders, all of those volunteers who are doing their best, over 14,000 of them throughout California, and many more throughout Western States. They

are putting their lives on the line trying to protect us and trying to protect our forests.

Last Friday, I toured the devastation firsthand and spent 6 hours in the southern perimeter of the Creek fire in the Shaver and Huntington Lake areas. I witnessed the devastating damage that has been done, not only in this picture that is illustrated here, but the many homes that have been lost, as you see here, 1400-degree tornado firestorms that literally melted homes, such as this one here, and many, many other structures.

This summer alone, clearly, has indicated that the numbers of fires that we see, not only in California, but throughout the West, are growing both in quantity and the scope of the devastation. This summer alone, with record heat and extreme conditions made worse by climate change, California has experienced 6 of the largest 20 wildfires in its history—and, sadly, most of those wildfires are still burning.

In the foothills in the high Sierra Nevada outside my home in Fresno, California, the Creek fire continues to grow, and we only have, as of today, about 15 percent containment. But that is similar not only in California but Oregon and Washington and other States, and it is making the air quality something that you have to see to understand and believe. When I left Monday, the air index was 304.

So, what must we do?

We must learn the lessons from these devastating fires, these wildfires. And I think, first of all, it requires much better forest management. We have tried to make changes within the U.S. Forest Service, but much more needs to be done in terms of resources to better manage our forest.

We also must do better land management planning. We have hundreds and thousands of people in the last 30 years living where they didn't live before, and it requires better land use planning.

And, finally, we must address the issues of climate change. When we have extended draught periods and dry conditions, the beetle bark and other factors play into a situation which, in California, from Lassen down to Lake Isabella, we have over 100 million dead trees, and that creates the fuel that adds to the problem.

These are among the lessons that we must learn to better manage our forests for future generations to come.

TREES ARE TRULY AMAZING

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the trees, the forest they call home, and all Americans who live near there.

In the words of the poet Joyce Kilmer:

I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the Earth's sweet flowing breast.
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leaf-filled arms to pray.
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair.
Upon whose bosom snow has lain,
Who's intimately lived with rain.
Poems are made by folks like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Mr. Speaker, trees are truly amazing. Through the remarkable process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide. They store the carbon in the wood, and they release the oxygen back for us to breathe. Trees provide us with clean air.

But just as important as clean air, trees provide us with clean water. Their roots hold the soil together, and as water percolates through, they clean the water.

Forests also provide wildlife habitat. They provide us places for outdoor recreation. Trees provide amazing green building products, like mass timber. Trees provide packaging for shipping. And let us not forget where toilet paper comes from.

No wonder trees are so admired, as they should be. However, our beloved trees and forests in the West have a different image today, one not of grandeur and amazing beauty, but one of fuel in an apocalyptic inferno that is killing people, destroying homes and property, and leaving barren landscapes below and choking smoke above.

Mr. Speaker, unlike the mythical Ents of middle-earth in the "Lord of the Rings," our trees cannot speak for themselves. I don't claim to be Dr. Seuss' Lorax, but if trees could talk, I believe they would be crying out: Hey, humans, stop loving us to death. Hey, humans, we need some relief, and you are supposed to be taking care of us. Hey, Congress, you are killing us, and if we die, you die. Please work together and apply your husbandry skills to give us a chance. When trees win, humans win.

Mr. Speaker, even as the climate changes and fire threats increase in the West, there is hope if we will just do the right thing. That right thing is forest management, and it looks different on different sites.

Here is an example of how it looks in my home State of Arkansas. This is the Felsenthal National Wildlife Management area. You can see an unmanaged forest, the control site. You see the thick underbrush, the midstory and the understory that is too thick. You see the simple management practices of thinning out the understory, doing controlled burns, and at the bottom you see what a beautiful, healthy forest looks like.

Here is an example of how it looks in California. This is an aerial shot from the devastating Camp fire near Paradise. This red hatched area, that is where the fire burned. This dark red line, that is where the fire was stopped.

You can see this little band right here. That was actually a firebreak

that was put in place by a private forestry company to stop the spread of fire onto their land because public lands are so mismanaged.

Here is what that firebreak looked like. It was a thinned area where the fire came in from this direction. It went down to the ground, and firemen were actually able to put it out and save the forest on the other side.

That is what sound forest management looks like. This is not clear-cutting. It is commonsense, science-based management that works.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to act—not after the election, not the next Congress, but now. In the Trillion Trees Act, we have outlined policies to implement the most basic forest management practices to the four most critical areas:

The wildland urban interface where fire can start, but where breaks can be created and we can thin;

Energy transportation corridors. We know fires can start from electric arcs;

Transportation corridors, where trains and cars can create sparks and where more humans are near the forest;

And last but not least, in critical watersheds where the damage is felt long after the fires are out.

For the sake of our forests, our environment, and all Americans, I urge Congress to act. Pass the Trillion Trees Act, and let's be the good stewards that the trees deserve.

STAND UP FOR SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we woke up this morning to another 1,000 souls lost to coronavirus and the Western States are ablaze. Our most powerful weapon for combating these threats is rigorous, unbiased science. And yet this administration continues to suppress and misrepresent the work of our Federal scientists.

HHS officials appear to be tampering with public health bulletins to suit their political narrative. EPA is misrepresenting its own analysts' work to absolve polluters. And just yesterday, the President claimed that science doesn't know about the impacts of climate change.

If science doesn't know, who does?

This cannot go on. My committee has been fighting back. Among other initiatives, we have passed the Scientific Integrity Act to make sure that Federal science is not distorted by politics or special interests, no matter who is in the White House.

As we work to make this bill a law, I commend all of our Federal scientists who remain objective, exacting, and transparent in their research: Don't quit. Continue to stand up to scientific integrity. Your country needs you. We all do.

□ 0945

HONORING HEALTHCARE HEROES AND FRONTLINE WORKERS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our valiant frontline workers and healthcare heroes who have taken care of their neighbors and saved countless lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes nurses, doctors, pharmacists, grocery store workers, truck drivers, and anyone who has risen to the occasion to help others during these unprecedented times.

In particular, Jane Spence, Larisa Barnes, Bobbie Sumner, Amanda King, and Lynn Reynolds have exemplified remarkable selflessness and courage as they work to save lives in the Southeast Georgia Health System.

Throughout my time in Georgia's First Congressional District, I have visited and met countless heroes serving at Saint Joseph's Candler Hospital, Liberty Regional Medical Center, Clinch Memorial Hospital, Memorial Health Center in Savannah, Wayne Memorial Center, and Winn Army Medical Hospital. This has allowed me to gain insight into the daily sacrifices they make and their commitment to serving their communities.

Doctors and nurses who serve at our Veterans Affairs Health Systems are deserving of recognition for their outstanding work, as well.

In addition to our healthcare heroes, I also want to honor leaders and local businesses in our communities.

Individuals like Tom and Rita Boland converted their Island Drapes and Upholstery business to manufacture thousands of face masks a week.

I was also encouraged to see the local nonprofits in Georgia's First Congressional District rise up to address the many challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, the Computers for a Cause movement was formed thanks to the beautiful work of United Way of Coastal Georgia, Keep Golden Isles Beautiful, Communities in Schools, and Coastal Outreach partnering with Coastal Computer Consulting to gather and donate computers for children who don't have access to one.

This allowed countless children to continue their education when schools were closed. These folks were working day in and day out risking their own health and safety and spending time away from their families and friends to serve us.

I want to express my deep gratitude for the work that they do to make America great, and I am honored to call them my friends and neighbors.

HONORING PRESTON G. EXLEY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Mr. Preston Exley of Springfield, Georgia, who passed away at the age of 81 on September 10.

Mr. Exley was a selfless leader in every area of his life who was loved by many.

Mr. Exley worked for the Savannah Sugar Refinery for 40 years and retired in 1997.

Preston loved the Lord, and his life was a testament to that. Preston was an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and served in a variety of roles, including Sunday school superintendent, president of the Men's Group, and a member of the Church Council.

Preston was committed to serving his country through his service with the Georgia Army National Guard for 23 years, and he retired as a captain.

Preston was also dedicated to improving education in his community during his time serving on the Effingham County School Board from 1980 until 1994, and he later went on to serve as Effingham County Chief Magistrate Judge for 12 years.

Included in his long list of pursuits, Preston was a farmer for many years in his home place in Clio.

Impressively, Preston was past president of the Effingham County Young Farmers, a member of the County Board of Directors, and served as the Springfield Chapter President.

Preston was also a loyal family man, who prioritized his family above all else.

I am thankful for the selfless life Preston lived, and I know his legacy will continue in Springfield for years to come. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and all who knew him during these challenging times.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

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

We ask Your blessing upon those throughout our country who are suffering so much, more each day. Keep safe the firefighters out West. Keep safe those who are responding to the destruction of Hurricane Sally on the Gulf Coast. Listen to the cries of those who have lost so much as a result of these natural disasters, even as the COVID pandemic wreaks its havoc in our communities.

Here in the Capitol, impel with Your spirit the Members of Congress who, more than any others, have the opportunity to address our Nation's needs. Give them the wisdom and courage to do so, working as a united force for good in these times. Lord, have mercy. May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SLOTKIN 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.

RESIGNATION AS PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN,

Washington, DC, September 11, 2020.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I am writing to inform you of my retirement as Parliamentarian of the House, effective September 30, 2020. It has been a great honor to serve the House for more than 25 years. I am especially grateful for the privilege of working with a professional and inspiring team of colleagues.

In addition to the daily counsel provided in the chamber of this august body, our office's role in assisting the invaluable work of the House Democracy Partnership is a source of particular pride. The contributions of the HDP to legislative strengthening and democratic reform have made a lasting impact across the globe. The support provided by successive Speakers and the tireless work of Representative Price and the other members of the HDP are manifested in the remarkable strides witnessed in the now 21 partner countries.

I have been humbled to be part of the office's tradition of nonpartisan education and scholarship about the procedures and history of this House—the body closest to the people in our Federal government. From complying with the statutory requirement to publish the parliamentary precedents to hours spent in the Hall of the House with Members, students, and visitors, the office has been steadfast in our commitment to transparency in the “People's House.” This commitment is the bedrock of our democratic tradition.

Finally, I thank my wife and family for their love and support during my tenure.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS J. WICKHAM, Jr.

APPOINTMENT AS PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. With great appreciation to our Parliamentarian, Thomas

J. Wickham, Jr., pursuant to section 287(a) of title 2, United States Code, the Chair appoints as Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives Jason A. Smith to succeed Thomas J. Wickham, resigned.

With congratulations to Jason Smith and thanks and gratitude to Thomas Wickham. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING JAMES BUTLER III

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to remember James Butler III of East Lansing, Michigan.

Lovingly known as the Godfather of Lansing, Mr. Butler lived a life of service that began when he was born into a Navy family in 1943.

His achievements speak for themselves. He was called to serve in the Army, finishing top of his class as a noncommissioned officer at Fort Benning. He served in Vietnam, earning two Purple Hearts and four Bronze Stars for heroism in combat.

However, if you really want to know who James Butler was, listen to the words he promised while serving: “If I make it back, I will give back.”

Well, he made it back, and he spent the next 30 years working at IBM, moving to Michigan and breaking barriers as the first Black man to hold an executive-level position at the company.

Even in retirement, Mr. Butler answered the call to serve, working under former Governor Granholm as the director of the Michigan Broadband Development Authority.

In short, Mr. Butler lived a life of giving back. For his work, he was recognized by too many organizations to list at this time.

But for those who knew him best, Rishan, his wife of 52 years, his three kids and seven grandkids, he was a good and kind man, and he will be dearly missed by all.

CONDEMN LAWLESSNESS AND STAND WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I cannot believe that this week, under the leadership of my colleagues on the Democrat side, under Speaker PELOSI, we are actually going to vote on a resolution condemning people for using the place of origin to distinguish this novel virus. We are going to use our time and the formal declaration of this great body to do that instead of condemning the lawlessness and the violence that is ravaging our once-great American cities.

I think that is unacceptable by all standards. I think we have plenty of opportunity to stand with our law enforcement officers who risk their lives, the law-abiding citizens who are having their rights trampled, and say no more.

I have the David Dorn Act and the Patrick Underwood Act. Both men died, being murdered in cold blood by these violent protesters. This would increase penalties and accountability for the folks who consider even thinking about doing that in the future.

We also have a resolution to condemn this lawlessness. I hope my colleagues can join me on that.

MARKING ADDICTION AND RECOVERY MONTH

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

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, one in seven people will experience addiction in their lifetime.

Last year, over 70,000 people died from a drug overdose. Over the last 3 years, it is over 200,000 people.

Addiction is a national crisis for which we will not find a vaccine.

Last week, I spoke with patients in recovery across western Maryland. The reality of COVID-19 is making recovery much harder.

Today, we are coming together in Congress as Team America for a day of action we are calling Congress Goes Purple.

Together, we are wearing purple to show our support for those in recovery. Together, we are raising awareness to combat the stigma around addiction. And together, we will do everything we can to support those in recovery.

Madam Speaker, to those in recovery, never be afraid to speak up and ask for help.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

This year, an estimated 191,930 men in our Nation will be diagnosed with prostate cancer.

As a survivor of this disease, I know firsthand the challenges families face when they decide which testing, treatments, and coverage options are right for them.

That is why I proudly support legislation like the Preexisting Protections Act to ensure those with preexisting conditions have access to affordable care.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among American men, but the good news is that as innovation and technology continue to evolve, fewer men are dying after the diagnosis.

Identifying signs from the outset is critical so that it can be treated and stopped before further spread. I am immensely grateful to be alive today, thanks to early detection.

I encourage all men in the 25th District to talk with their healthcare providers and participate in regular screenings.

I am committed to helping win the fight against cancer, and together, we can beat this disease.

In God we trust.

BEING BETTER STEWARDS OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, natural disasters ripping through the Nation today are urgent reminders that we must be better stewards of the natural environment, including the Great Lakes.

Yet, recent actions of the Trump administration's Environmental Protection Agency do just the opposite.

In August, the EPA issued a rule allowing the release of toxic metals, like arsenic and mercury, into lakes, rivers, and streams near power plants that use them.

This is the wrong strategy and is bad for America and bad for Americans. For decades, communities across western New York have been working together to bring back waterways, like the Buffalo River, that were once declared ecologically dead due to toxic industrial pollution.

Successful efforts like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative solidified the Federal role to improve water quality in the Great Lakes, restore aquatic habitat, and provide new recreational opportunities for all.

Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose the EPA's destructive policies, and I urge my colleagues to recommit themselves to prioritizing long-term sustainability of the natural environment.

HONORING EDWARD M. BARTHOLOMEW, JR.

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward M. Bartholomew, Jr., for his life of service to the city of Glens Falls, Warren County, and the entire north country region.

Ed served in many important roles over the course of his over-40-year career. He was elected mayor of the city of Glens Falls at the age of 28. He set to work revitalizing the community, making the civic center a success, building a modern baseball park, improving critical infrastructure, and establishing the Greater Glens Falls Transit System.

He cemented his reputation as someone who can grasp all aspects of a chal-

lenge and accomplish his objectives despite daunting obstacles.

In 2010, after spending time in the State senate, Ed returned to lead the Economic Development Corporation of Warren County, where he had been working tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ed Bartholomew was an extraordinary leader for the Warren County community and beyond. He was an absolute joy and privilege to work with, and he will be sorely missed.

I am honored to recognize his leadership in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District. Our prayers go out to his friends and family during this difficult time.

CELEBRATING PHILADELPHIA GAY NEWS

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of the longest running weekly newspapers in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Gay News, which has been dedicated to lifting the voices of the LGBTQ community since 1976.

PGN was founded by a pioneer for the LGBTQ community, Mark Segal, and has provided reliable and accessible news ever since.

PGN has been at the heart of the fight for equality, diving into the challenges facing LGBTQ people and lifting up their voices.

At the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, PGN was vital to ensuring people had the information and resources they needed to make informed decisions about their safety, health, and well-being.

Today, PGN is the largest East Coast LGBTQ newspaper, with over 25,000 weekly readers. In a recent interview, Mr. Segal said that this journey was not without struggle. "At times, we had to fight to keep the doors open," but PGN pressed on.

In March, PGN was awarded a historical marker to honor the remarkable impact this paper has had. Just last week, PGN was awarded the best overall nondaily newspaper by the Society of Professional Journalists.

We are grateful for the leadership of Philadelphia Gay News and its founder, Mark Segal.

To the entire PGN family, congratulations, and keep making good trouble.

□ 1015

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF FARIS VIRANI

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, in his 9 years with us, Faris Virani used his short life to paint a masterpiece.

At 6 years old, he was told he had Ewing sarcoma, a deadly, aggressive form of childhood cancer. He never complained or asked, "Why me?" He was thankful to God for the gift of life.

When his family and friends felt down, he picked them up with his trademark line, "Let's go with the flow." Faris and his mom, Asha, going with the flow.

He knew his short life was going to make this world better, and that life became the force behind his Ewing Sarcoma Center at Texas Children's Hospital that bears his name.

He was frustrated that every September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and its gold color were largely forgotten by the American people. He said: "Mom, when I grow up, I will let there be gold."

Faris, we hear you and, in unison, we say, "Let there be gold."

In closing, Madam Speaker, I will say, in memory of Faris, please, let there be gold. Celebrate this young man's life.

God bless Faris Virani.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORMANDIA MALDONADO

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of a great lady, Normandia Maldonado, an icon in Dominican culture, and my bill, H.R. 3870, which renames the post office located at 511 West 165th Street in Washington Heights, New York, in her name. The bill passed unanimously on this floor.

Maldonado is renowned for her decades of artistic leadership within the Dominican diaspora in New York City. She founded Club Civico y Cultural Juan Pablo Duarte and Centro Cultural Ballet Quisqueya, as well as helped establish the first Dominican parade in New York City.

In the wake of the administration's unprecedented attacks on the Postal Service, I am honored to enshrine Ms. Maldonado's altruistic spirit, fortitude, commitment, and community service with this designation. She was the queen of merengue, the queen of dance and folklore.

PRESIDENT TRUMP KEEPS PEACE PROMISES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday marks an historic turning point for the Middle East and north Africa. For the first time, Arab nations have pursued peace with the Jewish state with the motive of friendly relations with Israel—no land for peace, no confidence-building measures, simply peace in exchange for peace for the very first time.

I was grateful to be at the White House for the signing of the landmark agreements brokered by President Donald Trump between the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Israel. Seeing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu alongside UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan and Bahraini Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani was inspiring.

Under the leadership of President Trump, the Middle East is a new chapter, an opportunity for peace and prosperity.

Thank you to President Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Jared Kushner, and all others who achieved this historic advance for peace.

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

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CARLTON HASELRIG

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an amazing Johnstown, Cambria County native, Carlton Haselrig.

An incredibly accomplished athlete, Carlton excelled in both wrestling and football. In high school, he was an undefeated wrestler and State champion.

At the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, Haselrig became the most decorated wrestler in NCAA history, with a total of six NCAA national championships.

In 1989, Haselrig was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers, despite never having played in a college football game.

Haselrig returned home to coach football and wrestling at Greater Johnstown, his high school. He dedicated his time to the youth in his community, openly talking about his past struggles with addiction and mentoring hundreds.

His wife said: "He never wanted to be the star that he became. He just wanted to be Carlton Haselrig from Johnstown—a family man, a husband, and a dad."

Sadly, Haselrig passed away this summer. Even in death, Haselrig continues to give back, having donated his brain for chronic traumatic encephalopathy research.

May God bless Carlton and his family.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2019

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous

materials on H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1107, I call up the bill (H.R. 2574) to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1107, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 116-502, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 2574

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. RESTORATION OF RIGHT TO CIVIL ACTION IN DISPARATE IMPACT CASES UNDER TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Sec. 607. The violation of any regulation relating to disparate impact issued under section 602 shall give rise to a private civil cause of action for its enforcement to the same extent as does an intentional violation of the prohibition of section 601."

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF MONITORS UNDER TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"Sec. 608. (a) Each recipient shall—

(1) designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with requirements adopted pursuant to section 602 and carry out the responsibilities of the recipient under this title, including any investigation of any complaint alleging the noncompliance of the recipient with such requirements or alleging any actions prohibited under this title; and

"(2) notify its students and employees of the name, office address, and telephone number of each employee designated under paragraph (1).

"(b) In this section, the term 'recipient' means a recipient referred to in section 602 that operates an education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance authorized or extended by the Secretary of Education."

SEC. 4. SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION.

Section 202(b) of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3412(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3), the following:

"(4) There shall be in the Department, a Special Assistant for Equity and Inclusion who shall be appointed by the Secretary. The Special Assistant shall promote, coordinate, and evaluate efforts to engender program compliance with

title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and inform individuals of their rights under such Act, including the dissemination of information, technical assistance, and coordination of research activities, in a manner consistent with such Act. The Special Assistant shall advise both the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on matters relating to compliance with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act. This legislation will restore the right of students and parents to address racial inequities in public schools.

This legislation comes over 66 years after the Supreme Court ruled in 1954, in the Brown v. Board of Education case, that in the field of education, the doctrine of separate but equal has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.

This comes just 4 years after the General Accountability Office found that racial segregation in public schools is now as bad it was in the 1960s and getting worse.

For almost 40 years, the courts interpreted the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title VI, as granting students and parents the right to bring discrimination claims against public schools and any other entities receiving Federal funds for discriminatory policies and practices.

Victims of federally funded discrimination could use title VI to challenge both discriminatory policies and practices that were created with the intent to discriminate and policies and practices that, while neutral on their face, had the effect of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

To be clear, the mere presence of the policy's disproportionate impact does not alone constitute a violation of title VI, but allowing communities to use disparate impact analysis equipped them with an important tool to combat systemic inequities for decades.

Unfortunately, in its 2001 decision in the case of Alexander v. Sandoval, the Supreme Court stripped private citizens, including students and parents, of their right to bring disparate impact claims against schools and other federally funded programs. While this ruling did not invalidate the use of disparate impact analysis to prove discrimination, it reserved that power to pursue such claims to the Federal Government through administrative enforcement of

title VI. In other words, this longstanding protection against discrimination in federally funded programs, including education, can now only be enforced if the administration in power so chooses.

The effect of this ruling on anti-discrimination enforcement has been particularly acute in education. Since 2001, we have seen an increase in racial isolation in public schools and a decrease in resource equity. As a result, African-American and Hispanic children disproportionately attend schools that are both majority minority and underresourced.

Whether this trend has been intentional or not is immaterial, but we do know that discrimination in 2020 is not the same as it was in 1964. Discrimination increasingly comes in the form of coded terminology, structural inequality, and implicit bias rather than explicit bigotry. So students and parents must be empowered to hold schools accountable for policies and practices that deny students access to quality education based on their race, color, or national origin whether or not they can prove the discriminatory policies were intentionally imposed.

Understandably, parents and students have been expressing confusion and frustration because they can no longer use the Civil Rights Act to challenge discriminatory policies and practices in their schools.

□ 1030

By ceding this right to the Federal Government, the Supreme Court majority in *Sandoval* opened the door to civil rights enforcement becoming a political issue instead of a right. While the Office of Civil Rights, the OCR, at the Department of Education is staffed with career attorneys, it is led by a political appointee. This department has repeatedly shown its reluctance to enforce and defend the civil rights of all students.

Our core civil rights protections should not be up for a vote every 4 years. To that end, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act would restore the private right of action of students and parents to bring a title VI discrimination claim based on disparate impact and hold schools accountable for providing equal access to quality education for all students.

The legislation also requires school districts and institutions of higher learning to appoint a title VI monitor to ensure that at least one employee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the law. This includes, at a minimum, investigating complaints of discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. This provision in the bill is modeled after title IX officers in school settings. The legislation's aim is for title VI monitors to foster a culture of compliance, similar to what we now have under title IX.

Finally, the bill creates an assistant secretary in the Department of Education to coordinate and promote title

VI compliance. History has shown that we cannot support historically disadvantaged students or close persistent achievement gaps without robust civil rights enforcement. This is particularly true as public schools become more segregated, more segregated than they were in the 1960s and as the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates inequitable access to quality education for underserved students.

Today, we have the opportunity to restore and strengthen critical civil rights protections by passing the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act.

Nearly seven decades after the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* which struck down school segregation, this bill would bring us one step closer to delivering on its promise of equity in education.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act.

My Republican and Democrat colleagues agree that separate is not and never was equal; racism is wrong; segregation is wrong. I am going to repeat that. My Republican and Democrat colleagues agree that separation is not and never was equal; racism is wrong; segregation is wrong. Although this body has taken measures to ensure racism and segregation are not to be tolerated, its lingering effects still persist.

We continue to strive toward a future where all students, regardless of race or color, have the chance to succeed. While there is more work to be done, the bill before us takes the wrong approach. This bill seeks to create a private right of action for disparate impact claims under section 602 of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI protects federally funded programs and entities from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

While the Democrats will falsely characterize this bill as restoring a right—and, indeed, my colleague has just done that—in reality this bill radically alters civil rights law without giving any consideration to its potential ramifications.

The leftist Center for American Progress called title VI and disparate income impact claims the “sleeping giant of civil rights laws” that are a “potentially powerful tool” to advance liberal goals through activist litigation.

While title VI is most used in the context of education, the law itself is not confined to that issue. Title VI applies to any program or entity that receives Federal funding, which would include education, policing, employment, and healthcare, the list goes on and on.

This is more than an education bill. Despite its far-reaching implications, Democrats deprived the committee of

primary jurisdiction any opportunity to debate or consider this bill. That is a really important point to consider, Madam Speaker.

As the Republican leader of the Education and Labor Committee, the consequences of this legislation within the education community are very clear. The creation of a private right of action would lead to additional burdens on already taxed State and local agencies, especially school systems who would have to defend themselves against tenuous allegations advanced by parents and activists. Through such lawsuits, these activists could require State and local governments to adopt a myriad of policies that Congress and State and local lawmakers never authorized or intended and cost those entities a lot of money paid to trial lawyers.

H.R. 2574 also creates a new special assistant for equity and inclusion at the Department of Education. Rather than create multiple siloed positions competing for resources and attention, committee Republicans believe an integrated approach to the Education Department's equity and inclusion efforts would lead to better results.

Republicans and Democrats largely agree on the importance of equality and integrated schools. Unfortunately, instead of working toward a bipartisan solution, H.R. 2574 is the result of Democrats' choosing a partisan path.

The question is whether in the long run these ideas will have helped or hurt the ongoing effort to achieve greater equality for children. H.R. 2574 fails on this front. Committee Republicans believe no effort to erase the evil legacy of segregation and discrimination can be complete without eliminating the State's ability to trap students in low-performing schools.

Instead of debating this bill, we should look at bipartisan solutions that help expand educational freedom for all families. We know that school choice gives parents and families the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and enroll their child in an institution that challenges them, develops their skills and intellect, and encourages them to reach higher.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentlewoman is exactly right. This will have ramifications that school districts will have to defend longstanding policies where they have a clear, provable disparate impact against minority children but the parents can't prove that it was imposed with discriminatory intent, and this administration won't do anything about it until they are just stuck.

Yes, if this bill passes, the parents will be able to come forth and say that the Black children are stuck in woefully inadequate schools while the White children are not. Yes, they should have to defend themselves if

you can prove it. They ought to have their day in court. They can prove that the policy is having a disparate impact on their children, and according to the Sandoval decision they have to wait for this Department of Education to do something about it.

On school choice, the recent studies have shown that when you don't very carefully regulate it, you can actually have more school segregation in school choice than you have now.

The question on achievement is mixed. There are some studies a few years ago that said on average school choice produced results that were average. More recent studies have shown that on average school choice produces achievement numbers that are worse than average. So that is not a road we should be going down. We should make sure that people, if they prove discrimination, have their day in court.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, our colleagues say that this administration is doing nothing to help minority students. One of the biggest things that we could do to help minority students is to give them a choice about where to go to school. We talked about this yesterday, and we are talking about it again today. Minority students thrive in charter schools. Recent test scores show these students doing much better.

Our colleagues are saying that choice creates segregation. I don't believe that, Madam Speaker. Choice creates the opportunity for success, and we know that. The research shows that over and over again. We can look at New York City and the results that Success Academy is getting for the students there. They are primarily minority students—but it is because minority parents are choosing to send their children there—and they are succeeding. They are graduating at a very high rate; they are going to college at a very high rate. So giving choice to children of all races and all economic groups results in better achievement. That cannot be denied.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the question of segregation of school choice is not what the Democrats are saying; it is what the studies have shown, that there is more likely to be segregation when you give people the choice. That is why freedom of choice was thrown out by the Supreme Court as an answer to Brown v. Board of Education many years ago.

You have Whites choosing the White schools, Blacks choosing the White schools, social isolation taking place, and nature taking its course. That is why you need the right to integrate the schools, and you can't do it with school choice.

Madam Speaker, I think the question is clear. We have a lot of schools where the distribution of resources is done clearly along racial lines, and because you can't prove that it is with discriminatory intent, you can't do anything about it. So that is why you need the bill, and I would hope that we would pass the bill to let those who can prove that they are being discriminated against have their day in court.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I have before me some very, very excellent results in terms of freedom of choice programs, and I would like to share those with the body.

The largest private school choice program in America got more solid evidence of its effectiveness Monday. The lower-income, mostly minority students using the Florida tax credit scholarship to attend private schools are up to 43 percent more likely to enroll in 4-year colleges than White students in public schools and up to 20 percent more likely to earn bachelor's degrees according to a new study released Monday by the Urban Institute.

I don't think the Urban Institute is a conservative group.

The outcomes are even stronger for students who use the scholarship 4 or more years. Those students are up to 99 percent more likely to attend a 4-year college than their public-school peers and up to 45 percent more likely to earn bachelor's degrees. The new findings build on a 2017 study that was the first of its kind, but also more limited.

The previous study found scholarship students were more likely to enroll in college and earn associate's degrees, but not significantly more likely to earn 4-year degrees. However, the 2017 study included only data from public colleges in Florida, and the researchers cautioned that as a result our results may understate the true impact of FTC participation on college enrollment and degree attainment.

Madam Speaker, this is solid evidence that having programs like the Florida Student Scholarship Program is working for minority and low-income students. And I find it incredible that our colleagues continually come out on the side of teacher unions, trial lawyers, and others who want to see gains for themselves but no gains for the children they should be serving.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1045

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, let me thank Chairman SCOTT for his tremendous leadership in putting forth this legislation. But also, just for his staying very vigilant as it

relates to the issues of Black and Brown students in our country, and the power that we need to push back against systemic racism and really what it is, is creeping school segregation.

Madam Speaker, I rise in total support of H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act.

Just a little bit of history of myself. I was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, and schools were segregated when I started school. My family fought with the NAACP, and I believe El Paso was the first city in Texas to desegregate public schools.

Fast forward, my mother, Mildred Parish Massey, she was one of the first 12 students to integrate into the University of Texas at El Paso. I know from personal experience the struggles and the fights that all of us mounted just so we could have access to public education.

And now, fast forward to 2020, segregation in our Nation's schools is growing.

We have turned the clock back immeasurably. It can no longer be ignored. Over the last three decades, African-American students have increasingly found themselves in intensely segregated schools, and we knew unraveling segregation in schools was going to be a long struggle. This segregation, though, is a product of a number of factors, including housing segregation, economic inequality, all tied to structural racism in our country.

But while structural racism pervades so many elements of our society, it is really especially appalling in education, because we know that integrated schools help reduce racial prejudice and tension over the years.

Public education is supposed to be the great leveler in our society. Schools are supposed to be the pathway where hard work and knowledge provide new pathways of opportunity. Instead, this growing segregation fuels the perpetual worsening systemic racial and ethnic wealth gap that exists in our Nation. It robs students of their future, and it makes a mockery, really, of the values of opportunity and the hard work that we hold dear.

And what I think many of us weren't prepared for was the idea that we were going to have to fight tooth and nail now, which was a battle we fought in the 1950s and 1960s. We are fighting those battles again to make our own Federal Department of Education take this issue seriously. My God.

Madam Speaker, for three-and-a-half years, from my seat on the Committee on Appropriations, I have asked Secretary DeVos over and over and over again to take this issue seriously. But after years of dissembling and delay from the Secretary, I have begun to question her commitment to ensuring the rights of equal education for kids in America—that includes Black and Brown kids. And I asked her, does she really care about the civil rights of these young people?

And it is really the refusal by Secretary DeVos to acknowledge the clear evidence of increasing segregation. This is part of the reason why this bill is so important, and we need to act today.

The Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act is one piece of the puzzle to start pushing back on segregation in schools. It allows parents of children most adversely affected by this growing racial and ethnic segregation to pursue legal action against a local jurisdiction to fix the problem.

Without a private right of action, students of color face countless forms of irreparable damage without any remedy that they can use to seek justice.

The bill would further provide that education programs that receive Federal financial assistance must designate at least one compliance coordinator to focus on reducing segregation and investigate complaints.

And so if we truly want to turn the corner, turn the corner on the legacy of school segregation and unequal opportunity, we have a responsibility to put power back into the hands of parents and students to fight injustice and claim their right to a quality public education.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will vote for H.R. 2574, and I thank the chairman for bringing forth this very important bill. I am so sorry that we have to do this once again.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I stated in my opening comments, Republicans do not believe in segregation. Segregation was not good for this country. But segregation was settled, we believe, despite what has been said by our colleagues, by *Brown v. Board of Education*.

I find it very interesting that this bill is about a private right of action and, yet, it has become the discussion about segregation and about, again, Secretary DeVos and what she has or has not done. My knowledge of the Secretary is that she has worked all her life to expand opportunities for low-income and minority students. That is what giving choice to those students and those parents is all about—expanding opportunities for them to choose where to go to school. And we even know that when we expand opportunities and we have school choice, that even the public schools get better.

I just read statistics about what is happening in Florida, the largest place for school choice and for scholarships for low income and minority students to choose where they want to go to school. It shows what a great gift that has been to them, and how poorly, unfortunately, the students in the public schools are doing.

Consigning students to public schools and not giving them a choice is not a good thing. It is totally unfair. But this bill is about a private right of action, which the Supreme Court has said does not exist in this legislation—the legislation that already exists.

What it is is a gift to trial lawyers. And the implication is, from what we are hearing, is to go back to unequal opportunity. That is not what we want for low-income and minority children, or any children in this country.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, Democrats have made a habit of letting bipartisan solutions fall by the wayside in lieu of partisan politics in an attempt to help those who help them. The Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act is no exception. Republicans and Democrats agree on the importance of equality and integrated schools. I am going to repeat that again. Republicans and Democrats agree on the importance of equality and integrated schools. Unfortunately, instead of working toward a bipartisan solution, H.R. 2574 is the result of Democrats choosing a partisan path.

The creation of a private right of action could lead to additional burdens on school systems who would have to defend themselves against tenuous allegations advanced by activist lawyers and does nothing to eliminate the State's ability to track students in low-performing schools.

This bill is designed to score political points rather than build on a history of bipartisan and bicameral solutions to racial inequality and discrimination.

For these reasons, I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 2574, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TORRES of California). The gentleman from Virginia has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to say a few words about what the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found, since the ranking member mentioned the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, by name.

It found that the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, has rescinded critical guidance to protect students' civil rights, narrow the scope, and reduced the number of investigations conducted, and decreased the budget and staffing capacity of the Office of Civil Rights at the department.

The Commission's report indicated that OCR issued 38 guidance documents to improve program understanding of and compliance with civil rights statutes under the Obama administration. By comparison, the OCR under the Trump administration has issued few guidance documents and has instead rescinded critical guidance documents.

Specifically, in 2018 Secretary DeVos rescinded guidance documents in sup-

port of the constitutionally protected use of race in admission or assignments to improve diversity and higher education and K-12.

Also, in 2018, Secretary DeVos rescinded 2014 school discipline guidance packages, which provided local educational agencies with technical assistance through reform, discipline policies, and practices that, although racially neutral, disproportionately impacted students of color in violation of title IV. And it goes on and on to talk about what has been going on in this administration.

Madam Speaker, the ranking member talked about school segregation yesterday. We had the opportunity to do something to help those localities that wanted to voluntarily desegregate their schools. And it was a bipartisan result—21 Republicans joined Democrats in providing resources to localities that wanted technical assistance in how to voluntarily desegregate their schools.

That can be complicated, because in the Supreme Court case involving two localities, Louisville, Kentucky, and Seattle, Washington, voluntary school desegregation initiatives were found unconstitutional. The Court said you can do it, but in this case, you didn't do it right. So technical assistance, legal advice, is necessary to make sure that you can have an effective policy that can withstand constitutional challenge.

Regrettably, 160 Republicans voted "no" to give those resources to those localities that want to voluntarily desegregate their schools.

I mentioned the research on school choice. This is a very simple bill. It just gives the right of those who can prove discriminatory impact on their school systems—they can prove it, it just gives them the right to come to court to prove that they have been discriminated against to vindicate their rights.

It is a very simple bill, and I hope that the House will pass it so their civil rights will be protected.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2019. This bill will take a meaningful step forward to ensure that programs receiving federal funding are upholding a high standard of equality and inclusion—similar to that which our country strives for.

In 2001, the Supreme Court, in its ruling in *Alexander v. Sandoval*, stated that only the Department of Education can challenge schools and other programs over discriminatory practices. In the majority opinion written by Justice Antonin Scalia, supported by the court's conservative bloc, he claimed that students and parents did not own the right to challenge schools and other programs on their practices and policies. Let me repeat that—the Supreme Court ruled that instead of allowing those directly and adversely affected by discriminatory practices and policies to initiate legal proceedings, the responsibility would be

placed on government bureaucrats. Now, at a time when the Department of Education lacks competent leadership, it is more important than ever before to reverse the Supreme Court's decision.

H.R. 2574 rectifies the Court's ruling and would allow students and parents to hold federally funded programs, like schools, accountable for any discriminatory practices and policies that impact people of color through a private right to action within the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It also creates an Assistant for Equity and Inclusion position in the Department of Education, tasked with guiding and advising the agency as to the best practices and policies for students in every classroom across the country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and ask for its immediate in consideration in the Senate.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary and Homeland Committees, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2574, the "Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2019," which restores the power of students and parents to challenge discriminatory policies and practices in schools and other federally funded programs.

In 2001, the Supreme Court decided in *Alexander v. Sandoval* to overturn four decades of statutory protections against discrimination by stripping victims of discrimination of the right to bring disparate impact claims under Title VI.

However, this bill ensures that victims of discrimination no longer have to rely on the Department of Education to take legal action in order to challenge discriminatory practices in their schools.

Instead, individuals will once again have the ability to address instances of racial inequities themselves.

The Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act further protects students by making positive and substantive changes to Title VI, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance.

For example, the bill creates Title VI monitors to ensure that every school district and institution of higher education has at least one employee who is specifically responsible for investigating any complaints of discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.

It also establishes an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Education to coordinate and promote Title VI enforcement in education.

In 1954, the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* struck down the "separate but equal" premise that had allowed segregation in our public-school system.

It has been 66 years since that monumental ruling, yet we still have not been able to fulfill the promise of equity in education for our children.

Over the past few months, the United States has experienced seismic shifts in social consciousness regarding racial inequities that have permeated every aspect of American society.

As the names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice, Philando Castile, and so many others, become synonymous with today's civil rights movement, I believe this bill marks a step forward in the fight for equal rights.

We cannot achieve true racial equality without addressing the systematic discrimination in our education system.

For example, in December of 2018, Andrew Johnson, a Black high school wrestler, in New Jersey was forced to make an impossible choice when a referee told him to either cut his dreadlocks or forfeit the wrestling match.

Although Johnson wore a hair covering for the match, as dictated by wrestling guidelines, the referee rejected the covering and gave the student 90 seconds to cut off his dreadlocks.

In 2016, a Black teenager was escorted out of his high school graduation ceremony in Sacramento, California by three deputies after refusing to remove his kente cloth, a traditional Ghanaian silk and cotton fabric that symbolizes national cultural identity.

Earlier this year, the Barbers Hill Independent School District in Texas refused to change its grooming policy that led to the suspension of two Black students.

Despite public backlash against the policy, which forbids male students from keeping their hair at "a length below the top of a t-shirt collar, below the eyebrows, or below the ear lobes", the school board voted unanimously to keep the policy in place.

These instances of continued discrimination against minority students in our public-school system create a learning environment that is far from equal.

It is imperative to recognize that the existence of these Eurocentric policies in our educational system have a disparate effect on Black students, who are either forced to suppress their cultural heritage and Black identity or forfeit their right to equal educational and extracurricular opportunities.

While on the surface, such policies do not seem directed at specific races or ethnicities, in practice, they often discriminate against a Black person or person of color based on characteristics associated with them.

It is also well known that Black students are more often over-disciplined at school than their white counterparts.

Between 2015 and 2016, Black children accounted for 15 percent of all students, yet they made up 31 percent of referrals to law enforcement and school-based arrests, perpetuating the school-to-prison pipeline.

In Texas, black students in the Houston Independent School District (HISD) were four times more likely to receive a law enforcement referral, which includes citations, tickets, court referrals, and school-related arrests, than their white peers.

According to the Texas Education Agency, HISD is also known for its stark disparities between black and white students in school discipline, with black students being seven times more likely to get an out-of-school suspension.

These instances create a culture of inequality and reinforce barriers to education for students of color.

Without a private right of action to challenge these patterns and policies, students of color face countless forms of irreparable harm, including missing countless hours of instruction, educational opportunities, and relationship development that promotes pro-social growth and positive life outcomes.

Madam Speaker, by creating measures that give agency to individuals to identify, challenge, and change discriminatory practices in their own communities, we are creating an environment where all kids, regardless of race,

color, or national origin, are given an equal chance to learn and excel.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the opportunity we have here today to rectify some of the inequities in our schools and, more importantly, positively change the educational experience for students of color across the country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1107, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

□ 1100

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. I am in its present form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Foxx of North Carolina moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 2574, to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 4, line 11, strike the quotation mark and period at the end.

Page 4, after line 11, insert the following:

“(c) ANTISEMITISM CONSIDERED DISCRIMINATION.—In carrying out the responsibilities of the recipient under this title, the employee or employees designated under this section shall consider antisemitism to be discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin as prohibited by this title.”.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, as you have heard throughout this debate, Republicans agree that discrimination and segregation are repugnant and immoral.

Unfortunately, this bill does nothing to address these problems. Instead, Democrats are trying to sneak in a radical partisan rewrite of civil rights law under the guise of an education bill. However, before the House takes action on this legislation, we have one final opportunity to address one particular flaw in this bill.

On September 11, 2019, President Trump issued an executive order establishing the policy of the executive branch to consider discrimination against Jews to be illegal discrimination under title VI when such discrimination is based on an individual's race, color, or national origin.

If this House is going to radically rewrite title VI, as this bill does, we should use this opportunity to show commitment to combating anti-Semitism.

With anti-Semitism on the rise around the world, the need for this amendment is clear. In fact, here in the United States, we have seen horrific acts of violence against our Jewish friends over the last few years.

In October 2018, 11 congregants lost their lives at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, the worst killing of Jews in American history. In December of last year, a gunman targeted a Jewish kosher deli, leaving six dead.

This motion does one simple thing. The underlying bill requires recipients of funding from the Department of Education to designate title VI compliance coordinators. My motion inserts language into this provision directing such compliance coordinators to consider anti-Semitism to be illegal discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under title VI.

Madam Speaker, we have an opportunity with this amendment to achieve an important goal. We can ensure that recipients of Federal education funding are doing all they can to protect members of our communities from horrific anti-Semitism.

I urge a "yes" vote on my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, anti-Semitism is religious discrimination. As the motion reflects, religion is not covered by title VI. It covers discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. It doesn't cover religion.

While we are picking just one religious kind of discrimination, anti-Semitism, what about the other religions? Wouldn't they deserve attention, too?

This is just a political attempt to insert religion into title VI. That is controversial. Might get support for that, but that is not part of this bill.

This motion just diverts attention from the core provision of the bill, and that is to open the courts so that those who can prove discrimination can have their day in court if their proof is based on disparate impact.

Now, let's not divert attention away from that core idea that people who have been discriminated against ought to be able to get into court. Let's let them have their day in court. Defeat this motion and pass the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and the nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

ENSURING CHILDREN AND CHILD CARE WORKERS ARE SAFE ACT OF 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7909) to facilitate access to child care services safely and securely during the COVID-19 pandemic, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7909

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Child care is an essential service that supports children's early development and allows parents to work.

(2) At least 1 out of 2 child care providers closed at some point during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 2 out of 5 face the possibility of permanent closure.

(3) The lack of access to child care services can prevent parents from returning to work and can prevent children from accessing critical services, including meals.

(4) Ensuring the safe re-opening and operation of child care service settings during periods of community transmission of COVID-19 will require child care providers to adopt new measures and practices in order to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission.

(5) Such measures and practices must ensure the safety of children as well as child care workers, who may be at high risk of infection.

(6) Ensuring that working families have access to safe child care service options is critical to supporting young children's development and to returning the economy back to its pre-pandemic levels.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE SAFE PROVISION OF CHILD CARE SERVICES.

(a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this Act referred to as the Secretary), in consultation with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall provide technical assistance to States, Indian Tribes, and tribal organizations related to the safe provision of

child care services while there is community transmission of COVID-19. Such technical assistance shall include information about—

(A) the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in child care provider settings, including the use of face masks and other personal protective equipment in such settings,

(B) training and professional development on health and safety practices related to the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in child care provider settings,

(C) the acquisition and use of personal protective equipment, and

(D) modifications of child care provider settings and services to prevent COVID-19 transmission, such as optimal staff-to-child ratios across such settings and the use of mental health supports.

(2) MATERIALS.—As part of such technical assistance efforts, the Secretary shall—

(A) publish educational materials related to the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in child care provider settings, including by posting such materials on a website,

(B) update any such materials as necessary to reflect advancements in the science of COVID-19, and

(C) provide a mechanism through which States may exchange best practices relating to the safe operation of child care providers.

(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to lead agencies designated under section 658D(a) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858b(a)) to provide guidance, technical assistance, and support to child care providers, either directly or through resource and referral agencies or staffed family child care networks, regarding the safe operation of child care providers while there is community transmission of COVID-19.

(2) RESERVATION.—The Secretary shall reserve 2.75 percent of funds appropriated to carry out this section to make payments to Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, or consortia of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.

(3) ALLOTMENTS.—From amounts appropriated to carry out this section and not reserved under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall allot to Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to the remaining States amounts in accordance with subsections (a)(1) and subsection (b) of section 658O of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m), except that none of such remaining States shall receive an allotment of less than \$10,000.

(4) REQUIREMENTS.—Each lead agency that receives a grant under this section shall ensure that—

(A) guidance, technical assistance, and support are available to child care providers regardless of such providers' settings, sizes, or administrative capacities, and

(B) guidance, technical assistance, and support are available in the languages most commonly spoken in the State, Indian Tribe, or Tribal organization.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after funds are appropriated to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) recommendations for how to ensure the safe provision of child care services while there is community transmission of COVID-19, including recommendations that address each of the issues described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (a)(1),

(2) recommendations for how to ensure the supply of child care services meets demand during periods when providers implement the recommendations described in paragraph (1), including whether it will be necessary to expand the number of child care providers to meet such demand and, if so, recommendations for how to expand the number of child care providers, and

(3) the estimated cost of implementing the recommendations described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

The terms “State”, “Indian Tribe”, and “Tribal organization” have the meanings given such terms in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2021. Funds appropriated to carry out this Act shall remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7909, the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act.

Access to high-quality, affordable childcare has always been fundamental to the well-being of families and children, so it is not surprising that childcare has emerged as one of the most urgent issues facing families and communities during this pandemic.

I have spoken with parents who are struggling with how you balance kids at home with work at home. I have heard from business owners, economic development leaders, and local elected officials who are worried about the workforce and the economy, and childcare has always been an important part of all of these conversations because it is a key factor in reopening our communities safely.

Many, and in some places most, childcare providers across the country were closed during the early months of the pandemic. But now, they are reopening and working hard to restore confidence and provide a safe place for the children in their care.

Unfortunately, providers have told us that they have received little direct guidance about how to modify their practices for COVID-19 to keep children, families, and workers safe and that the guidance they have received keeps changing and is oftentimes unrealistic. This makes it difficult for pro-

viders to rebuild and to serve the number of children they need to sustainably run their business and survive the pandemic.

It is worth noting that even before the pandemic, this industry operated on razor-thin margins and faced major difficulties.

According to a recent report from the American Institutes for Research and Early Edge California, of the 278 California childcare providers surveyed, 52 percent reported that it was too difficult to understand or follow new requirements during COVID-19, and 79 percent reported a significant need for guidance on how to implement new COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

This important bipartisan bill before us today, introduced by my colleagues Representative FINKENAUER and Representative GUTHRIE, will help meet this need by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to issue educational materials and guidance on how to provide childcare services safely during the pandemic.

Critically, this bill authorizes funding that will enable States to provide direct outreach, technical assistance, and support to childcare providers.

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

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

Madam Speaker, before I begin, I was talking to my friend from Oregon earlier—and also, I know, your home State—and our thoughts and prayers are with everybody on the West Coast. I know some of us have friends on the Gulf Coast. We have citizens of our country, Madam Speaker, that are going through some tough times, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7909, the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation that I introduced with my colleague, Representative FINKENAUER from Iowa, which will provide childcare providers resources and information on how to safely operate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without childcare options, parents can't return to work, which is a key component to our Nation's economic recovery. Additionally, childcare benefits and a child's health and development are critical to building a strong foundation for future success.

Childcare providers, however, are currently grappling with safely reopening and staying open. A recent article in U.S. News and World Report noted tens of thousands of childcare providers shuttered across the U.S., 4,500 in the Washington, D.C., area alone.

In my home State of Kentucky, thanks to the CARES Act, many of our childcare centers have been fortunate to reopen. However, one-third of the

State's 2,200 licensed or certified childcare centers still haven't reopened.

In order to reopen for families, childcare providers must follow certain guidelines and modify their normal routines in order to create a safe environment for children. Now more than ever, childcare providers need assistance interpreting and implementing CDC and State guidelines designed to keep children safe.

My bill, along with Representative FINKENAUER, H.R. 7909, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to work with States to provide technical assistance for childcare providers as they reopen across the country.

In a recent study on technical assistance, the Government Accountability Office found that the current COVID-19 pandemic underscores the importance of Federal agencies providing technical assistance to grantees to ensure the continuity of operations of grant programs and the effective use of funding.

□ 1115

While it is common for Congress to require technical assistance, it is critical that we tailor these directives carefully to ensure grantees are receiving necessary and timely support. We in Congress hear the concerns of childcare providers and are sending the assistance they desperately need.

Additionally, this bill authorizes \$5 million for 1 year for HHS to issue grants to States so they can provide guidance and technical support to childcare providers, and it requires HHS to provide recommendations to Congress on how to ensure there is an adequate supply of safe childcare during COVID-19. It is critical, and not only to children and childcare providers, but also to families who need access to childcare while they return to work.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on H.R. 7909 so that we can help put our country on the path forward. I appreciate working with my colleague from Iowa, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. GUTHRIE, for his kind remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Ms. FINKENAUER), the author of this important bipartisan legislation.

Ms. FINKENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, aptly called the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act. I introduced this commonsense bipartisan bill to help ensure our childcare providers have the information and resources they need to provide a safe environment both for the kids they serve and also their caregivers they employ amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

You see, parent and childcare providers were having a tough time even

before this pandemic hit our country. In my district, for example, parents can't find enough people to provide quality and affordable childcare, and there is an overwhelming demand and just not enough care available. This is an industry struggling with a shrinking workforce, low wages, and razor-thin margins.

And for myself personally, growing up in Iowa, I went to college in Iowa; and I saw, after college and even after high school, a lot of my friends move away and go to States where they could make more money and pay off their student loan debt.

Right now they are in their thirties, around my age, getting married, wanting to have kids, wanting to move back home, and one of the barriers to doing it is access to childcare.

So, again, this has been an issue that we have dealt with for a long time, before this pandemic even hit. But now, on top of everything, we are asking our childcare providers to keep our kids safe during this pandemic. In my State, cases continue to rise, but many folks have no choice but to return to work.

Right now, I am worried that we are headed in the wrong direction. Roughly 60 percent of childcare providers have actually closed their doors because of the pandemic, and there is a chance that up to half of those closures will actually be permanent.

Earlier this year, we passed legislation to create a \$50 billion childcare stabilization fund, which passed with bipartisan support. This will help address some of the intense financial pressure facing our providers right now, but the problem is still more complicated. We must give the providers the guidance and also the support that they need to protect the health and safety of our children, families, and frontline workers.

That is where the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act comes in. We want to make sure childcare providers are equipped to keep kids safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are going to do that by ensuring there is practical safety guidance and technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We also want to make sure that this guidance actually reaches childcare providers and that providers get the help they need in implementing best practices. That is why our bill would also create grants so States can reach out to providers and provide the technical support they need to succeed.

This bill recognizes the unprecedented demands being put on our childcare providers. We simply cannot expect them to do this alone when they are already up against so much.

When it comes to addressing the childcare crisis which existed, again, well before COVID-19 hit our country, I am happy to say that I have found many partners on both sides of the aisle who are willing to tackle this issue for hardworking families.

Thank you to the great group of bipartisan colleagues who are joining me in tackling this problem and who worked with me to craft this bill. This includes my colead, Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE of Kentucky.

There is an understanding here that if parents don't have access to quality and affordable childcare, then they will start passing up economic opportunities. Sometimes it is turning down a promotion or, in other cases, that means leaving the workforce altogether. We see this far too often, especially in rural districts like mine.

It is clear that the childcare industry is critical to recovering from this pandemic and the economic situation it created. Providing help and technical assistance now will take a burden off our providers amid the many challenges, again, that they face during the pandemic.

This bipartisan bill before you today is common sense, and it is something that folks across the country are asking for. So I urge you to vote "yes" on the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), a member of the committee and a good friend.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting America's childcare providers and the essential services they provide to our Nation's families.

As millions of families have learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, childcare is a critical component of our national economy. In addition to the significant benefits that childcare provides for children's social and emotional development, access to reliable childcare continues to play a vital role in America's economic recovery.

As parents return to work, they need to be sure that their children will be looked after and kept safe. The Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020, H.R. 7909, would make these assurances to families by equipping childcare providers with the resources they need to perform their jobs safely and effectively.

This legislation would provide funding for States to implement technical support and training programs to assist childcare providers in meeting safety guidelines and acquiring personal protective equipment.

Childcare providers have supported millions of American families, providing an essential service during good times and bad. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7909.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, may I please inquire how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Oregon has 13 minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I really thank the gentlewoman for her

leadership on these issues. Thank you so very much for allowing me this time. As well, to the chairman of the committee, ranking member, and to Ms. FINKENAUER and the gentleman from Kentucky, let me thank them for their leadership, and I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Madam Speaker, let me indicate how important this legislation is. Twelve Utah childcare students were infected with COVID-19. They infected another 12; one of them was a parent who had to go to a hospital.

The Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020 is vital and long overdue. This bill requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide educational materials and technical assistance to States related to the safe provision of childcare services during COVID-19.

With this bill, childcare facilities not only receive information on COVID-19 prevention, but also professional development for providers on health and safety, as well as guidance on the acquisition and use of personal protective equipment.

We heard this a lot in my district: No PPE.

It also instructs HHS to recommend additional steps to Congress about ensuring the safe provision and adequate supply of childcare during COVID-19, including whether and how to expand the supply of childcare to meet demand. There is a demand. It is crucial.

In addition, according to The Washington Post, before the coronavirus pandemic, approximately one-third of all children under age 5 attended a paid care facility, daycare center, preschool, or prekindergarten. In 2019, there were 15 million-plus children living with a single mother and approximately 3 million children living with a single father.

This is crucial because, as things open up, children and schools are all going to be intermingling, and these childcare workers are vital to what we do and how we provide for these hardworking parents and to protect these children.

And now we know. It has been disabused that at any point children are not infectious. That is no longer a fact. It is not a fact. It is not true. They are infectious and they can transmit COVID-19.

Let me take a moment to speak quickly to H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2019.

That bill passed, but it restores the power of students and parents to challenge discriminatory policies and practices in schools and other federally funded programs. We know what happened to this young man who wanted to wrestle. What a humiliating situation when, on the wrestling floor, in the competition, a coach had to cut his hair off.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 7909.

I also rise to support H.R. 3659, Danny's Law, that deals with bullying,

and, as well, H.R. 8162, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues and ask my colleagues to support the legislation.

Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor and Founding Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7909, the "Ensuring Child and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020," which requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide educational materials and technical assistance to states related to the safe provision of child care services during COVID-19. Despite their vital role during the pandemic, child care providers have received insufficient actionable guidance on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while providing high-quality care.

With this bill, child care facilities not only receive information on COVID-19 prevention but also professional development for providers on health and safety as well as guidance on the acquisition and use of personal protective equipment. It also instructs HHS to recommend additional steps to Congress about ensuring the safe provision and adequate supply of childcare during COVID-19, including whether and how to expand the supply of child care to meet demand.

As an increasing number of states open up and more individuals return to work, parents are relying on child care facilities once again, making the need for proper guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at child care services more essential than ever. As of this morning, the United States has over 6,606,859 cases of coronavirus and over 195,961 related deaths. Adequate and updated information is key to getting control over this disease, and we must ensure that this guidance is easily and readily accessible to all.

It is no secret that the child care sector provides an immense public value to our society and our economy. According to the Washington Post, before the coronavirus pandemic, approximately one-third of all children under age 5 attended a paid care facility, day-care center, preschool or prekindergarten.

Child care plays a crucial role in the lives of working parents, especially in single parent households. In 2019, there were about 15.76 million children living with a single mother and approximately 3.23 million children living with a single father in the United States. We must never forget that child care is often a lifeline to single, working parents that allows them to balance both their parenting and professional responsibilities.

I am proud to be a leader on this critical piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues from both parties to join me in voting to pass H.R. 7909.

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

Madam Speaker, in these challenging times, childcare providers, especially those who run small operations, are at risk of shutting their doors. The call for Congress to act is loud and clear.

With the additional health and safety requirements providers are expected to navigate, it is important to help them implement these requirements so the children in their care remain safe and free from harm. H.R. 7909 will ensure

that childcare providers receive guidance and assistance to safely operate so that parents can return to work and our economy can continue to recover. I think most of the people, when I am back home, are just looking to return to normal, and this moves that forward.

For these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 7909, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I wish to once again thank Representatives FINKENAUER and GUTHRIE for their leadership in crafting this urgently needed bipartisan bill and all of my colleagues who have spoken in support of the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act. This is such an important issue.

Today's children are tomorrow's leaders. This bill will help make sure that childcare providers who are entrusted with the health, safety, and development of our Nation's very future have the support they need to succeed.

I also want to note, as my colleague from Iowa noted, that the consideration of this bill comes after the House passage of the Child Care is Essential Act, which will provide \$50 billion in direct grant funding to help childcare providers cover operating expenses, purchase PPE and cleaning supplies, pay providers through the pandemic and beyond, and, importantly, give struggling parents relief from high-cost copayments and tuition.

This is a good investment in our children, our families, our economy, and our future. I continue to urge Senator MCCONNELL and the full Senate to take up the Child Care is Essential Act, as well as this excellent bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation before us today, H.R. 7909, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7909, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1130

CHILD CARE PROTECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2683) to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring

requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2683

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child Care Protection Improvement Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. TASK FORCE TO ASSIST IN IMPROVING CHILD SAFETY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a task force, to be known as the Interagency Task Force for Child Safety (referred to in this section as the "Task Force") to identify, evaluate, and recommend best practices and technical assistance to assist Federal and State agencies in fully implementing the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f(b)) for child care staff members.

(b) COMPOSITION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint the members of the Task Force, which shall—

(1) consist of only Federal officers and employees; and

(2) include—

(A) the Director of the Office of Child Care of the Department of Health and Human Services (or the Director's designee), the Associate Commissioner of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services (or the Associate Commissioner's designee), and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (or the Director's designee); and

(B) such other Federal officers and employees (or their designees) as may be appointed by the President.

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the Task Force shall be the Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(d) CONSULTATION.—The Task Force shall consult with representatives from State child care agencies, State child protective services, State criminal justice agencies, providers of child care services, including providers in the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders on identifying problems in implementing, and proposing solutions to implement, the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, as described in that section. Such consultation shall include consultation with State agencies that are at different stages of such implementation.

(e) TASK FORCE DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

(1) develop recommendations for improving implementation of the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, including recommendations about how the Task Force and member agencies will collaborate and coordinate efforts to implement such requirements, as described in that section; and

(2) develop recommendations in which the Task Force identifies best practices and evaluates technical assistance to assist relevant Federal and State agencies in implementing section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, which identification and evaluation shall include—

(A) an analysis of available research and information at the Federal and State levels regarding the status of the interstate requirements of that section for child care staff members who have resided in one or

more States during the previous 5 years and who seek employment in a child care program in a different State;

(B) a list of State agencies that are not responding to interstate requests covered by that section for relevant information on child care staff members;

(C) identification of the challenges State agencies are experiencing in responding to such interstate requests;

(D) an analysis of the length of time it takes the State agencies in a State to receive such results from State agencies in another State in response to such an interstate request, in accordance with that section;

(E) an analysis of the average processing time for the interstate requests, in accordance with that section;

(F) identification of any fees (and entities responsible for paying any such fees) associated with the interstate requests in each State to meet requirements, in accordance with section 658H of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f), including identification of—

(i) the extent to which such fees are consistent with subsection (f) of that section; and

(ii) information regarding factors that impact such fees;

(G) a list of States that are participating in the National Fingerprint File program, as administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and an analysis of reasons States have or have not chosen to participate in the program, including barriers to participation such as barriers related to State regulatory requirements and statutes; and

(H) a list of States that have closed record laws or systems that prevent the States from sharing complete criminal records data or information with State agencies in another State.

(f) MEETINGS.—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Task Force shall hold its first meeting.

(g) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the first meeting of the Task Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a final report containing all of the recommendations required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (e). The report shall also include a list of the members of the Task Force, the agencies such members represent, and the individuals and entities with whom the Task Force consulted under subsection (d).

(h) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS.—A member of the Task Force shall serve without compensation in addition to any compensation received for the service of the member as an officer or employee of the United States.

(i) EXEMPTION FROM FACAs.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

(j) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate 1 year after submitting its final report under subsection (g).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Over 75 percent of preschool-age children attend some form of early care and education before reaching kindergarten. For this reason, it is imperative that we ensure we are providing our children with the best educators that will give them the best education possible.

The 2014 reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant—or as we will say today, the CCDBG Act—made changes to the original 1990 bill, including adding background checks to ensure that childcare centers receiving funds through the CCDBG are employing quality professionals.

However, in the 6 years since the reauthorization, barriers to background check information have hindered the hiring process for quality childcare providers.

So as of right now, there is no uniform process to share this information across States. Each State has its own set of laws and policies, making it harder for childcare providers to gather the necessary information for the employees that they are hiring.

S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act of 2020, would create an interagency task force that will identify the obstacles in the background check process and recommend best practices to overcoming them.

When children attend safe, high-quality, early care and education programs, they develop the skills that help them succeed in school and in the future.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act of 2020, the same bill offered by my colleagues Representatives MCBATH, KELLER, TAYLOR, FINKENAUER, and AXNE.

In 2014, Congress passed the Child Care Development and Block Grant Reauthorization Act with broad bipartisan support and it required that States conduct specified comprehensive criminal background checks for all childcare staff members.

As part of this crucial requirement, interstate checks must be completed in any State where the prospective employee lived over the last 5 years. However, given the variation of individual State laws and practices, interstate background checks have proven difficult for many States to complete.

With only three States able to fully implement the Child Care and Development Block Grant background checks as of March 1st, 2020, it is time for Congress to determine the root causes of the roadblocks to interstate background checks.

The Child Care Protection Improvement Act does just that by establishing

a task force at HHS. The task force includes the FBI and respective CCDBG Federal agencies, as well as those who are operating State background check systems in order to determine the issues with the current systems.

By establishing a task force, Congress can take action to improve the operability and preserve the resources of the grantees who are already burdened by the red tape in the interstate background check system.

Approximately 1.3 million children receive a childcare subsidy from the Child Care and Development Fund every month. Their parents deserve the peace of mind that their children's caretakers have gone through comprehensive background checks.

While good-faith efforts toward compliance have been shown and incremental improvement has been demonstrated, more can be done to expediently implement these crucial safety measures for our children. The task force established in this bill is a promising step to achieving criminal background check implementation in every State.

I thank my colleagues for working across the aisle in crafting this legislation. I thank Chairman SCOTT of the Education and Labor Committee and Republican leader FOXX for helping bring this bill to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY), my friend and an important member of our committee.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act.

As a father of three and a member of the Education and Labor Committee, the issue this legislation seeks to improve is near and dear to me.

After reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Block Grant in 2014, which passed with broad bipartisan support, Congress added a requirement for States to implement background checks for any childcare employee put in charge of supervising children.

Childcare is an essential service as well as a source of employment for many Americans, so safety and care are of the utmost concern. Parents want to know that their children are in a good, honest, and safe environment.

However, since this reauthorization, implementation has been very problematic. Many States have experienced a great amount of difficulties actually performing robust background checks.

In fact, as of March 1, 2020, only three States have been able to fully implement the required background checks.

If passed, this bill will establish a task force at the Department of Health and Human Services to monitor background checks and to make recommendations for improving implementation at childcare businesses.

Keeping children safe from harm is a parent's number one concern when they leave them in someone else's care.

Parents will be more assured when they know their caretaker and all of

its employees have histories absent of criminal activity, sexual abuse, or any other forms of neglect.

We are facing so many challenges in this Nation at this time, but regardless, we can never stop working to make our children safe.

I thank my colleague, Senator BARR from North Carolina, for leading this initiative in the upper Chamber. I thank my colleagues in the House for doing the same. I look forward to its passage here in the House.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), who has been an architect of this piece of legislation.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act, legislation that is essential to the safety of millions of American children.

I am a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 3986, which is almost an identical companion bill in the House.

Childcare services play an integral role in our society. Families across the Nation entrust childcare providers with the well-being of their children on a daily basis. Every parent deserves the peace of mind of knowing that their childcare providers are passionate, caring, and above all, qualified.

While this is the case with a great many providers, it is imperative for States to be able to effectively conduct background checks, especially across State lines.

Faults in our criminal background check system can leave our children vulnerable to bad actors. No child should ever be placed in the care of an unqualified or dangerous person.

S. 2683 will help States address challenges in implementing background checks required under current law, ensuring our children receive the safest and highest quality of care possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, the childcare industry is critical to the well-being of American families, and each family across our Nation deserves to know that those who are caring for their children have gone through thorough and necessary criminal background checks.

The Child Care Protection Improvement Act helps protect children and gives parents peace of mind when it comes to sending their children to a childcare facility.

This legislation is a perfect example of what Congress can accomplish when bipartisanship and meaningful collaboration take priority over politics.

I encourage a "yes" vote on S. 2683.

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 2683. We must do everything that we can to ensure the safety of our children. Families deserve to know that their kids are being cared for by qualified providers.

Before we close out, I thank my colleagues, Representatives VAN TAYLOR, CINDY AXNE, FRED KELLER, and ABBY FINKENAUER for working with me to introduce the House companion for this bipartisan legislation.

It is so great that we were able to work together to keep our children safe, set them up for educational success, and ensure our qualified childcare providers have access to the opportunities they have worked so hard for.

I also thank the Education and Labor Committee staff for their hard work of helping us advance this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2683, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DANNY'S LAW

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3659) to establish an Anti-Bullying Roundtable to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3659

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as "Danny's Law".

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) This Act is named in honor of Daniel Fitzpatrick, who, in August 2016, when he was 13 years old, tragically took his own life as a direct result of bullying.

(2) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, bullying is among the most commonly reported discipline problems in public schools.

(3) Potential effects of bullying include social and emotional distress, physical injury, and increased risk for lowering academic achievement.

SEC. 2. ANTI-BULLYING ROUNDTABLE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an independent commission to be known as the "Anti-Bullying Roundtable" (in this Act referred to as the "Roundtable").

(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Roundtable shall be to study and report on bullying in elementary schools and secondary schools in the United States by consulting with State educational agencies and local educational agencies regarding—

(1) current policies on bullying;

(2) teacher education on bullying and bullying prevention policies;

(3) parent and student education on bullying and bullying prevention policies;

(4) instances of student violence as a result of bullying;

(5) instances of student self-harm as a result of bullying;

(6) preventative measures in place at State and local levels; and

(7) instances of cyberbullying and practices for addressing cyberbullying.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Roundtable shall be composed of 15 members, appointed as follows:

(A) 3 members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education, and those 3 members shall represent 3 different categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2).

(B) 6 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall each select individuals who represent at least 3 different categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2).

(C) 6 members shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the majority leader of the Senate, and 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader of the Senate. The President pro tempore, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the Senate shall each select individuals who represent at least 3 different categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2).

(D) In appointing members of the Roundtable, the Secretary of Education, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President pro tempore of the Senate, to the extent practicable, shall take into account all the other nominees to the Roundtable to ensure as many as possible of the categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2) are represented.

(2) REPRESENTATION.—The members of the Roundtable shall include, to the extent practicable, at least one representative of each of the following:

(A) Teachers.

(B) School leaders.

(C) Parents of schoolchildren.

(D) Individuals who are at least 16 years of age and who have experienced bullying.

(E) Physicians.

(F) Child psychologists.

(G) Paraprofessionals.

(H) School resource officers or other appropriate professionals responsible for school security.

(I) Specialized instructional support personnel.

(J) Other staff.

(K) Other individuals with expertise working with bullied youth.

(3) CHAIR.—The members of the Roundtable shall elect one individual to serve as chair.

(4) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the duration of the existence of the Roundtable.

(5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Roundtable shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made under paragraph (1) and in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

(6) PAY.—Members of the Roundtable shall serve without pay.

(d) TIME FRAME FOR FORMATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the designated Members of Congress and the Secretary shall appoint the members described in subsection (c)(1).

(e) POWERS OF ROUNDTABLE.—

(1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Roundtable may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Roundtable considers appropriate.

(2) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—Upon request of the chair of the Roundtable, the Secretary of Education shall work with the heads of appropriate departments or agencies to furnish requested information to the Roundtable.

(3) MAILS.—The Roundtable may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon request of the Roundtable, the Secretary of Education shall provide to the Roundtable the administrative support services necessary for the Roundtable to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) BEST PRACTICES REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date on which the Roundtable has been formed, the Roundtable shall submit to the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary shall make public, a report on best practices concerning bullying, including cyberbullying, in elementary schools and secondary schools in the United States that contains, among other items—

(A) recommendations for how to prevent bullying;

(B) recommendations for how to best educate educators, administrators, and all relevant school staff on recognizing bullying;

(C) recommendations for how parents can best address and discuss with their children the early warning signs of bullying;

(D) recommendations for addressing underlying causes of bullying behavior;

(E) recommendations to address bullying of at-risk students, including students who are at greater risk of self-harm; and

(F) examples of successful evidence-based bullying prevention programming.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Roundtable has been formed, the Roundtable shall transmit a final report to the Secretary of Education and the Congress containing—

(A) a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Roundtable; and

(B) recommendations for lawmakers regarding effective bullying prevention policies.

(g) TERMINATION.—The Roundtable shall terminate upon submission of the final report pursuant to subsection (f)(2).

(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—No data obtained under this Act from State educational agencies, local educational agencies, Federal departments or agencies, or other sources, including information described in subsection (e)(2), shall include or reveal personally identifiable information about any individual.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the terms “elementary school”, “local educational agency”, “paraprofessional”, “parent”, “other staff”, “school leader”, “secondary school”, “Secretary”, “specialized instructional support personnel”, and “State educational agency” have the meaning given those terms, respectively, under section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1145

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I was proud to co-introduce this important legislation with my colleague, Congressman MAX ROSE, and I would like to start by thanking him for his work and leadership on this bill and on behalf of Danny and his family.

In 2016, 13-year-old Daniel Fitzpatrick took his life as a direct result of bullying at school.

To honor Danny and to help save countless other young lives, his family committed to advocacy and established the Danny's Angel Network Nurturing Youth, DANNY, foundation to raise awareness and end bullying in schools.

One out of every five kids in this country experiences bullying. The problem has grown and moved from beyond the playground to the internet as students spend more and more time online.

Bullying contributes to emotional and mental health problems for children across this country and, in far too many cases, has driven kids to suicide. In fact, a recently released CDC report stated that suicide of youth ages 10 to 24 has increased by nearly 60 percent in the last 10 years.

This is an issue that deserves our consideration, deserves research, and deserves action. We simply must do more to prevent bullying and its devastating consequences.

Danny's Law would establish an antibullying roundtable, a commission tasked with studying bullying in elementary and secondary schools and producing a report with best practices to address it.

While we cannot bring back those we have lost to bullying and suicide, this commission will give schools and educators the tools to end bullying—something I hear from my constituents far too often, from my schools, from my educators—and it will ensure that every student can grow and learn in a safe and welcoming environment.

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3659, Danny's Law, bipartisan legislation that would establish an antibullying roundtable to examine bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States.

One-third of the world's youth are bullied. This is a saddening statistic.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, students who are bullied are more likely to experience low self-esteem and isolation, perform poorly in school, have fewer friends, have a negative view of academics, and experience physical symptoms and mental health issues.

We all agree that no child should be bullied in any school, and as elected representatives, we are in a position to coordinate on our efforts to support our schools in preventing such mistreatments.

The legislation before us today is named in honor of Daniel Fitzpatrick, a 13-year-old boy who tragically died by suicide in August 2016 after being bullied by his peers.

Before taking his own life, Daniel wrote a note to his family detailing the struggles he faced with bullying and the lack of response by his teachers. This is heartbreaking, and it is unacceptable.

Unfortunately, devastating stories like Daniel's are becoming far too common throughout our country and have lasting impacts on American families and our communities.

Today, we are here to act.

Under Danny's Law, Members of Congress and the Secretary of Education will appoint 15 individuals representing a variety of community members with insight into bullying and its effects on children. These parents, school leaders, teachers, school security, and psychologists will serve on an antibullying roundtable to consult with State and local educational agencies regarding the growing issue of bullying and to discuss prevention measures to reduce its increasing toll on our Nation's youth.

By addressing the mistreatment and harassment of school-age children, we can help create a safe learning environment for students. They are our future. We have a vested interest in giving families, schools, and communities the tools they need to shape young Americans to be successful leaders.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for taking action to combat bullying in our Nation's elementary and secondary schools, and I urge a “yes” vote on H.R. 3659 for children like Danny and millions of others who face bullying every single day.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE), the author of this bill.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank, of course, the chairman of this committee and my wonderful colleague from Michigan for her friendship and her extraordinary leadership.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3659, otherwise known as Danny's Law.

This bill will establish a roundtable of experts and stakeholders to study and report on the problem of bullying in our schools.

This isn't a new problem, but it is one that is increasingly more prevalent and increasingly more complex. Kids today don't just face bullying at school. They bring it home with them as well, home on their phones, home on their computers. It is all over social media.

Addressing this problem will require a head-on commitment nationwide to end bullying, one that involves not just lawmakers as ourselves, but every single person in this Nation, private sector, public sector, everyone.

I hope this bill will be a first step toward instilling emotional literacy in our young people so that they can see the common humanity amongst each other and grow to be empathetic adults.

I sincerely hope that we can model that behavior as well for them. In times like this, when our country is growing ever more divided, we need to be teaching our children not the art of division but how to accept one another, respect each other, work with each other.

Danny Fitzpatrick was one of those people. He was a boy who loved to love. He accepted each person as they are and always found in them a shared humanity.

Society, our society, allowed a beautiful young boy like Danny to be bullied so horribly that he took his own life at 13 years old.

This should not happen in America. This cannot happen in America, not to any family. But his mother, Danny's mother, took her pain and she made it her mission to ensure that no other family experiences this agony.

We cannot get Danny back. We cannot erase his family's pain.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, we cannot get Danny back. We cannot erase his family's pain. But what we can do right here is give Danny's life meaning and protect all of America's children, our children, by passing this bill.

Madam Speaker, I once again want to thank the staff, Chairman SCOTT, and Ranking Member FOXX for bringing this overdue bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues, on behalf of America's children, to vote "yes."

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD).

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3659, Danny's Law, and I thank my friends and colleagues, MAX ROSE and HALEY STEVENS, for introducing this important bill.

Across our communities, a national epidemic of suicide has devastated far too many families. One of the most heartbreaking aspects of this crisis concerns the loss of children to suicide, often a result of pervasive, overwhelming bullying by their peers.

Danny's Law was named for Daniel Fitzpatrick, a 13-year-old boy whose experiences with bullying led him to take his own life.

By directing the President to establish an antibullying roundtable to make recommendations pertaining to bullying in elementary and secondary schools, this legislation would make ending bullying a national priority.

People of all ages, including children, suffer from the effects of unmet mental health needs, with consequences that can be dire. In taking the issue of suicide among children out of the shadows, we can begin to overcome the stigma around mental health challenges, which remain far too prevalent in our society.

In addition to the sometimes extreme consequences of pervasive bullying, students who are bullied by their classmates are not able to fully pursue their education or receive equal access to the academic and social opportunities their schools provide. Preventing and ending bullying will remove this major barrier.

Together, Republicans and Democrats alike, let us pass this bill in remembrance of Daniel Fitzpatrick and in support of his family.

To every young person in our communities who may feel judged or alone, you will never be alone. You are free to be who you are.

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership, and I thank the outstanding cosponsors of this legislation, my friend Mr. ROSE and my colleague from New Jersey, for coming together around a concept that I have had the disappointment and sadness to work on for most of my tenure in the United States Congress, and that is bullying.

I am so saddened that we have to name bills after young people, precious young people, who have taken their lives.

Bullying—breaking news—destroys our children. It not only destroys the person that is bullied—many times, unbeknownst to their friends or their family so that someone could provide them comfort and reaffirm their dignity and their worth because that is what bullying does, it says that you are not worth anything—but it also destroys the bully.

So, I am excited about a commission, a roundtable established by the President to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States. Their report will make rec-

ommendations for combating bullying and educating school officials in recognizing it.

I know how hard school officials work. I talk to my superintendents and teachers all the time. But they miss these things, and that means the child suffers alone.

This bill is named after Daniel Fitzpatrick, a 13-year-old boy who died on August 11, 2016. He was a loving and generous kid who embodied kindness and empathy to all.

He was also the victim of relentless physical, mental, verbal, and emotional bullying. No child should have to go through that.

I have worked on this for a very long period of time. In 2019, I was able to pass H.R. 494, the Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act.

I think these bills need to be passed immediately by the United States Senate and, really, go to the President of the United States.

A child is bullied every 7 seconds. Approximately 11 percent of students simply do not go to school at least 1 day during the school year because they feel unsafe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DELBENE). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her kindness.

In the last year alone, an estimated 160,000 students across the country skipped school because they feared being bullied.

I started out by saying, and let me specifically note, in 2018, 7.1 percent of LGBTQ students were verbally bullied because of their sexual orientation. Twenty-eight or 30 percent of those students were physically bullied.

Let me just say this. This is an excellent bill. It brings us all together. It announces our attempt to respond to Danny's mother, to attack an epidemic of bullying in our schools.

We don't know where it starts. We don't know where these children come from. But we have to help them because bullying destroys the lives of the bully and of the one bullied.

Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor and senior member of the Judiciary and Homeland Committees, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3659, "Danny's Law," which requires the President to establish an Anti-Bullying Roundtable to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States.

The 13-member roundtable will consist of relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to teachers, parents of schoolchildren, and guidance counselors, who will submit a report to Congress on best practices concerning bullying upon 270 days of convening.

This report will provide recommendations for combating bullying, educating school officials on how to recognize bullying, as well as helping parents to address the early warning signs

of bullying with their children, so that we can take a well-informed step forward in the fight against childhood bullying.

This bill is named after Daniel Fitzpatrick, a 13-year-old boy who died by suicide on August 11, 2016.

Danny was a loving and generous kid who embodied kindness and empathy to all.

He was also the victim of relentless physical, mental, verbal, and emotional bullying at school.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been an active advocate for anti-bullying initiatives.

In January 2019, I was able to achieve broad bipartisan support for my bill, H.R. 494, the Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act, which was later passed in the House.

Although some people may dismiss bullying as a normal part of growing up, bullying can be detrimental to a child's education and have lifelong consequences.

It is an epidemic that plagues our country and too often claims the lives of our youth.

In Houston, Texas, a child is bullied every seven seconds and approximately 11 percent of students do not go to school at least one day during the school year because they feel unsafe.

On a national level, 90 percent of students between the fourth and eighth grades report being victims of some type of bullying.

In the last year alone, an estimated 160,000 students across the country skipped school because they fear being bullied by their peers, and many more attended school in a state of anxiety and depression, affecting their ability to effectively learn.

Students who are chronically absent between grades 8 and 12 are over seven times more likely to drop out before graduation and long-term consequences include poverty as well as diminished mental and physical health.

Furthermore, students who identify or are perceived as LGBTQ are often at an increased risk of being bullied.

In 2018, 70.1 percent of LGBTQ students were verbally bullied because of their sexual orientation while 28.9 percent of LGBTQ students were physically bullied.

Youth with disabilities and those who are socially isolated are also considered as vulnerable populations when it comes to being targets for bullying.

Cyber bullying adds an additional layer of complexity when trying to build a safe environment for all youth.

In today's world, our children are exposed to technology at a much younger age, which raises the likelihood of them being subjected to cyberbullying.

Over 80 percent of teens use a cell phone regularly, making it the most popular form of technology and a common medium for cyber bullying.

According to the i-SAFE foundation, over 50 percent of adolescents and teens have been bullied online.

Yet, well over half of young people do not tell their parents when they are being bullied online.

By passing Danny's Law today, we are taking a tremendous, nonpartisan step towards eliminating childhood bullying and promoting more inclusive and tolerant environments for the next generation.

I am proud to be a leader on this important legislation that will undoubtedly improve the educational experiences of the next generation, and I ask all members from both parties to join me in voting to pass H.R. 3659.

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

Today, we are here for one reason, and that is to take action to ensure that children like Danny never feel as if they have nowhere to turn. No child should be subject to cruel treatment from his or her peers under any circumstances, especially in the classroom. H.R. 3659, Danny's Law, is a unified effort to combat bullying and to ensure students have a safe and healthy environment to learn and to grow.

I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for taking a stand against bullying for our Nation's children. I strongly urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 3659 so we can move this bill swiftly through the legislative process and to President Trump's desk for signature.

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

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

I urge my colleagues today to support H.R. 3659.

Once again, I want to thank and commend my colleague, Congressman MAX ROSE, for his incredible leadership. He has taken tragedy and turned it into action.

Our colleagues are absolutely right that this deserves the full attention of our government, and it is why we are taking this to the highest level of our government, to combat bullying.

This bill honors the life of Danny Fitzpatrick, and it recognizes what so many families are working to prevent, what so many families and communities across this country never want to see happen. It will help end bullying. It will protect students across this country, and I look forward to seeing this bill become law.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3659, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS CORONAVIRUS RELIEF ACT OF 2020

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8162) to express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Education

should provide certain waivers to community learning centers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8162

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FLEXIBLE USE OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.

It is the sense of Congress that for school year 2020–2021, notwithstanding each provision in part B of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7171 et seq.) that requires activities under such part be carried out during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session, the Secretary of Education should carry out the exceptions included in the notice entitled "Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; 21st CCLC 4201(b)(1) Waiver Request", published by the Department of Education in the Federal Register on September 3, 2020 (85 Fed. Reg. 55002) by providing that each eligible entity that is awarded a subgrant under section 4204 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7174) for community learning centers may use such subgrant funds—

(1) to carry out activities described in section 4205 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7175), regardless of whether such activities are conducted in-person or virtually, or during school hours or when school is in session; and

(2) to provide in-person care during—

(A) the regular school day for students eligible to receive services under part B of title IV of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7171 et seq.); and

(B) a period in which full-time in-person instruction is not available for all such students served by such eligible entity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise to speak in support of passing the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020, which I recently introduced.

This pandemic and economic crisis have disrupted every aspect of life in our society. As a result of the pandemic, many school districts will provide academic instruction through remote or hybrid learning models this school year. Estimates suggest that this fall, nearly 24 million workers with children between the ages of 6 and 14 will have no at-home childcare option.

For parents struggling to care for their children while maintaining their professional responsibilities or trying to return to the workforce, this time has been an unprecedented challenge. Those of us who have the honor of representing our communities in Congress must act. My commonsense, bipartisan legislation offers a path forward.

My bill expresses a sense of Congress that the flexibility provided to States through the Department of Education's recent waiver for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the only federally funded initiative dedicated to supporting after-school, before-school, and summer learning programs, allows subgrantees to provide virtual programming and school-aged childcare during the workday to help meet the need of students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These learning centers, which typically operate out of Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, schools, and other community centers, have existing trusted partnerships with the school districts that they serve. The flexibility expressed in my legislation will help school districts leverage these partnerships to create options for families and to cultivate environments in which K-12 students could receive additional academic support, school-aged children could receive safe care during the workday, schoolday, and working parents would be able to return to and stay in the workforce.

Over the last several months, I have heard from dozens of parents across my community who are concerned about how they are going to tackle this school year, how they will find affordable childcare, how they make sure their children don't fall behind academically, and how they will stay in the workforce. I am proud that my legislation supports flexible, affordable, school-aged childcare options to create safe, structured learning environments for students to thrive and to enable parents to get back to work.

Right now, families need options and flexibility. Without it, our students, our workers, and our economy will all pay the price. Putting forward solutions to these issues is a national priority, not just for the sake of children and families across our communities, but also for businesses trying to retain employees or hire new workers.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing this legislation with a resounding, bipartisan vote.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8162, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act, bipartisan legislation that expresses Congress' support for actions the Department of Education is taking to expand access to in-person care and academic support for students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020-2021 school year looks very different for parents, teachers, and students. Schools are operating on varying schedules of in-person, remote, and hybrid instruction to ensure that students remain safe while not falling behind academically.

Most students will be saddled with the challenges of beginning a new year of school while making up for lost learning caused by the disruptions from COVID-19.

Working parents of school-aged children face unique challenges during the pandemic. Finding childcare when in-person instruction is not offered has become a burdensome task for many families, especially low-income families.

If these hardworking families aren't able to return to work, our Nation's economic recovery will be severely impeded. Today, we are here to address this growing problem by passing the bipartisan 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act.

The 21st Century Community Learning Center, CCLC, program, is a federally funded after-school program. The grantees are locally operated, often by school districts and community-based organizations, and primarily serve students attending schools with high concentrations of low-income families.

Students at 21st CCLCs participate in academic and enrichment programs, receive support services such as tutoring and mentoring, and their families are encouraged to actively participate in their children's studies.

Since after-school program staff have established relationships with students and have experience providing supportive services, they are uniquely qualified to assist students during the 2020-2021 school year.

Under current law, 21st CCLCs must operate during "non-school hours," such as before and after school or during summer breaks. The Department of Education announced plans to address this by offering waivers to States to allow 21st CCLCs to expand their hours of operation during the 2020-2021 school year.

The legislation under consideration today expresses Congress' support for the Department of Education to grant flexibility for 21st CCLCs to operate outside of this year's constraint for the upcoming school year.

With these new flexibilities, 21st CCLCs will be able to provide programming during regular school hours and offer in-person care to students who cannot be in school throughout the regular day. Further, 21st CCLCs will be able to serve students in person or virtually in order to better accommodate the various needs of the families during the year.

I thank Representative WILD for leading this important legislation, and I strongly urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 8162.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE).

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Nevada's Third Congressional District, I rise today in support of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act.

We are now over 3 weeks into the school year in my district, and it is clear that we need to do so much more to support our students, parents, and schools.

Whether it is at-home or in-person learning, the pandemic is throwing challenges at our kids that make learning more difficult and, in some cases, nearly impossible. This isn't just a struggle for students, but also for parents who are also juggling work while supervising remote learning for their kids.

We can't just ask parents to make the best of a bad situation. It should be on Congress to help our working families. Whether in a school building or in a living room, we need to create a supportive, engaging environment for our students, while giving parents the flexibility to still work and provide for their families—and that is what this bill does.

It will provide additional academic support for K-12 students by offering access to safe, supervised learning during the day to take some weight off the shoulders of working parents. This will be done by bringing together schools, community organizations, nonprofits, local government, and after-school providers to expand access to academic resources and create flexibility for families.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act to give our students and parents the flexibility and the resources they need to make this school year count.

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8162, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, schools throughout Rhode Island and all across America have been forced to close their doors, some for the rest of the year.

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This trend means that high-quality after-school and summer programs will be even more necessary to provide young people with a safe, enriching place to learn and grow. We have an obligation to ensure that these programs have the resources and flexibility needed to meet the needs of America's children.

Currently, more than 2 million children and families rely on NITA M.

LOWEY 21st Century Community Learning Centers for after-school and summer learning programming. With schools across the country closing, many students are unable to obtain services provided by out-of-school programs, including academic assistance, a safe place to be when their parents are working, and access to a hot meal or healthy snack.

We know after-school programming provides one of the most effective ways to keep children safe in the late afternoon and early evening hours and keeps them on the right path to completing school. These programs help students develop essential life skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and healthy living.

Additional flexibility for 21st Century Community Learning Centers will help improve access to these critical programs and will make sure that after-school programming is available to students and families to keep children safe and engaged and to strengthen families and communities throughout the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, working parents across the country are currently grappling with the challenge of finding affordable childcare as COVID-19-related school closures force many students to stay home. Parents are eager to return to work, but without reliable, affordable childcare options, students, workers, and the economy will be impacted significantly.

H.R. 8162, the bipartisan 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act, supports the Department of Education's efforts to extend a commonsense solution that will help parents return to the workforce by increasing access to safe, supportive environments for students. By giving 21st CCLCs greater flexibility to provide normal programming during school hours and in-person care to students during the regular school day, parents can return to work with peace of mind, knowing that their children are in good hands and not falling behind academically.

Again, Madam Speaker, I thank Representative WILD for introducing this legislation. I strongly urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 8162, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague across the aisle, Mr. VAN DREW, for supporting this very important piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 8162. It is legislation that will provide vital support for students, for parents, for employers, for schools, and for our economy as we all grapple with the effects of this pandemic.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 8162, the "21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act".

H.R. 8162, expands the allowable uses for subgrants provided under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program for the 2020–2021 school year.

Specifically, the bill allows eligible entities that are awarded program subgrants for community learning centers to use these subgrants to: (1) carry out activities that advance student academic achievement and support student success, regardless of whether such activities are conducted in person, virtually, during school hours, or when school is in session; and (2) provide in-person care during the regular school day and when full-time in-person instruction is not available to students. (Currently, the program only supports academic enrichment opportunities for children during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session.)

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 threat to health, the spring of 2020, saw the forced closure of all K–12 and post-secondary education institutions in the Nation.

There is an urgent need to meet the education crisis the Nation is facing with an adequate response.

Data from the National Center for Education Statistics shows that one out of every four households in Texas does not have access to broadband internet, and some 8 million homes do not have a computer or a smartphone.

Because of this bill, Community Learning Centers will provide academic enrichment opportunities during school and non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools.

The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

Technological difficulty is just one of the reasons students could become disengaged from the virtual learning environment.

Learning Centers are needed because despite being one of the most developed countries in the world, the United States has one of the highest rates of childhood poverty globally.

Preliminary data on the Houston Independent School District (HISD) from the Texas Education Agency shows 23.4 percent of students lost contact or stopped engaging with learning during the Spring.

This is more than twice statewide average, the total statewide for unengaged students is nearly 500,000.

One key factor is poverty, children born or raised in poverty face a number of disadvantages, most evidently in education.

Poverty reduces a child's readiness for school because it leads to poor physical health and motor skills, diminishes a child's ability to concentrate and remember information, and reduces attentiveness, curiosity and motivation.

Children in poverty are also finding the challenge of keeping up with school work more difficult due to COVID-19.

One of the most severe effects of poverty in the United States is that poor children enter

school with this readiness gap, and it grows as they get older.

Children feel alienated from society; suffer insecurities because of their socioeconomic status; fear the consequences of their poverty; endure feelings of powerlessness; and are angry at society's inability to aid in their struggles.

Children from lower-income families are more likely than students from wealthier backgrounds to have lower test scores, and they are at higher risk of dropping out of school.

Students with low income backgrounds who complete high school are less likely to attend college than students from higher-income families.

For some children, the effects of poverty on education present unique challenges in breaking the cycle of generational poverty and reduce their chances of leading rewarding, productive lives.

In addition to these challenges' children living in poverty often do not have access to necessary computer technology, broadband internet connection to participate in remote learning, or the nutritional support that provides adequate food, which is essential to learning.

We know that this crisis created by COVID-19 was difficult for the Nation's approximately 56.6 million students, 3.5 million full- and part-time public school teachers, and parents.

This bill is necessary as the beginning of the fall school year continues to pose challenges to educating the nation's children.

To meet the challenges created by COVID-19, the HISD school board passed a budget amendment earlier this month to spend \$31 million on devices for students. By the end of the year, the district says it plans to have distributed nearly 125,000 devices and hotspots to students.

The statute being amended only allows learning centers and related grants to be funded when schools are in session.

At a time when learning centers are more important to education because COVID-19 is impacting schools' functioning as the primary source of full time learning we need to act to support this education resource.

Children are depending on Congress to make education possible during COVID-19.

There are: 50.8 million students in public schools, and 5.8 million students in private schools.

Among the 50.8 million students enrolled in elementary and secondary public schools: 1.4 million were in prekindergarten; 3.7 million were in kindergarten; 35.5 million attended elementary through middle school (K and 8th grade); and 15.3 million attended high school (9 through 12th grade).

Through 2028, enrollment is projected to increase to 51.4 million.

In 2018, 3.3 million students graduated from high school, marking nearly a 1 percent increase from 2017; 3.7 million were expected to graduate in 2020; 3.3 million from public high schools; and 0.4 million from private schools.

The average per-student expenditure in public schools is \$13,440.

In 2019, there are approximately 16,800 school districts in the United States.

13 percent of all public school students were served by the Individuals with Disabilities Act for the 2015–2016 school year.

Between 2000 and 2016, total public school enrollment increased for 32 states.

The following saw increases of 15 percent or more: Florida, Delaware, North Carolina, Idaho, Georgia, Colorado, Arizona, Texas, Utah, and Nevada.

The following states saw decreases of 10 percent or more: Michigan, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

In 2018, 7 million or 13.7 percent of public school students received special education services.

In 2017, 9.6 percent of public school students were learning English as a second language.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 8162.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8162, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROMOTING RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS OF SPACE WEATHER TO IMPROVE THE FORECASTING OF TOMORROW ACT

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 881) to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 881

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act” or the “PROSWIFT Act”.

SEC. 2. SPACE WEATHER.

(a) **POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States to prepare and protect against the social and economic impacts of space weather phenomena by supporting actions to improve space weather forecasts and predictions including: sustaining and enhancing critical observations, identifying research needs and promoting opportunities for research-to-operations and operations-to-research collaborations both within and outside of the Federal Government, advancing space weather models, engaging with all sectors of the space weather community, including academia, the commercial sector, and international partners, and understanding the needs of space weather end users.

(b) **AMENDMENT TO TITLE 51, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Subtitle VI of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding after chapter 605 the following:

“CHAPTER 606—SPACE WEATHER

“Sec.

“60601. Space weather.

“60602. Integrated strategy.

“60603. Sustaining and advancing critical space weather observations.

“60604. Research activities.

“60605. Space weather data.

“60606. Space weather knowledge transfer and information exchange.

“60607. Pilot program for obtaining commercial sector space weather data.

“60608. Space weather benchmarks.

“§ 60601. Space weather

“(a) **FINDINGS.**—

“(1) **SPACE WEATHER.**—Congress makes the following findings with respect to space weather:

“(A) Space weather phenomena pose a significant threat to ground-based and space-based critical infrastructure, modern technological systems, and humans working in space.

“(B) The effects of severe space weather on the electric power grid, satellites and satellite communications and information, aviation operations, astronauts living and working in space, and space-based position, navigation, and timing systems could have significant societal, economic, national security, and health impacts.

“(C) Space-based and ground-based observations provide crucial data necessary to understand, forecast, and prepare for space weather phenomena.

“(D) Clear roles and accountability of Federal departments and agencies are critical for efficient and effective response to threats posed by space weather.

“(E) Space weather observation and forecasting are essential for the success of human and robotic space exploration.

“(F) In October 2015, the National Science and Technology Council published a National Space Weather Strategy and a National Space Weather Action Plan seeking to integrate national space weather efforts and add new capabilities to meet increasing demand for space weather information.

“(G) In March 2019, the National Science and Technology Council published an updated National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan to enhance the preparedness and resilience of the United States to space weather.

“(2) **ROLE OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Congress makes the following findings with respect to the role of Federal agencies on space weather:

“(A) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provides operational space weather monitoring, forecasting, and long-term data archiving and access for civil applications, maintains ground-based and space-based assets to provide observations needed for space weather forecasting, prediction, and warnings, provides research to support operational responsibilities, and develops requirements for space weather forecasting technologies and science.

“(B) The Department of Defense provides operational space weather research, monitoring, and forecasting for the Department’s unique missions and applications.

“(C) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration provides increased understanding of the fundamental physics of the Sun-Earth system through basic research, space-based observations and modeling, developing new space-based technologies and missions, and monitoring of space weather for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s space missions.

“(D) The National Science Foundation provides increased understanding of the Sun-Earth system through ground-based measurements, technologies, and modeling.

“(E) The Department of the Interior collects, distributes, and archives operational ground-based magnetometer data in the United States and its territories, works with the international community to improve global geophysical monitoring, and develops crustal conductivity models to assess and mitigate risks from space weather-induced electric ground currents.

“(F) The Federal Aviation Administration provides operational requirements for space

weather services in support of aviation and for coordination of these requirements with the International Civil Aviation Organization, and integrates space weather data and products into the Next Generation Air Transportation System.

“(b) **COORDINATION BY OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall—

“(1) coordinate the development and implementation of Federal Government activities conducted with respect to space weather to improve the ability of the United States to prepare for, avoid, mitigate, respond to, and recover from potentially devastating impacts of space weather; and

“(2) coordinate the activities of the interagency working group on space weather established under subsection (c).

“(c) **SPACE WEATHER INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the National Science and Technology Council shall establish an interagency working group on space weather (in this chapter referred to as the ‘interagency working group’) to coordinate executive branch actions that improve the understanding and prediction of and preparation for space weather phenomena, and coordinate Federal space weather activities.

“(1) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The following entities shall be members of the interagency working group:

“(A) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(B) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

“(C) The National Science Foundation.

“(D) The Department of Defense.

“(E) The Department of the Interior.

“(F) Such other Federal agencies as the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy deems appropriate.

“(2) **INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.**—

“(A) The members of the interagency working group may enter into one or more interagency agreements providing for cooperation and collaboration in the development of space weather spacecraft, instruments, technologies, and research to operations and operations to research in accordance with this chapter.

“(B) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall enter into one or more interagency agreements providing for cooperation and collaboration in the development of space weather spacecraft, instruments, and technologies in accordance with this chapter.

“(3) **INTERNATIONAL, ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, AND COMMERCIAL SECTOR COLLABORATION.**—Each Federal agency participating in the space weather interagency working group established under this subsection shall, to the extent practicable, increase engagement and cooperation with the international community, academic community, and commercial space weather sector on the observational infrastructure, data, and scientific research necessary to advance the monitoring, forecasting, and prediction of, preparation for, and protection from, space weather phenomena.

“(d) **SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY GROUP.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, shall establish a space weather advisory group (in this chapter referred to as the ‘advisory group’) for the purposes of receiving advice from the academic

community, the commercial space weather sector, and space weather end users that informs the interests and work of the interagency working group.

“(B) COMPOSITION.—The advisory group shall be composed of not more than 15 members appointed by the interagency working group, of whom—

“(i) 5 members shall be representatives of the academic community;

“(ii) 5 members shall be representatives of the commercial space weather sector; and

“(iii) 5 members shall be nongovernmental representatives of the space weather end user community.

“(C) CHAIR.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the last member of the advisory group is appointed under subparagraph (B), the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall appoint 1 member as the Chair of the advisory group.

“(D) TERMS.—The length of the term of each member of the advisory group shall be 3 years beginning on the date on which the member is appointed.

“(E) TERM LIMITS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the advisory group may not serve on the advisory group for more than 2 consecutive terms.

“(ii) CHAIR.—A member of the advisory group may not serve as the Chair of the advisory group for more than 2 terms, regardless of whether the terms are consecutive.

“(2) DUTIES.—The advisory group shall advise the interagency working group on the following:

“(A) Facilitating advances in the space weather enterprise of the United States.

“(B) Improving the ability of the United States to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from space weather phenomena.

“(C) Enabling the coordination and facilitation of research to operations and operations to research, as described in section 60604(d).

“(D) Developing and implementing the integrated strategy under section 60602 including subsequent updates and reevaluations.

“(3) USER SURVEY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the advisory group, the advisory group shall conduct a comprehensive survey of the needs of users of space weather products to identify the space weather research, observations, forecasting, prediction, and modeling advances required to improve space weather products.

“(B) SURVEY CONSIDERATIONS.—The survey conducted under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) assess the adequacy of current Federal Government goals for lead time, accuracy, coverage, timeliness, data rate, and data quality for space weather observations and forecasting;

“(ii) identify options and methods to, in consultation with the academic community and the commercial space weather sector, improve upon the advancement of the goals described in clause (i);

“(iii) identify opportunities for collection of new data to address the needs of the space weather user community;

“(iv) identify methods to increase coordination of space weather research to operations and operations to research;

“(v) identify opportunities for new technologies, research, and instrumentation to aid in research, understanding, monitoring, modeling, prediction, forecasting, and warning of space weather; and

“(vi) identify methods and technologies to improve preparedness for potential space weather phenomena.

“(C) COORDINATION WITH AGENCIES.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, the advisory group shall communicate and coordinate with the interagency

working group to ensure the needs of the governmental space weather user community are adequately and appropriately identified by the survey under subparagraph (A).

“(D) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the survey under subparagraph (A), the advisory group shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing on the results of the survey under subparagraph (A).

“(E) PUBLICATION.—Within 30 days of the briefing to Congress, the advisory group shall make the results of the survey under subparagraph (A) publicly available.

“(F) REEVALUATION.—The advisory group shall review and assess the survey under subparagraph (A) not less than every 3 years and update, resubmit, and republish the survey in accordance with the requirements of subparagraphs (D) and (E).

“(4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

“§ 60602. Integrated strategy

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in collaboration with the interagency working group and upon the advice of the advisory group, shall develop a strategy for coordinated observation of space weather among members of the interagency working group (in this chapter, referred to as the ‘integrated strategy’). The integrated strategy shall identify—

“(1) observations and measurements that must be sustained beyond the lifetime of current ground-based and space-based assets, as described under section 60603, that are essential for space weather research, models, forecasting, and prediction;

“(2) new observations and measurements that may significantly improve space weather forecasting and prediction; and

“(3) plans for follow-on space-based observations under section 60603.

“(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the integrated strategy in subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall consider, as appropriate, the following:

“(1) Potential contributions of commercial solutions, prize authority, academic and international partnerships, microsatellites, small satellite options, ground-based instruments, and hosted payloads for observations identified in section 60602(a)(2).

“(2) Work conducted before the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act by the National Science and Technology Council with respect to space weather.

“(3) The survey under section 60601(d).

“(4) Any relevant recommendations from the most recent National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Decadal Survey for Solar and Space Physics (Heliophysics).

“(c) REVIEW OF INTEGRATED STRATEGY.—

“(1) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with Federal agencies participating in the interagency working group, shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to review the integrated strategy developed in this section.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The review from paragraph (1) shall also consider the current state, capability, and feasibility of the commercial space weather sector to provide new and supplemental observations and measurements that may significantly improve space weather forecasting and prediction.

“(3) TRANSMITTAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall transmit the integrated strategy and the results of the review required under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date of the completion of the survey under section 60601(d)(3). The integrated strategy and its review shall be made publicly available within 30 days of submittal to Congress.

“(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after delivery of the review of the integrated strategy in subsection (c)(3), the interagency working group shall develop a plan to implement the integrated strategy, including an estimate of the cost and schedule required for implementation. Upon completion, the interagency working group shall submit the implementation plan to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Armed Services of the Senate. The implementation plan shall be made publicly available within 30 days of submittal to Congress.

“(e) REEVALUATION.—The Director, in collaboration with the interagency working group, shall update the integrated strategy not later than 1 year after the reevaluation of the user survey from section 60601(d)(3)(F) in accordance with the requirements of subsections (a) through (d).

“§ 60603. Sustaining and advancing critical space weather observations

“(a) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to—

“(1) establish and sustain a baseline capability for space weather observations and to make such observations and data publicly available; and

“(2) obtain enhanced space weather observations, as practicable, to advance forecasting and prediction capability, as informed by the integrated strategy in section 60602.

“(b) SUSTAINING BASELINE SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONAL CAPABILITIES.—

“(1) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall, in cooperation with the European Space Agency and other international and interagency partners, maintain operations of the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory/Large Angle and Spectrometric Coronagraph (referred to in this section as ‘SOHO/LASCO’) for as long as the satellite continues to deliver quality observations.

“(2) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall prioritize the reception of SOHO/LASCO data.

“(3) The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall maintain, for as long as is practicable, operations of current space-based observational assets, including but not limited to the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites system, and the Deep Space Climate Observatory.

“(c) BACKUP SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONAL CAPABILITY.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall work with Federal and international partners in order to secure reliable backup baseline capability for near real-time coronal mass ejection imagery, solar wind,

solar imaging, coronal imagery, and other relevant observations required to provide space weather forecasts.

“(d) SOHO/LASCO OPERATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall develop an operational contingency plan to provide continuous space weather forecasting in the event of an unexpected SOHO/LASCO failure, and prior to the implementation of the backup space-based baseline observational capability in section 60603(c).

“(e) BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the plan to secure reliable backup baseline capability described in subsection (c) and the SOHO/LASCO operational contingency plan developed under subsection (d).

“(f) SUSTAINING GROUND-BASED OBSERVATIONAL CAPABILITY.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, the Secretary of the Air Force, and, as practicable in support of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Navy, shall each—

“(1) maintain and improve ground-based observations of the Sun, as necessary and advisable, to help meet the needs identified in the survey under section 60601(d)(3); and

“(2) continue to provide space weather data through ground-based facilities, including radars, lidars, magnetometers, neutron monitors, radio receivers, aurora and airglow imagers, spectrometers, interferometers, and solar observatories.

“(g) CONSIDERATIONS.—In implementing subsections (b), (c), and (d), the Administrators of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Directors of the National Science Foundation and United States Geological Survey, and the Secretaries of the Air Force and the Navy shall prioritize cost-effective and reliable solutions.

“(h) GROUND-BASED OBSERVATIONAL DATA.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall—

“(1) make available to the public key data streams from the platforms and facilities described in subsection (d) for research and to support space weather model development;

“(2) develop experimental models for scientific purposes; and

“(3) support the transition of the experimental models to operations where appropriate.

“(i) ENHANCED SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, should develop options to build and deploy space-based observational capabilities, beyond the baseline capabilities referenced in subsection (b), that may improve space weather measurements and observations. These supplemental observational capabilities could include commercial solutions, prize authority, academic partnerships, microsatellites, ground-based instruments, and opportunities to deploy the instrument or instruments as a secondary payload on an upcoming planned launch.

“§ 60604. Research activities

“(a) BASIC RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Secretary of Defense, shall—

“(1) continue to carry out basic research on heliophysics, geospace science, and space weather; and

“(2) support competitive, peer-reviewed proposals for conducting research, advancing modeling, and monitoring of space weather and its impacts, including the science goals outlined in decadal surveys in solar and space physics conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

“(b) MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.—

“(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the multidisciplinary nature of solar and space physics creates funding challenges that require coordination across scientific disciplines and Federal agencies.

“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that science centers could coordinate multidisciplinary solar and space physics research. The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Director of the National Science Foundation should support competitively awarded grants for multidisciplinary science centers that advance solar and space physics research, including research-to-operations and operations-to-research processes.

“(3) MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall each pursue multidisciplinary research in subjects that further the understanding of solar physics, space physics, and space weather.

“(c) SCIENCE MISSIONS.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should implement missions that meet the science objectives identified in solar and space physics decadal surveys conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

“(d) RESEARCH TO OPERATIONS; OPERATIONS TO RESEARCH.—The interagency working group shall, upon consideration of the advice of the advisory group, develop formal mechanisms to—

“(1) transition the space weather research findings, models, and capabilities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the United States Geological Survey, and other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense;

“(2) enhance coordination between research modeling centers and forecasting centers; and

“(3) communicate the operational needs of space weather forecasters of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Department of Defense, as appropriate, to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the United States Geological Survey.

“§ 60605. Space weather data

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Director of the National Science Foundation shall continue to—

“(1) make space weather-related data obtained for scientific research purposes available to space weather forecasters and operations centers; and

“(2) support model development and model applications to space weather forecasting.

“(b) RESEARCH.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall make space weather-related data obtained from operational forecasting available for research.

“§ 60606. Space weather knowledge transfer and information exchange

“Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Ad-

ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in collaboration with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Director of the National Science Foundation, shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to establish a Space Weather Government-Academic-Commercial Roundtable to facilitate communication and knowledge transfer among Government participants in the space weather interagency working group established under section 60601(c), the academic community, and the commercial space weather sector to—

“(1) facilitate advances in space weather prediction and forecasting;

“(2) increase coordination of space weather research to operations and operations to research; and

“(3) improve preparedness for potential space weather phenomena.

“§ 60607. Pilot program for obtaining commercial sector space weather data

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may establish a pilot program under which the Administrator will offer to enter into contracts with one or more entities in the commercial space weather sector for the provision to the Administrator of space weather data generated by such an entity that meets the standards and specifications published under subsection (b).

“(b) DATA STANDARD AND SPECIFICATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, may publish standards and specifications for ground-based, ocean-based, air-based, and space-based commercial space weather data and metadata.

“(c) CONTRACTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 12 months after the date of transmission of the review of the integrated strategy to Congress under section 60602(c)(3) and taking into account the results of the review, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may offer to enter, through an open competition, into at least one contract with one or more commercial space weather sector entities capable of providing space weather data that—

“(A) meets the standards and specifications established for providing such data under subsection (b); and

“(B) is provided in a manner that allows the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to calibrate and evaluate the data for use in space weather research and forecasting models of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Defense, or both.

“(2) ASSESSMENT.—If one or more contract is entered into under paragraph (1), not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall assess, and submit to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Armed Services of the Senate, a report on the extent to which the pilot program has demonstrated data provided under contracts described in paragraph (1) meet the standards and specifications established under subsection (b) and the extent to which the pilot program has demonstrated—

“(A) the viability of assimilating the commercially provided data into National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration space weather research and forecasting models;

“(B) whether, and by how much, the data so provided add value to space weather forecasts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense; and

“(C) the accuracy, quality, timeliness, validity, reliability, usability, information technology security, and cost-effectiveness of obtaining commercial space weather data from commercial sector providers.

“§ 60608. Space weather benchmarks

“The interagency working group established under section 60601(c) shall periodically review and update the benchmarks described in the report of the National Science and Technology Council entitled ‘Space Weather Phase 1 Benchmarks’ and dated June 2018, as necessary, based on—

“(1) any significant new data or advances in scientific understanding that become available; or

“(2) the evolving needs of entities impacted by space weather phenomena.”

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of chapters of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to chapter 605 the following:

“606. Space Weather 60601”.

(2) Section 809 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18388) and the item relating to that section in the table of contents under section 1(b) of that Act (Public Law 111-267; 124 Stat. 2806) are repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 881, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am very excited we are here today to pass S. 881, the PROSWIFT Act, a bill that I have been working on for almost 5 years.

Space weather is the electromagnetic activity that comes from the Sun, and it can have significant societal, economic, national security, and health implications both here on Earth and in space.

About 5 years ago, Dr. Dan Baker from the University of Colorado Boulder testified in front of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee about the dangers of space weather events on the electric grid. At that hearing, he said that had an observed July 2012 space weather event actually hit Earth, we would “still be picking up the pieces.”

That testimony stuck with me, and when Senators GARY PETERS and CORY

GARDNER introduced the first version of this bill a few months later, I was eager to start working on the House companion.

Over the last 4 years, the House and the Senate have been working toward the shared goal of passing this legislation into law, but we have had a few differences we have had to work out. I am glad we finally worked through those differences and can send this bill to the President's desk today.

In 2015, the Office of Science and Technology Policy pulled together the best and brightest from within the various agencies working on space weather to produce the National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan. These documents helped renew our focus on the critical research and operational needs to improve our space weather enterprise, and OSTP updated the strategy and action plan in 2019.

The PROSWIFT Act builds upon this work by providing the structures needed for the continued advancement of heliophysics research, collection of new data and observations, and improvements to our modeling and forecasting.

This bill also, for the first time, clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities of the key Federal agencies involved in space weather, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the United States Geological Survey, as well as the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Importantly, our legislation brings in new voices from the academic community, commercial space weather sector, and space weather forecast end-users. These communities will participate in the space weather advisory group created in the bill as well as on a new government-academia-commercial roundtable we create to be facilitated by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Finally, the bill also sets up formal research-to-operations and operations-to-research mechanisms to help break down barriers between the research community and operational forecasters by encouraging sharing of information and requirements to improve the pipeline of new observations, technologies, models, and forecasts.

This bill will improve our understanding of space weather and better prepare us for its impacts on the electric power grid, communications networks, satellite operations, and airlines. It will also help NASA understand the radiation environment for our astronauts on the International Space Station, on their way back to the Moon, and, most importantly, on their journey to Mars by 2033.

We have been working on this bill for a long time now, and I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama, Representative MO BROOKS, for his help

pushing for this bipartisan legislation. I also want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and her staff for their support over the years, getting us to where we are today, and Ranking Member FRANK LUCAS for his support of the bill. I also want to thank my friend, Senator GARY PETERS from Michigan, who happens to be in the House Chamber today, for all the work he and his staff have put into this effort over the years.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 881, the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act, commonly referred to as the PROSWIFT Act.

Fluctuations in solar magnetic activity create variations in the environment between Earth and the Sun that can affect technologies in space and here on Earth. This phenomenon is what we refer to as space weather.

For the most part, space weather has a minimal effect here, but increased solar activity and severe events can create widespread problems and even disrupt our electric grid. Satellites that have less protection from Earth's magnetic field are especially vulnerable.

Significant space weather events are not a new phenomenon, and we have evidence dating back more than 150 years of severe space weather events affecting human activity. However, the impact of these events is much greater now that we rely on satellites and remote sensing for everything from cell phone communication to energy production to GPS navigation.

For example, farmers in Oklahoma have been at the forefront of utilizing precision agriculture to help ensure the most effective use of our resources when planting crops, a technology dependent on GPS.

Space weather is also a national security issue. Our military has a variety of assets in orbit around the Earth, which could potentially be harmed by electromagnetic interference. They rely on satellites built by NASA and operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, for timely and accurate information about potential space weather events.

It is not only technology that is threatened by space weather events. There are the astronauts who currently work on the International Space Station more than 200 miles above the Earth's surface and will one day serve on missions to the Moon and Mars. While we have developed techniques and technology to reduce the threats posed by increased radiation exposure due to a severe solar event, we have more work to do to mitigate these hazards to our astronauts as we venture beyond low-Earth orbit.

In short, severe space weather can have significant effects on each and

every one of us. That is why timely and accurate information from agencies like NASA and NOAA is so important. These agencies play an important role in better monitoring and forecasting space weather.

The bill before us today represents a good faith effort by the House and Senate to provide a framework that will provide for better coordination across the Federal Government. This is especially timely given that we are about to enter a period of increased solar activity, which will create more space weather events.

I am pleased this legislation includes an amendment I introduced during the markup of this legislation. My amendment creates a pilot program that will ensure that emerging private-sector companies will have a seat at the table and will be able to provide monitoring and forecast data, which the Federal Government can purchase and utilize in their space weather forecasts.

I thank the sponsors of this legislation for their work on this important topic. I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

□ 1230

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN), my friend, the chair of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. PERLMUTTER for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I begin by saying, I rise in strong support of S. 881, the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow, or the PROSWIFT Act, and recognize my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for all of his efforts on this, as well as my fellow Oklahoman and ranking member of the committee, Mr. LUCAS, and particularly, too, recognize Senator PETERS for all of his work on this important issue, which I think can often go underrecognized and unappreciated.

I was proud to cosponsor the House version of the PROSWIFT Act, H.R. 5260, with Mr. PERLMUTTER and many others, which passed out of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and I would like to, again, recognize the leadership on this bipartisan and bicameral bill, including Mr. BROOKS and others for the committee's work to advance an understanding of and the importance of predictive capabilities of space weather.

The PROSWIFT Act is really the culmination of years of work and reflects input from hearings, including joint hearings, the Subcommittee on Environment and the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, which I chair.

Though, it can feel remote, space weather can have a significant impact on us right here on Earth, as you have heard. Space weather, such as solar flares, solar wind and geomagnetic storms of energized, charged particles

can affect everything from our electric power grids, to satellites, to aviation operations, human spaceflight operations, and much more.

In short, severe space weather events pose significant risks to our infrastructure, and in turn, our economy and our national security. This is an important time and an important thing to take action on.

Madam Speaker, space weather forecasting is years, if not decades, behind the maturity of terrestrial forecasting, and that is why S. 881, the PROSWIFT Act, is critical.

Without improvements in space weather forecasts and prediction, we run the risk of potential disruptions to our critical infrastructure. The PROSWIFT Act establishes U.S. policy to help prepare and protect us against the social and economic impacts of space weather phenomena by supporting actions to improve space weather forecasts and predictions.

This act makes clear the importance of federal agency contributions, and their effective coordination, including NASA. To carry out research on the Sun and its effects on near-Earth environments, NASA operates research satellites whose measurements are also essential to NOAA's operational space weather forecasts.

The PROSWIFT Act moves us forward from relying, in part, on these research assets, some of which have been operating for over two decades, to developing a strategic and coordinated approach to sustaining a baseline of space weather operations and better predicting space weather events.

It is also important to enabling our future goals of space, including exploration goals to send humans to the Moon and to Mars, as laid out in H.R. 5666, the bipartisan NASA Authorization Act of 2020. Improvements in space weather forecasts will help keep our astronauts safe from harmful space radiation, which can be elevated during solar storms.

In addition, H.R. 5666 complements S. 881, the PROSWIFT Act, by directing the NASA administrator to establish a space weather research and applications program.

Madam Speaker, the Senate passed S. 881 on July 27, 2020, and now the House must act to make sure this important legislation becomes law.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS).

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I support the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act, called the PROSWIFT Act.

I thank Congressman PERLMUTTER for his leadership on this important issue and for working with me in the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to advance the Senate bill, which is identical to the House version we have worked so long and hard on.

The PROSWIFT Act advances America's understanding of potentially se-

vere weather events and damaging consequences.

Space weather is a collection of physical processes beginning at the Sun with solar winds and ultimately affecting human activities on Earth and in space. Humanity needs a better understanding of these solar winds and their interaction with Earth's atmosphere. The PROSWIFT Act is a step towards that better understanding.

In Alabama's Marshall Space Flight Center, scientists and engineers are at the forefront of space weather research. Under the PROSWIFT Act, their enhanced research will advance our understanding of and ability to forecast space weather.

The PROSWIFT Act recognizes that space weather not only impacts us on Earth, it can and will impact us in deep space exploration.

For example, before we launch NASA's Artemis man-to-Moon-missions, it is best that we should better understand how space weather phenomena impacts life in space, satellites, and other space instrumentation.

Madam Speaker, it is critical that we properly forecast space weather and prepare for and protect astronauts from the dangers of solar radiation.

Madam Speaker, I, again, thank my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for his leadership on space weather and his partnership on the PROSWIFT Act.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for Senate Bill 881 and send it to President Trump to sign.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Alabama for being a good partner and really working with me and with the Senate to refine and get this thing into an excellent product.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of support we received for the PROSWIFT Act: a letter from the University of Colorado at Boulder; a letter from the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research; a letter from the American Commercial Space Weather Association; a letter from the American Astronomical Society; a letter from the American Geophysical Union; a letter from the University of Michigan; a letter from the University of New Hampshire; and a letter from the Pennsylvania State University.

LASP,
January 8, 2020.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: On behalf of my colleagues at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) and the University of Colorado Boulder, I write in support of the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act (PROSWIFT) Act (H.R. 5260). Given the continued threat and vulnerabilities facing our world from solar interactions with the Earth, we applaud the bicameral and bipartisan approach Congress is taking to address the challenges we face with respect to enhancing our nation's space weather forecasting capabilities.

Throughout the Space Age, we have discovered and accumulated a vast knowledge on the governing physical processes of the various regions of both deep space as well as the space surrounding near-Earth. This knowledge has provided an opportunity to expand our reach into the solar system and beyond, as well as increase our Earth observation capabilities. Over time, the increased utilization of satellites continues to have a broad reach across our society, including within the security, public safety and commercial realms. The data we acquire from these satellites is vital in order to protect our national security and economic interests, and interruptions stemming from increased solar activity could prove detrimental in carrying out these important functions.

As a result, the call to increase our space weather forecasting and mitigation capabilities was amplified by the National Academies Decadal Survey in Solar and Space Physics in 2012, and again through the Office of Science and Technology Policy's Space Weather Action Plan that was released in October 2015. Through these calls, it has become a national imperative to streamline the mechanisms designed to help develop and maintain a forecasting system that not only help to predict space weather events, but to respond to them. We believe the PROSWIFT Act will provide a collaborative framework for the federal government and its agencies to work together alongside academic, international and commercial space communities to advance this critical undertaking.

An important component of space weather research and monitoring is collaboration and cooperation among its many stakeholders. The legislation's call for the development of a Space Weather Government-Academic-Commercial Roundtable in addition to a Space Weather Advisory Group will foster collaboration among academic, commercial and space weather end users designed to provide the federal interagency working group with guidance from key constituent groups. In addition, the renewed expansion of basic and multidisciplinary research as well as the federal partnership with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to "implement missions that meet the science objectives identified in solar and space physics decadal surveys" is a great step forward toward increasing our nation's future forecasting and responsive capabilities. Finally, the strong focus on research and operational capacity within this legislation underscores the important role academic institutions will continue to play in addressing the needs of federal agencies. Here at LASP (and I, daresay, across all of CU-Boulder), we take great pride in our expertise in research to operations and operations to research (R2O/O2R) capabilities, and we stand ready to assist in the cooperative model outlined in the H.R. 5260 to advance our national space weather forecast and response capabilities.

Again, we applaud this legislation and its aim to streamline federal efforts working in conjunction with academic and commercial space partners in order to better understand and predict space weather activities and their impacts on our national interests. Thank you for your outstanding support and leadership, and please continue to think of us as a resource and partner going forward.

Sincerely,

DANIEL N. BAKER, Ph.D.,
Distinguished Professor of Planetary & Space Physics, Moog-BRE Endowed Chair of Space Sciences, Director, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space

Physics; Professor, Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences; Professor, Department of Physics; Professor, Aerospace Engineering Sciences.

UCAR,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
January 8, 2020.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERLMUTTER: As a research organization committed to better understanding the earth system, including the critical role of the sun in geospace sciences, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) would like to thank you for proposing H.R. 5260—Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act—and voice our strong support for PROSWIFT. H.R. 5260 will enhance the integration of existing national efforts to understand, predict, prepare for, and mitigate space weather and will strengthen economic and national security as a result.

Scientists are just beginning to understand the interactions between our sun and the Earth. Given the growing national importance and reliance on technology, it is critical that we expand our scientific understanding of the interactions between the sun and Earth so that we may improve forecasting and mitigate the effects of space weather events. Coupled with the National Space Weather Strategy and National Space Weather Action Plan, this legislation sets national priorities to increase and improve space weather observations, science, and forecasting abilities.

H.R. 5260 lays out a clear road map for the space weather enterprise which consists of the public, private and academic sectors, and in so doing will enable better research to operations transitions that will benefit all communities that rely on technology both on the ground and in space that can be affected by these sun-driven events. The creation of the Space Weather Advisory Group is to be lauded as an excellent first step as it will establish the necessary linkages between government, academia and the private sector in an organized way that is currently done in an ad hoc fashion. This new approach will allow Congress to be kept up to date on the latest advances in science that are translated into operations and will help to identify the highest priority areas that are in need of resources in both the research and operational realms.

Most of our understanding of space weather is based on experience and knowledge gained over the last 30 years, though the historical record indicates space weather events of much greater severity have occurred within the last 150 years. Impacting airlines, GPS, and electric utilities, space weather events in recent history resulted in economic consequences in the tens of millions of dollars. Estimates for damage resulting from a repeat of the worst known event of the last 150 years range from \$1–2 trillion in the first year alone. Scientists do not know the likelihood of such an event recurring, or even whether such an event is the worst-case scenario. Thus, predictability of such events needs to be the driver for all research in the space weather domain. As part of the need to organize the research optimally to meet this threat, and in line with input from your recent hearing, UCAR encourages the committee to establish the Geosciences Directorate within the National Science Foundation (NSF) to be the lead within NSF for all space weather research activities.

Additionally, we commend H.R. 5260 for its emphasis on "Sustaining Ground-Based Observational Capability" and we believe it is imperative to draw the distinction between astronomy and space weather research in this regards. Ground-based observations are less costly and are the appropriate way to prove an observational capability and ensure risk reduction for instruments that may later be flown in space. Current ground-based telescopes used in astronomy are inadequate for space weather research so this section is vital to ensure a robust "ground to space" strategy.

H.R. 5260 would provide clear roles and responsibilities to the various federal agencies responsible for understanding, predicting, and forecasting space weather, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Department of Defense (DOD). As these are all agencies with which we work regularly, this clarity would enable us to pursue research that will have the best impact on society's ability to predict and respond to space weather events.

Again, thank you for your tireless work supporting the science community in Colorado and across the United States. We appreciate your efforts on this bill and many other endeavors.

Best regards,

DR. ANTONIO J. BUSALACCHI,
President, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.

AMERICAN COMMERCIAL SPACE
WEATHER ASSOCIATION,
December 6, 2019.

JEFF O'NEIL,

Legislative Director, Office of Congressman Ed Perlmutter (CO-07), Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. O'NEIL: On behalf of the American Commercial Space Weather Association (ACSWA), we are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 5260, Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act. The current version of the bill highlights the growing importance of space weather across a broad range of technology areas. We are pleased to see references to the expanding role of the commercial sector in addressing gaps in fundamental knowledge, providing the means to develop and improve observational resources, enabling the research to operations and operations to research enterprise, and mitigating the impacts of space weather threats. ACSWA stands ready to aid federal agencies in undertaking this critically important enterprise.

The studies and survey mandated by the bill will be extremely helpful to the space weather community as it mobilizes to address the high priority science and technology objectives that continue to drive space weather activities in federal laboratories, academic institutions, and the private sector. ACSWA member companies strive to continue agency and academia close partnerships that have been established and strengthened through the years. We fully anticipate that the five members of the PROSWIFT Advisory Committee from the commercial sector will ensure that ACSWA expertise, assets, and resources will be fully integrated in the space weather strategies emerging from the PROSWIFT-mandated actions.

ACSWA fully supports the observational priorities outlined in the PROSWIFT bill. More specifically, ACSWA feels it is important to continue L1 observations with a follow-on mission while simultaneously working aggressively toward developing an L5

platform. The combination of solar observations from L1 and L5 orbits provide an unprecedented view of the disturbances from which most space weather effects at Earth originate. Additionally, the rapidly improving capabilities in monitoring the ionosphere using radio occultation techniques will address a long-standing challenge in mitigating space weather effects on navigation and communication systems. The data sets generated by these observations will offer many opportunities for commercial sector companies to develop tailored products for government and industry customers.

We note that the PROSWIFT bill provides some latitude to federal agencies in how the commercial sector will be involved in space weather research and operations. ACSWA hopes that the language in the bill provides sufficient encouragement for agencies to overcome long-standing barriers that inhibit full cooperation and involvement with the commercial sector, not all of which are based on fiscal constraints. Again, the commercial sector members of the PROSWIFT Advisory Committee will have an important role to play in identifying strategies for taking full advantage of the private sector in meeting space weather goals. The pilot program removed from the earlier version of this bill would have effectively demonstrated the merits of such strategies. ACSWA looks forward to seeing such pilot programs implemented by federal agencies as they strive to meet space weather research and operational goals.

While we don't want to jeopardize the passage of the bill, there are additional small changes we believe could be added to the bill to ensure that all available technologies and processes are applied to reduce space weather hazards:

Page 7, lines 23-24 (Section 60601(d)(3)): change "Each Federal agency participating in the space weather . . ." to "All Federal agencies participating in the space weather . . ."

p. 18., line 19 in section 60603(d)(2): ". . . airflow imagers, spectrometers, interferometers, airborne radiation instrumentation, and . . ."

ACSWA agrees with the Agency changes of Page 21-22; 23-5: ". . . transition National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Science Foundation, United States Geological Survey, and other relevant Federal agencies space weather research findings, models, and capabilities, as appropriate, to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense" to: "transition space weather research findings, models, and capabilities, as appropriate, from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Science Foundation, United States Geological Survey, other relevant Federal agencies, the academic community, and the commercial space weather sector to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense"

ACSWA agrees with the Agency changes of Page 22, 9-15: ". . . communicate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Department of Defense operational needs of space weather forecasters, as appropriate, to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation and United States Geological Survey." to: "communicate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Department of Defense operational needs of space weather forecasters, as appropriate, to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, United States Geological Survey, other relevant Federal agencies, the academic community, and the commercial space weather sector."

ACSWA appreciates all the hard work and careful thought devoted to crafting the PROSWIFT bill. It not only provides a tremendous boost to the entire space weather enterprise, but also takes a huge step toward protecting the nation from threats to technological infrastructure that is becoming ever more susceptible to space weather disturbances. We hope that this vital bill is quickly approved and federal agencies move forward with the activities so carefully delineated in the document.

Sincerely,

DEVRIE INTRILIGATOR,
W. KENT TOBISKA,
BOB ROBINSON
(SciencePrime, LLC),
on behalf of the ACS
WA Executive Committee;

Geoff Crowley (Atmospheric and Space Technology Research Associates),
Alec Engell (NextGen),
Jennifer Gannon (Computational Physics, Inc.),
Janet Green (Space Hazards Applications),
Devrie Intriligator (Carmel Research Center, Inc.),
Bob Robinson (SciencePrime, LLC),
Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., VADM USN (ret.) (GeoOptics),
Bob Schunk (Space Environment Corporation),
W. Kent Tobiska (Space Environment Technologies),
American Commercial Space Weather Association (ACSWA) www.ACSWA.us.

AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
December 12, 2019.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington DC.

Hon. MO BROOKS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PERLMUTTER AND BROOKS: On behalf of the over 8,500 members of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) and its Solar Physics Division (SPD), we write to express our strong support for the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Bill and to thank you for your leadership on this vitally important topic. The legislation that you have introduced in the House is comprehensive in its scope, addressing key aspects of space weather and its significance for national security, communications, and human and robotic space operations in low Earth orbit and interplanetary space.

In particular, we endorse the following components of the bill, all of which are essential to further our understanding of the causes and effects of space weather, as well as to advance our ability to reliably forecast space weather events:

the recognition of the wide impact of space weather and the concomitant call for strong cooperation between stakeholder agencies such as NOAA, NSF, NASA, FAA, and the Departments of Defense and the Interior through the establishment of an interagency working group through the National Science and Technology Council on space weather, with accountability to Congress through the submission of pertinent reports;

the call for the formation of a space weather advisory group with broad representation across the academic, commercial, and non-governmental end-user communities to identify new technologies to aid in understanding and forecasting space weather;

the implementation of an integrated strategy that identifies the observation capabilities necessary for near-real-time solar and

coronal mass ejection imaging and that must be sustained beyond the lifetime of current ground-based and space-based assets in order to maintain capability;

the development of space weather instrumentation and competitive, peer-reviewed proposals for conducting research, including interdisciplinary research, in subjects that further the understanding of solar physics, space physics, and space weather and its impacts; and

increased engagement and cooperation with the international, academic, and commercial space weather communities on the observational infrastructure and scientific research necessary to advance the forecasting of and preparation and protection from space weather phenomena.

Thank you for your attention to this timely and important issue. The membership of the SPD, which includes the nation's foremost experts in many of the areas addressed in this legislation, stands ready to assist in any way it can. If there is anything we can do, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

MEGAN DONAHUE,
President, AAS.
DALE GARY,
Chair, SPD.

AGU 100,
January 8, 2020.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MO BROOKS,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMEN PERLMUTTER AND BROOKS: On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and its 60,000 members, I am writing to endorse H.R. 5260, The Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act, and to thank you for crafting this important legislation.

Space weather has the potential to inflict trillions of dollars of damage on our economy, weaken our national security, and alter our way of life. The National Research Council estimates that a severe space weather event has the potential to inflict \$1-2 trillion dollars of economic and societal damage in the first year alone and impact more than 130 million people. To recover from such an event could take from 4-10 years. Moreover, space weather fluctuations are not limited to rare catastrophic events but regularly impact our society and economy. It's estimated that the average economic impact of moderate geomagnetic events on the electric power grid in the U.S. is \$7 to \$10 billion per year. Additionally, advancing our understanding of the Sun is essential for the United States to realize its space exploration ambitions.

Given the economic and opportunity costs associated with space weather, we support the bill's approach of creating a national, coordinated plan to advance our understanding of the relationship between the Sun and Earth and to ensure the development of new technologies and forecasting capabilities to mitigate the threat posed by space weather. We appreciate the bill's recognition that a partnership between industry, academia, and federal agencies is needed to further our understanding and capacity to address the impacts of space weather. As a community dedicated to advancing the understanding of Earth and space science, we applaud the bill's intent to further scientifically informed action towards disaster preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery.

AGU looks forward to working with you as this legislation advances.

With best wishes,

CHRISTINE W. MCENTEE,
CEO/Executive Director,
American Geophysical Union.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH,
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN,
January 7, 2020.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: On behalf of the University of Michigan Office of Research, I write to thank you for introducing the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act (H.R. 5260).

As this legislation notes, severe space weather events "could have significant societal, economic, national security, and health impacts." This bipartisan legislation is essential to helping us predict and mitigate such events that could drastically disrupt our economy and national security.

We are pleased this legislation outlines clear roles and responsibilities for the relevant federal agencies that are involved with improving our understanding, prediction and forecasting of space weather events. Importantly, PROSWIFT recognizes the necessity of engagement and cooperation with the academic community, among other sectors, by establishing a Space Weather Advisory Group whose membership will be equally comprised of a diverse stakeholder group including the academic community. Additionally, this bill creates a Space Weather Government-Academic-Commercial Roundtable to facilitate advances in space weather prediction and forecasting, among other items, which is necessary to efficiently advance our understanding of space weather.

The University of Michigan is focused on helping to improve the characterization, prediction, and mitigation of space weather events. Researchers on our campus study the effects of large solar eruptions and coronal mass ejections, and develop high-performance computational models to describe and predict hazardous conditions. If any of our experts on campus can ever be a resource, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Once again, thank you for your leadership on this legislation. We appreciate your continued commitment to improving efforts to predict and mitigate space weather events and we hope the full House of Representatives will approve this legislation expeditiously.

Sincerely,

REBECCA CUNNINGHAM, M.D.,
Interim Vice President for Research.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,
January 7, 2020.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chair, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,
Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR JOHNSON AND RANKING MEMBER LUCAS: We are writing on behalf of the University of New Hampshire (UNH) to voice our strong support for the PROSWIFT Act (H.R. 5260). UNH urges swift approval of this bipartisan legislation critical to ensuring that the United States is equipped to predict, mitigate, and respond to the hazards that space weather poses to our national security and economic wellbeing.

Federal support for research and technology development is essential to improving the Nation's space weather readiness. Current space weather monitoring capabilities rely on an observational infrastructure that is incapable of providing the lead time required to undertake proper space weather mitigation measures. We applaud the Committee's recognition of the importance of

fundamental research into the physical processes behind space weather. Such research will enable more sophisticated prediction capabilities and equip decision-makers with the information and tools necessary to avert crippling damage to our satellites, electric power grid, and other sensitive assets that underpin our economy and national security apparatus.

UNH is especially supportive of Sections 60603 and 60604. The former would strengthen support for critical ground-based and space-based space weather observational platforms while the latter would identify specific roles and responsibilities for research, development, and R20/02R activities at relevant agencies such as NASA, NSF, and NOAA. Particularly important to UNH and many of its peer institutions is the legislation's commitment to advancing the consensus-based priorities identified by the scientific community and articulated in the National Academies Solar and Space Physics Decadal Survey.

We thank you for putting forward this important piece of legislation, and we hope that UNH can serve as a resource for you as you continue working to address the pressing issue of space weather.

Sincerely,

DR. KEVIN GARDNER,
Vice Provost for Research, University of New Hampshire.

DR. HARLAN SPENCE,
Director, Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, University of New Hampshire.

PENN STATE,
January 8, 2020.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PERLMUTTER: I write to express support for H.R. 5260, the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act, and appreciation for your leadership on this legislation that aims to improve efforts for predicting and mitigating space weather events.

By delineating clear roles and responsibilities to federal agencies that study and predict space weather, the legislation will improve resources and make critical measurement data available for the research community to model the frequency and severity of space weather events. This information will be helpful for monitoring space weather events, particularly coronal mass ejections and geomagnetic disturbances that can cause interruptions to the power grid and in satellites, affecting critical infrastructure that is dependent on communications technology and electricity.

With an increase in focus and attention to space weather activities provided by this legislation, researchers with expertise in data assimilation and big data analysis at Penn State and around the nation can conduct risk analysis and plan for responses to space weather events before they occur. Penn State researchers and educators in meteorology, geoinformatics, energy business and engineering, as well as social science, look forward to the data opportunities made available through this legislation.

If I or any of our experts in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact my federal relations colleagues.

Sincerely,

LEE R. KUMP,
John Leone Dean.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I also include in the RECORD an op-ed

from The Hill dated September 10, 2020, by Dr. Antonio Busalacchi, who supports this bill.

[From the Hill, Sept. 10, 2020]

CONGRESS NEEDS TO FINALIZE SPA WEATHER BILL AS SOLAR STORMS POSE HEIGHTENED THREAT

(By Antonio J. Busalacchi)

The COVID-19 pandemic has left us more dependent than ever on advanced information and communication technologies, with many businesses and schools relying on a range of remote services. In this environment, building resilience to potential threats that can disrupt society's essential daily activities is critical.

For this reason, it is heartening to see Congress advancing legislation to better protect the nation from solar storms that spew millions of tons of charged matter toward Earth. Such space weather events can distort GPS signals, scramble satellite operations, and disable communications and power systems, with serious consequences for our economy and armed services—a particularly major concern as the Pentagon prepares for future space-based conflicts.

Significant space weather events occur every decade or so with far-reaching and destructive consequences. A powerful solar storm in 1989 cut off power to millions of Canadians, and major storms in 2003 affected more than half of Earth-orbiting spacecraft. Just three years ago, solar flares caused radio blackouts for hours during critical emergency response efforts to approaching hurricanes in the Caribbean and nearby regions.

A solar superstorm poses even greater risks. The so-called Carrington Event in 1859, which ignited fires in telegraph offices, would have catastrophic impacts on today's society, potentially resulting in widespread damage to power grids, communication networks, and other technologies that would take weeks, months, or even years to repair. Even before COVID-19 led to an increased reliance on e-based technologies, the National Academy of Sciences estimated that such an event could result in as much as \$2 trillion in damages—or more than 10 times the costs of Hurricane Katrina.

Despite a growing array of advanced satellites that monitor the sun, forecasters cannot accurately predict when a major storm will erupt from the sun and begin its one- to four-day journey toward Earth. Observations provide only limited information about where the storm will hit and its potential for damage until it is within about a half-hour of Earth. This does not leave satellite operators and utility managers with sufficient notice to fully shield vulnerable electronics and power down critical hardware.

To improve its forecasting capability, the nation needs to invest in a new generation of space- and ground-based instruments that can provide continual measurements of magnetic fields throughout the solar atmosphere. These measurements would alert us to conditions that are conducive for storms and help us determine whether an incoming storm will penetrate our atmosphere and target certain regions on Earth, or harmlessly glance off.

Scientists are also working toward more advanced computer models of the sun. One of their primary goals is to stimulate the build-up of energy in twisted magnetic fields within the solar atmosphere, enabling forecasters to predict when the fields will erupt and spew tons of charged particles toward Earth.

Fortunately, Congress is starting to take action on this important issue. The Senate last month unanimously passed legislation to improve scientific understanding and forecasting of space weather. The Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to

Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act would break down barriers between the nation's researchers and forecasters, coordinate the efforts of key federal agencies, and establish an integrated strategy across the federal government to address space weather research and observational needs.

This legislation, appropriately, has strong bipartisan support. Sens. Gary Peters (D-Mich.) and Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) co-sponsored the Senate bill. In the House of Representatives, Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-Colo.) is working with eight co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle to advance the measure.

With just months remaining on the calendar of the current Congress, the House must provide the final passage of this important legislation.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PROVIDE FLEXIBLE FUNDING TO STATES TO DEPLOY

Our solar forecasting capabilities at present are comparable to terrestrial weather prediction before the Second World War when communities had little warning of incoming storms. Since then, government agencies, private companies, and university researchers have collaborated on landmark advances in weather prediction, which have saved countless lives, fostered economic growth, and supported military operations.

We have now arrived at a pivotal moment in forecasting solar storms. At a time when society is more dependent than ever on advanced e-based technologies, the PROSWIFT Act lays out a clear road map for bringing together expertise in government, the private sector, and academia to forecast these damaging events. If Congress and the administration successfully enact the legislation, this predictive capability will provide a critical safeguard for America's economic competitiveness and national security, and for the business and school technologies that we have all come to rely upon.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, just reading quickly from the op-ed as to why we are doing this:

"Significant space weather events occur every decade or so with far-reaching and destructive consequences. A powerful solar storm in 1989 cut off power to millions of Canadians, and major storms in 2003 affected more than half of the Earth-orbiting spacecraft. Just 3 years ago, solar flares caused radio blackouts for hours during critical emergency response efforts to approaching hurricanes in the Caribbean and nearby regions.

"A solar superstorm poses even greater risks. The so-called Carrington Event in 1859, which ignited fires in telegraph offices, would have catastrophic impacts on today's society, potentially resulting in widespread damage to power grids, communication networks, and other technologies."

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I, again, would like to thank the sponsors of this legislation for their hard work on this important topic.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for

supporting this legislation and for both sides of the Capitol. We have been working on it for a long time. There has been a lot of serious interest in this piece of legislation because of the potential for damage that a space weather event can have.

As I said before, we have worked together on the Committee on Science, Space and Technology and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to advance this bill for almost 5 years.

Each iteration of the bill brought new perspectives and new ideas, and we worked across two administrations. We put all that work together into the bill before us today, and I, again, thank the Members and staff who helped make this possible.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to vote "aye" on this space weather bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 881 "The Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow, or PROSWIFT, Act."

Space weather is something the American public may not yet have an awareness of, but it has the potential to impact society across the world—every single day.

Geomagnetic storms or solar flares can cause disturbances in both space and the near-Earth environment.

These effects can reach the Earth's surface and pose significant risks to humans operating in space, some aircraft flights, space communications, GPS-based services, the electric grid, pipelines, and other space-based and ground-based infrastructure.

In short, space weather events can have major societal, national security, economic, and health impacts.

That is why I was an original co-sponsor of Mr. PERLMUTTER's H.R. 5260, "The PROSWIFT Act," which is the basis of the text of the Senate-passed space weather bill we are voting on today. H.R. 5260 was widely supported by the space weather community, including academia, industry, and not-for-profit entities.

I want to commend my colleague on the House Science Committee, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for tirelessly pushing to make this legislation a reality for over five years.

He and his dedicated staff worked closely with my Committee staff, with the staff of the Committee's Ranking Member, as well as staff of our colleagues in the Senate, to bring this legislation to the floor today.

Unlike previous attempts to move this legislation, I am proud that the bill being voted on today came out of regular order in the House Science Committee.

This bill took into consideration feedback from major stakeholders in the space weather community and was strengthened during our markup process to include a commercial space weather pilot program. It was further strengthened following negotiations with our colleagues in the Senate.

I am pleased that this bill represents both bicameral and bipartisan agreement on this important issue.

I have supported the overall agenda to advance the space weather enterprise and en-

sure capabilities for space weather observation and forecasting for many years and Congresses before this. I am looking forward to finally passing this legislation today, and have it enacted after years of hard work.

Being able to better understand and predict space weather events is vitally important to protecting our society, our economy, and our critical national infrastructure. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan and good governance bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 881.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RURAL STEM EDUCATION ACT

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4979) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support STEM education and workforce development research focused on rural areas, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4979

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rural STEM Education Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The supply of STEM workers is not keeping pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the public and private sector, resulting in a deficit often referred to as a STEM skills shortage.

(2) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States will need one million additional STEM professionals than it is on track to produce in the coming decade.

(3) Many STEM occupations offer higher wages, more opportunities for advancement, and a higher degree of job security than non-STEM jobs.

(4) The 60,000,000 individuals in the United States who live in rural settings are significantly under-represented in STEM.

(5) According to the National Center for Education Statistics, nine million students in the United States—nearly 20 percent of the total K–12 population—attend rural schools, and for reasons ranging from teacher quality to shortages of resources, these students often have fewer opportunities for high-quality STEM learning than their peers in the Nation's urban and suburban schools.

(6) Rural areas represent one of the most promising, yet underutilized, opportunities for STEM education to impact workforce development and regional innovation, including agriculture.

(7) The study of agriculture, food, and natural resources involves biology, engineering, physics, chemistry, math, geology, computer science, and other scientific fields.

(8) Employment in computer and information technology occupations is projected to grow 11 percent from 2019 to 2029. To help meet this demand, it is important rural students have the opportunity to acquire computing skills through exposure to computer

science learning in grades PreK - 12 and in informal learning settings.

(9) More than 293,000,000 individuals in the United States use high-speed broadband to work, learn, access healthcare, and operate their businesses, while 19,000,000 individuals in the United States still lack access to high-speed broadband. Rural areas are hardest hit, with over 26 percent of individuals in rural areas in the United States lacking access to high-speed broadband compared to 1.7 percent of individuals in urban areas in the United States.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RURAL STEM ACTIVITIES.

(a) PREPARING RURAL STEM EDUCATORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide grants on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) for research and development to advance innovative approaches to support and sustain high-quality STEM teaching in rural schools.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used for the research and development activities referred to in paragraph (1), which may include—

(i) engaging rural educators of students in grades Pre-K through 12 in professional learning opportunities to enhance STEM knowledge, including computer science, and develop best practices;

(ii) supporting research on effective STEM teaching practices in rural settings, including the use of rubrics and mastery-based grading practices to assess student performance when employing the transdisciplinary teaching approach for STEM disciplines;

(iii) designing and developing pre-service and in-service training resources to assist such rural educators in adopting transdisciplinary teaching practices across STEM courses;

(iv) coordinating with local partners to adapt STEM teaching practices to leverage local natural and community assets in order to support in-place learning in rural areas;

(v) providing hands-on training and research opportunities for rural educators described in clause (i) at Federal Laboratories, institutions of higher education, or in industry;

(vi) developing training and best practices for educators who teach multiple grade levels within a STEM discipline;

(vii) designing and implementing professional development courses and experiences, including mentoring, for rural educators described in clause (i) that combine face-to-face and online experiences; and

(viii) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(B) RURAL STEM COLLABORATIVE.—The Director may establish a pilot program of regional cohorts in rural areas that will provide peer support, mentoring, and hands-on research experiences for rural STEM educators of students in grades Pre-K through 12, in order to build an ecosystem of cooperation among educators, researchers, academia, and local industry.

(b) BROADENING PARTICIPATION OF RURAL STUDENTS IN STEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide grants on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) for—

(A) research and development of programming to identify the barriers rural students face in accessing high-quality STEM education; and

(B) development of innovative solutions to improve the participation and advancement

of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM studies.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used for the research and development activities referred to in paragraph (1), which may include—

(i) developing partnerships with community colleges to offer advanced STEM course work, including computer science, to rural high school students;

(ii) supporting research on effective STEM practices in rural settings;

(iii) implementing a school-wide STEM approach;

(iv) improving the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technology Education program's coordination and engagement with rural communities;

(v) collaborating with existing community partners and networks, such as the cooperative research and extension services of the Department of Agriculture and youth serving organizations like 4-H, after school STEM programs, and summer STEM programs, to leverage community resources and develop place-based programming;

(vi) connecting rural school districts and institutions of higher education, to improve precollegiate STEM education and engagement;

(vii) supporting partnerships that offer hands-on inquiry-based science activities, including coding, and access to lab resources for students studying STEM in grades Pre-K through 12 in a rural area;

(viii) evaluating the role of broadband connectivity and its associated impact on the STEM and technology literacy of rural students;

(ix) building capacity to support extracurricular STEM programs in rural schools, including mentor-led engagement programs, STEM programs held during nonschool hours, STEM networks, makerspaces, coding activities, and competitions; and

(x) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(c) APPLICATION.—An applicant seeking a grant under subsection (a) or (b) shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. The application may include the following:

(1) A description of the target population to be served by the research activity or activities for which such grant is sought.

(2) A description of the process for recruitment and selection of students, educators, or schools from rural areas to participate in such activity or activities.

(3) A description of how such activity or activities may inform efforts to promote the engagement and achievement of rural students in grades PreK - 12 in STEM studies.

(4) In the case of a proposal consisting of a partnership or partnerships with one or more rural schools and one or more researchers, a plan for establishing a sustained partnership that is jointly developed and managed, draws from the capacities of each partner, and is mutually beneficial.

(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—In awarding grants under subsection (a) or (b), the Director shall—

(1) encourage applicants which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include or partner with a nonprofit organization or an institution of higher education (or a consortium thereof) that has extensive experience and expertise in increasing the participation of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM;

(2) encourage applicants which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include or partner with a

consortium of rural schools or rural school districts; and

(3) encourage applications which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include commitments from school principals and administrators to making reforms and activities proposed by the applicant a priority.

(e) EVALUATIONS.—All proposals for grants under subsections (a) and (b) shall include an evaluation plan that includes the use of outcome oriented measures to assess the impact and efficacy of the grant. Each recipient of a grant under this section shall include results from these evaluative activities in annual and final projects.

(f) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—

(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Director shall evaluate the portfolio of grants awarded under subsections (a) and (b). Such evaluation shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and tools to assess the results of research conducted under such grants and identify best practices; and

(B) to the extent practicable, integrate the findings of research resulting from the activity or activities funded through such grants with the findings of other research on rural student's pursuit of degrees or careers in STEM.

(2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

(g) REPORT BY COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the first report required by section 36(e) of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885c(e)) transmitted to Congress after the date of enactment of this Act, the Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering shall include—

(A) a description of past and present policies and activities of the Foundation to encourage full participation of students in rural communities in science, mathematics, engineering, and computer science fields; and

(B) an assessment of trends in participation of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in Foundation activities, and an assessment of the policies and activities of the Foundation, along with proposals for new strategies or the broadening of existing successful strategies towards facilitating the goals of this Act.

(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 313 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 114-329) is amended by striking “Section 204(e) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988” and inserting “Section 36(e) of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act”.

(B) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 313 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 114-329).

(h) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall, for purposes of enhancing program effectiveness and avoiding duplication of activities, consult, cooperate, and coordinate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director—

(1) \$8,000,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (a) for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025; and

(2) \$12,000,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (b) for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SEC. 4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONLINE EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall, subject to appropriations, award competitive grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof, which may include a private sector partner) to conduct research on online STEM education courses for rural communities.

(b) RESEARCH AREAS.—The research areas eligible for funding under this subsection shall include—

(1) evaluating the learning and achievement of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM subjects;

(2) understanding how computer-based and online professional development courses and mentor experiences can be integrated to meet the needs of educators of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12;

(3) combining computer-based and online STEM education and training with apprenticeships, mentoring, or other applied learning arrangements;

(4) leveraging online programs to supplement STEM studies for rural students that need physical and academic accommodation; and

(5) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(c) EVALUATIONS.—All proposals for grants under this section shall include an evaluation plan that includes the use of outcome oriented measures to assess the impact and efficacy of the grant. Each recipient of a grant under this section shall include results from these evaluative activities in annual and final projects.

(d) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—

(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Director shall evaluate the portfolio of grants awarded under this section. Such evaluation shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and tools to assess the results of research conducted under such grants and identify best practices; and

(B) to the extent practicable, integrate findings from activities carried out pursuant to research conducted under this section, with respect to the pursuit of careers and degrees in STEM, with those activities carried out pursuant to other research on serving rural students and communities.

(2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

(e) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall, for purposes of enhancing program effectiveness and avoiding duplication of activities, consult, cooperate, and coordinate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES EVALUATION.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy agrees to conduct an evaluation and assessment that—

(1) evaluates the quality and quantity of current Federal programming and research

directed at examining STEM education for students in grades Pre-K through 12 and workforce development in rural areas;

(2) assesses the impact of the scarcity of broadband connectivity in rural communities has on STEM and technical literacy for students in grades Pre-K through 12 in rural areas;

(3) assesses the core research and data needed to understand the challenges rural areas are facing in providing quality STEM education and workforce development; and

(4) makes recommendations for action at the Federal, State, and local levels for improving STEM education for students in grades Pre-K through 12 and workforce development in rural areas.

(b) REPORT TO DIRECTOR.—The agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the National Academy of Sciences, not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, to submit to the Director a report on the study conducted under such subsection, including the National Academy's findings and recommendations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

SEC. 6. GAO REVIEW.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the engagement of rural populations in Federal STEM programs and submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of how Federal STEM education programs are serving rural populations;

(2) a description of initiatives carried out by Federal agencies that are targeted at supporting STEM education in rural areas;

(3) an assessment of what is known about the impact and effectiveness of Federal investments in STEM education programs that are targeted to rural areas; and

(4) an assessment of challenges that state and Federal STEM education programs face in reaching rural population centers.

SEC. 7. CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH EPSCOR.

Section 517(f)(2) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–9(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) to increase the capacity of rural communities to provide quality STEM education and STEM workforce development programming to students, and teachers; and”.

SEC. 8. NIST ENGAGEMENT WITH RURAL COMMUNITIES.

(a) MEP OUTREACH.—Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “community colleges and area career and technical education schools” and inserting the following: “secondary schools (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), community colleges, and area career and technical education schools, including those in underserved and rural communities.”; and

(B) in paragraph (7)—

(i) by striking “and local colleges” and inserting the following: “local high schools and local colleges, including those in underserved and rural communities.”; and

(ii) by inserting “or other applied learning opportunities” after “apprenticeships”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(3) by striking “, community colleges, and area career and technical education schools,” and inserting the following: “and local high schools, commu-

nity colleges, and area career and technical education schools, including those in underserved and rural communities.”.

(b) RURAL CONNECTIVITY PRIZE COMPETITION.—

(1) PRIZE COMPETITION.—Pursuant to section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719), the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”), shall, subject to appropriations, carry out a program to award prizes competitively to stimulate research and development of creative technologies in order to deploy affordable and reliable broadband connectivity to underserved rural communities.

(2) PLAN FOR DEPLOYMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.—Each proposal submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include a plan for deployment of the technology that is the subject of such proposal in an underserved rural community.

(3) PRIZE AMOUNT.—In carrying out the program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may award not more than a total of \$5,000,000 to one or more winners of the prize competition.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a prize is awarded under the prize competition, the Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that describes the winning proposal of the prize competition.

(5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may consult with the heads of relevant departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

SEC. 9. NITR-D BROADBAND WORKING GROUP.

Title I of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 103. BROADBAND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a broadband research and development working group to address national research challenges and opportunities for improving broadband access and adoption across the United States.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—The working group shall identify and coordinate key research priorities for addressing broadband access and adoption, including—

“(1) promising research areas;

“(2) requirements for data collection and sharing;

“(3) opportunities for better alignment and coordination across Federal agencies and external stakeholders; and

“(4) input on the development of new Federal policies and programs to enhance data collection and research.

“(c) COORDINATION.—The working group shall coordinate, as appropriate, with the Rural Broadband Integration Working Group established under section 6214 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture.

“(d) REPORT.—The working group shall report to Congress on their activities as part of the annual report submitted under section 101(a)(2)(D).

“(e) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the Rural STEM Education Act.”.

SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Science Foundation established under section 2 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861).

(2) **FEDERAL LABORATORY.**—The term “Federal laboratory” has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) **FOUNDATION.**—The term “Foundation” means the National Science Foundation established under section 2 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861).

(4) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) **STEM.**—The term “STEM” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

(6) **STEM EDUCATION.**—The term “STEM education” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 4979, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4979, the Rural STEM Education Act.

I thank Ranking Member LUCAS and Representative MCADAMS for introducing this important bill, which I am proud to cosponsor.

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed and exacerbated the many harmful inequities that persist in our society. Rural communities have not been spared.

Broadband access and the so-called digital divide have long been a barrier to high quality STEM education for students in rural areas. STEM teachers in rural communities are stretched thin, often teaching multiple STEM subjects at multiple grade levels. While dedicated and hardworking, these teachers have limited resources and support, including training that is up-to-date and optimized for schools in a rural setting.

Rural school districts also have limited access to library equipment to provide students with hands-on experiences and a glimpse of what it is like to actually do science.

The sudden transition to remote education across the Nation that has occurred due to the pandemic has amplified these challenges for rural communities.

School districts are getting creative. Some are setting up internet hotspots

in the parking lot. Some students can download assignments and submit homework. Others are sending out paper packets for students without reliable transportation. While these stop-gap measures are helpful, they are not enough.

And students are falling behind. If we had invested in improving remote teaching and mentoring and improving broadband access before the pandemic hit, rural communities would have been better prepared to weather this crisis.

The Rural STEM Education Act provides for research and development to improve access to evidence-based STEM education opportunities in rural schools and provide teachers with the support and tools they need to teach more effectively.

I am particularly excited about the NIST rural connectivity prize competition and the Broadband Research and Development Working Group, which would advance research and technology development to expand broadband access across the country.

The bill also provides for a much-needed assessment of Federal investments in rural STEM education through the National Academies of Science and the Government Accountability Office.

This bill is a critical step forward to ensuring that more students have access to a high-quality STEM education and that we are equipped with the STEM workforce we need to face future challenges like this pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Mr. LUCAS, for introducing this bill, and also for working collaboratively with me and the staff to ensure it was a bipartisan effort.

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

□ 1245

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4979, the Rural STEM Education Act. I am pleased to be leading this important bipartisan bill and would like to thank Congressman MCADAMS, Congressman BAIRD, Congresswoman JOHNSON, and the other 43 Members of Congress who cosponsored this bill for their support.

Now more than ever, America's prosperity and security depend on an effective, inclusive science, technology, engineering, math, and computer science workforce, or STEM.

Nationally, 80 percent of the fastest growing occupations depend upon mastery of STEM skills. The number of STEM jobs is growing three times faster than non-STEM jobs. Over the next decade, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million positions, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To succeed in this job market, our students need to be equipped with solid skills in science and engineering.

Meeting this demand starts in the classroom. With STEM education becoming so fundamental to success in any industry, finding ways to improve the quality of STEM learning everywhere is of critical importance.

Over 9 million students in the United States, nearly 20 percent of the K-12 population, attend rural schools. In Oklahoma, that number is even higher. One-third of our students attend rural schools.

These students face a number of barriers to accessing high-quality STEM learning, including a shortage of trained science and math teachers, single teachers teaching multiple grade levels, a lack of access to advanced STEM courses, and few local university and industry partners.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen even further proof that rural students are at a disadvantage, given the unreliability or nonexistent broadband access many must deal with while currently distance learning.

The Rural STEM Education Act supports research and development activities to improve our understanding of the challenges rural communities are facing in providing and sustaining quality STEM education programs and take steps to address them.

H.R. 4979 helps develop best practices for accessing and using computer-based and online STEM education courses. It will help schools combine online STEM education with hands-on training and apprenticeships, to give students both theoretical and practical understanding of science and math skills.

This bill will also take steps to address one of the great key obstacles to rural STEM education: reduced connectivity and, in particular, the lack of broadband access. Of the 21 million Americans who lack access to broadband, the majority live in rural areas. With the increase in online learning, we need to prioritize connectivity for all students.

This bill directs the National Institutes of Standards and Technology to establish a prize competition to stimulate innovations in technologies to deploy broadband connectivity to underserved rural communities.

It also establishes a working group to set key research priorities for improving broadband access so rural communities can enjoy the same connectedness as the rest of the country.

This bill includes a number of provisions to help provide rural educators with the tools they need to be successful, both in the classroom and online.

It supports opportunities for rural educators to refresh and enhance their own STEM knowledge, such as training in computer science and research opportunities at Federal laboratories and universities. These experiences provide rural educators with high-quality STEM skills and practices they can take back to their classrooms and pass on to their students.

Lastly, the major focus of the bill is broadening the participation of rural

students in STEM. One way we can do this is by emphasizing place-based learning, which gives students direct access to the STEM knowledge in their communities and local environments.

Place-based learning connects students to the science that is right outside their doors, whether it is studying animal science with FFA, learning about local ecosystems out on the prairies or in forests, or developing the technological skills required to operate increasingly complex and computerized farm equipment.

That direct experience engages students and helps them understand that STEM skills matter to everyone, not just scientists in white lab coats.

Taken together, the measures in this bill will dramatically improve rural STEM education. I believe rural areas represent one of the greatest yet most underutilized opportunities for talented students to enhance the United States' future STEM workforce.

I am pleased this bill has gained the endorsement of the STEM Education Coalition, the Afterschool Alliance, Battelle and STEM-X, National Science Teaching Association, American Chemical Society, American Geophysical Union, Microsoft, Girl Scouts of the USA, National FFA Organization, and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

I again would like to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON, Representative MCADAMS, Representative BAIRD, and their staff for working with me on this bill.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" to better STEM education for America's rural students, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS).

Mr. MCADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bipartisan bill with Representative LUCAS, the Rural STEM Education Act.

More than 9 million students nationwide attend a rural school. And in my home State of Utah, 15 percent of our students live in rural communities.

Unfortunately, there are many barriers to receiving quality STEM education for rural community students. There is a shortage of math and science teachers and a high rate of teacher turnover. Plus, access to high-speed and reliable internet is more limited in these areas.

Today, as we live through this pandemic, we know how important reliable internet is for kids and teachers. This bill would provide effective online teaching tools that educators can use in our rural areas.

It will also increase teacher recruitment and improve internet access. It will task several government agencies to work together to advance research and provide teachers with what they need to effectively teach STEM to more students in rural communities.

When bright young minds have the opportunity to explore science, tech-

nology, engineering, and math, you never know where their intelligence and their curiosity might lead them or what new discoveries we will be able to trace back to the education they received starting in their hometown.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I thank my friend from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) for championing this.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4979, the Rural STEM Education Act. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

As one of only two Members of Congress with a Ph.D. in science, I understand the importance of teaching science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science at an early age.

Quality STEM education is essential to train the next generation of American minds. Fostering children's natural curiosity is critical to expanding their interest in STEM.

More than 9 million students in the United States attend rural schools, so investing in rural areas represents one of the most significant opportunities for STEM education.

H.R. 4979 will support research and development to identify the barriers rural students face in accessing high-quality STEM education, and it will develop innovative solutions to improve rural students' participation and advancement in the STEM fields.

In a time when our rural students are facing more barriers than ever before because of COVID, this bill can play an important role in helping these students remain in the STEM pipeline.

With the shift to online learning in recent months, it is more important than ever that we invest in the best practices and the scalability of online STEM education courses for our rural communities.

In addition to examining opportunities for online education, this legislation also promotes the importance of place-based learning. Place-based learning is a tremendous tool to broaden participation by rural students in STEM.

It uses local heritage, geography, and opportunities to study STEM. By connecting them with the science that is right outside their front door, rural students will have hands-on learning opportunities, even while the courses remain online.

I would be remiss if I did not mention one of the greatest barriers our rural students face, which is broadband access. Over 20 million Americans lack access to broadband, and the majority live in these rural areas. This bill prioritizes connectivity for all students and supports technologies to deploy broadband to these underserved rural areas.

We must also recognize the key role educators play, especially rural teach-

ers who teach multiple grade levels within a STEM discipline. H.R. 4979 provides rural STEM educators with resources and experiences that they can bring back to the classroom and use with their students.

I would like to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for his leadership on this bill. By improving access to STEM opportunities in rural schools, the Rural STEM Education Act will ensure that communities in less populated areas are not overlooked and that the intellectual power of our next generation continues to grow.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

In closing, I again want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON, Representative MCADAMS, Representative BAIRD, and their staff for working with me on this bill.

I am grateful to my colleagues for helping me move this forward in a bipartisan way. I want rural students to have every opportunity to compete and contribute STEM skills both to their communities and to the national workforce.

The Rural STEM Education Act gives teachers better tools to teach science and math, leverages local resources to engage students in key subjects, and addresses the lack of broadband access in rural communities.

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

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

I would like to take a moment again to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) for working with the members of this committee on this legislation and thank Mr. MCADAMS and Dr. BAIRD.

It is my hope that we can pass this bill out of the House today and, hopefully, work with our colleagues in the Senate to get this bipartisan bill, as well as many others, of course, we have sent over there passed into law.

This bill is needed more now than it was when we started out, so I would hope that the Senate will see the need to pass this bill as soon as possible.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4979, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1300

ELECTION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH ACT OF 2020

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4990) to direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation to carry out research and other activities to promote the security and modernization of voting systems, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4990

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Election Technology Research Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

(a) VOTING SYSTEMS RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in collaboration with the National Science Foundation as appropriate, shall carry out a program of research on voting systems, including—

- (1) the cybersecurity of different components of such systems;
- (2) end-to-end verifiable systems;
- (3) Internet-enabled voting;
- (4) the accessibility and usability of different components of such systems;
- (5) voter privacy and data protection;
- (6) methods for auditing elections;
- (7) the interoperability of system technologies;
- (8) means for providing voters with the ability to easily check whether a ballot sent by mail has been dispatched to the voter and whether the voter's marked ballot has been received and accepted by the appropriate election official;
- (9) the reliability of various approaches to voter authentication; and
- (10) such other areas of research as the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology determines to be appropriate and related to the security and integrity of elections for Federal office.

(b) ELECTIONS SYSTEMS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall make an award to an institution of higher education or an eligible nonprofit organization (or a consortium thereof) to establish a Center of Excellence in Election Systems.

(2) COLLABORATIONS.—The Director shall ensure that the Center of Excellence includes a collaboration of institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, private sector entities, and State and local election officials.

(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Center of Excellence shall be to—

(A) conduct measurement research and statistical analyses to inform the development of standards for technologies and processes that contribute to more secure, fair, and accessible elections;

(B) test and evaluate the security, usability, and accessibility of the technologies of voting systems, including the accessibility of poll book data by voters;

(C) research testing methods that could be used for the certification of voting system technologies;

(D) educate and train students studying in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields to conduct measurement

science and standards research relevant to such systems; and

(E) foster collaboration among academic researchers, private sector vendors of election technology, and State and local election officials.

(4) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An institution of higher education or an eligible nonprofit organization (or a consortium thereof) seeking funding under this subsection shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

(B) APPLICATIONS.—Each application under subparagraph (A) shall include a description of—

(i) how the Center will work with other research institutions, industry partners, and State or local election officials to identify the measurement, testing, and standards needs of voting systems and to leverage the expertise of election practitioners; and

(ii) how the Center will promote active collaboration among researchers in multiple disciplines involved in ensuring the security and integrity of such systems.

(C) SELECTION AND DURATION.—Each Center established under this section is authorized to carry out activities for a period of 5 years, renewable for an additional 5 years at the discretion of the Director.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$12,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

(a) RESEARCH GRANTS.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and other relevant agencies, as appropriate, shall award basic research grants to increase the understanding of cyber and other threats to voting systems and to inform the development of technologies, processes, and policies that contribute to more secure, fair, and accessible elections, including research on—

- (1) the cybersecurity of different components of such systems;
- (2) end-to-end verifiable systems;
- (3) the risks and benefits of Internet-enabled voting;
- (4) the human-technology interface, including the usability, accessibility, and comprehensibility of ballot design, ballot marking devices, and other components of such systems;
- (5) voter privacy and data protection;
- (6) voter practices regarding the verification of ballots generated by ballot marking devices and the likelihood that voters, both with and without disabilities, will recognize errors or omissions with respect to such ballots; and
- (7) such other topics as the Director determines to be appropriate and related to the integrity of elections.

(b) ELECTIONS SYSTEMS RESEARCH CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate, shall award grants to institutions of higher education or eligible nonprofit organizations (or consortia thereof) to establish at least 1 multidisciplinary center for elections systems research and education.

(2) CONSORTIA.—A consortia receiving an award under this subsection may include institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, private sector entities, and State and local election officials.

(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a center established with a grant awarded under this subsection shall be to—

(A) conduct basic research to advance understanding of cyber and other threats to election systems and the conduct of secure, fair, and accessible elections;

(B) conduct research that may inform the development of technologies, processes, and policies that contribute to more secure, fair, and accessible elections;

(C) educate and train students studying in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields to conduct research relevant to election systems;

(D) design curricula that address the growing organizational management and information technology needs of the election community; and

(E) foster collaboration among academic researchers, private sector vendors of election technology, and State and local election officials.

(4) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An institution of higher education or an eligible nonprofit organization (or a consortium thereof) seeking funding under this subsection shall submit an application to the Director of the National Science Foundation at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

(B) APPLICATIONS.—Each application under subparagraph (A) shall include a description of—

(i) how the center established with a grant awarded under this subsection will work with other research institutions, industry partners, and State and local election officials to identify research needs and leverage the expertise of election practitioners; and

(ii) how the center will promote active collaboration among researchers in multiple disciplines involved in elections systems security, including computer science, data science, and social and behavioral sciences.

(5) SELECTION AND DURATION.—Each center established with a grant awarded under this section is authorized to carry out activities for a period of 5 years, renewable for an additional 5 years at the discretion of the Director.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SEC. 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY TO PROMOTE SECURITY AND MODERNIZATION OF VOTING SYSTEMS.

(a) COMMON DATA FORMAT.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish and make publicly available common data format specifications for auditing, voter registration, and other elements of voting systems, and provide the specifications to the Technical Guidelines Development Committee of the Election Assistance Commission under section 221(e) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(e)).

(b) ELECTIONS SYSTEMS CERTIFICATIONS.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall work in collaboration with the Election Assistance Commission to update the process under which voting systems are certified pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002 so that State and local election officials will be better able to carry out updates and otherwise modernize such systems.

(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall—

(1) provide technical assistance to State and local election officials on the implementation of cybersecurity standards, privacy standards, risk assessments, risk-limiting audits, and technologies which are incorporated in the voluntary voting system guidelines issued under the Help America Vote Act of 2002; and

(2) in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security and the Election Assistance Commission, as appropriate, conduct outreach to State and local election officials in order to disseminate best practices for the implementation of such voluntary voting system guidelines.

SEC. 5. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) addresses the extent to which efforts by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to assist the Technical Guidelines Development Committee of the Election Assistance Commission in the development of voluntary voting systems guidelines have resulted in market-ready standardized voting equipment and software, and addresses the resources made available to NIST to carry out these activities;

(2) addresses efforts by NIST to monitor and review the performance of laboratories accredited by the Elections Assistance Commission and to make recommendations for continuing accreditation, increased voting technology reliability, and the number of accredited private laboratories, and addresses resources made available to NIST to carry out these activities; and

(3) addresses the extent to which the annual list of suggestions required to be submitted by NIST to the Election Assistance Commission for research issues for grants and pilot programs under section 271(d) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21041) and the evaluation of grants and programs by NIST has improved voting technology and been successful in encouraging the implementation of new technologies in voting systems and equipment.

SEC. 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002.

Section 301(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “this section” and inserting “this Act”;

(2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1);

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (6); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

“(2) any other paper or electronic technologies or processes for collecting, storing, or transmitting personal information of voters for use in the administration of elections for Federal office, including electronic poll books with respect to an election;

“(3) voter registration databases and systems, including online interfaces;

“(4) systems for carrying out post-election auditing;

“(5) chain-of-custody procedures; and”.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “voting system” has the meaning given such term in section 301(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(b)), as amended by section 6; and

(2) the term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4990, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act. This bipartisan legislation, which I was proud to introduce alongside my friend Representative GONZALEZ, Chairwoman JOHNSON, and Ranking Member LUCAS, is a practical, commonsense bill that would yield important results for the security of our elections.

Madam Speaker, 48 days from today, Americans will exercise one of their most important duties in a democratic society and vote. Amidst a global pandemic, targeted attacks on our democracy by our adversaries, and political unrest, Americans deserve to know that our elections are secure.

Last summer, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee held a hearing with voting technology and election administration experts to discuss U.S. election system technologies and research recommendations made in the 2018 National Academies report, *Securing the Vote: Protecting American Democracy*. This report and the input we received during that hearing made it clear that targeted research designed to protect our voting systems is not only wise but necessary.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has put stress on our healthcare system, caused nearly 200,000 deaths in the United States, devastated our economy, and underscored racial inequities in our society. But Americans are resilient. They will mail in their ballots or go to their polling stations to cast their vote. Why? Because they care deeply about our country and our democracy. In return, one of our jobs in government is to ensure the American people have confidence in the integrity of our election process.

Nearly 20 years ago, Congress enacted the Help America Vote Act. HAVA provided funding for States to purchase new voting equipment and created the Election Assistance Commission. It also included provisions to advance research, technology, and standards development for voting systems.

There are more than 10,000 voting jurisdictions across the United States. HAVA mandated that the National Institute of Standards and Technology work with the EAC to develop voluntary voting systems guidelines for voting machines.

Today, all U.S. States and territories look to those guidelines to make decisions to about technology procurement

and securing their elections. My legislation modernizes the 20-year-old provisions in HAVA to reflect the state of today's technology and the nature of today's election security challenges.

The most important new areas of research and standards development this bill supports are online voter registration systems and electronic poll books. Forty States now offer online voter registration, and many States also use e-poll books on election day for quick access to voter information.

The Election Technology Research Act also creates centers of excellence at NIST and the National Science Foundation to further study a range of important election technology challenges, including cybersecurity, privacy, reliability, and interoperability.

We must strive to ensure the highest standards are in place for all technologies used in the election process. And while the overwhelming majority of election experts agree that the technology is not yet ready for secure voting over the internet, this bill does support continued research on internet voting.

In addition to the security and integrity of voting equipment, voting accessibility is also important. Keeping security at the forefront, we should make it as easy as possible for all voters to cast their ballots. H.R. 4990 supports research at NSF to study ways to improve the voter interface with different voting technologies, including accessibility, ballot design, and ballot-marking devices.

Beyond the ballot box, this bill supports education and training of students and design of curricula focused on organizational management and informational technology needs of the election community.

Finally, H.R. 4990 directs NIST to provide technical assistance to States for their election needs, including risk assessments and risk-limiting audits.

This is a bipartisan piece of legislation. The Members of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee worked to put together a bipartisan bill that represents our values and our commitment to protecting our democracy. It recognizes the simple fact that technology advances quickly. So, when it comes to something as fundamental as ensuring the security and the sanctity of our elections, it is incumbent upon Congress to pass legislation to make sure our election technology is modern, secure, and state of the art.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely thank Representative GONZALEZ, Chairwoman JOHNSON, and Ranking Member LUCAS for joining me as cosponsors on this bill, as well as my other colleagues on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and in the House for adding their names to this legislation.

I urge all Members to support the Election Technology Research Act, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to see it enacted in law.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2020.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN JOHNSON: I am writing to you regarding H.R. 4990, the "Election Technology Research Act of 2019." This measure, introduced on November 8, 2019, was referred to your committee as well as the Committee on House Administration.

The Committee on House Administration agrees to waive further consideration of H.R. 4990. The Committee does so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of this bill it does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures. In addition, the Committee reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions within its jurisdiction which are considered in a House-Senate conference and requests your support if such a request is made.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4990 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,
Chairperson.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, February 10, 2020.

Chairperson ZOE LOFGREN,
Committee on House Administration,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRPERSON LOFGREN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4990, the "Election Technology Research Act of 2019," which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration on November 8, 2019.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this bill. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration. I appreciate that your Committee will waive further consideration of H.R. 4990 and that this action is not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Committee on House Administration over this subject matter.

I will make sure to include our exchange of letters in the legislative report for H.R. 4990 and in the Congressional Record. Thank you for your cooperation on this legislation.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Chairwoman, Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act of 2020. I am proud to join Representatives SHERRILL and GONZALEZ and Chairwoman JOHNSON as an original cosponsor of this bill.

The security and integrity of elections is fundamental to American democracy and should not be a partisan issue. To that end, this bipartisan bill takes necessary and appropriate steps to update research activities at the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to promote the security and the modernization of U.S. voting systems.

The bill also establishes an election systems center of excellence at NIST

to foster collaborations between NIST, universities, and State and local election officials to address election security challenges.

The U.S. Constitution vests the responsibility of administering elections with State and local governments, and we in Congress should respect the boundaries of this well-established system of federalism.

However, the Federal Government has an important role to play in providing guidance and assistance to States on election systems. The Federal Government can and should work closely with States and local government officials to deal with foreign and domestic cyber threats.

This bill provides the research tools to do just that, and it does so without imposing costly or burdensome mandates on States. Instead, this bill leverages an established system to provide voluntary guidelines to State and local election officials to use as they see fit.

I appreciate Chairwoman JOHNSON and her staff for working with us to produce a good, bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON).

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act of 2020. I am proud to join my colleagues, Representatives SHERRILL and GONZALEZ, in introducing this bipartisan bill.

Just a few weeks from now, Americans will begin casting their ballots in the 2020 election. They will also do so in the midst of a global pandemic and a divided country. The stakes could not be higher. We face many threats to our democratic institutions, including to our most sacred right and responsibility as citizens: our vote.

Unfortunately, the greatest threats today are the spread of misinformation and the active disenfranchisement of American citizens. Those are human vulnerabilities that are amplified by technology. However, we must not lose sight of the vulnerabilities inherent to the technologies that we use to cast and count our votes.

As it has across all aspects of our lives and society, technology has become an integral part of the election process. The use of technology in elections has changed significantly since the enactment of Help America Vote nearly 20 years ago.

H.R. 4990 authorizes research and standards development activities at the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to help modernize and secure our election systems and ensure that they are accessible to all.

The legislation also includes a small amendment to HAVA to ensure that the standards and guidelines developed to help States secure their election systems cover all of the election technologies in use today.

This legislation represents just a tiny piece of what is needed in terms of policy, leadership, and funding to ensure free, fair, transparent, and secure elections, but it is an important piece, if not in time for this election, then for all future elections.

I want to again thank my colleagues, Representatives SHERRILL and GONZALEZ, for their hard work and our colleagues on the House Administration Committee for their support in getting this bill to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, election security is an issue essential to our democracy, and I am glad to see the House taking up legislation today to address it in a bipartisan manner.

My colleague, Representative SHERRILL, and I have been working together on this issue since being sworn in, and I am glad to join her, as well as Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS, in supporting H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act.

This legislation would modernize and secure U.S. voting systems by authorizing NIST and the National Science Foundation to conduct research on ways to improve and secure voting systems. Importantly, any standards recommended by NIST under this act are voluntary, and adoption of the standards remain in the purview of the Election Assistance Commission.

H.R. 4990 also provides grant funding to establish a center of excellence in election systems to promote the research and modernization of election practices. A stated purpose of this center will be to foster collaboration between universities, nonprofits, private organizations, and State and local election officials. Encouraging communication and collaboration between these groups is vital to make sure the voices of States and local election officials are heard.

The Election Research Technology Act also amends the Help America Vote Act to update the definition of voting systems to match modern technology encompassing electronic poll books and voter registration databases. There is bipartisan consensus that an update of the definition is necessary to reflect the modern election technology used by States today.

With new threats facing our electoral systems, it is imperative that we continue to update our election laws and improve our election security by passing bipartisan election security legislation.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON, Ranking Member LUCAS, and the Science, Space, and Technology staff for their hard work on this legislation, and also Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose's office for their input throughout the process.

Madam Speaker, I also want to thank my friend, Ranking Member DAVIS, for his dedicated work on election issues. I look forward to continuing working with him to ensure the administration of our elections are safe and secure.

The Election Technology Research Act will update Federal laws to reflect today's technology, encourage basic research and innovation on the State and local level to secure our election systems, and streamline collaboration between private and public stakeholders.

This bill is a simple, bipartisan piece of legislation that will take a step forward in improving our election security. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 4990.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from New Jersey.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4990, which I am proud to cosponsor. This is a bipartisan bill introduced by my Science, Space, and Technology Committee colleagues, Representatives SHERRILL and ANTHONY GONZALEZ.

Technology in elections is necessary to provide convenience, speed, accuracy, and accessibility. However, our country needs to modernize this technology from time to time to ensure security, privacy, reliability, and transparency.

For the past 20 years, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 was instrumental in the development of voluntary voting system guidelines and the advancement of voting technologies to improve the security and integrity of our elections. Unfortunately, the law has not kept pace with the rapid advances in technology.

□ 1315

H.R. 4990 authorizes activities and makes investments at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation to support research to help secure and modernize our election systems. This legislation also supports critical standards development work carried out by NIST in collaboration with the Election Assistance Commission to improve the cybersecurity, privacy, reliability, and interoperability of voting systems technologies.

Voting is one of our most cherished rights as Americans, and without sacrificing security, we must make it as easy as possible for all voters to cast their ballots this year and every year.

I thank my colleagues, Representative MIKIE SHERRILL and Representative GONZALEZ, for their bipartisan leadership on this bill.

H.R. 4990 will help improve the security of our elections, and I urge all my colleagues to vote "aye."

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), a fellow ranking member on a full committee and always an insightful individual.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Oklahoma for yielding and for the glowing recommendation there. I think I could have gotten a better one from Mr. PERLMUTTER over there. It is great to be here. It is great to be among friends and great to see bipartisanship.

This is an example of what the House of Representatives should do on a regular basis, have fun, joke around, like Ranking Member LUCAS and I do on regular occasions. This is what we should do on a wide variety of other pieces of legislation, including what we want to do before the end of this month, how we want to fill the holes in the stimulus bill that we passed back months and months ago in a very bipartisan way.

I have to raise some concerns about this piece of legislation because the House Administration Committee got this bill sent to the committee last November and, unfortunately, as has been the norm in this Congress and on this committee, we didn't hold one meaningful hearing or markup on this bill.

The Chair waived our jurisdiction in February, and now 7 months later this bill is on the House floor without ever being discussed by the committee with jurisdiction over Federal election issues.

H.R. 4990 allocates over \$100 million over the next 5 years to the National Institute of Standards and Technology in order to conduct election system research and distribute grants to higher-education institutions and nonprofits.

Funding expanded research at NIST, a nonregulatory agency of the Department of Commerce, would allow the agency to circumvent policy priorities set by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, a politically balanced agency.

This is especially concerning when we know there have already been calls for more transparency when it comes to the work that NIST does on behalf of the EAC. Currently, EAC commissioners are not regularly updated on the projects that they task NIST with. There is no timeline for completion and no reporting structure. H.R. 4990 further empowers NIST without proportional accountability to the EAC.

I have addressed this issue previously in my bill H.R. 5707, the Protect American Voters Act, PAVA, by calling election-related work of NIST to be more accessible and visible by directing them to issue a report to Congress every year containing the status, timeline, and estimated completion of activities that they are tasked with under HAVA.

Additionally, H.R. 4990 would expand the voting system definition to include nonvoting technology in the already overwhelmed voluntary voting system guidelines process.

We have been waiting for updated HAVA guidelines, or VVSG 2.0, for over a decade now. So while I absolutely believe guidelines for nonvoting equip-

ment, such as e-poll books are needed, adding more to the VVSG process likely isn't going to get this done.

My bill, PAVA, addresses this by bypassing the costly and time-consuming VVSG process and calls for the EAC to establish a separate process for testing and certifying guidelines for nonvoting election equipment.

The bottom line, H.R. 4990 does not update HAVA, and allocates over \$100 million to the discretion of NIST, rather than investing in the bipartisan independent government agency created by Congress. And that agency is well-versed in elections. The EAC provides guidance, not mandates. Keeping power at the EAC preserves States' primary and constitutional role in administering Federal elections.

This House should work in a real, bipartisan fashion to create the election reform that the American people deserve. I am willing and ready whenever my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would like to do this.

I am happy we see bipartisanship today as this bill works its way through the process after it passes today. I certainly hope that the sponsors and my colleagues can work with us to address some of the concerns that I raise today.

I thank, again, Ranking Member LUCAS. I will give him a glowing recommendation, too, of nothing.

And I thank the sponsors of this bill, Ms. SHERRILL and Mr. GONZALES, for your work in this field. I would like to work with you to address some of these concerns as we move it to the Senate. Thank you for your time today.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN).

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I thank my colleagues Congresswoman SHERRILL, Ranking Member LUCAS, Chairwoman JOHNSON, and Congressman GONZALES for all of their work on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act, a strong bipartisan bill that I am proud to support and also proud to cosponsor.

Madam Speaker, in less than 2 months, Americans will head to the polls and exercise their fundamental right as Americans to vote and to have a voice in their government. Our elections are foundational to our democracy, and Americans deserve to know that their vote is secure.

The Help America Vote Act, which became law nearly two decades ago, included a much-needed investment in election technologies, security systems, electronic poll books, and others supported by HAVA are in common use today.

But as we all know, technology advances quickly, and it is critical that our election technology advances with it. Given the varied and widespread election technologies in use across our country, it is vitally important that we

examine the risks, find opportunities for modernization, and pursue secure updates to protect the sanctity and security of our elections.

We must make investments in research to improve cybersecurity of our voting systems. Cyber warfare is an ever-escalating program, and our right to vote is foundational and must be protected.

This bipartisan bill will initiate important research into the security of election technology, enabling us to take the necessary steps for every American to trust that their vote is counted.

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

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

I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON, Chairwoman SHERRILL, and Representative ANTHONY GONZALEZ for working together in a bipartisan manner to produce measured legislation that will help secure and modernize America's voting systems.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, this is a practical, bipartisan piece of legislation that will work to secure our elections.

The administration committee discharged this bill in February, and I hope I can count on robust support from my colleagues there.

When the House passed the Help America Vote Act nearly 20 years ago, we recognized that our election systems need protection. That is why that landmark legislation included the provisions I already mentioned to advance research, technology, and standards development for voting systems.

We are in a new technological landscape today, and our voting systems need to be updated accordingly, and this is the first step in that direction.

NIST already has a team of experts working with the Election Assistance Commission on standards for voting technology, and they are absolutely qualified to pursue this research.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues today. Thank you to Representative GONZALEZ for his work on this bill.

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

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

My return to Congress in 2019 was prompted in part by my membership in Issue One's ReFormers Caucus, a nonpartisan group of more than 200 former Members of Congress, governors, ambassadors and cabinet members. This committed Caucus, whose slogan is "fix democracy first", is focused on a range of reforms essential to returning government to the people.

Central to these reforms are much higher and broader participation in our elections and enhanced faith in the validity of our election

results. Election security is in turn the critical foundation of participation and faith. It should be and largely is a universal goal, especially given continuing, emerging and expanding threats to our election systems.

This bipartisan measure would help ensure that our elections are secured by the most advanced and best voting technology. It authorizes federal research to establish and maintain the highest standards possible, and establishes a Center of Excellence in Election Systems to regularly and thoroughly test the security and accessibility of voting systems and certify voting system technology.

This measure passed our House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with unanimous support because the Committee recognized the critical need for federal resources and leadership on this issue. It also was endorsed by my Blue Dog Coalition because it advances our own commitment to national security and accessible democracy.

I thank Congresswoman SHERRILL for her leadership on this important issue, and urge full House passage.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4990.

Voting is the bedrock of our representative democracy. The integrity of our election infrastructure is essential to free and fair elections. Votes are cast and counted using a variety of systems, from hand-marked paper ballots to direct-recording electronic machines. There is a whole host of other technology that also supports the process, including electronic pollbooks, voter registration databases, and other components of comprehensive systems.

I support H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act of 2019, because it invests in science to bolster the resilience of election technology, and commend its sponsor, Representative SHERRILL, for authoring the bill. This legislation is in keeping with other bills this House has passed in the 116th Congress to protect our democratic institutions, including H.R. 1 (the For the People Act), H.R. 2722 (the SAFE Act), and H.R. 4617 (the SHIELD Act).

Russia attacked our democracy in 2016. Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation confirmed that Russian GRU officers "targeted individuals and entities involved in the administration of the elections. Victims included U.S. state and local entities, such as state boards of elections (SBOEs), secretaries of state, and county governments, as well as individuals who worked for those entities. The GRU also targeted private technology firms responsible for manufacturing and administering election-related software and hardware, such as voter registration software and electronic polling stations."

In July 2020, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) published an election infrastructure risk assessment. It found that "compromises to the integrity of state-level voter registration systems, the preparation of election data (e.g., ballot programming), vote aggregation systems, and election websites present particular risk to the ability of jurisdictions to conduct elections."

Our elections remain under threat from foreign adversaries. In August 2020, the Director of the United States Counterintelligence and Security Center said that foreign states may use the 2020 elections to "seek to compromise our election infrastructure for a range of possible purposes, such as interfering with

the voting process, stealing sensitive data, or calling into question the validity of the election results."

H.R. 4990 is commonsense, bipartisan legislation that responds to these ongoing threats. It authorizes new research and standards for election infrastructure security. It directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to carry out research that will increase the understanding of cyber and other threats to voting systems. It will lead to the development of technology, processes, and policies for more secure and accessible elections. This includes the cybersecurity of different components of voting systems, end-to-end verifiable systems, voter privacy and data protection, election auditing, interoperability of system technologies, and ballot tracking.

Importantly, the bill also amends the Help America Vote Act to expand the definition of voting systems to include electronic pollbooks, voter registration databases, systems for carrying out post-election auditing, and related technology. This will lead to improved guidance to election administrators for these systems by the Election Assistance Commission and its partners, which include NIST.

I am pleased to support H.R. 4990 and urge its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4990, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENSURING CHILDREN AND CHILD CARE WORKERS ARE SAFE ACT OF 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRIST). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7909) to facilitate access to child care services safely and securely during the COVID-19 pandemic, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 387, nays 33, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 190]

YEAS—387

Abraham	Baird	Bishop (NC)
Adams	Balderson	Bishop (UT)
Aderholt	Barr	Blumenauer
Aguilar	Barragán	Blunt Rochester
Allen	Bass	Bonamici
Allred	Beatty	Bost
Amodel	Bera	Boyle, Brendan
Armstrong	Bergman	F.
Axne	Beyer	Brady
Babin	Bilirakis	Brindisi
Bacon	Bishop (GA)	Brooks (IN)

Brown (MD) Gooden
Brownley (CA) Gottheimer
Buchanan McCaul
Bucshon Graves (GA)
Budd Graves (LA)
Bustos Graves (MO)
Butterfield Green, Al (TX)
Byrne Grijalva
Calvert Grothman
Carbajal Guest
Carson (IN) Guthrie
Carter (GA) Haaland
Carter (TX) Hagedorn
Cartwright Harder (CA)
Case Hartzler
Casten (IL) Hastings
Castor (FL) Hayes
Castro (TX) Heck
Chabot Hern, Kevin
Chu, Judy Herrera Beutler
Cicilline Higgins (NY)
Cisneros Hill (AR)
Clark (MA) Himes
Clarke (NY) Holding
Clay Hollingsworth
Cleaver Horn, Kendra S.
Clyburn Horsford
Cohen Houlihan
Cole Hoyer
Collins (GA) Hudson
Comer Huffman
Conaway Huizenga
Connolly Hurd (TX)
Cook Jackson Lee
Cooper Jacobs
Correa Jayapal
Costa Jeffries
Courtney Johnson (GA)
Cox (CA) Johnson (LA)
Craig Johnson (OH)
Crawford Johnson (SD)
Crenshaw Johnson (TX)
Crist Joyce (OH)
Crow Joyce (PA)
Cuellar Kaptur
Cunningham Katko
Curtis Keating
Davids (KS) Keller
Davis (CA) Kelly (IL)
Davis, Danny K. Kelly (MS)
Davis, Rodney Kelly (PA)
Dean Kennedy
DeGette Khanna
DeLauro Kildee
DelBene Kilmer
Delgado Kim
Demings Kind
DeSaulnier King (NY)
DesJarlais Kinzinger
Deutch Kirkpatrick
Diaz-Balart Krishnamoorthi
Dingell Kuster (NH)
Doggett Kustoff (TN)
Doyle, Michael LaHood
F. LaMalfa
Duncan Lamb
Dunn Langevin
Emmer Larsen (WA)
Engel Larson (CT)
Escobar Latta
Eshoo Lawrence
Espallat Lawton (FL)
Estes Lee (CA)
Evans Lee (NV)
Ferguson Lesko
Finkenauer Levin (CA)
Fitzpatrick Levin (MI)
Fleischmann Lieu, Ted
Fletcher Lipinski
Flores Loebach
Fortenberry Lofgren
Foster Long
Foxx (NC) Loudermilk
Frankel Lowenthal
Fudge Lowey
Fulcher Lucas
Gabbard Luetkemeyer
Gallagher Lujan
Gallo Luria
Garamendi Lynch
Garcia (CA) Malinowski
Garcia (IL) Maloney,
Garcia (TX) Carolyn B.
Gianforte Maloney, Sean
Gibbs Marchant
Golden Marshall
Gomez Mast
Gonzalez (OH) Matsui
Gonzalez (TX) McAdams

McBath
McCarthy
McCauley
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Nunes
Ocasio-Cortez
Olson
Omar
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarella
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sanchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano

Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suzuki
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiffany
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Amash
Arrington
Banks
Biggs
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Burchett
Burgess
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cardenas
DeFazio
McHenry
Nadler

Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Davidson (OH)
Gaetz
Gohmert
Gosar
Green (TN)
Griffith
Harris
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Jordan
King (IA)
O'Halloran
Palazzo
Riggleman
Rooney (FL)

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Young
Zeldin
Lamborn
Massie
McClintock
Murphy (NC)
Norman
Posey
Rose, John W.
Roy
Sensenbrenner
Steube
Yoho
Timmons
Wright

□ 1422

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MFUME) at 2 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 2574) to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 255, nays 164, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 191]

YEAS—255

Messrs. BANKS, BURGESS, and JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. KELLY of Mississippi, CASTRO of Texas, and Ms. BASS changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer) Langevin
Blumenauer (Lynch)
(Beyer) Lawrence
Butterfield (Kildee)
(Kildee) Lawson (FL)
Chu, Judy (Evans)
(Takano) Lieu, Ted (Beyer)
Clay (Davids) Lipinski (Cooper)
(KS) Lofgren (Jeffries)
Cohen (Beyer) Lowenthal
Davis, Danny K. (Beyer)
(Underwood) Lowey (Tonko)
DeSaulnier McEachin
(Matsui) (Wexton)
Frankel (Clark) Meng (Clark)
(MA) (MA)
Grijalva (Raskin) Moore (Beyer)
Hastings Napolitano
(Wasserman) (Correa)
Schultz Payne
Jayapal (Raskin) (Wasserman)
Khanna (Gomez) Schultz
Kirkpatrick Pingree (Clark)
(Gallego) (MA))

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Cheney
Cisneros
Cline
Cloud
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cunningham
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
Delgado
Demings
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Engel
Espallat
Estes
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fulcher
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garcia (CA)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MFUME). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palmer
Pappas
Pence
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Posey
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert

Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Stell
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiffany
Tipton
Titus
Tonko

Torres Small
(NM)
Trone
Turner
Upton
Van Drew
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wild
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—164

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amash
Axne
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cooper
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doyle, Michael
F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)

Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Houlihan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan
Luria
Lynd
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse

Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pascarell
Payne
Perlmutter
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tlaib
Torres (CA)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—11

Bass
DeFazio
Loudermilk
Marchant

McHenry
O'Halloran
Palazzo
Riggleman

Roe, David P.
Timmons
Wright

□ 1510

Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. FUDGE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. ROUDA, COSTA, DOGGETT, CARBAJAL, GREEN of Texas, SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, PETERSON, and LUJÁN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)	Langevin	Pocan (Raskin)
Blumenauer	(Lynch)	Porter (Wexton)
(Beyer)	Lawrence	Pressley (Lee
Butterfield	(Kildee)	(CA))
(Kildee)	Lawson (FL)	Rooney (FL)
Chu, Judy	(Evans)	(Beyer)
(Takano)	Lieu, Ted (Beyer)	Roybal-Allard
Clay (Davids	Lipinski (Cooper)	(Aguilar)
(KS))	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Rush
Cohen (Beyer)	Lowenthal	(Underwood)
Davis, Danny K.	(Beyer)	Serrano
(Underwood)	Lowey (Tonko)	(Jeffries)
DeSaulnier	McEachin	Sewell (AL)
(Matsui)	(Wexton)	(DeBene)
Frankel (Clark	Meng (Clark	Trahan
(MA))	(MA))	(McGovern)
Grijalva (Raskin)	Moore (Beyer)	Watson Coleman
Hastings	Napolitano	(Pallone)
(Wasserman	(Correa)	Welch
Schultz)	Payne	(McGovern)
Jayapal (Raskin)	(Wasserman	Wilson (FL)
Khanna (Gomez)	Schultz)	(Hayes)
Kirkpatrick	Pingree (Clark	
(Gallego)	(MA))	

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the instructions of the House in the motion to recommit, I report the bill, H.R. 2574, back to the House with an amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

Page 4, line 11, strike the quotation mark and period at the end.

Page 4, after line 11, insert the following:

“(c) ANTISEMITISM CONSIDERED DISCRIMINATION.—In carrying out the responsibilities of the recipient under this title, the employee or employees designated under this section shall consider antisemitism to be discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin as prohibited by this title.”.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.)

□ 1523

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MFUME) at 3 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 2574) to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 232, nays 188, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 192]

YEAS—232

Adams	Davis, Danny K.	Johnson (TX)
Aguilar	Dean	Kaptur
Allred	DeGette	Katko
Axne	DeLauro	Keating
Bacon	DeBene	Kelly (IL)
Barragán	Delgado	Kennedy
Bass	Demings	Khanna
Beatty	DeSaulnier	Kildee
Bera	Deutch	Kilmer
Beyer	Dingell	Kim
Bishop (GA)	Doggett	Kind
Blumenauer	Doyle, Michael	Kirkpatrick
Blunt Rochester	F.	Krishnamoorthi
Bonamici	Engel	Kuster (NH)
Boyle, Brendan	Escobar	Lamb
F.	Eshoo	Langevin
Brindisi	Espallat	Larsen (WA)
Brown (MD)	Evans	Larson (CT)
Brownley (CA)	Finkenauer	Lawrence
Bustos	Fitzpatrick	Lawson (FL)
Butterfield	Fletcher	Lee (CA)
Carbajal	Foster	Lee (NV)
Cárdenas	Frankel	Levin (CA)
Carson (IN)	Fudge	Levin (MI)
Cartwright	Gabbard	Lieu, Ted
Case	Gallego	Lipinski
Casten (IL)	Garamendi	Loeb sack
Castor (FL)	Garcia (IL)	Lofgren
Castro (TX)	Garcia (TX)	Lowenthal
Chu, Judy	Golden	Lowey
Cicilline	Gomez	Lujan
Cisneros	Gonzalez (TX)	Luria
Clark (MA)	Gottheimer	Lynch
Clarke (NY)	Green, Al (TX)	Malinowski
Clay	Grijalva	Maloney,
Cleaver	Haaland	Carolyn B.
Clyburn	Harder (CA)	Maloney, Sean
Cohen	Hastings	Matsui
Connolly	Hayes	McAdams
Cooper	Heck	McBath
Correa	Higgins (NY)	McCollum
Costa	Himes	McEachin
Courtney	Horn, Kendra S.	McGovern
Cox (CA)	Horsford	McNerney
Craig	Houlihan	Meeks
Crist	Hoyer	Meng
Crow	Huffman	Mfume
Cuellar	Jackson Lee	Moore
Cunningham	Jayapal	Morelle
Davids (KS)	Jeffries	Moulton
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Mucarsel-Powell

Murphy (FL)	Roybal-Allard	Suoizzi
Nadler	Ruiz	Swalwell (CA)
Napolitano	Ruppersberger	Takano
Neal	Rush	Thompson (CA)
Neguse	Ryan	Thompson (MS)
Norcross	Sánchez	Titus
Ocasio-Cortez	Sarbanes	Tlaib
Omar	Scanlon	Tonko
Pallone	Schakowsky	Torres (CA)
Panetta	Schiff	Torres Small
Pappas	Schneider	(NM)
Pascarella	Schrader	Trahan
Payne	Schrier	Trone
Perlmutter	Scott (VA)	Underwood
Peters	Scott, David	Vargas
Peterson	Serrano	Veasey
Phillips	Sewell (AL)	Vela
Pingree	Shalala	Velázquez
Pocan	Sherman	Vislosky
Porter	Sherrill	Wasserman
Pressley	Sires	Schultz
Price (NC)	Slotkin	Waters
Quigley	Smith (WA)	Watson Coleman
Raskin	Soto	Welch
Rice (NY)	Spanberger	Wexton
Richmond	Speier	Wild
Rose (NY)	Stanton	Wilson (FL)
Rouda	Stevens	Yarmuth

NAYS—188

Abraham	Gonzalez (OH)	Norman
Aderholt	Gooden	Nunes
Allen	Gosar	Olson
Amash	Granger	Palmer
Amodei	Graves (GA)	Pence
Armstrong	Graves (LA)	Perry
Arrington	Graves (MO)	Posey
Babin	Green (TN)	Reed
Baird	Griffith	Reschenthaler
Balderson	Grothman	Rice (SC)
Banks	Guest	Roby
Barr	Guthrie	Rodgers (WA)
Bergman	Hagedorn	Roe, David P.
Biggs	Harris	Rogers (AL)
Bilirakis	Hartzler	Rogers (KY)
Bishop (NC)	Hern, Kevin	Rooney (FL)
Bishop (UT)	Herrera Beutler	Rose, John W.
Bost	Hice (GA)	Rouzer
Brady	Higgins (LA)	Roy
Brooks (AL)	Hill (AR)	Rutherford
Brooks (IN)	Holding	Scalise
Buchanan	Hollingsworth	Schweikert
Buck	Hudson	Scott, Austin
Bucshon	Huizenga	Shimkus
Budd	Hurd (TX)	Simpson
Burchett	Jacobs	Smith (MO)
Burgess	Johnson (LA)	Smith (NE)
Byrne	Johnson (OH)	Smucker
Calvert	Johnson (SD)	Spano
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Stauber
Carter (TX)	Joyce (OH)	Stefanik
Chabot	Joyce (PA)	Steil
Cheney	Keller	Steube
Cline	Kelly (MS)	Stewart
Cloud	Kelly (PA)	Stivers
Cole	King (IA)	Taylor
Collins (GA)	King (NY)	Thompson (PA)
Comer	Kinzinger	Thornberry
Conaway	Kustoff (TN)	Tiffany
Cook	LaHood	Tipton
Crawford	LaMalfa	Turner
Crenshaw	Lamborn	Upton
Curtis	Latta	Van Drew
Davidson (OH)	Lesko	Wagner
Davis, Rodney	Long	Walberg
DesJarlais	Loudermilk	Walden
Diaz-Balart	Lucas	Walker
Duncan	Luetkemeyer	Walorski
Dunn	Marshall	Waltz
Emmer	Massie	Watkins
Estes	Mast	Weber (TX)
Ferguson	McCarthy	Webster (FL)
Fleischmann	McCaul	Webster
Flores	McClintock	Westrup
Fortenberry	McKinley	Westerman
Fox (NC)	Meuser	Williams
Fulcher	Miller	Wilson (SC)
Gaetz	Mitchell	Wittman
Gallagher	Moolenaar	Womack
Garcia (CA)	Mooney (WV)	Woodall
Gianforte	Mullin	Yoho
Gibbs	Murphy (NC)	Young
Gohmert	Newhouse	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—10

DeFazio	Palazzo	Timmons
Marchant	Riggleman	Wright
McHenry	Sensenbrenner	
O'Halleran	Smith (NJ)	

□ 1602

Mr. REED changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 2020, I did not have a chance to cast my vote for two bills on the floor of the House of Representatives. I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted in favor of H.R. 7909, the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act, legislation that I have cosponsored. Additionally, I would have voted against the motion to recommit and in favor of final passage for H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)	Langevin	Pocan (Raskin)
Blumenauer	(Lynch)	Porter (Wexton)
(Beyer)	Lawrence	Pressley (Lee)
Butterfield	(Kildee)	(CA)
(Kildee)	Lawson (FL)	Rooney (FL)
Chu, Judy	(Evans)	(Beyer)
(Takano)	Lieu, Ted (Beyer)	Roybal-Allard
Clay (Davids	Lipinski (Cooper)	(Aguilar)
(KS))	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Rush
Cohen (Beyer)	Lowenthal	(Underwood)
Davis, Danny K.	(Beyer)	Serrano
(Underwood)	Lowe (Tonko)	(Jeffries)
DeSaulnier	McEachin	Sewell (AL)
(Matsui)	(Wexton)	(DeBene)
Frankel (Clark	Meng (Clark	Trahan
(MA))	(MA))	(McGovern)
Grijalva (Raskin)	Moore (Beyer)	Watson Coleman
Hastings	Napolitano	(Pallone)
(Wasserman	(Correa)	Welch
Schultz)	Payne	(McGovern)
Jayapal (Raskin)	(Wasserman	Wilson (FL)
(Gomez)	Schultz)	(Hayes)
Kirkpatrick	Pingree (Clark	
(Gallego)	(MA))	

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,

Washington, DC, September 16, 2020.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 16, 2020, at 2:19 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 92.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

SAVE OUR HOMES—SAVE OUR PLANET

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, over this August break, my family and I left our house, not because it was vacation season but because it was wildfire sea-

son, and we were some of the thousands of people that were evacuated from our homes. Now, thanks to the amazing work of firefighters and first responders, we had a house to come home to, but as we know, many others were not as lucky.

You see, the American West, including my district on the Central Coast of California, is experiencing destructive wildfires where we are not just victims of these conflagrations, but we are also witnesses to the climate crisis.

Our climate is hotter. Our countryside is drier, and our communities are more vulnerable to this type of devastation. We can't ignore it. We can't deny it, but we can pass the Climate Action Rebate plan to reduce our carbon output. We can pass the bipartisan Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act, and we can pass the bipartisan REPLANT Act.

This is not a binary choice. We can do both. If we don't act, our fire seasons will turn into fire years. But if we do act with commonsense legislation in Congress, we will save not just our homes, we will save this planet.

MAINLAND REGIONAL HS

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the special education staff at Mainland Regional High School in Linwood in South Jersey.

After being given approval by the State and the health department, students went back to school this summer after being gone since March 13 because of coronavirus. The students received instruction in English, math, social-emotional skills, and physical education and health.

The education and instruction that these students received was much-needed and was greatly appreciated by the students and the educators alike. Students were able to receive face-to-face instruction, which for some students is the key to their success.

Thank you to the educators, assistants, and administrators for being so engaged and involved in the success of our students. It is appreciated. It is very much appreciated. You are appreciated. You are very much appreciated.

Thank you for all that you do and what you continue to do for our community. May God bless you and God bless all those students.

HONORING ARMY COMBAT VETERAN KARI PADILLA

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Army combat veteran and medic Sergeant Kari Padilla.

Sergeant Padilla honorably served our Nation from 2005 to 2013 with tours

in Iraq and Germany and helped establish a vital aviation field hospital supporting Middle East and Afghanistan deployments.

Though no longer in uniform, she continues to serve, having been the community outreach coordinator for the Post 9/11 Veterans Corps the past 4 years. In this capacity, she increased Veterans Corps participation by 35 percent annually and their social media following by 4,000 percent. It is this level of dedication and excellence that exemplifies her concern for other servicemembers.

More recently, Ms. Padilla was named president of the 9/11 Veterans Corps, a well-deserved recognition. I know she will do an amazing job in this capacity and build upon her past successes.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot thank her enough for her service, passion, and dedication. She continues to make the 15th District in our country a better place to live, work, and play.

Kari, you represent the best our Nation has to offer and, today, I salute you for your many sacrifices.

EMERGENCY WILDFIRES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, 4 of the 10 largest wildfires in California history are currently burning as we speak—3 of which are in my district.

For decades, our national forests have been mismanaged, turning them into tinderboxes that can ignite in an instant should lightning strike. As a result, there are more dead trees in the State of California than there are people.

This is a serious problem with serious consequences. If there is a time for this body to pass a comprehensive forestry package, it is now.

Today, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will consider the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act. This bipartisan bill, led by my colleague, JIMMY PANETTA, and I in the House, and Senator FEINSTEIN and DAINES in the Senate, take great steps to proactively manage our forests and minimize wildfire risk in the West.

Mr. Speaker, over three million acres in California have burned this year as a result of disastrous wildfires. We have 150 million dead trees in California. It is critical that the House considers the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act immediately.

RECOGNIZING ISLAM AS ONE OF THE GREAT RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCADAMS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the grandson of a Methodist preacher, and I would also add, whose wife—my grandmother—was a missionary, I am proud to rise today to present H. Res. 1090, recognizing Islam as one of the great religions of the world.

I am proud to acknowledge that this resolution was introduced on August 21, 2020, with three original cosponsors: The honorable RASHIDA TLAIB, the honorable ILHAN OMAR, and my friend who is with me today, the honorable ANDRÉ CARSON.

I will say much more about the resolution, but I do want to at this time acknowledge my friend who's present from the Seventh Congressional District of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON), a wordsmith par excellence.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. GREEN, Congressman GREEN, Chairman GREEN, Judge GREEN, Pastor GREEN, public servant AL GREEN.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleagues' resolution recognizing Islam as one of the great religions of the world.

I commend my friend, Representative GREEN, for honoring Islam. This action helps to honor the millions of Muslims of many different backgrounds who proudly call America home.

Mr. Speaker, as one of three Muslims currently serving in Congress, it is my great privilege to speak here today in the people's House about a special faith. Though we are a minority in this country, we have participated fully in the story of our Nation since its earliest days. Even before America's founding and our Declaration of Independence, this brilliant declaration enshrined freedom of faith and religion for all of us.

Today, there are Muslims in all parts of the country who are business owners, who are teachers, construction workers, engineers, lawyers, judges, elected officials.

The first Muslim in Congress, my friend, comes to mind—Keith Ellison. We now have sisters ILHAN OMAR and RASHIDA TLAIB, and the list goes on, statewide and locally.

□ 1615

Throughout this COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Speaker, you would be hard-pressed to find a hospital in this great Nation without a Muslim healthcare worker on the front lines serving fellow Americans, not just in urban centers, but in suburbia, in rural parts of our country.

As more and more Muslims call America home, Mr. Speaker, we will continue working tirelessly, guided by our faith, to ensure our great country lives up to the principles of equality, compassion, and opportunity for all. Our faith keeps us motivated every day to advance these great goals.

Around the world, billions of Muslims are also engaged in this struggle,

also using their faith as a guide. We have seen what has happened with Uighur Muslims. We are seeing the dispute in Kashmir. We are seeing conflict dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian question. And, sadly, we still see Muslims who endure hurtful stereotypes and discrimination on this journey.

But our faith teaches us to be bold, to be brave, and to always choose love over hate. We will not be deterred, Mr. Speaker.

I am a proud Muslim. I am a proud American. I am honored to be a member of a very diverse and growing global community, and I am thankful to live in a country that enshrines the right to practice this faith.

We wouldn't have the foundation for American Muslims in this country, Mr. Speaker, were it not for the contribution of African-American Muslims. Scholars say 30, 40, maybe even 50 percent of the slaves who were brought here from West Africa were Muslim.

We see Muslims as first responders. I was one of them. We see Muslims who were a part of responding to the call to fight against terrorism in the post-9/11 reality, oftentimes thwarting potential attacks that you will never hear about in the news. Muslims are on the front lines in our law enforcement community and in our intelligence services.

Muslims have been critical in this country with establishing Islam and promoting self-respect, self-determination, creating your own enterprises and businesses. We hear terms now like "stay woke." I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that that terminology came from the contributions and the foundations laid by African-American Muslims.

It began as a kernel in the inception of this country, and it started to blossom in the early 1920s and 1930s, during the Great Depression. During those times, you had variations of Islam that was not Arabized. Because if it was an Arab presenting Islam, it wouldn't have been attractive. It certainly wouldn't have been attractive to me.

But the Islam that was presented was created in a way to fight against the poison and toxicity of white supremacy. Now, you have a beautiful religion with an interfaith coalition with Christian brothers and sisters, Jewish brothers and sisters, Sikhs, Hindus, atheists, Buddhists, all coming together to make America a better place.

Now, some people are comfortable with talking about Islam, and in their critiques of Islam, they overlook the hypocrisy of their own faith. You cannot really call yourself a lover of God and show hate for others of a different faith. You cannot call yourself an elected official and a representative of the people if you are only committed to serving and representing one segment of the population. You certainly can't call yourself a true public servant without recognizing the contributions that have been made by this wonderful community.

I salute Representative GREEN for his bold leadership, for his visionary leadership, as a proud Christian man in the tradition of Jesus Christ, knowing that in my Father's house, there are many mansions.

To stand up and recognize the wonderful religion of Islam, I commend him, I thank him, because we are America.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very kind words. He is more than generous. I also thank him for his service in Congress.

He and I started out together on the Financial Services Committee. He has since moved on to the Intelligence Committee and is doing an outstanding job serving his country as an American Muslim.

Mr. Speaker, I indicated that I am the grandson of a Methodist preacher, but I am also a very proud Baptist. My grandfather would not hold it against me.

Religion is something that each person has to make decisions about for himself or herself. It is not something that we impose on people. This is a free country, a country wherein you have the right to be whatever you choose to be, within the spirit of what the law allows.

This is the case with religion. You can be whatever you choose to be, be associated with whichever religion you choose to, within the spirit of what the law allows.

I want to just say a few words about why I have brought this resolution. I have lived in this country all of my life. I love my country. It means something to me. I respect the words "liberty and justice for all" in the Pledge of Allegiance. I respect the concept in the Gettysburg Address: "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

It means something to me to know that a person who came from what I consider humble beginnings has had the opportunity to stand in the well of the House of Representatives. So, I love my country.

But it doesn't mean that I overlook some of the things that have happened to me along life's way that were not so pleasant.

I had persons who called themselves Christians to burn a cross in my yard. I don't consider them Christians. They called themselves Christians.

I have had persons who called themselves Christians to say some very ugly things to me and do some very ugly things to me.

But let me tell you what it did not do to me. Those persons who wore the hoods, who came to my yard, burned the cross, it did not cause me to conclude that Christianity was represented in what they did. The people who said ugly things and did ugly things to me in the name of Christianity, they did not cause me to conclude that that is what Christianity is all about.

I am mentioning this because, quite candidly, I want other people to under-

stand that Islam is a peaceful religion, that there are people who abuse others in the name of religion, but that doesn't mean that the religion is about the abuse that is being perpetrated.

I am honored today to present this resolution, and I rise in solidarity with my Muslim brothers and sisters around the world. I do so because I have seen them in action.

In Houston, Texas, we have storms. When these storms have come through our city—Hurricane Harvey being one example—the Muslim community was right there to do all that was necessary to help others.

One of the greatest callings that you have in any religion is to help somebody. They have adhered to the call for justice. They have been there to march in protest for freedom and justice for other people.

This community has been there with aid and comfort for people who have been left homeless. They have been there with aid and comfort for people who have suffered harm by way of their physical well-being.

Muslim doctors have helped people, and I have seen the evidence of it. There is a clinic in Houston, the Ibn Sina Clinic, and they have been assisting people with the COVID virus. Free tests are being administered.

This community has been helpful in my city. Persons from the community have served in public office, on city council. We have persons who are serving as precinct judges.

The community is there and a part of the greater Houston community. Houston is a very diverse city. The Muslim community enhances the diversity of the city of Houston.

This religion is a complete system of strong moral convictions that promotes peace, equality, and social justice. Islam is the second largest and fastest growing religion in the world.

America is home to one of the most diverse Muslim populations. It has within it almost every ethnicity, country, and school of thought. There are approximately 3.45 million Muslims of all ages living in the United States of America. This is as of 2016; this is the last information available to me.

In an overwhelming measure, Muslims make a significant, positive, and growing contribution to our Nation. We have successful Muslims in all areas of our national life. Names that come to mind, for a good many Americans, would include Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, would include one who was known as Cassius Clay but became Muhammad Ali. There are Muslims in all areas of life, including business, sport, media, culture, medicine, law, and politics.

Although American Muslims make up approximately 1 percent of the U.S. population, most Americans can name some of these prominent Muslims that I have called to your attention.

Another is Malcolm X. Many persons don't revere Malcolm X, but I am proud to say that the United States of Amer-

ica has had Malcolm X on a postage stamp. Of course, his name moved from X to Shabazz.

The Nation has honored many American Muslims for their service and sacrifice, including Salman Hamdani. Mr. Hamdani was there for 9/11. He made sacrifices on 9/11 as a first responder.

Many American Muslims are also civically engaged, working with their neighbors to better their communities. They are members of the Rotary Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Yes, Muslims served in the military of the United States of America.

They are members of school boards, and they volunteer in our communities. They actively engage in charitable giving. And I say this with some understanding of it, as I have seen it in action. I have seen the Muslim community not only give their in-kind services but their American dollars to worthy causes.

In short, American Muslims and the organizations they create are a part of the fiber and fabric of the great country that I love.

Today, during this pandemic, many Muslims work on the front lines, as was said by my dear brother, ANDRÉ CARSON, Congressman CARSON. They work on the front lines. They work as essential workers. They put their lives on the line to help others through the pain of the pandemic.

I believe that we must acknowledge and appreciate that Muslims further the diversity and success of our great country.

□ 1630

To this end, I trust that persons will join me in demonstrating solidarity with and support for Muslim members of the community throughout the world by recognizing Islam as one of the great religions of the world.

I hold in my hand the actual resolution that has been filed. I will not go through the whereases, but I do want to go to the be it resolved: "... be it resolved ... to demonstrate solidarity and support for members of the community of Islam in the United States and throughout the world, the House of Representatives recognizes the Islamic faith as one of the great religions of the world."

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time, but I also want to thank the House leadership for the time. I do so because there was a time in the history of this country when a person who was born into poverty, who had to suffer the slings and arrows of invidious discrimination, would not be allowed to stand in the House of Representatives and present a resolution honoring Islam. We have come a long way.

I would like to acknowledge the fact that we have come a long way, because too many proclaim the notion that nothing has changed. The mere fact that I am standing here bringing this resolution means that things have changed. Many may not agree, but things have changed to the extent that

I have got the freedom to speak my mind with this resolution on the floor of the House of Representatives.

So I thank all of the leadership for acknowledging the change and allowing the resolution to be presented. With this said, I kindly and respectfully yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for very graciously allowing me to speak and for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Police Officer Tamarris L. Bohannon, who gave his life and service to his city on August 30 of 2020. His untimely and tragic killing is a profound loss to the people of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, according to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, there have been nine—nine—St. Louis police officers shot since June 1 of 2020. We grieve Officer Bohannon's sacrifice, and we honor him for his sense of duty, his dedication, his generosity, and his heroism.

Known as "T" by his family and "Bo" by his squad, Officer Bohannon was a loyal St. Louisan and a hard worker who inspired admiration for his diligent service. With his wife, Alexis, he lived and raised his three wonderful children—Tamara, Ayden, and Tylor—in the city that he protected as a police officer of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. He was a veteran of the force, serving with distinction for more than 3 years.

Officer Bohannon's heroic actions to keep the citizens of St. Louis safe are the truest example of selfless service. I extend my deepest condolences to his fellow officers, his many friends, his loving wife and parents, and the rest of his family. We cannot repay him for his sacrifice, but we will always remember his love for our city and the people who live there.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I will begin by recognizing the heroic men and women who serve in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department as well.

This week, our country witnessed a cowardly evil attack on two L.A. County deputies. As the two county deputies were sitting inside of their parked car in Compton, California, a thug approached their vehicle and shot them point-blank. We are grateful that both of them are expected to survive. We regret that ambush, totally without justification, and we need to bring them to justice.

I am reminded of what the British moralist C. S. Lewis described in his book, "The Abolition of Man," where he said of shallow and heartless people as being "men without chests."

Perhaps, now, we are seeing that from the vicious criminals who are attempting to single out and overthrow our cities and, specifically, attack our police force.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support our First Amendment. I want to support the ability of people to assemble peaceably, but I also want to address the mobs that we have seen in our streets and, fundamentally, to defend our police.

What is it that the mob wants? It is hard to answer. There is a disparate set of views. Some have called them anarchists. They don't really have anarchy in mind; they just don't agree on which leftwing ideology they want to support. But they also are obeying their leaders. They are doing what their leaders have sent them to do.

One of our House colleagues, in June of 2018, said: "You get out and you create a crowd. And you push back on them, and you tell them they are not welcome anymore, anywhere."

Isn't that exactly what the mob is doing? Little old ladies trying to have a meal on a sidewalk here in our Nation's Capital have people shouting at them—mob intimidation.

And it gets much worse, as my colleague, Mrs. WAGNER, just highlighted. Nine police officers shot just in St. Louis alone. We all saw the horrific attacks in Los Angeles over the weekend—unprovoked, unjustified, unjustifiable, indefensible, yet people defend them and are reluctant to condemn them. This is what the mob is doing.

This is not the First Amendment. This is not the right of the people to assemble peaceably. And our law enforcement protect that right. They defend freedom. They protect and defend our communities. They do it heroically with bravery every day and, so often, thanklessly.

We are right to give them thanks. They put their lives in harm's way. And they call out their colleagues when they can when they break the trust of their departments.

We do need to reform some laws. We do need to hold some individuals accountable, but the idea that we can lay at the feet of all police these charges that are made is abhorrent.

So we need to defend our police. We need to defend our First Amendment freedoms to assemble peaceably, and we need to reject the cries of the mobs.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, last week, a husband and wife awoke to see, through their bedroom window, a brazen burglar breaking into their car. The dad retrieved a gun and tried to protect his family. He knew that the console of the car being burglarized contained another gun, and he saw the burglar retrieve it. They exchanged fire, and the confrontation had become more than even that prepared father could handle. So it became the responsibility of Ryan Hendrix.

The 8-year veteran of the Henderson County Sheriff's Department arrived with two other deputies at 2:54 a.m. last Thursday. They spotted the suspect, and at first he appeared to comply with commands, and then suddenly raised a weapon and fired.

The first shot struck Deputy Hendrix in the face before his fellow officers returned fire and shot the gunman dead. Investigation revealed that the gunman was a career criminal, wanted by South Carolina Probation, with arrests in four States.

Ryan Philip Hendrix, 35, Marine Corps vet, was declared brain dead the next day. Ryan's 6-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter will live with only fragmentary memories of their father. Ryan's fiancée will not have that October wedding that they planned.

This murder is not an isolated story. Two hundred law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in 2020, up 90 percent.

Nothing I say can ennoble the sacrifices of those lost nor of the many others injured. Those sacrifices, that service, speak for themselves.

But I can speak to a fast-growing cancer in our civic spirit, an activism that exploits the wound to our national psyche born of racial injustice in our history, an activism that draws explicitly on Marxism and attacks core foundations of our society, including, and perhaps foremost, the consensus of support for law enforcement, a consensus that abides in every nation capable of surviving. It manifests itself in riots, looting, arson, destruction, shootings, and killings.

I can contend against it along with you. I have introduced into Congress the No Riots Act to criminalize injuries not only for Federal but, also, State and local law enforcement officers and to extend the death penalty for killing an officer in the course of interstate rioting.

But we cannot return to law enforcement officers the protection they deserve if leadership of our country is divided on the institution of police—indeed, if the people are divided. All

must back the blue. If we do not, then God have mercy on us, because the criminals and thugs like the one who took Ryan Hendrix's life assuredly will not spare yours or those of your loved ones.

This country is exceptional, the recognition that every human is special and has fundamental rights. Our Nation is a story of refining those rights in practice so that everyone gets a fair shake, that everyone's life is protected and respected.

But elemental to that, what we cannot do without are those who defend us from chaos and keep order, those whose service, whose sacrifice most Americans understand and honor.

Most Americans know that Ryan Hendrix is a hero and so are all who serve in blue. Most Americans know that they are highest caliber among us and that they deserve our respect and support.

I back the blue.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, in the sweltering heat of Arizona deserts, we have multiple jurisdictions of police officers who come to the rescue, not just armed with guns, but they will save those who are fighting through the desert, fighting through the heat, whether they are here in this country illegally or not. Whether they are with the Customs and Border Patrol, whether they are with ICE, whether they are with the county sheriff's department or our local municipal police departments, they provide first aid assistance and lifesaving assistance, and I pay homage to them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

□ 1645

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

There is no more important element of our society that the Founders guaranteed us than safety and security. I rise today in strong support of our Nation's law enforcement officers and join my colleagues in strongly condemning the recent attacks on those who serve and protect our communities.

Peaceful protests have been hijacked by malevolent radical organizations like Antifa, while national political and media-driven narratives have further incited violence against the very people who patrol our streets, stop violent criminals, and keep our communities safe. That is what the blue does.

It is imperative law enforcement have the means necessary to investigate who and which organizations are funding, organizing, and inciting these riots occurring in our country.

As Members of Congress, it is our sworn duty to defend our Nation from enemies both foreign and domestic. While we must always protect the right to peacefully protest, it is imperative that people or entities funneling money to cause disruption and damage

in peaceful communities are held accountable for their actions.

Michigan's First District proudly stands with our law enforcement community, and we honor the good work that so many brave men and women do every day, keeping strong that thin blue line which defends against chaos and anarchy threatening our society.

I fervently urge the Department of Justice and the FBI to take all available further action to ensure that the rioters, and especially those funneling money to them, are held accountable to the maximum extent allowable by the law.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD).

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. He is a great chairman, but also a great friend. I thank him, also, for organizing this Special Order.

Over the past several months we have witnessed lawless anarchists take to the streets and destroy historic monuments, vandalize and burn small businesses, physically assault a U.S. Senator and his wife, harass regular Americans who are simply enjoying an outdoor dinner, and so on. The fact that this activity goes on and is tolerated by Democrat-run cities is outrageous and an insult to every law-abiding citizen of this land.

We need to double the Federal penalties for those who riot and loot. We need to strip Federal funding from cities that refuse to confront this lawlessness in their communities. And we need to put those dithering local officials on the hook legally for the carnage that they allow to happen.

There are people here in Washington who stand for law and order and are trying to regain control of our streets, starting with our President. Violence like this has no place in America. We have to get back to resolving our issues through debate and democracy, not through looting and lawlessness.

If officials in Democrat-run cities won't stand up for all of their citizens, then under the leadership of President Trump, Republicans will.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, a country as ours, a constitutional republic, requires a citizenry that is well-educated and are responsible.

I questioned a colleague of mine from New York about her policies calling for defunding of the police. The city of New York cut funding to the city police department by \$1.5 billion, but my colleague from New York said that is not sufficient, we need 100 percent defunding of the police, while at the same time advocating for people to shoplift if you are hungry.

My question is: Do you suppose that is okay for the shop owner? Do you suppose it is okay for our children

watching those police? Who does the shop owner call and how do the police respond with those kinds of ideas out there? Do you call Antifa? I don't know. I wouldn't.

A civil society needs rule of law. We need policemen who uphold those laws and are willing to serve to protect the citizens. Our lawmakers need to preserve the rule of law, not weaken it.

The dangerous policies of the left espouse no police, free this, free that, free healthcare, it is not your fault. This does not lead to the utopia they promise.

In reality, this leads to the Hugo Chavez/Nicholas Maduro's Venezuela, and that is a short period of time. People don't think it can happen here, but we need our policemen.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and his efforts and service in Congress as he prepares to retire soon. I thank the gentleman, Mr. YOHO.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), who on the other end of the spectrum is fairly new to Congress.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding some time to me here this afternoon.

First, we are setting up a picture here on the easel to the right of me. And what you see there are not the wildfires in California. What you see is a picture from my district in western Wisconsin of Minneapolis at the end of May as the city was burning.

Organized anarchist groups like Antifa have been engaging in systematic criminal activity including assaults, widespread property damage and destruction, repeated looting, and attacks on law enforcement and others.

They have turned parts of Kenosha, Madison, and Milwaukee in my State, as well as neighborhoods just over the border in Minnesota, into post-apocalyptic hellscape.

And if I can take just a minute. Growing up in western Wisconsin, I will never forget, it was always a treat to go into the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. And in the Midwest, Minneapolis and Saint Paul were always known as the best of the big cities to live in. They can no longer say that after what has happened here in 2020.

These are not mostly peaceful protests, and Antifa is not a myth. These are orchestrated assaults on civil society and the American way of life designed to spread terror and chaos, to destroy businesses, and to shake the very foundations of our country.

First, it was Minneapolis and Atlanta, then Portland and Seattle, then Milwaukee, Madison and even Kenosha. Tomorrow it could be your community.

So let's talk about those cities here in Wisconsin.

Madison: In June, a violent mob vandalized the State capitol and other State buildings, shattering windows, hurling Molotov cocktails and destroying historic monuments. In fact, it was

very fortunate that the Molotov cocktail that went into the county building just off from the State capitol did not lead to a loss of life.

They attacked a statue of Hans Christian Heg, a statue that I was just walking past a few months ago as a State legislator in Wisconsin. He was a Civil War veteran, immigrant, abolitionist who fell at Chickamauga fighting to end slavery and preserve the Union. Yes, they tore it down. His nearly 100-year-old sculpture was decapitated and thrown into a lake by rioters.

The mob also tore down the statue of Lady Forward, a monument that is emblematic of Wisconsin being the first State to ratify the women's suffrage movement. The original Lady Forward statue was first placed in front of the Wisconsin State Capitol in 1895.

And for my friends on the other side of the aisle, whether you are a Republican or Democrat, if you don't think they are going to come for you at some point, go ask my former colleague Democrat State Senator Tim Carpenter, who was beaten by rioters during that unrest and needed surgery to recover. He told the media, "I don't know what happened . . . all I did was stop and take a picture . . . and the next thing I'm getting five-six punches, getting kicked in the head." That is a Democratic State senator.

Roving bands of thugs looking to intimidate residents torched and looted State Street. The State Street riots proceeded when they tore down the statues around the beautiful State capitol in Madison, Wisconsin.

But let's talk about Bernell Trammell. In July, Mr. Trammell, an activist known for carrying handmade signs supporting President Trump, was gunned down in broad daylight in Milwaukee. To date, no arrests have been made.

Mr. Trammell is an African American. And, in fact, I am quite sure he supported an African American former state senator that I used to work with.

There is growing public concern that the violence and lawlessness that has plagued Milwaukee for months has rendered local officials either unwilling or unable to thoroughly investigate his murder and bring those responsible for his death to justice. And that includes the top law enforcement official in Wisconsin. We are hearing nothing from him in regard to Bernell Trammell.

The failure of local officials to apprehend any suspects a month after this brutal crime was committed sets a dangerous precedent, one that could encourage more politically motivated killings and undermine the civil rights protections afforded to all Americans.

I have asked Attorney General Barr and the U.S. Attorney to initiate a civil rights investigation into his killing as they did into the shooting of Jacob Blake.

Kenosha: During the Kenosha riots, at least 56 businesses were severely

damaged or destroyed racking up a \$50 million price tag. Thank you, President Trump, for coming to Kenosha and offering your assistance.

The destruction has left business owners devastated and wondering whether they will have the money to rebuild and stay in the neighborhood.

The Uptown neighborhood, home to a majority of minority-owned businesses, was among those hardest hit. One news report described the plight of one local business owner:

Inside La Estrella Supermarket, owner Abel Alejo surveyed the water and smoke damage his shop suffered. Carpeting in a hallway was spongy with water as he surveyed packages of spoiling food that needed clearing out last week. A few pinatas still hung overhead from an intact part of the otherwise broken ceiling in the closed store.

Wauwatosa: According to police, a mob targeted the home of a Wauwatosa policeman, vandalizing his home, physically assaulting him, then firing a shotgun through his back door.

A Democrat state representative participated in the unrest and actually accused the officer, who lives in the home with his girlfriend and two children, of aggressively provoking the confrontation by "choosing to come out of his home."

So I think about my district. I was talking to the mayor a short week after I was sworn in on May 19, when the riots were happening in Minneapolis, and he was wondering, along with lots of other citizens in St. Croix and Polk Counties on the western edge of Wisconsin, are the riots of Minneapolis going to come to our community? We can only hope that that does not happen here as we close out 2020.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, when I reflect on the incident of the weekend when the two L.A. County deputies were shot and they had to tend to each other and apply first aid to each other, and they were rushed to the hospital, the rigid cruelty of the mob that gathered at the hospital trying to block an ambulance from accessing the emergency room, accompanied with hateful shouts and taunts, as evidence of the loss of goodness in our society.

The feckless leaders of some States and cities that have not only permitted the destruction of property, but the wasting of lives and livelihoods are without heart, as well. In many cases they have not only stood by watching the wreckage, they have fomented the rioting, looting, the murder, and mayhem.

□ 1700

One of the enemies of a free society is one who will appease people who are intent on destroying the rights of individuals within that society, those who permit and encourage by inaction criminal conduct.

We saw this when the Portland mayor, Ted Wheeler, was driven from his own home because the mob had turned on him. He is not alone.

Winston Churchill once noted that an appeaser is someone who feeds others

to the alligators with the hopes that he will be eaten last. That is what is being lived out in some American cities before our eyes today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD), my friend.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, who would have thought—who would have thought—that today we would be here discussing this topic.

When I ran for office, when I stood in this room for the first time and took the oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution, I expected that we would have many discussions on this floor with deeply held opposing views on the many issues facing our Nation. I did not expect that one of those issues would be whether this, the law-making body of our Nation, expects the laws to be followed, or whether or not we support the brave men and women tasked with enforcing that law.

Policing is a noble and necessary profession of any civil society, a profession which, by and large, is full of dedicated, courageous citizens who have chosen to serve their community, often putting aside higher-paying professions to work in one of the most difficult, challenging jobs, daily prioritizing public safety over their own.

It is these families for whom the greatest sound one hears is the sound of Velcro at the end of each shift as their loved one removes their body armor and takes up their other most important duty of being a mom, dad, brother, or sister. For too many of our law enforcement officers' families, because of the violence against police, they are now denied the joy of that moment.

Each day, we see images of organized armed riots embracing lawlessness, destroying property, sowing hate, and instilling fear, all in order to advance a political agenda.

The barrage of destruction and violence in major American cities is almost nonstop. The rioters across the Nation have cost over \$1 billion in damages and claimed numerous lives.

In one of the latest acts of horrific violence, two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies were shot and critically injured as they sat in their patrol car at a metro rail station Saturday evening. Protesters gathered outside the hospital where the deputies were receiving treatment, some chanting: "Death to police. Kill the police." This is shameful and cannot be tolerated.

It is notable that this mass chaos is occurring in cities with leftist leaders who have been tragically slow at condemning the violence.

This lack of leadership, we might add, whether by intentional design or perhaps by good but misguided intentions, has kept entire segments of our population in failing schools, in crime-ridden communities, and in generational cycles of poverty and dependency.

We owe it to the American people to protect their homes, families, and businesses from any mob that seeks to tear down our society.

We owe it to our hardworking police officers, who dedicate their lives to upholding the law, to give them respect and provide them with the resources, training, and support they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.

This is why I stand with the American people, with our law enforcement, and will oppose any attempt to, in a matter of fact or even in simply imagining, defund the police.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for being here tonight. I appreciate his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), my friend.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS for organizing this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our men and women in law enforcement and to call for the restoration of the rule of law in this country.

Over the past several months, we have heard politicians, pundits, and riot participants vilifying our Nation's law enforcement officers, brave men and women who have sworn an oath to protect and serve their communities.

We must remember that words have consequences, especially when those words are uttered by Members in this Chamber.

The overwhelming majority of police officers are good people. These men and women do the right job for the right reasons, and the people of Virginia's Sixth District strongly support these brave men and women. We have seen Back the Blue rallies spring up across the Commonwealth.

Following the ambush of two sheriff's deputies in L.A. County this past weekend, I was moved to speak today to urge my colleagues to recommit themselves to honoring those in blue.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, 193 members of law enforcement have been killed this year in the line of duty, nearly 40 of whom were as a result of a gunshot wound.

These brave souls were moms, dads, brothers, sisters, husbands, and wives, each with a story, and each laid down their life for their fellow citizens. Their deaths bring no more holidays, no more anniversaries, no more birthdays, simply no more days.

Regardless of race, gender, or creed, police officers are there in times of crisis. They very literally answer the call and run toward the sounds of danger while others run from them.

Too many have given their last full measure in the line of duty, only to have their memory disgraced with calls to defund and dismantle our police departments, which by doing so would destroy the peace in which Americans are blessed to live.

Some in this Chamber have been actually pushing an antipolice agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I am tired of folks playing politics with people's lives. Over the past few months, we have seen too much death, too much destruction, and too much division. We must restore the rule of law in this country, and we must get our country back on track.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), my friend.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend from the great State of Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for organizing this Special Order so we can focus on the civil unrest that has enveloped our Nation in recent months.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues who have already shared their thoughts on how we can stop the unrest and restore law and order.

Too many Americans are home tonight worried about what will happen if a violent mob descends on their community or on their small business. That is why I join my friends here tonight and rise up to voice my concerns about leftwing activists running through our streets rioting, looting, and destroying people's livelihoods.

But what concerns me the most is that we are not holding them accountable for their actions. That is why I have written a bill that would strip a rioter caught and convicted of looting, vandalism, or violence of coronavirus unemployment benefits.

While we all support the right to protest peacefully, I know I speak for my colleagues and my constituents when I say it is time to put a stop to the destruction of American cities and leaving the taxpayers and small business owners as the ones who are holding the bag.

My bill is called the Support Peaceful Protest Act. Not only would it hold those rioting and looting accountable by preventing them from receiving enhanced unemployment benefits, but it would also force those arrested and convicted to pay the costs of policing these spectacles.

It is time to force these rioters to face the financial costs of their actions. They need to feel the consequences of their actions.

I offer this piece of legislation as part of a solution to stop the rioting and restore law and order across our Nation. The civil unrest is dangerous, and it must come to an end.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. BIGGS, for letting me share about my bill. I hope that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will consider adding their names to it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BIGGS, once again, for holding this important Special Order hour on what is on the top of the minds of so many of the American people.

Thank you. God bless.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) for his words and also for his work on the legislation that I think will be very important.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), my friend and my seatmate from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS for yielding to me.

In 1928, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said: "In a government

of laws, the existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously. . . . If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy. . . . Crime is contagious."

Mr. Speaker, let's just look at the lawlessness perpetrated by our own government that the American people have had to endure and for which, regrettably, I have had a front-row seat for in my career here in Congress: Fast and Furious; the IRS attacks on conservatives; Benghazi, where four Americans died; Hillary Clinton's email scandal; the attacks on the press of James Rosen, James Risen, and Sharyl Attkisson; the unmasking of American citizens; Russia-gate; Ukraine-gate; and now, Obama-gate.

Who has paid the price for the crime?

What we are witnessing today in many of America's Democratic-run cities are the repercussions of years of lawlessness and amnesty in Washington, D.C.

Recently, I had a woman leave me a voice mail saying she "thinks it is totally okay for her to come with her gun and shoot me in the head." Only a couple days later, two L.A. County sheriffs were shot in the head.

Do you know what happened as those deputies were fighting for their lives? The mob was blocking the entrance to the emergency room, chanting: "We hope they die. We hope they die."

That is how little regard the mob has for the rule of law and their fellow man in their disavowment of the greatest country in the world, the United States of America.

President Trump is right: We must restore law and order. We must defend our police, not just by fully funding them but by increasing the criminal penalties for assaulting officers, bringing violent groups like Antifa and BLM to justice, and applying existing Federal laws like RICO statutes to combat the patterned commission of violent crime.

Ronald Reagan wisely said: "We must reject the idea that every time a law is broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable" for his or her actions.

I strongly support law enforcement. I firmly disavow the groups and individuals funding, enabling, and partaking in mob violence. And I call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the men and women in blue and brown: Thank you.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Arizona, Representative GOSAR, for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE), my friend.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS for yielding.

Look, we have all seen the out-of-control left hijacking our cities across

the Nation, and we know where the bottom line ends. It is organizations like Antifa, where they are targeting police officers, burning down buildings, destroying private property, besieging Federal buildings, attacking innocent civilians. We have seen what happened with the police in L.A. and the chants that took place there.

But all this type of behavior does not happen in a vacuum. It doesn't happen in a vacuum.

In fact, we are seeing all of this fueled by reckless rhetoric, much of it coming from our Democratic colleagues, where they say things like: All cops are evil, all cops are bad, and cries to defund the police.

The result we are watching? Record numbers of police murdered and killed across the country, record numbers injured.

Yet, the left is still calling to defund the police. Rather than condemn this lunacy that is happening in our country, the majority continues to appease, continues to fuel this horrible behavior.

In fact, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee won't even admit that Antifa violence exists. He calls it a myth. It is unthinkable.

Where is the leadership of the Democratic Party? Where is the Speaker of the House, for that matter? She has consistently downplayed this crisis that is happening in our streets.

It is time that we have leadership here. It is time that we address the issues. The Speaker, frankly, should be ashamed of the absolute failure to address this horrific behavior that is happening and the unrest that is happening in our country.

In fact, when the Senate passed serious legislation, the Speaker went out to say that the Senate is trying to commit murder. My question is, how many murders have occurred on the streets of America since she made that statement?

Rather than work with us, the Democrats and the Speaker call us and the President domestic enemies and enemies of the state, and that is just totally unacceptable.

It is time that we restore law and order in this country, and it begins by restoring it right here in this Chamber.

□ 1715

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), my good friend.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want every American to look at this picture of what, sadly, has become "the new normal" in many cities across our great Nation. The one common thread for all of these cities is that they are run by liberal Democrats who tolerate these criminal activities: buildings deliberately being set on fire, department stores being looted of merchandise, police cars, as you see here, being bashed and torched, and our brave law enforcement officers being executed in broad daylight.

Imagine, if you are an owner of these businesses who invested a lifetime of savings, waking up to their places of work being destroyed through no fault of their own.

Here is my question: Why have Democrats remained silent on condemning these acts of violence?

Is it any coincidence that there is not one Democrat standing with us tonight? Where are they? They are not here.

I would submit that this is a preview of coming attractions to cities and towns all across our great country if this lawlessness is allowed to continue.

Now is the time to support law enforcement, not defund law enforcement.

Now is the time to enforce our laws and put those criminals behind bars if they destroy private property.

Now is the time to get back to we, the people, not we, the criminals, not we, the government, not we, the politician.

In closing, you do not build up America by tearing down America.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), who will be speaking as fast as a Texan can speak.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Detective James Skernivitz;
Police Officer Tamarris Leon-Wesley Bohannon;

Sergeant Ricardo Perez-Ortiz;
Police Officer Edelmiro Garza, Jr.;
Police Officer Ismael Chavez;
Police Officer Anthony Dia;
Sergeant Craig Vincent Johnson;
Wildlife Officer Julian Keen, Jr.;
Deputy Sheriff James H. Blair;
Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller;
Lieutenant Stephen P. Williams;
Police Officer Waldis "Jay" Johnson;
Police Officer Nathan James Lyday;
Police Officer Cody N. Holte;
Police Officer Michael S. Mosher;
Lieutenant Glenn Dale Hutto, Jr.;
Police Officer Dan Walters;
Police Officer Justin Putnam;
Officer Breann Leath;
Commander Greg Carnicle;
Sergeant Ben Jenkins;
Police Officer Christopher Ryan

Walsh;
Sergeant James R. O'Connor, IV;
Corporal Brent William Perry Scrimshire;

Corporal Andrew J. Gillette;
Officer David Kellywood;
Police Officer Nick O'Rear;
Trooper Joseph Jon Bullock;
Deputy Sheriff Richard Edward Whitten;

Officer Tiffany-Victoria Bilon Enriquez;

Officer Kaulike Kalama;
Public Safety Officer Jackson Ryan Winkler;

Captain Stanley Curtis Elrod;
Police Officer Bryan Brown;
Corporal Bryant Searcy;
Police Officer Sheena Dae Yarborough-Powell;
Trooper Caleb Starr;

Police Officer Destin Legieza;
Animal Control Officer Darrian May Young;

Police Officer Christopher Eric Ewing;

Police Officer Kaia LaFay Grant;
Police Officer Alan Daniel McCollum;
Police Officer Katherine Mary Thyne.
I have two questions, Mr. Speaker:

Where is the NBA? Where are those names? Where are the names I just read of the 43 police officers who have died in the line of duty this year? I want to know that. I want to know where those names are.

My second question is: Where is the Speaker? Where is the Speaker of the House? Where is this body? Why aren't we on the floor voting on a resolution honoring these fallen 43? Why aren't we standing up for law and order? Why aren't we standing up for security in our streets? Why are we instead turning over this country to mob rule?

These names matter too, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, an article from the *Federalist* by Joy Pullman today points out: "Contrary to corporate media narratives, up to 95 percent of this summer's riots are linked to Black Lives Matter activism, according to data collected by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project. . . . Of the 633 coded as riots, 88 percent are recorded as involving Black Lives Matter activists."

So all of these corporations that are donating money, it is very clear: They are helping a Marxist organization whose ultimate goal will be to relieve these corporations of all of their private property.

Way to go.

Early estimates from insurance agencies apparently say they have set a record in destruction for what the media—the alt-left media or mainstream, whichever you prefer—say is just mainly peaceful uprisings. It is astounding what has been occurring.

This article from *The Daily Signal* points out, from yesterday, that if you go to the website for Black Futures Lab, a venture of Black Lives Matter founder Alicia Garza, and click on donate, "it will ask you to send your money to an obscure organization, the Chinese Progressive Association, explaining that 'Black Futures Lab is a fiscally sponsored project of the Chinese Progressive Association.'"

So there you go. You are not only helping destroy America and eliminate private property that you own, you are also helping the Chinese Communist Party.

Congratulations for all of those. You are not making Black lives matter; you are helping the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am still sickened by the sight that I saw, that all of us saw: two officers who showed up to work, an assassination attempt, attempted execution, just for sitting in their car, for honoring their pledge to preserve and protect the safety of the citizens they serve.

For the past month, law enforcement officers have endured attacks, have been shot at, bottles thrown at, fireworks, glass bottles, powerful lasers attempted to blind them.

This year, as my friend from Texas said, 43 law enforcement officers have been killed, nearly twice the rate of last year.

And what is coming from the other side of the Chamber here? You got it. Silence.

When elected leaders refuse to stand with our law enforcement officers and continue to bend to the whims of violent mobs, we lose our civilization. We lose our civil society.

Now, you think, when you watch TV maybe you see it on the news, it is happening far away, thousands of miles away across our country. But right in Pennsylvania where I live, south central Pennsylvania, just on Monday, unfortunately, violent riots came to the streets on the heels of the death of Ricardo Munoz, a mentally ill 27-year-old who was captured on a police officer's body camera charging at the officer with a knife in his hand.

Now, the death of Ricardo Munoz is a tragedy, no doubt, and my prayers are with Mr. Munoz's family. However, an adult man wielding a large carving knife over his head while charging at police—by the way, having a record of doing this in the past, stabbing people—is a clear mortal threat, and the officers are well within their rights to protect themselves.

Let me be very clear. Every person in the United States of America has the right to peacefully protest. Your constitutional right to protest, however, does not include violent riots, setting fires to things, looting, and harming and killing other people.

Now, this is an account from that protest which wasn't a protest:

The mob marched from the scene of the shooting on Laurel Street to the police station, chucking glass bottles, rocks, bricks, gallon jugs filled with liquid, and plastic road barricades at the police. A county vehicle parked in front of the station was damaged.

Numerous buildings and vehicles were damaged, fires were set—all without regard for the owners and individuals who could have been physically harmed by the riotous actions.

Mr. Speaker, anyone in this Chamber, any leader in our community who does not stand up for civil society, for our police officers who take an oath to protect their citizens, is supporting a dangerous and deadly violent mob, and it absolutely must end.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I include the following items in the RECORD:

A letter dated September 10, 2020, to the Honorable William P. Barr, Attor-

ney General; a newspaper article dated September 15, 2020; another one, dated August 26, 2020; another piece which is undated, which I will get the date for; and then another series of articles as well.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2020.

Hon. WILLIAM P. BARR,

Attorney General,

U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR: We write to share our deep concerns regarding the ongoing violence that has gripped American cities and threatened the rule of law across our nation. ANTIFA and other left-wing anarchist groups have unleashed a barrage of totalitarian attacks on our country in recent months, including accosting a sitting U.S. Senator, hijacking peaceful rallies, organizing armed riots, destroying property, burning buildings, stealing livelihoods, and spreading hate.

It is clear that these individuals are well-funded and supported by a national network of left-wing activists committed to perpetrating violence and furthering anarchy in our streets. As such, we urge you to immediately open an investigation to identify and prosecute all individuals and groups responsible for funding and organizing these terroristic acts that are wreaking havoc on our nation.

As you know, 18 U.S.C. §2101 makes it a federal crime punishable by up to five years in prison to incite a riot; organize, promote, encourage, participate in, or carry on a riot; commit any act of violence in furtherance of a riot; or aid or abet any person in inciting or participating in a riot. Tragically, we are seeing the letter and spirit of the law being desecrated on a daily basis, as ANTIFA and other organized groups of anarchists continue to infiltrate peaceful protests and launch violent attacks against American citizens. Tragically, these activities recently turned deadly in Portland, Oregon, as Michael Forest Reinhoel, who described himself as "100% ANTIFA" shot and killed a supporter of President Trump.

Additionally, the riots in Portland and other major American cities have revealed a targeted effort to destabilize our way of life, including deliberately targeting federal buildings and law enforcement in an effort to undermine the rule of law. The prolonged nature and organization of these violent attacks, including the rioters' use of military grade helmets, gas masks, protective vests, and illegal fireworks, clearly displays the high level of coordination and outside funding supporting these anarchist groups. It is readily apparent that these individuals were outfitted for war and were clearly part of a planned effort to infiltrate peaceful protests, provoke violence, and further subvert our system of government.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents. Well-organized factions of ANTIFA and other anarchist groups have taken advantage of peaceful protests to sow division, threaten free speech, and enflame tensions throughout the nation for more than 90 days.

The violence occurring in our cities cannot continue. The DOJ must take action to stop these dangerous attacks. As such, we urge you to fully investigate the groups responsible for these attacks on our republic and prosecute all individuals who are violating federal law by participating in, inciting, organizing, or funding these destructive riots. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this urgent request and your prompt action to protect our nation.

Sincerely,

KEN BUCK,
ANDY BIGGS,

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.,
TED BUDD,
DOUG COLLINS,
BOB GIBBS,
JEFF DUNCAN,
STEVE KING,
Members of Congress.

[From Fox News, Sept. 15, 2020]

LA COUNTY SHERIFF SAYS PROTESTERS CALLING FOR AMBUSHED DEPUTIES' DEATH IS 'ALMOST WORTHY OF ISIS'

(By Joshua Nelson)

Protesters showing up at the hospital treating two deputies who were shot in an ambush and calling for their death is "something almost worthy of ISIS," said Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva on Tuesday.

"It's just a new low for the hatred that I don't think anyone in this nation has ever seen before," Villanueva told "America's Newsroom."

"We just don't expect it on our own shores and we have been here fighting to save people's lives across the county—it doesn't matter who you are and it is not something we are going to expect or tolerate," Villanueva said.

Villanueva on Monday challenged NBA star LeBron James to match and double the reward money, which is currently up to \$200,000, that is being offered for information on the gunman who ambushed and shot two deputies over the weekend.

"This challenge is to LeBron James. I want you to match that and double that reward," Villanueva said. "I know you care about law enforcement. You expressed a very interesting statement about your perspective on race relations and on officer-involved shootings and the impact that it has on the African American community."

"And I appreciated that," he continued. "But likewise, we need to appreciate that respect for life goes across all professions."

The Los Angeles Lakers star has been one of the most vocal professional athletes to speak on social issues and to condemn police misconduct. After Jacob Blake was shot multiple times by officers in Wisconsin last month, James said Black people in America are "terrified" of police misconduct.

"I know people get tired of hearing me say it, but we are scared as Black people in America," James said following the Lakers' Game 4 win over the Portland Trail Blazers last month. "Black men, Black women, Black kids, we are terrified."

Villanueva on Tuesday said he had yet to hear from LeBron regarding his challenge, but that the NBA star needs "to take some ownership of exactly what he said in terms of propagating the idea that people are being hunted" due to the color of their skin.

"I think that is just flat out not the case. I think we need to hold those accountable for breaking the law, be it law enforcement when we are crossing the line, but, then we have to acknowledge the bigger problem of violence overall and this ambush, cowardly ambush, of the two deputies just doing their own job, doing their business there in Compton, really illustrates that. That is that the problem we need to address," he said.

[From Fox Business, Aug. 26, 2020]

BLM BRINGS ECONOMIC STRESS TO COMMUNITIES IT CLAIMS TO REPRESENT: PASTOR

(By Bishop Aubrey Shines)

Early in August a news story jumped out to me and not in a good way my friends. I am still thinking about it.

As Fox Business reported on August 5, a trucking company will no longer deliver to cities that are defunding police. The co-

owner of JKC Trucking, Mike Kucharski, told Fox he was concerned for the safety of his drivers and their cargo going to cities where police have had their budgets slashed.

As an African American and a minister, I knew something like this would happen sooner or later.

My colleagues and I founded Conservative Clergy of Color because we were afraid something like this would happen if Black Lives Matter was the only voice in the room.

We wanted to give a voice to African Americans who believe in real change, not leftist platitudes and want their country to be better.

My father was able to watch this country become a better place from the segregation he knew growing up but now I fear the progress he witnessed is being turned on its head. We've now seen the first domino fall in the rollback of that progress.

It's sad we've come to this, but it's the truth. Black Lives Matter has crippled the police across dozens of cities, and we're now seeing the economic impact.

These, friends, are the first tangible results from Black Lives Matter's mad, anti-police crusade. These are the first far-reaching consequences beyond the violence in cities this summer that has gone so long it's beginning to feel lethargic. These are the consequences that BLM's leadership probably are fully aware of, but that the young misguided social justice warriors that make up their ranks haven't stopped to think about.

When you do stop and think about it, why should the owner put his drivers in danger? Why would he risk the danger in cities where police have been hamstrung and rioters have free reign of the streets?

When young children like poor Secorcia Turner in Atlanta are getting gunned down in the streets, I wouldn't want my employees going to those cities either.

It's sad we've come to this, but it's the truth. Black Lives Matter has crippled the police across dozens of cities, and we're now seeing the economic impact.

Cities that normally receive commerce by way of trucking companies and shipping outlets are now going to lose a vital source of income. Depending on the size of the city, the effect could range from negligible to devastating.

Either way, it's a problem none of these communities should have faced. But because city leaders and governments either were bullied into defunding their police or just felt like being politically correct, grocery stores and retail outlets are going to have to find other ways to supply their products.

Now you might be thinking, "I see your point Bishop, but won't another trucking company just step up and fill the void?" Ideally, you'd be right, but I would pose the counter-question of how long it will take before other companies follow JKC's lead if the riots aren't brought to heel soon.

For that matter, how long will it be before other industries start making similar choices? How long will it be before the results BLM's leftist ideology impedes different businesses from providing income to communities?

What if a company like Staples or Walmart decides to build new facilities in Portland but then pulls out at the last second because rioters there are still out of control? And it's not just mega-retailers; I haven't even touched on small businesses and entrepreneurs. If I were a young, bright individual looking to start my own company, I certainly wouldn't want to do it in a place with kneecapped police and no guarantee of stability.

The worst part of this debacle is that minority communities, the very people BLM claims to represent, will suffer the most.

A weaker police force means less business in a community and that's less jobs to go around including for minorities.

Minorities in low-income neighborhoods need the work, not just bloated government welfare programs. These are minorities who could work in shipping warehouses, malls, stores, or startups are worse off if none of those industries decide to do business in their communities.

BLM's "justice" has already gotten black children killed on the streets. Its crusade to replace police authority with an anarchist mob has made it less safe in low-income neighborhoods than before George Floyd's tragic death. But now we're finally seeing the long-term consequences; the purging of business opportunities that will only drive minorities further away from prosperity and into the loving arms of government dependency.

[From Fox News, Sept. 16, 2020]

LA SHERIFF ALEX VILLANUEVA CHALLENGES
LEBRON JAMES TO MATCH REWARD MONEY
FOR GUNMAN WHO AMBUSHED TWO DEPUTIES
IN COMPTON

(By Louis Casiano)

Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva on Monday challenged NBA star LeBron James to match and double the reward money being offered for information on the gunman who ambushed and shot two deputies over the weekend.

Speaking with KABC Radio on the John Phillips Show, Villanueva said the reward money reached \$175,000—a combination of donations of \$100,000 from the county and \$75,000 from two private individuals.

"This challenge is to LeBron James. I want you to match that and double that reward," Villanueva said. "I know you care about law enforcement. You expressed a very interesting statement about your perspective on race relations and on officer-involved shootings and the impact that it has on the African-American community."

"And I appreciated that," he continued. "But likewise, we need to appreciate that respect for life goes across all professions."

The Los Angeles Lakers star has been one of the most vocal professional athletes to speak on social issues and to condemn police misconduct. After Jacob Blake was shot multiple times by officers in Wisconsin last month, James said Black people in America are "terrified" of police misconduct.

"I know people get tired of hearing me say it, but we are scared as Black people in America," James said following the Lakers' Game 4 win over the Portland Trail Blazers last month. "Black men, Black women, Black kids, we are terrified."

He earlier tweeted his frustrations about police shootings.

"And y'all wonder why we say what we say about the Police!! Someone please tell me WTF is this????!! Exactly another black man being targeted," James wrote. "This s--- [sic] is so wrong and so sad!! Feel so sorry for him, his family and OUR PEOPLE!! We want JUSTICE."

It was not clear if James was aware of Villanueva's challenge. Messages to the LeBron James Foundation were not immediately returned.

"Let's see what he does," the sheriff said. "I'll be very curious to see what his response is, if any."

[From Fox News, Sept. 11, 2020]

ST. LOUIS BLM PROTESTERS FROM MCCLOSKEY CONFRONTATION CITED FOR TRESPASSING

(By Louis Casiano)

Nine Black Lives Matter protesters who were confronted by an armed St. Louis cou-

ple on their lawn have been issued citations for trespassing, officials told Fox News.

The June 28 encounter between the demonstrators, and Mark and Patricia McCloskey made headlines as the country was gripped by nationwide protests over police brutality. The couple—both personal injury lawyers—were seen on video and in photos pointing a handgun and a rifle as demonstrators moved through their neighborhood.

No shots were fired.

Calls and emails to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department from Fox News were not returned.

The office of City Counselor Julian Bush told Fox News in an email that the citations were mailed to the nine people but that Bush has "not yet determined whether to file charges."

The protesters could face up to \$500 in fines and up to 90 days in jail. However, Bush told NPR it was rare for anyone to receive such penalties for a municipal ordinance violation.

Last week, Black Lives Matter activist Ohun Ashe tweeted that she received a summons.

"I was just sent a summons to appear in court for 'trespassing on private property'" on Portland PI aka the street Patricia and Mark McCloskey live on," the post read. "I had a gun waved in my face by them but trespassing is what matters?"

Video footage captured the confrontation as 300 demonstrators marched in the street, claiming they were headed toward the home of St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson. The McCloskeys aimed their weapons at the marchers and have since been charged with felony unlawful use of a weapon.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, has said he will almost certainly pardon the McCloskeys if they are convicted.

The incident landed the couple an appearance during the first night of the Republican National Convention last month, where they asserted their Second Amendment right to defend themselves.

"The radicals are not content just marching in the streets," Mark McCloskey said during a virtual speech. "They want to walk the halls of Congress. They want power. This is Joe Biden's party. These are the people who will be in charge."

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 14, 2020]

CONFESSIONS OF A NEW GUN OWNER

(By William McGurn)

On Monday it became official: The police issued me a gun permit.

Never did I imagine I'd be here. Not because I was anti-gun. My dad was a career FBI agent, so my siblings and I grew up with guns.

At the same time, my father was never particularly interested in guns. To no avail, we would beg him to go to shoots to show off his skills. More frequently he would remind us that many who keep guns in the house are more likely to shoot a friend or family member than a would-be robber or rapist. His proudest boast about his own career was that not once did he have to shoot anybody.

This may help explain why we all grew up supporting the Second Amendment in principle while not much interested in the practice. What changed? Certainly the rioters played a key part. But far more shocking than the rioters themselves has been the associated spectacle of police and political authorities across America standing down in the face of night after night of criminal behavior directed at the lives and livelihoods of innocent, law-abiding citizens.

Even in suburbia, many are no longer confident our authorities would or could keep us

safe. In a small suburb such as mine, what would happen if even 100 or 200 people bent on violence were to arrive at once? Could our small police force really handle it? Or would we be left to fend for ourselves like Mark and Pat McCloskey in St. Louis, who defended their home and were then treated as if they were criminals?

A few years back, I asked a former colleague whom I knew to be pro-Second Amendment philosophically if he owned a gun. He answered no, and then asked if I had one. I said I wouldn't know what to write down as my reason for wanting one.

He told me, "Write down, 'Because I don't trust the government.'"

That might have worked for the Founding Fathers. But in today's New Jersey—a state ranked by the Giffords Law Center's annual Gun Law Scorecard as the nation's most restrictive after California—the response might be 40 squad cars on the front lawn by morning. I say this only half in jest: Do other Americans buying guns for the first time find it as grating as I do to learn that we need government permission to exercise a constitutional right?

Equally illuminating has been learning about guns and those who own them. Over four decades in the news business, I have often written about the National Rifle Association, usually about some proposed new gun law. Most recently the NRA has been in the headlines over a lawsuit filed by New York's attorney general in which she accuses top leaders of decades-long corruption and misspending.

But our family's decision to buy a gun has introduced us to the side of the NRA more Americans see: the education side. The NRA has courses, online and in person, for almost everything. The NRA instructor my wife and I engaged, Billy De Almedia, was firm, professional and patient.

It's not just the instruction that impresses. It's the sheer Americanness of a private organization established to support a constitutional right in all its manifestations, from defending the Second Amendment legally and philosophically to instilling in newbies such as myself the respect for guns necessary to keep and use them safely. Not to mention a taste of the satisfaction that comes from mastering a new discipline.

Surely if the government were to assume the functions the NRA provides, the experience would be akin to going to your local Department of Motor Vehicles. In America, by contrast, the ethos emphasizes private initiative and responsibility. In our new interactions with gun owners, gun instructors and owners of gun ranges, my wife and I have found them unfailingly eager to help and to answer even the dumbest questions.

This year a record five million law-abiding Americans, like us, have become new gun owners. Many don't fit the stereotype: African-Americans account for the largest percentage jump in gun ownership, while women are 40% of first-time buyers. These new buyers join an even larger demographic: the 43% of American households that already have a gun.

The record gun sales for 2020 may have implications for swing states in November as well. In Pennsylvania alone, the National Shooting Sports Foundation reckons there are 276,648 first-time gun owners this year. To put this in perspective, in 2016 Donald Trump won Pennsylvania by 44,292 votes.

Now, I appreciate how unlikely it is that I will ever reach for a gun to defend my home or myself. But after watching the mayhem that's taken over so many city streets I wonder, probably with plenty of my fellow first-time gun buyers, what alternative I'd have if ever I had to make that terrible 911 call—and it went unanswered?

[From the Washington Times, July 27, 2020]

REP. JERRY NADLER SAYS ANTIFA VIOLENCE IN PORTLAND A "MYTH"

(By Jessica Chasmar)

Rep. Jerrold Nadler declared Sunday it's a "myth" that Antifa provocateurs are behind the ongoing violent protests in Portland, Oregon.

In a now-viral video posted on Twitter, writer-producer Austen Fletcher caught up with the House Judiciary Judiciary Committee chairman on his way to his vehicle.

"I ran into Jerry Nadler in DC and asked him to disavow the Antifa violence/rioting in Portland. His response? 'THAT'S A MYTH,'" Mr. Fletcher said in a tweet along with the video.

"It is true," Mr. Fletcher tells Mr. Nadler in the video. "There's violence across the whole country. Do you disavow the violence from Antifa that's happening in Portland right now? There's riots—"

"That's a myth that's being spread only in Washington, D.C.," Mr. Nadler responded.

"About Antifa in Portland?" Mr. Fletcher asked.

"Yes," Mr. Nadler replied before a staffer nudged him to get into the vehicle.

"Sir, there's videos everywhere online," Mr. Fletcher continued. "There's fires and riots, they're throwing fireworks at federal officers. DHS is there. Look online. It gets crazy, Mr. Nadler."

The New York Democrat was slammed for his response, which came as Portland entered its 60th day of riots since the death of George Floyd.

Portland is the home of Rose City Antifa, the oldest known so-called anti-fascist group in the country.

[From American News, Sept. 14, 2020]

DHS LEAKED EMAIL CONFIRMS ANTIFA IS AN ORGANIZED GROUP

(By Ian Miles Cheong)

An internal email from the Department of Homeland Security leaked to CBS Catherine Herridge late Monday detailing that the violence in Portland was not "opportunistic," but rather "organized"—confirming long-suspected details about the Antifa movement.

The email explains that Antifa is organized and runs contrary to reports in the mainstream media that Antifa was not responsible for anti-police violence, but an impromptu movement spurred on by anti-fascist sentiments held by most of the American public.

A recent article in the Washington Post by Mark Bray, author of *Antifa: Anti-Fascist Handbook*, attempted to dispel "myths" about Antifa, claims that the group is not an organization, but rather a "tradition of militant antifascism." The article disputed claims that Antifa "masterminds violence at Black Lives Matter protests."

In printed email documents attained by Herridge, the DHS' Acting Under Secretary for Intelligence & Analysis Brian Murphy wrote to his colleagues on July 25 detailing his findings of Antifa in Portland.

Murphy urged for an immediate change of definitions for the violent activity in Portland following a review of the individuals arrested by federal authorities, as well as intelligence surrounding their affiliations and activities.

"The individuals are violently attacking the Federal facilities based on these ideologies," he said in regards to Antifa, which he classed as VAAI or "VIOLENT ANTIFA ANARCHISTS INSPIRED."

"We can't say any longer that this violent situation is opportunistic," wrote Murphy. "Additionally, we have overwhelmingly in-

telligence regarding the ideologies driving individuals towards violence and why the violence has continued."

"A core set of Threat actors are organized, show up night after night, share common TTPs and drawing on like minded individuals to their cause."

TTP stands for Tactics, Techniques and Procedures.

"I recognize we may not be able to attribute every individual as VAAI however we need to look at the totality of the intelligence both current and previous and recognize the motivation for the violence and why people have shown up to commit violence for about 60 days. And why the individuals are using social media to encourage the VAAI on the ground to carry out acts of violence."

The nightly riots in Portland numbered at sixty days when the email was composed. Rioting has shifted from Portland to other cities with some of the same actors, including Washington DC, Seattle, and Kenosha—violence of which was spurred largely by pro-Antifa advocates on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitch, and Twitter.

"Threat actors who are motivated by Anarchist or ANTIFA (or a combination of both) ideologies to carry out acts of violence against State, Local, and Federal authorities and infrastructure they believe represent authority or represent political and social ideas they reject," Murphy concluded.

Phrases like "Every city, every town. Burn the precincts to the ground" are a common refrain at Black Lives Matter rallies, and have been chanted during arson attacks on the Portland Police Bureau, the Mark O. Hatfield federal courthouse in Portland, and other facilities where Antifa and Black Lives Matter militants were present.

The intelligence provided by the DHS validates claims by conservative voices who have long identified Antifa as an organized movement, and flies in the face of claims that the group was not intent on committing violence or conducting an insurgency against the United States government.

[From gatewaypundit.com, Sept. 15, 2020]

MILWAUKEE TRUMP SUPPORTER ARRESTED FOR BRANDISHING A GUN AT BLACK LIVES MATTER MOB THAT WAS SURROUNDING HIS HOME (VIDEO)

(By Cassandra Fairbanks)

A Milwaukee man has reportedly been arrested after pulling a gun on a mob of Black Lives Matter supporters who were surrounding his home for several hours. It is currently unclear who the man is or why the mob was at his house, but he did have a "Trump Train" flag hanging outside.

Members of the mob claimed on social media that their actions were justified because he is a "racist" and had a confederate flag. The flag was not seen in the videos, but an American and Trump flag were hanging prominently on the front of his home.

In livestream footage of the incident, the mob is clearly seen stepping on to the man's property.

"They went specifically to his house to protest him for 'being a racist.' The homeowner was arrested, and the crowd remains outside. They seem to have gone on his property. WTF Milwaukee?" Kitty Shackleford, a Twitter user that archives riot footage, tweeted along with videos.

After the mob was outside his home for more than two hours, police arrived. As they entered the man's property, the rioters cheered for police and called for the man's arrest, yelling about how he had a weapon.

When the man was taken outside, seemingly in cuffs, the crowd went wild.

The militant leftists were threatening the man saying that he was going to have big problems if he dared to step outside.

As they threatened him, shined lights into his home, and pranced all over his property, he pointed a shotgun out the window.

The person who called for the “protest” livestreamed the mob outside the man’s home for several hours.

It does not appear that any members of the mob have been arrested.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, as we have recognized here today with our speakers the importance of law enforcement to maintaining our rights and the safety of our neighborhoods and communities, I am reminded that it was just a little over a month ago, late July 2020, when the chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives said about antifa, as the city of Portland was being burned by antifa, he said it is a myth. It is a myth.

And then what has happened is an internal email from the Department of Homeland Security revealed Monday that the violence in Portland was not opportunistic but, rather, organized by the antifa organization.

We have got to see that our Attorney General—I urge him, I urge the FBI to investigate and the Attorney General to take every action that the law allows, whether it is civil RICO or prosecution of these individuals, because, if you want to bring our society back into order, you take people who are violent, rioting, looting, causing mayhem and murder, you arrest them. You charge them, you prosecute them, and you convict them.

We know there are law enforcement who do a great job, but right now, in many places around this country, it will take a law enforcement officer 5 or 10 minutes or longer to get to a home or a business that is under attack by a criminal. When that happens, if they are under attack, these individuals need to have the right, as they do under the Second Amendment, to protect themselves. That right must be protected and maintained.

So I am kind of surprised—I am going to give you a fact here. In Pennsylvania alone, this year, you have had an increase in new gun owners by more than a quarter of a million. More than a quarter of a million people in Pennsylvania own guns today who didn’t own them at the beginning of the year. Why? Because of what is going on in our streets, whether it is in Pennsylvania, Oregon, or wherever else it may be.

A mob circles a home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; an individual holds up a shotgun inside as this mob surrounds his home. What does the mob do, the antifa folks? They call the police to have this man arrested for having a gun on the ready to protect himself from that very mob. That is backwards.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, we thank the police. The purpose of the police is to protect the weak and the rights of all.

When our leaders in places like Portland, Minneapolis, you name it, casti-

gate the police or celebrities castigate the police, what they are really saying is: We are content with mob rule. That can’t be the case.

We have heard this tonight from my colleagues who have said this so well. We support the police, and we support the thin blue line that protects our rights. This rioting and this mayhem must end tonight.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON).

RECOGNIZING DEAN C. MATHISEN’S SERVICE TO OUR NATION AND NEBRASKA’S SECOND DISTRICT

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very respected friend from Wisconsin today for yielding. We had our 5-minute speeches cut short, so I appreciate the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Dean C. Mathisen for 20 years of service to our Nation and Nebraska’s Second District. Dean is retiring from Federal service at the end of the 116th Congress in January 2021.

Dean is a former U.S. Army officer and a combat veteran. He served as a field artillery officer on Active Duty in the U.S. Army during the Cold War, on its front lines in West Germany. He was next assigned as a military police officer who deployed to the desert during the first Gulf war. Dean also commanded a transportation company in the U.S. Army Reserves.

In Nebraska’s Second District, Dean served over 12 years as a senior constituent liaison for the Honorable Lee Terry from 2002 to January 2015. During this tenure, he was instrumental in identifying the need and communicating with the Department of Veterans Affairs about bringing a national veterans cemetery to the district. Dean was a key element in finding the resources to enable the first homeless veterans housing project in Omaha to be completed as well.

Dean then crossed the Missouri River in Iowa in 2016 and continued his Federal service in the office of the Honorable JONI ERNST. Here, he continued to use his personal experience to aid him in understanding the needs of our military servicemembers and veterans while solving constituent issues.

In 2017, Dean became a member of my original Omaha district office team as a senior constituent liaison. During this time, he saw the need for and coordinated the efforts to establish a Federal veterans court for the State of Nebraska. In the summer, Dean was promoted to deputy district director.

In his free time, Dean is active in local animal rescue and animal-assisted therapy. He is known in our of-

fice to be an avid horseman, hunter, and shooter. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and The American Legion and is known as a great Dane.

I want to offer Dean my sincere appreciation for his years of dedicated service to our great Nation and to Nebraska’s Second Congressional District. His retirement is well earned. He should take great pride in his accomplishments in both his military and civil service careers for the citizens of the United States of America and the constituents of the Second District of Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dean all the best in his future endeavors.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: HONORING KATHY AND GREG GONZALEZ

Mr. BACON. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to commemorate two wonderful people during Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring a husband and wife pair of wonderful police officers from my district in Omaha. They have given lifetime contributions to law enforcement and have engaged in community efforts for our hometown.

Gregory Michael Gonzalez and Katherine Lynn Belcastro-Gonzalez were born in South Omaha in the early seventies to immigrant families.

One of six siblings, Greg grew up in a military environment as his father was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base.

Kathy’s mother fled from Lithuania to Nebraska after her grandfather was taken as a prisoner of war. Kathy and her siblings were then raised in the basement of a Lithuanian parish in South Omaha.

Kathy and Greg were high school sweethearts at Omaha South High and went on to become married first-generation college graduates. Greg obtained an athletic scholarship at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Kathy attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln while simultaneously working three jobs. She graduated in 1993 and joined the Omaha Police Department the following year. Greg began his career in law enforcement in 1993 as the only Mexican American in the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office.

As assistant chief of the Omaha Police Department, Greg now helps oversee the hiring of officers and works to reflect the diverse community it serves, including Spanish-speaking officers. Additionally, Greg is an adjunct police academy instructor and instructs criminal justice courses at his alma mater.

As captain of Omaha’s southeast precinct, Kathy oversees one of the most culturally diverse areas in Omaha. In addition, her precinct also manages large-scale events and cultural celebrations, including the NCAA College World Series, events at TD Ameritrade Park, and Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.

Athletics are another passion Kathy and Greg share, and they believe competitiveness and teamwork are interpersonal skills that transfer from sports to the rest of life.

The couple was instrumental in expanding the already successful police-led sports program for at-risk and disadvantaged youth in Omaha called the Police Athletics for Community Engagement, or PACE. This program is led by police officers and volunteers and was founded in 2005 by Detective Tony Espejo, a 30-year member of the Omaha Police Department and veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Currently, retired OPD Captain Rich Gonzalez serves as PACE's executive director.

This September, Greg and Kathy celebrate their 21st wedding anniversary joined by their three children, Izabella, Greg Jr., and Alex. Overall, Kathy and Greg believe they would not be where they are today without the support of parents and extended family.

With an extended list of combined accolades and awards locally and nationally, Greg and Kathy Gonzalez exemplify the American Dream and the quintessential rise to success from hardworking immigrant families.

Mr. Speaker, we salute Greg and Kathy. May the future reward them with health and prosperity to continue to serve and protect our communities.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to address several issues.

The first issue that has been in the paper lately is vitamin D. I have spoken before this Chamber several times in the past on the importance of taking vitamin D. Over 40 percent of American adults do not have an adequate amount of vitamin D in their system.

Several institutions of higher learning have done research and strongly suggest that vitamin D is a way to reduce the number of people who get COVID as well as greatly reduce the effects of COVID on those people who unfortunately get it. This has been found by MIT, by Northwestern in Evanston, and by Trinity College in Iowa.

It has been my disappointment to this point that the appropriate government agencies that have no problem sending out press releases and advertisements on COVID have not addressed vitamin D.

I was, therefore, elated to find out that, late last week, Dr. Fauci came out and supported the evidence behind vitamin D's benefits. Even more than that, Dr. Fauci said that he has been taking vitamin D himself, which is very good. This is a change.

Traditionally, many people out there said that you should even stay inside, and one way to get vitamin D is to be out in the Sun. So, the idea that we need more vitamin D is the opposite of what some of the experts or at least what some politicians have told us.

Vitamin D, of course, is good not only to prevent COVID but to prevent other sorts of infections and respiratory problems as well.

Now that Dr. Fauci has come out and told us that getting more vitamin D is a good idea, and particularly now that Dr. Fauci has admitted that he himself has been taking vitamin D, I strongly encourage the CDC and all other appropriate government agencies to publicize the benefits of vitamin D.

We have to do something other than just wait for a vaccine, which may or may not happen. And we all know, when it does happen, many people will not take that vaccine.

I strongly encourage Dr. Fauci to follow up on his statements with approving TV commercials talking about vitamin D and the fact that he takes vitamin D in his future interviews.

Harvard estimates that 1 billion individuals worldwide may be vitamin D deficient, and of course, the rest of the world looks to the United States for leadership. So, the benefits would not only accrue to American citizens but to citizens around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I remind you to take vitamin D, particularly if you have any friends or relatives who may be vitamin D deficient or have special problems. I would talk to your doctor and anybody who is going in for a regular check-up. I would ask for a vitamin D test as well because there are ways to reduce the number of people getting COVID and to reduce the number of fatalities other than just hanging around and waiting for a vaccine.

Mr. Speaker, the next topic I would like to address tonight is also a medical topic that has been something I would have liked to address since I got here. I came across some information with regard to biosimilars, and that is people who need insulin.

I consider myself an advocate for the Juvenile Diabetes Association, and I am aware of many different people who have diabetes. Depending upon the type of insurance you have, Mr. Speaker, if you have diabetes, you may be spending \$100 a month on insulin. I have run into people who are spending \$800 or \$1,000 a month for insulin.

Can you imagine if you have a child and you have to go out of pocket for another \$1,000 a month just to keep your child alive?

I ran into the fact that people are working on substitutes for insulin called biosimilars. I am introducing H.R. 8190, the Biosimilar Insulin Access Act, which will increase competition in the insulin market by making biosimilars available. Biosimilars are to insulin what generics are to normal prescription drugs.

It would be tremendous if we could get more of these to the market. Right now, for whatever reason, it takes far too long to get these products to market. Sometimes, they aren't available at all. Because they are not available, people continue to have to overpay to keep themselves or their loved ones alive.

Interchangeable biosimilar products are able to be automatically dispensed at the pharmacy counter for their

brand-name reference product or brand-named insulin. We want to generate the same type of cost savings for insulin that we have already done in the past for generic drugs.

I realize it is late in the session, but things can move fast. We all know that bills pass around here relatively soon after they are introduced.

When I think of the people who are having to pay \$1,000 a month or maybe just \$500 or \$600 a month for themselves or their children, I hope people in this building and the relevant committees and relevant leadership find a way to get this bill to the floor.

I will be available to explain the importance of this bill. I am ready to explain the importance of this bill to any of the Members. I will be on the floor the next couple of days talking about it. I hope to get a good cosponsorship list, but I do hope that the relevant committees immediately take up this bill and get it to the floor so that we can save as much money as possible for the people who are stuck with this disease.

The final point I am going to bring up tonight is concerning border security. It is an issue that, because of the COVID, has been pushed to the background. But pushed to the background or not, it remains to be important for this country.

No country can continue to exist if they have open borders and unlimited and unvetted people continue to come here.

Now, there are people who come here whom we do not expect to come here, who are caught or who come in contact with the border security, and there are other people who sneak across the border. They are never contacted by border security because, quite frankly, we have a shortage of agents, though they are caught on cameras.

A year ago in May, right now about 15 months ago, 16 months ago, about 90,000 people came into contact with the Border Patrol and were allowed in this country—people who were not coming here through the normal immigration channels. Since that time—it is something that has been underpublicized, and quite frankly, it ought to be more publicized by President Trump himself because he is not afraid to publicize his successes—we have dropped from 90,000 people to under 2,000 people coming into contact with our Border Patrol and let in the country.

This has been done by three things, all underpublicized.

One, President Trump, in part by talking about tariffs—I believe, maybe not—has gotten the Mexican Government to agree to hold people on the Mexican side of the border instead of having people who are asking for asylum come to the United States and be released into the American interior where we never see them again.

□ 1745

We all know that some of these people are probably drug-running. We

know that some of these people are breaking the law. And we know that some of these people are going to wind up on some sort of public assistance. So we salute President Trump for reaching an agreement and holding people south of the border.

The next thing President Trump has done is he has contacted the countries in Central America, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras and made sure they are holding more people of not only their own nations, but people further south in their countries rather than allowing them into Mexico.

Now, the United States does provide foreign aid to these countries, and I think it is important that we maintain good relations with these countries. But I think it has been under-publicized that President Trump, through negotiations with these countries, is further decreasing the number of people who are coming into this country who we do not necessarily want to have come into this country.

And the final situation, is now people coming into this country, who may have COVID, are immediately turned around and told to go back home.

So you combine these three things, and you go from about 90,000 people coming into contact with the border patrol and being allowed in here to—I am told—under 1,000. It is almost too good to believe. But that is what happens when you have a man of action, a person who is committed to holding people south of the border.

This is particularly true because in the future, we have people talking about giving people coming across the border free healthcare. We already know—unless you are blind—that people are taking advantage of public benefits who are coming here illegally.

So I think at a time when there is so much bad news out of government, we ought to pay attention to exactly what happened when we went over 90,000 to certainly under 2,000—and maybe under 1,000 people—allowed in the country. I will point out that this does not include people who do not come in contact with the border patrol. And in the year that is wrapping up, we estimate that about 10,000 people have come in here without contact with the border patrol. We know this because we have cameras taking pictures of people sneaking across the border. We do not have enough border control to turn these people around.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the border patrol for the number of pounds of cocaine, methamphetamines, and fentanyl which they have turned around at the border in the most recent year. That is certainly a degree of success. I know fentanyl, in particular, has been the newest lately, and I wish Congress would pay much closer attention to the people who are dying of fentanyl overdoses this year as the number of people who are dying of other unfortunate incidents.

In any event, those are three things I want the American public to pay atten-

tion to. I, again, emphasize the importance of taking vitamin D.

I emphasize the importance of getting biosimilars to the market so that we can save money for the poor people who have to take insulin.

And I salute the border patrol and the administration for all they have done in greatly decreasing the number of people who are coming into this country illegally.

Now, of course, in the Chamber today, we have many different people. And I am prepared to ask to adjourn, but if the people in the front of the room would rather hear a little bit more about fenofibrates, I would be happy to talk about fenofibrates.

Do you want to hear about fenofibrates?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman yield back?

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the remainder of my time and ask for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 5 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

5277. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing four officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5278. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Bradford J. Shwedo, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5279. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting an authorization of Major General Paul T. Calvert, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777a(b)(4); Public Law 111-383, Sec. 505(a)(1); (124 Stat. 4208); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5280. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the three officers whose names appear on the enclosed list to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5281. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Major final rule — Covered Broker-Dealer Provisions Under Title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (RIN: 3064-AE39) received September 14, 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.

5282. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Distance Education and Innovation [Docket ID: ED-2018-OPE-0076] (RIN: 1840-AD38) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5283. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priority and definitions — State Personnel Development Grants [ED-2019-OSERS-0001] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5284. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priorities and definitions — Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind-Training and Technical Assistance [Docket ID: ED-2020-OSERS-0009] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5285. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priorities, requirements and definitions — Rehabilitation Training: Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center-Quality Management; and Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center-Quality Employment [ED-2020-OSERS-0104] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5286. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priorities — Rehabilitation Training: Innovative Rehabilitation Training Program [Docket ID: ED-2019-OSERS-0163] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5287. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions For Paying Benefits received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5288. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of the Test for Mycoplasma [Docket No.: FDA-2018-N-4757] (RIN: 0910-AH95) received September 14, 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.

5289. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Auctions Division, Office of Economics and Analytics, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final

rule — Auction of Flexible-Use Service Licenses in the 3.7-3.98 GHz Band for Next-Generation Wireless Services; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 107 Scheduled to Begin December 8, 2020 [AU Docket No.: 20-25; FCC 20-110] received September 14, 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.

5290. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification of a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

5291. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification of a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

5292. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

5293. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting two notifications of a federal vacancy, a designation of acting officer, a nomination, and an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

5294. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Potomac River, Between Jones Point, VA, and National Harbor, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2020-0245] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5295. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; North Atlantic Ocean, Ocean City, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2020-0361] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5296. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; I-5 Bridge Construction Project, Columbia River, Vancouver, WA [Docket Number: USCG-2020-0247] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5297. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Person in Charge of Fuel Transfers [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0493] (RIN: 1625-AC50) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5298. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the De-

partment's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Dolan Fireworks, Lake Erie, Bratenah, OH [Docket No.: USCG-2020-0532] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5299. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Cumberland River, Hendersonville, TN [Docket Number: USCG-2020-0518] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5300. A letter from the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Passenger Carrier No-Defect Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports [Docket No.: FMCSA-2019-0075] (RIN: 2126-AC29) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5301. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Market Dominance Streamlined Approach [Docket No.: EP 756] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 6100. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the criminalization of female genital mutilation, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-506). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5546. A bill to regulate monitoring of electronic communications between an incarcerated person in a Bureau of Prisons facility and that person's attorney or other legal representative, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-507). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2733. A bill to direct the Attorney General to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-508, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2438. A bill to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians; with an amendment (Rept. 116-509, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Natural Resources discharged from further consideration H.R. 2438 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Natural Resources dis-

charged from further consideration. H.R. 2733 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 8264. A bill to amend chapter 2003 of title 54, United States Code, to protect majority federally owned counties from loss of taxable acreage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 8265. A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to establish a program for second draw loans and make other modifications to the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr.

THOMPSON of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. STANTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SIRS, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ROUNDA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 8266. A bill to modify the Federal cost share of certain emergency assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to modify the activities eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020 relating to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr.

WALBERG, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. KIND, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 8267. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the definition of water heater under energy conservation standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 8268. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish mental and behavioral health care to certain individuals discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service under conditions other than honorable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 8269. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct annual surveys of veterans on experiences obtaining hospital care and medical services from medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr.

MULLIN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr.

OLSON, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. CROW, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. KIM, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. VELA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. HAALAND, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. SRES, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LESKO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. HECK, Ms. MENG, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. WILD, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. TRONE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. COX of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. CRIST, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. BRINDISI):

H.R. 8270. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the responses of the Department of Defense to sex-related offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. MCEACHIN):

H.R. 8271. A bill to provide supplemental appropriations for the cleanup of legacy pollution, including National Priority List sites, certain abandoned coal mining sites, and formerly used defense sites, to replace lead drinking water service lines, to provide grants under certain programs, and to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the issuance of new major source air pollution permits in overburdened communities, and for other purposes; 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 Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 8272. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit physically impeding an ambulance from providing emergency medical treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 8273. A bill to establish programs and authorities to facilitate the commercial application of clean energy and related technologies in the United States; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

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

H.R. 8274. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Dairy Pricing

and Policy Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BOST, Mr. DUNN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. COOK, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 8275. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, and the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, to make certain enhancements to grants and agreements between the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and entities that provide services to homeless veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida (for herself, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 8276. A bill to authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Alwyn C. Cashe for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 8277. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide for consultation with State, Tribal, and local governments, the consideration of State, Tribal, and local concerns, and the approval of post-shutdown decommissioning activities reports by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 8278. A bill to require the disclosure of determinations with respect to which Congressional staff will be required to obtain health insurance coverage through an Exchange; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ZELDIN (for himself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 8279. A bill to establish and support a quantum network infrastructure research and development program at the Department of Energy and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. HURD of Texas (for himself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CLOUD, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H. Con. Res. 116. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the principles that should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Oversight and Reform, Foreign Affairs, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H. Con. Res. 117. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should resume normal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, negotiate a bilateral free trade agreement with Taiwan, and support Taiwan's membership in international organizations; to the Committee on

Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BABIN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. ROY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. FLORES, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. WILLIAMS):

H. Res. 1115. A resolution calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly sentenced to 9 years in a Russian prison; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER:

H. Res. 1116. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7664) to permit the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to deem certain nonprofit organizations serving developmentally disabled individuals as eligible to participate in the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 1117. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2020 as Peripheral Artery Disease Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. RYAN, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. SIREs):

H. Res. 1118. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2020 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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. GOSAR:

H.R. 8264.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 8265.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DEFazio:

H.R. 8266.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 8267.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 8268.

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

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS, CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have 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 Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 8269.

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

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS, CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have 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 Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 8270.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. HAALAND:

H.R. 8271.

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

Article I Section 8

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 8272.

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

U.S.C. Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 8273.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 8274.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H.R. 8275.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 12

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 13

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 8276.

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

Article I, Section 8, which gives Congress the power to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; to raise and support armies; and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 8277.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have 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. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 8278.

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

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 8279.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 125: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 594: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 683: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 832: Mr. STEIL.
H.R. 989: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1034: Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee and Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 1108: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 1130: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 1224: Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 1450: Mr. DELGADO and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1560: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 1857: Mr. DELGADO.
H.R. 1873: Ms. FINKENAUER.
H.R. 2031: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 2168: Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 2295: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2442: Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. FUDGE, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCADAMS, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. FRANKEL, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2453: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 2653: Mr. VAN DREW and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 3086: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3114: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BRINDISI, and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 3548: Mr. MAST.
H.R. 3570: Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. NEAL, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3572: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 3771: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3797: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.
H.R. 3821: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 3969: Mr. MAST.
H.R. 4172: Mr. BOST and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 4549: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.
H.R. 4924: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5046: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 5086: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 5098: Ms. FINKENAUER.
H.R. 5141: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CRIST, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CROW, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. BASS, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 5194: Ms. DEAN and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5427: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 5589: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 5605: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SPANO, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 5610: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 5701: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.

H.R. 5754: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 5995: Ms. FUDGE and Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 6032: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 6195: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 6425: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 6563: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 6626: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 6645: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 6794: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 6829: Mr. SPANO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. CROW, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 6833: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 6919: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 6934: Mrs. TORRES of California and Mr. GOODEN.

H.R. 7024: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 7039: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 7040: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 7052: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 7071: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 7072: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 7078: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 7154: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 7233: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 7490: Mr. GOODEN.

H.R. 7499: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 7564: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 7565: Ms. FRANKEL.

H.R. 7620: Mr. DEFazio, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 7632: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 7642: Ms. GABBARD, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 7666: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 7690: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 7739: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 7749: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 7759: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 7766: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 7809: Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 7821: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 7832: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 7839: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 7910: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 7919: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 7961: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 8030: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 8031: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 8044: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 8109: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 8113: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 8171: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 8180: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 8200: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 8201: Mr. SPANO.

H.R. 8254: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H. Res. 908: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. CRIST.

H. Res. 1078: Ms. PINGREE.

H. Res. 1110: Mr. ZELDIN and Mr. ROSE of New York.



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No. 160

Senate

The Senate met at 10 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 Lord, ride into our hearts today and fill us with Your power. Lord, give us such strength that we will face life's difficulties with faith, hope, and love. May our lawmakers so embrace these spiritual attributes that Your Name will be glorified throughout our Nation and world.

As our Senators dedicate their lives to obey Your precepts, direct them to Your desired destination. Lord, give them a faith that will not shrink when at times they cannot see clearly the road ahead. Help them to place their total trust in You.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

BELARUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I imagine the people of the United States have been able to follow the demonstrations in Belarus in opposition to the President declaring victory there. Since Aleksandr Lukashenko came to power in Belarus in 1994, he has consolidated power, and, in the

process, suppressed democratic opposition.

So the fact that the Belarus August Presidential election was a sham, as we all know, and he was once again declared to be the winner by a highly implausible margin, should not surprise anyone. However, this time, the Belarusian people have had enough. This time, brutal crackdowns by security forces have not crushed grassroots demands for democracy.

The quest for liberty is embedded in the DNA of the American Republic, so the Americans naturally watch with interest as the people of Belarus continue to demand their God-given rights. The American people stand with the people of Belarus.

I also appreciate very much the strong stance taken by European governments supporting the Belarusian people as the American people have.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Republican Senators, like working families all across the country had hoped—hoped—the Senate would be spending this week completing more bipartisan pandemic relief.

We proposed another package with hundreds of billions of dollars to make schools safer for our kids, to help

American workers keep or regain their jobs, and to invest more in testing treatments and finding and distributing a vaccine. But alas, Democrats filibustered it all, apparently intent that working families cannot receive any more relief until election day.

Across the Capitol, Speaker PELOSI's excuses and Goldilocks games are even wearing thin on our fellow Democrats. A few weeks ago, more than 100 House Democrats publicly—publicly—asked Speaker PELOSI to stop blocking action on any coronavirus legislation besides her multitrillion-dollar, far-left wish list. She ignored them. She completely ignored them.

Yesterday, a number of House Democrats tried again. They released a new proposal they had written to some Republicans and pleaded with the Speaker to allow a vote on it. Again, she shot down any notion whatsoever of compromise. Now, bear in mind, the Speaker had explained she will block any compromise for kids, jobs, and healthcare because—because—passing anything short of multiple trillions of dollars would make her look like “a cheap date”—a cheap date.

The money that K–12 schools need, that unemployed workers need, and that we need for the race toward vaccines, Speaker PELOSI is blocking all of it because, apparently, to the San Francisco far left, anything short of multiple trillions of dollars would make her “a cheap date.” So, apparently, for the sake of the Speaker's personal ego, working families continue to suffer with no bipartisan help from Congress.

FILIBUSTERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, since Democrats are stonewalling pandemic relief, the Senate is using our time to confirm more well-qualified judicial nominees to lifetime positions on the Federal bench. Renewing the Federal judiciary has been a major success over the last 4 years.

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Since January 2017, President Trump has nominated, and this Republican Senate has confirmed, 211 article III judges, including 53 circuit judges. That is the second most appellate confirmations of any President in American history at this point in their term.

This isn't a partisan victory. The President has sent us impressive, qualified men and women who understand the radical notion that the job of judge is to actually follow the law—follow the law. It is a victory for our Constitution itself, but, believe me, this progress has not come easy.

Throughout the last 4 years, our Senate Democratic colleagues have visited a historic degree of obstruction upon this President and his efforts to stand up the administration that the American people actually elected.

Senate Democrats have forced us to break more filibusters on nominations since 2017—now listen to this—than had occurred cumulatively in all of Senate history—all of Senate history—before President Trump was sworn in. I am going to say that again.

Senate Democrats have forced us to break more filibusters on nominations since 2017 than had occurred cumulatively in all of Senate history before President Trump was sworn in. They have attempted to filibuster more nominations in the last 3 years than the sum total of all prior Senates—from 1789 through 2016 added together.

What was once a rare roadblock for the most controversial people has now become a daily norm. Before 2017, before this Senate Democratic minority got to work, only 5 percent of all nominations to district courts and circuit courts had been subjected to filibusters. I will say it again.

Before 2017, before this Senate Democratic minority got to work, only 5 percent of all nominations to district courts and circuit courts had been subjected to filibusters. Under President Trump, the number has been 80 percent—80 percent. Our Democratic colleagues even obstruct nominees they don't even oppose. We have taken more than 100 cloture votes on district judges, even though district court nominees from any State with a Democratic Senator could not have even gotten out of committee without Democratic support.

So, to summarize, here is what we are doing this week. We are breaking Democratic filibusters on nominations because Democrats are filibustering coronavirus relief. And let us not forget the cherry on top. Because self-awareness apparently no longer exists, our Democratic colleagues have chosen this very moment to argue that they shouldn't have to play by any of these rules if they ever get power themselves.

President Obama calls the filibuster “a relic of Jim Crow,” even as Senate Democrats use it over and over and over again. Democrats filibustered police reform and filibustered pandemic relief for working families. Some years back, the Democratic leader told the newspaper: “I am the leader of the fili-

buster movement [and] I am proud of it.” That was the Democratic leader.

But now—now—they are saying that if they ever get power, they intend to tear up the rule book to force radicalism on our country. They want to break the rules to pass the kinds of radical, far-left policies that former Vice President Biden has rushed—rushed—to embrace, from abortion to socialism, to cracking down on the Second Amendment.

And that is not all. It is not just about bad policies. They want to go even deeper and hot-wire—hot-wire—our democracy itself. The far left is salivating over the prospect of killing the filibuster in order to pack the Supreme Court, pack the Senate with new States, and tilt the playing field permanently so they can never lose power again.

This is not some rightwing conspiracy theory. These are the signals they are sending publicly right now. This is what the left is saying out there. Maybe this hard-left hypocrisy plays well in a few big coastal cities. Maybe the angry crowds that are pulling down statues of our Founding Fathers want Senators who will pull down government institutions as well. Most Americans see things differently.

E-CIGARETTES

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now, on another matter entirely, a few days ago, the country got something that has been in too short supply in 2020: some really great news—specifically, great news on the subject of public health.

According to the 2020 National Youth Tobacco Survey, administered by the FDA and the CDC, the number of American youth using e-cigarettes has dropped by 1.8 million since just last year—1.8 million in 1 year. That means, of course, that 1.8 million fewer young Americans are using e-cigarettes and vaping devices than 1 year ago.

This victory for young Americans' health is no accident. The experts say a number of factors are at play, but one major contributing factor unfolded right here in the Senate a little under a year ago.

Last December, the President signed the Tobacco-Free Youth Act into law. It was a bill I wrote and introduced to stem the tide of what was a rapidly growing health crisis among our Nation's young people. The bipartisan bill I wrote with my good friend TIM KAINE from Virginia and with the help of other colleagues, including Senator TODD YOUNG, raised the minimum age to purchase tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vaping devices, from 18 to 21.

This is based on clear-cut science. Public health experts tell us the harmful effects of nicotine are most potent on bodies and brains that are still developing. Nearly 9 out of 10 adult smokers started by the age of 18. So we knew it was time to take action.

I am proud to have led the legislation that took another leap forward in get-

ting nicotine addiction away from our Nation's youth, and by the looks of these data, it has not taken long for our legislation to begin to pay major dividends.

Nearly 2 million fewer teens in Kentucky, Virginia, Indiana, and across the country are having their future put in jeopardy by these products. That is a win, and it has happened largely because the Senate stepped up.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4582

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4582) to extend, temporarily, daylight saving time, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Todd Wallace Robinson, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in only 48 days, the American people will

head to the polls to cast their ballots in an election that, by necessity, will be conducted in a much different fashion than in nearly any election in our Nation's history. Because of COVID-19, there will likely be a historic increase in mail-in ballots.

Mail-in voting is a process that is well established in our country. Several States have conducted elections this way for years without any issue at all. Because of COVID-19, there may also be some delays in determining the results of the election while every ballot is counted. This, too, has happened before, but there is no doubt that this election will be unique, and it means that leaders from both sides of the aisle should be joining together now to ensure the integrity of the election and the public's confidence in the result.

Sadly, there are some who are systematically undermining public confidence in the voting process and irresponsibly fanning suspicions and conspiracy theories about the legitimacy of election results. At the top of the list here is, unfortunately, once again, the President of the United States, who has exploited and capitalized on fears about holding an election in the middle of COVID-19 to attack mail-in voting and to advance comically false claims of widespread voter fraud. The President has done both of those. He has attacked mail-in voting and made these false claims of fraud.

We are talking about the integrity of our elections here. This is the wellspring of our democracy. It is fundamental for our country, something that American soldiers have fought and died for—and the President trifles with it, and, of course, our Senate Republican colleagues go along.

So, today, we are doing two things in this regard because we have a responsibility to do everything we can to see that this election does not mark the beginning of a new age when our election results are doubted, conspiracy theories flourish, and our grand democracy is tarnished around the world. If we allow this kind of malicious tampering with the wellspring of our democracy in terms of people's trust in it, it is the beginning of the end.

Donald Trump doesn't care. We know he only cares about himself. The Senate Republicans don't say a peep. We know they are afraid of Donald Trump. Even when they disagree with him, they remain quiet, and too often they agree with him.

We cannot allow our people to lose faith in elections, and we must do everything to ensure that they are conducted in a fair way that the American people will accept, despite COVID and all the problems it creates.

So, this morning, Senator SANDERS and I have written a letter to the Republican leader asking him to work with us to establish a special bipartisan committee with equal representation from both parties to guarantee the integrity of our election process.

The committee should focus on three issues: one, confirm the security of and

confidence in our mail-in systems, our vote-by-mail systems; two, measures to ensure that every vote is counted; and three, discuss and prepare for possible postelection scenarios.

The function of the committee would be to hold hearings about what is being done around the country to make certain that our public institutions are prepared to conduct a smooth and reliable election, free from voter suppression and intimidation, that every vote will be counted and there will be confidence in the outcome.

Senator SANDERS and I and many in our caucus—including Senator KLOBUCHAR, whom I will mention in a minute—feel very, very strongly that we have to do something, and this bipartisan committee can ensure the American people that the Senate is on top of this.

We hope the Republican leader will accept our request. We hope he will not run away from his responsibility to ensure there are fair elections. We hope that he will not go along with Donald Trump's dangerous rhetoric about the fairness of our elections.

Later today, the Senator from Minnesota and ranking member of the Rules Committee, Senator KLOBUCHAR, and I will be speaking with a bipartisan group of secretaries of state. We will be getting a briefing on the state of our election preparedness around the country. I expect they will reiterate their call for another major priority being blocked by Senate Republicans: election assistance funding.

I am hopeful we can still find agreement on a bipartisan basis to help our States with critical funding to prepare for this historic election. This issue is above partisan politics. It is the essence of our democracy. It is disgraceful that Republicans are playing games with this—perhaps for electoral advantage, perhaps for fear of President Trump—but we will not let it happen.

We, as a caucus, repeat to the American people: The best way to prevent an election from being manipulated or stolen is to vote. The more people who vote and the earlier they vote, when they can vote early, the better off our democracy will be.

RUSSIA

Madam President, now, on Russian disinformation, another matter, the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs continues to further his probe into the family of the former Vice President and plans to release a report next week that appears designed to influence the upcoming Presidential election.

While the rest of the country has been focused on fighting the global pandemic, for the last few months, the chairman and Republicans of the committee have wasted taxpayer resources to run a hit job on President Trump's political rival. Even worse, it seems that several lines of investigation have echoed materials pushed by the Kremlin.

In fact, some of the allegations that the Homeland Security chairman pursues are the same ones propagated by Andriy Derkach, a known Russian agent who was recently sanctioned by President Trump's own Department of the Treasury for interfering in our election. So here President Trump's Department of the Treasury sanctions Derkach, and the chairman of the committee repeats the same kind of discredited allegations that Derkach propagates. It is outrageous. It is a disgrace.

The hearings and subpoenas that have come out of the Homeland Security Committee are also a disgrace by any standard. The more we learn about Russian agents like Mr. Derkach, the more it looks like the Kremlin is trying to launder anti-American information through the U.S. Senate, and because Moscow prefers to support Donald Trump, as it did in the last election, it seems that some of this disinformation finds a sympathetic audience among Republican Senators.

So today, alongside Senators WYDEN, PETERS, REED, and FEINSTEIN, I will be introducing a resolution calling for a cessation of any Senate investigation or activity that allows Congress to act as a conduit for Russian information. There should not be a single aspect of this Chamber that, wittingly or unwittingly, furthers the propaganda machine of Vladimir Putin's intelligence services.

I will have more to say on this matter later, but for one of the most important committees to be echoing a Kremlin-backed conspiracy theory is beyond the pale. As we are about to hold a national election, it must stop immediately.

VENEZUELA

Madam President, finally, later today my friends Senators DURBIN, MENENDEZ, and VAN HOLLEN will come to the floor to try again to secure temporary protected status for Venezuelans seeking refuge here in the United States. There are roughly 200,000 eligible Venezuelans in the United States who are now at risk of being sent back to a failed and dangerous nation, rife with political repression and human suffering—a nation that, under Maduro's regime, constitutes the single biggest humanitarian crisis in our hemisphere today.

Despite having all the authority that he needs to solve this problem on his own, President Trump will not grant temporary protected status, and his enablers in the Senate have repeatedly blocked passage of House legislation that would provide it. So we are going to try once again to get this passed.

Democrats stand with the people of Venezuela. Later today, my Republican colleagues will need to decide if they want to restore the moral leadership of the United States and support the protection of Venezuelans fleeing violence and despair or leave them all in limbo, facing deportation to a humanitarian disaster.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, in the beginning of September, the Congressional Budget Office issued its latest budget outlook. The news wasn't good. CBO announced that next year our country's debt is projected to exceed the amount of our gross domestic product. In other words, the size of our debt will be greater than the size of our economy. That is a very bad position to be in.

Countries with that kind of debt-to-GDP ratio face time-sensitive decisions if they want to avert an all-out economic crisis. Greece is just one recent example. We all know the kind of economic devastation and accompanying turmoil that Greece has experienced in recent years.

Now, as the United States, we can probably hang on a little longer than most other countries before entering a full-blown debt crisis. It is helpful that our economy was surging before being waylaid by the onset of the coronavirus, but even we can't hang on forever. Sooner or later, if we don't address the size of our soaring debt, we are going to have a problem—a lot of problems, in fact.

That is not something most of my colleagues across the aisle want to hear. They would like to spend as much as they want, whenever they want, on whatever new government program that they have come up with, and they imply that Republicans are miserly for not wanting to join them.

Republicans, Democrats imply or sometimes say, just don't care about the ordinary Americans who would supposedly benefit from Democrats' spending. In fact, the opposite is true. In the face of the pandemic, Republicans have been willing to spend huge sums to help our fellow Americans weather this crisis, and Republicans are worried about our spending and our debt precisely because we care deeply about ordinary Americans. We know what the consequences of unchecked debt and spending can be, and we want to protect Americans from those consequences.

To start with, the larger our debt grows, the more interest we are likely to have to pay—and we are already paying a lot. Right now, we are paying roughly \$484 billion a year in interest on our debt. That is a substantial chunk of our yearly budget, and that is money that could otherwise be going to other priorities.

And the problem has only snowballed. By 2029, the yearly interest on our debt is projected to reach \$807 bil-

lion, according to one estimate. Now, that is going to eat up a lot—a lot—of money that could otherwise be spent on important investments: healthcare, veterans, infrastructure, defense, seniors, education. We would have a lot more money to devote to those priorities if we weren't paying hundreds of billions in interest each year on our debt.

Then there are the economic consequences of a huge debt: The economy will struggle. Unemployment will grow. Businesses will create fewer jobs, if they create jobs at all. Wages and benefits will likely stagnate. The stock market will struggle.

We have had to borrow a lot of money this year to meet the coronavirus crisis, and there is no doubt it is money we needed to borrow. That happens sometimes during a crisis. But we need to be very aware of the fact that we have driven up our deficit by \$3.3 trillion just this fiscal year, further increasing our Nation's debt, and we need to be very careful about any additional borrowing and ensure we are borrowing only what is absolutely necessary.

Republicans have caught a lot of flak from Democrats for not being willing to use the coronavirus as an excuse for unchecked government spending, including for noncoronavirus-related measures, but we have made a priority of scrutinizing additional spending because we don't want to get our country out of one economic crisis only to plunge it into another. Unfortunately, that is a lesson that is lost on many of my Democratic colleagues.

We think the debt is bad now, and it is, but it is nothing like what our debt will look like if Democrats take Congress and the White House in November and start putting some of their bigger spending plans into effect—plans like Medicare for All, which would cost, as a conservative estimate, \$32 trillion over 10 years; or the Green New Deal, Democrats' \$93 trillion boondoggle.

That is right, Madam President; you didn't mishear that. The Green New Deal is estimated to cost over \$93 trillion over 10 years. To put that in perspective, the size of the entire Federal budget in 2019 was \$4.4 trillion, or substantially less than the cost of 1 year of the Green New Deal.

Now, you might think a pie-in-the-sky fantasy like the Green New Deal would have been abandoned by Democrats by now, but you would be wrong. More than a year after its introduction, it is apparently still going strong.

Yesterday, I spoke on the floor about Democrats' threat to eliminate the legislative filibuster in the Senate, and that is the Senate rule that helps ensure that bills that come before the Senate require bipartisan cooperation.

Shortly before I spoke, the Senator from Massachusetts, who introduced the Green New Deal resolution in the Senate, appeared on National Public Radio, where he was asked whether he thought there were any parts of the

Green New Deal that could attract bipartisan support. The Senator's response: The whole thing needs to be enacted—and if Republicans don't allow that to happen, Democrats should change the Senate rules to eliminate the legislative filibuster.

Apparently, Democrats aren't willing to even moderate their proposal. If the Senator from Massachusetts has his way, Democrats will shove the entire \$93 trillion down the throats of the American people. I guess the American people will just have to survive the resulting debt crisis.

When you ask about the pricetag for Democrats' socialist fantasies, Democrats will make noise about somehow paying for it. We will tax the rich, they say. The rich, they say, aren't paying their fair share. The problem, of course, is that increasing taxes on the rich isn't going to pay for these proposals.

You could tax not only the rich but a good portion of middle class at rates nearly 100 percent and not come up anywhere close to getting \$93 trillion that would be necessary to pay for the Green New Deal.

There is, in fact, no way to pay for these proposals. They will be financed by enormous additions to our national debt, and ordinary Americans will suffer the consequences: a shrinking economy, fewer jobs, lost jobs, lower wages, lack of opportunity, and much more.

I hope we will take action on our debt before it is too late. One thing we have to consider is how to shore up and protect Social Security and Medicare, which are currently the main drivers of our national debt. Thanks to an aging Baby Boomer population, these programs are under a great deal of strain.

My colleague from Utah, Senator ROMNEY, recently introduced legislation, called the TRUST Act, to begin to address these endangered trust funds and to start to rein in our national debt. Bipartisan legislation like this would be a good start to preventing our country from facing an economic crisis in the coming decades.

The Republican Senators sponsoring the legislation were joined by a handful of Democrats, which gives me hope that perhaps not all of my Democratic colleagues are determined to explode our national debt with their socialist fantasies.

Unfortunately, too many Democrats—including the Democrats' Vice Presidential candidate—are open to bankrupting Americans with the Green New Deal and other plans. I hope they will not have the chance to implement their legislation because our economy and the American people might never recover from the consequences.

I yield floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

WORKPLACE SAFETY

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, it is pretty obvious that my Republican colleagues think that the Presiding Officer is going to lose her race and a number of incumbent Senators are going to

lose their races and because it looks like there is going to be a Democratic President and a Democratic Senate and Democratic House, all of a sudden my far-right colleagues are concerned about the national deficit and the national debt.

In President Trump's second year in office, Congress passed a bill that provided about \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts. Between 70 and 80 percent of the tax cuts went to the richest 1 percent of the people in this country. It pushed the national debt into a whole new stratosphere. It took money we were going to use to build infrastructure—highways, bridges, water and sewer systems—and just ignored that plan. And now all of a sudden my colleagues are interested in the national debt—not when the Republicans are in control; they want to give more and more and more tax cuts. But when Democrats are in control, Democrats want to invest in infrastructure; Democrats want to save this economy right now, including providing \$600 a week for unemployed workers—680,000 of them in my State, close to 400,000 of them in the Presiding Officer's State—Democrats want to invest in infrastructure and job training and protecting Medicare and Social Security. But now that Republicans think they are going to lose, it is all about the national debt and doing nothing to help workers right now.

I want to talk today specifically about workers and how this President and all the President's enablers—and they are enablers. My Republican colleagues don't even speak up when the President so dishonors our fallen soldiers. They don't speak up when the President has clearly lied, his own words, about the coronavirus—lied to the American people after he was taped, in his own words, by a former reporter and absolutely failed to speak up about workers.

Every day we live with the horrific consequences of leadership failures in this country. So many Americans have lost jobs; they have lost small businesses; they have lost their sense of security; and they have lost much of their faith in their own government; and in nearly 200,000 American families, they have lost a loved one. All because President Trump and his enablers here—all because President Trump has failed to get this pandemic under control, he has failed to protect American workers.

A few weeks ago, I was talking to a woman in Cincinnati. I was actually home; it was a remote call. She is a grocery store worker. She said: You know, they call me essential, but I don't feel essential. I feel expendable because they pay me so little, and they do so little to keep me safe at work.

President Trump's administration, get this, has gotten 8,000—8,000, 8-0-0-0—complaints about unsafe workplaces since the start of this pandemic. We know how many busdrivers have died. We know how many grocery store workers have died. We know how many

meatpacking plant workers have died. We know how many hospital workers have died—not just nurses and doctors, and we grieve for them and their families and applaud and are so grateful for their service—but it is orderlies who have died also, and the people who change the bed sheets and change the linens in the hospitals have died.

The President has gotten 8,000 complaints about unsafe workplaces. This summer, we had President Trump's corporate lawyer, Secretary of Labor Scalia, before the Finance Committee. When I say "corporate lawyer," I mean corporate lawyer. He represents the President in the Department of Labor. As a corporate lawyer, when there is a fork in the road, do I support workers or do I support corporate interests? Every single time he goes with corporate interests.

It is not a surprise because the Secretary of Labor used to be a corporate lawyer who made millions and millions of dollars representing corporations against workers. That is the kind of person the President picked—if that doesn't tell you a whole lot about President Trump's betrayal of workers.

He appointed the Secretary of Labor, somebody who always has represented corporations, making millions of dollars against workers. So what is he going to do as Secretary of Labor? He is going to do what the President wants him to do. He is going to support corporate interests against workers.

I asked Secretary Scalia in the Finance Committee, out of the thousands of workers who have come to you for help, how many in-person inspections have you done? Thousands of workers have come to him for help. How many inspections of workplaces have they done? Zero—zero in Atlanta; zero in Savannah; zero in Griffin, GA; zero in Covington, GA; zero in Mansfield, GA; zero in Stone Mountain, GA; zero in Ohio.

I don't know the Presiding Officer very well, but she took an oath to represent her State, as I took an oath to represent my State. And one of the things we do is fight—should fight for everyday people, for workers.

This Secretary of Labor had done zero—zero inspections after 6 months of Americans reporting to work in a pandemic, and there were over 8,000 complaints—8,000 complaints from workers saying that my workplace is not safe.

There is a pandemic. Zero inspections. Do you know what? Not one Republican member of the Finance Committee—not one Republican Senator on the Finance Committee—spoke up and pushed Secretary Scalia to do inspections or to look out for workers. Why? Because it would have made the President of the United States unhappy if a Republican Senator had questioned what the President of the United States does.

They don't question him when he insults our soldiers who have died. They don't question him when he lies to the

American public about the pandemic. They don't question him when he fails his leadership role to protect workers.

Zero inspections—6 months, 8,000 complaints. Zero inspections to make sure corporations are giving workers the protective equipment and the other safety protocols they need.

I demanded that Secretary Scalia, at this hearing, follow up and tell us about any inspections they conducted and what the results of those inspections were. He said he couldn't get that information. He is the Secretary of Labor; I am not.

Guess how many fines they have issued. Five—five fines. As far as we know, President Trump's administration has only issued 5 fines out of more than 8,000 workers complaining that their employers are failing to protect them.

Last week—a notable week for the Trump administration—they did something about workers, but listen to what they did. They fined Smithfield. Smithfield is a multibillion-dollar company owned by the Chinese Communist Party. They fined Smithfield \$13,000, after 1,300 workers got sick at just 1 plant in South Dakota, and 4 people died.

Let's do the math: \$13,000 fine, 1,300 workers got sick. That is \$10 a worker. They fined this multibillion-dollar company, owned by the Chinese Communist Party in the United States, in South Dakota—they fined this company \$10 per infected worker, a multibillion-dollar corporation.

The idea that \$10 a worker will stop these guys from continuing to abuse their workers is absurd. Do you know what? Every other corporate leader around the country heard: Oh, my gosh. President Trump is on our side. He is on our side every single time. President Trump is on our side when it comes to a complaint from a worker, so we don't have to worry about making our workers safe because we know the President of the United States might fine us \$10 per every sick worker.

One-third of the workers at this plant got sick—one-third of the workers. They were not putting all the money they make—the billions of dollars that they pull out of South Dakota, this company, and send those dollars, probably electronically, I guess not by boat, to the Communist Party in China. All those dollars they take out of that plant, and they can't put any of those dollars to invest in protecting workers to make their companies successful.

President Trump could crack down on these corporations. He is not going to do that. He comes from corporate America. He inherited billions of dollars. He has had a lot of personal bankruptcies. Forget about that. He is on their side. Politics, government—it is about whose side you are on. Are you on the President's side every single time, no matter what he does? Are you on corporations' side every single time, no matter what they do? No matter

how many workers get sick, no matter how many workers they kill, it is on their watch—no matter how many workers they kill, you are going to be on the corporation's side every single time? And the answer in Trump's America is yes.

Instead, he could mobilize workers. He could mobilize American manufacturers to get every American worker the masks and protective equipment they need. He could issue an OSHA temporary standard that would provide clear, enforceable requirements for keeping workers safe.

He could stand up for workers. He campaigned on it. He could actually stand up for workers. But he will not. It is always the same story with this corporate President, always the same story. He wants to protect the big guys—workers' health and workers' safety be damned.

He campaigned in 2016, in my State—he surprised people how much he won by in my State. He campaigned by promising he would look out for workers. He went all over Ohio; he went all over the industrial Midwest—the Great Lake States areas—telling workers he would take care of them and would fight for them.

Now we know how much these workers' health and how much these workers' lives mean to this President—about \$10 each. He has betrayed these workers over and over. His corporate tax cuts—Senator THUNE was talking about Democrats and taxes and the deficit in an easy-to-understand way. He betrayed these workers over and over. Corporate tax cuts: 70 percent of the benefits went to the richest 1 percent. He took away 100,000 Ohio workers' overtime pay. He took away overtime pay from workers in Savannah, in LaGrange, in Newton County, and Jasper County, GA. He took overtime pay away from my constituents in Cleveland and Mansfield and Shelby and Chillicothe.

He stacks the courts with corporate lawyers. Those lawyers—now judges—will always decide for corporate interests against workers' interests.

He launched a boycott against Good-year, a unionized tire-making plant headquartered in Akron—one of the greatest companies in our State and one of the most renowned, iconic companies—because somebody made a statement about one of his "Make America Great" hats. He launched a boycott costing who knows how many jobs in that company.

He has betrayed workers by his failure to fight for autoworkers and their jobs. He promised workers in Lordstown, OH: Don't sell your homes. This plant may close, but don't sell your homes. We are going to bring back these jobs.

Then he did nothing when we asked him to help, and they shut down, costing 3,000 jobs.

Most recently, he and Senator MCCONNELL and all their minions who follow Senator MCCONNELL's lead took

away \$600 a week in unemployment benefits. What are those workers to do? What are those workers to do in Georgia? What are those workers to do in Ohio? What are those workers to do in Illinois and Delaware when their \$600 a week just disappears?

I know there are a lot of wealthy people on both sides of the aisle. There are a lot of very wealthy people here. There are millionaire Members of the Senate. When I hear millionaire Senators and billionaire people in the administration say that \$600 a week is just too much money—we can't give these unemployed workers that much money. That \$600 a week is too much money. They are going to get lazy. They are not going to work.

When I hear millionaire Members of the Senate say such things, it sickens me. That \$600 a week is the reason that millions of Americans didn't fall into poverty during this terrible, terrible recession. But lo and behold, the administration is happy and the Republican Senators are happy because the stock market has recovered. I know a lot of you in this institution have a lot of money in the stock market. I won't even get into the conflicts of interest when you own this stock and you vote this away. Forget about that. You have a lot of money in the stock market, so I know you are really happy. I know the Presiding Officer and Republican Members of the Senate are really happy that the stock market recovered in the spring. So then Donald Trump doesn't even have to pretend to care about getting this pandemic under control.

Corporations are doing fine. Never mind the workers who are getting sick. Never mind the essential workers. The essential workers are the busdrivers, food service people, custodians, security people, people who work in grocery stores and drug stores.

The essential workers—who are mostly women, disproportionately people of color, who mostly are barely adequately paid—the essential workers face something most of us don't: They work all day exposed to the public. They wear masks. They are safe—most of them. They do things safely. They work all day, and then they go home always anxious.

Madam President, imagine feeling every day when you go home that you might have contracted coronavirus and you might pass it on to your family. Imagine the anxiety these generally low-paid workers face every day when they go home. We don't think about them around here because corporations are doing fine and the stock market has recovered. The workers go home every night worried they will affect their families. Most of them won't; they will get along just fine.

American workers are tired of this. They are sick of this. They are tired of the empty promises. They are tired of the betrayals. They are tired of feeling like no one in this government, in this Senate, in this White House is on their side.

If all of you would—could actually lead when the President doesn't, we could pass a bill issuing an OSHA—Occupational Safety and Health Administration—temporary standard, protecting people. We could issue a temporary standard to protect people on the job. We could pass pandemic pay. That is what the House of Representatives down the hall did.

When the House of Representatives passed their bill and they took that bill down the hall and put it in Senator MCCONNELL's office there, I guess that bill got lost. One of the things that bill did have was pandemic premium pay. If you are one of those workers—I know this amount of money doesn't mean much to the Presiding Officer or most of my Senate colleagues, but they would get up to \$10,000 pandemic pay because they expose themselves in the workplaces—essential workers—to this illness. It would actually pay these essential workers for putting their health and their lives on the line to serve us.

It is time for us to step up. If you love this country, it is time we fought for the people who make it work. It is time we fought for the people who make this country work. Instead of always siding with U.S. corporations and with the wealthiest people in this society, it is time we decide in this body to actually fight for workers.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today in support of four highly-qualified California nominees to the U.S. District Court: John Holcomb, Mark Scarsi, and Judge Stanley Blumenfeld to the Central District of California, and Todd Robinson to the Southern District of California. (These four nominees know the districts where they will serve if confirmed, and I believe they have demonstrated in their legal careers the skills needed to serve as fair and impartial judges. All four of these nominees received Well Qualified ratings from the American Bar Association, and all have significant legal experience in California.)

John Holcomb, who has been nominated to the Central District of California, is currently a partner at the law firm Greenberg Gross. Mr. Holcomb has spent more than 25 years in private practice, focusing on intellectual property issues. He also served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. I understand that if confirmed, Mr. Holcomb will be sitting in the Riverside Courthouse, which is badly in need of judges.

Mark Scarsi, nominated to the Central District of California, is currently managing partner of the Los Angeles office of the law firm Milbank, Tweed. Mr. Scarsi joined that firm in 2007 after spending more than a decade with other California-based law firms, including O'Melveny & Myers and Christie, Parker, & Hale. Mr. Scarsi specializes in patent cases, with a focus on intellectual property. He has tried some 28 cases to verdict, judgment, or

final decision, including 20 cases in which he served as lead counsel.

Judge Stanley Blumenfeld, nominated to the Central District of California, currently serves on the Superior Court for Los Angeles County, where he has presided over some 200 trials since his appointment to the bench in 2006. Prior to that, Judge Blumenfeld spent nearly two decades as a practicing attorney, including 7 years as an Assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of California.

Todd Robinson, nominated to the Southern District of California, is currently a Federal prosecutor in that district, where he has served since 1997. Mr. Robinson has significant experience litigating in Federal courts, including in the Southern District of California. He has tried more than 40 felony cases to verdict, including 35 as sole or lead counsel.

In closing, Mr. President, these four nominees are highly qualified, they have extensive practical experience, and they are ready to hit the ground running. It is my hope and expectation that these nominees will receive broad bipartisan support. I will be voting in favor of these nominees, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. BROWN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON ROBINSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 176 Ex.]

YEAS—86

Alexander	Bennet	Boozman
Baldwin	Blackburn	Braun
Barrasso	Blunt	Brown

Burr	Hirono	Roberts
Cardin	Hoeven	Romney
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Casey	Inhofe	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Rubio
Collins	Jones	Sasse
Coons	Kaine	Schatz
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cortez Masto	King	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shaheen
Cramer	Leahy	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Sinema
Cruz	Loeffler	Smith
Daines	Manchin	Stabenow
Duckworth	McConnell	Sullivan
Durbin	McSally	Tester
Enzi	Menendez	Thune
Ernst	Moran	Tillis
Feinstein	Murkowski	Toomey
Fischer	Murphy	Udall
Gardner	Paul	Van Hollen
Graham	Perdue	Warner
Grassley	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Portman	Wicker
Hawley	Reed	Young
Heinrich	Risch	

NAYS—10

Blumenthal
Booker
Cantwell
Gillibrand

Klobuchar
Markey
Merkley
Murray

Schumer
Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Capito	Sanders
Harris	Warren

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.

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 debate on the nomination of David W. Dugan, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tom Cotton, Marsha Blackburn, Kevin Cramer, Jerry Moran, James E. Risch, Michael B. Enzi, Tim Scott, John Barrasso, Richard Burr, Deb Fischer, James Lankford, John Thune, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, John Hoeven.

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 David W. Dugan, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS),

the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 177 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Perdue
Blackburn	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Burr	Inhofe	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Rubio
Collins	Jones	Sasse
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Shelby
Crapo	Loeffler	Sullivan
Cruz	Manchin	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Durbin	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Murphy	

NAYS—40

Baldwin	Hassan	Schatz
Bennet	Heinrich	Schumer
Blumenthal	Hirono	Shaheen
Booker	Kaine	Sinema
Brown	King	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Leahy	Tester
Carper	Markey	Udall
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murray	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Peters	Wyden
Feinstein	Reed	
Gillibrand	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—4

Capito	Sanders
Harris	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

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 bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Stephen P. McGlynn, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Todd Young, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Deb Fischer, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Tim Scott, Thom Tillis.

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 Stephen P. McGlynn, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 178 Executive]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barraso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Shelby
Cramer	Loeffler	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Durbin	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Murphy	
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Jones	Shaheen
Brown	Kaine	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Peters	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Capito	Harris	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Stephen P. McGlynn, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we have recently seen yet another manufactured crisis by the Democrats for the benefit of the upcoming election. This is in regard to scaring the people about some notion that only Republicans would think about taking away Social Security and Medicare. It is not true that any Member of this Congress will do that, but it always comes up as TV advertising against the Republicans; you are going to scare old people into thinking Social Security is going to be gone if you vote Republican.

So this is another election season. If there are not any real issues regarding Social Security, the Democrats make one up, and they do it, of course, to scare the people into believing that some people want to destroy the program, not realizing that it is such a part of the social fabric of the American population that nobody would think of doing it.

We saw it in the last Presidential election when Secretary Clinton didn't have a basis to attack then-Candidate Trump on Social Security because Trump campaigned on the basis that he wasn't going to cut Social Security, but that didn't stop them from making things up. With their lacking any real ammunition, Clinton's allies here in the U.S. Senate decided to manufacture a crisis.

Now, why does something that happened in 2016 come up now? It is an example that this is an ongoing situation, and it is happening in 2020.

Back in 2016, three prominent Democratic Senators conjured up false claims about a nominee for the position of public trustee of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. That nominee happened to be a Republican who was nominated—can you imagine this?—by a Democratic President. He was already on there as having been nominated for another term.

The false claims published in the Huffington Post were that this nominee, promoted by President Obama, was a Koch brothers-funded individual because he worked at an educational institution that received grants from the Koch Foundation. I don't know whether they even made an attempt to connect this individual to the Koch funds, but it is irrelevant at this point. The Democrats claimed that this single individual somehow duped all of the other trustees, including all of the other Obama administration officials, into buying off on assumptions that would lead to an overstatement of the financial crisis facing Social Security.

According to the three Democratic Senators, this was so bad that the Chief Actuary of Social Security felt compelled to write special notes to trustee reports and identify how shocking the assumptions were. Of course, that would have meant that one single public trustee who happened to be a Republican duped outstanding Democrats who were also trustees: Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell, Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, and then the additional Democratic public trustee. If you had bought into the Democrats' allegations at the time, it would have meant that all of those Obama officials had been duped and had been too inept to see what had been going on and that only the Chief Actuary could have seen the light.

Well, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance at that time investigated those allegations and showed that they were flatout lies. Even the Washington Post identified

the lies in an op-ed titled: "The show-down Democrats don't need to have." The Post concluded that the ultimate victims of what they called "petty politicization" would be "the perceived nonpartisanship and objectivity of key government reports—that is, the very values Senate Democrats claim to be upholding."

The Democrats used their misinformation campaign to run a smear job on a very qualified and well-respected nominee. They also used it to run ads against anyone who voted in favor of that nominee, including ads against me in my most recent reelection.

Unfortunately, even though Social Security's Chief Actuary was clearly implicated in the Democratic lies, he remained silent as then-Chairman Hatch and even the Washington Post identified how ridiculous and false the Democrats' claims were.

The Chief Actuary's position, apparently, is that, even if his office is being implicated as supporting clearly false and very public claims during an election season, he will just sit quietly and let them go by rather than admit to or apologize for being used once it is pointed out to him that he is being used.

All of that was 4 years ago. It is 2020 now, and it is all happening again. Here we are in another Presidential election season, and, of course, like clockwork, we are getting another round of misinformation from the Democratic candidate and his supporters in the Senate. The Washington Post Fact Checker labels the current scheme in a headline that reads: "Biden campaign attacks a Trump Social Security 'plan' that does not exist."

Now, that was a Washington Post article. Not often does the Washington Post talk about things that might defend Republican positions against the Democrats.

This time around, the misinformation stems from a letter written to Social Security's Chief Actuary by four Democratic Senators, including the minority leader, the ranking member of the Committee on Finance, and Senator SANDERS, who has been counseling former Vice President Biden.

In a letter, these Democrat Senators asked the Chief Actuary to analyze hypothetical legislation—now, those words "hypothetical legislation" have to be emphasized—what they say, even they wouldn't support eliminating payroll taxes. Of course, those Senators could easily find the information that they were seeking by looking at the latest Social Security trustees' report. Instead, for purely political reasons, they wanted to draw in the Chief Actuary once again.

The same Actuary of 4 years ago is being used here once again, and the Chief Actuary at Social Security seems to gladly have played along and written a response. He wrote that his office was not aware that anyone had proposed the hypothetical legislation.

Nonetheless, he identified that, without payroll tax revenue and no replacement from the general fund, the trust funds would run out of money pretty quickly.

Of course, this is obvious to anyone who has even slight knowledge of these programs, but information was not the aim of the Democratic Senators' letter. Instead, it was to put forward a silly hypothetical case that doesn't correspond to anything that anyone has or is proposing. Of course, they attributed it to the President of the United States.

I know you all now see the purpose of this replay—because it is an election year. They used the Chief Actuary's response to claim that authoritative sources have shown that President Trump has a plan to essentially defund Social Security, and in due course they engaged in the cottage industry of groups which exist here in Washington, DC, that regularly scare seniors and the disabled, especially before an election, about some sort of backdoor plan or Trojan horse plan to destroy Social Security, and the Democratic Senators used the Chief Actuary's response to feed the Biden campaign with a false talking point about Social Security.

So you see the motives of these Senators in their using the Chief Actuary as their tool. You see it pretty clearly. The Biden campaign has run ads, stating, among other mistruths, "If Trump gets his way, Social Security benefits will run out in just 3 years from now."

Let's go back to the Washington Post. Even the Post's Fact Checker gave those ads four Pinocchios, meaning that they contained a whopper of a lie. The Fact Checker also concluded: "To make a long story short, Democrats ginned up a letter from the chief actuary to describe a plan that does not currently exist."

In a followup letter that Ranking Member KEVIN BRADY of the House Ways and Means Committee and I wrote to Social Security's Chief Actuary, we expressed our concerns about the Democrats having, once again, used his office for political purposes, and, once again, it refers back to the 2016 era that I have already talked about. From his response, we learned a few things.

First, we got confirmation that no one has a plan to defund Social Security, including the President of the United States. That confirms that the Democrats' letter was just pretty silly, but not oddly, pure politics.

Second, we got confirmation that the Democratic Senators, during the 2016 election, published lies in the *Huffington Post* article, invoking the Chief Actuary in an effort to smear a trustee nominee.

Third, we learned that Social Security's Chief Actuary feels compelled to respond to any hypothetical posed to him by any Senator, independent of how silly or blatantly political it would be.

Of course the Chief Actuary shouldn't be so compelled. With that

latter lesson, it would be easy for a Republican Senator to ask the Chief Actuary to analyze hypotheticals corresponding to the allegations made by Senator SANDERS, one of the authors of the letter, concerning the "hypothetical legislation" about Vice President Biden's history on Social Security.

Senator SANDERS, during the primary, has run political ads characterizing Biden's record on Social Security, saying that Biden's claim that he has always protected Social Security are "patently false."

It wouldn't be hard to send a hypothetical in for analysis by the Social Security Chief Actuary to get an answer to reinforce Senator SANDERS' views that former Vice President Biden has not acted to protect Social Security.

It wouldn't be hard to send a letter to the Chief Actuary asking about how Senator SANDERS' plans to reform Social Security—which Senator HARRIS has cosponsored—would harm the middle class by raising payroll taxes, with no corresponding benefits for people with incomes below Biden's \$400,000 threshold for defining who is rich and who is not.

It certainly wouldn't be hard to construct politically charged hypothetical legislation and ask the Chief Actuary about it in order to make political points and use the Actuary's position for political purposes.

It happens that the Chief Actuary doesn't exist for the purpose of political interference.

In my view, though, none of those would be a proper use of Social Security taxpayer resources, in the same way that the Democrats are wasting resources using the Chief Actuary for political purposes. So Democrats should stop wasting Social Security's resources trying to construct false and misleading political points to use in elections to feed their political base and dark money groups who then use the points in social media and attack ads against Republicans. But that is how they wasted the taxpayers' money—by writing the letter and eating up the time of the Chief Actuary for nothing other than pure partisan politics.

They should also stop politicizing Social Security's actuaries and the Social Security trustee's position in their transparent attempt to mislead the public and try to score political points about Social Security.

The American public should—especially during even years, in the runup to elections—turn a deaf ear to scare tactics that Democrats continue to use on Social Security beneficiaries. But when senior citizens who aren't sophisticated in the operation of the Federal Government or the uses of politics to scare people—they might believe this stuff. So you are doing a disservice to a lot of people who shouldn't have to worry about where their next meal is coming from.

As well, I think journalists should be more responsible when reporting on these political shenanigans, although I will note that even the most recent ploy was at least called out by fact checkers and given four Pinocchios.

Rather than acting like demagogues on Social Security, we should do what we can to improve these programs. Social Security trustees across administrations have continually and consistently recommended addressing the projected trust fund shortfalls since protected benefits will continue to outpace revenues.

Some sort of reform is inevitable, but outside of broad reform, there are many programmatic improvements that can help make the programs work better for beneficiaries and today's workers.

While not as encompassing as broad reforms, there are plenty of areas that we and Social Security Commissioner Saul continue to monitor and work to reduce backlogs and improve services.

Just recently, for example, the Senate passed by unanimous consent a bill that we entitled "Improving Social Security's Service to Victims of Identity Theft Act." That was sponsored by this Senator and Senator SINEMA. This bipartisan effort will help people who fall victim to identity theft by providing improved services from Social Security with a single point of contact.

In my view, more bipartisan work to improve the programs is the way we should go. Partisan attacks to scare beneficiaries into believing that people are out to destroy people's retirement and disability benefits do nothing to help working, disabled, and retired Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from New Hampshire.

CORONAVIRUS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to urge that we come together and resume negotiations on a comprehensive, bipartisan COVID relief package—the kind of package that this country has been calling for.

Today, nearly 200,000 Americans, including 436 Granite Staters, have died from COVID-19, and we still have as many as 40,000 new cases each day in this country—enough people to fill a baseball stadium each day. As a result, our economy continues to struggle, with nearly 30 million Americans still out of work and more than 1 million filing new applications for unemployment each week. Many Americans have been forced to raid their retirement savings just to pay rent and put food on the table—and that is for those people who actually have retirement savings. Sadly, too many people do not.

The President's recent Executive orders have many State unemployment officers tied up in knots. Those orders affect Social Security and Medicare, and they provide no new help for the nearly 13 million households who could be at risk of eviction in the coming months.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration and Majority Leader McCONNELL have refused to recognize that too many Americans are still suffering and still need help.

It has been 4 months since the House of Representatives passed the Heroes Act—a bill to provide assistance to Americans who are in need. Instead of negotiating a bipartisan bill, as we did with the CARES Act back in March, Leader McCONNELL has released partisan legislation—written in secret—that is woefully inadequate and ignores many of the problems I am hearing about from Granite Staters.

Not surprisingly, the bill that was put on the floor last week—the so-called skinny bill because it didn't provide the kind of help so many people need—that bill failed. I opposed that skinny bill because I didn't believe it came close to addressing the public health and economic issues that our country is facing. It provided no funding for hospitals or healthcare providers on the frontlines, and the nursing home and hospital staff I talk to in New Hampshire tell me that more financial support is needed to stem the financial losses from this pandemic.

New Hampshire hospitals have already experienced more than \$550 million in lost revenue statewide, and they don't see an end this year. Losses of that magnitude are unsustainable, and the skinny bill that we voted on last week would not have addressed those losses.

That proposal provided no support for State and local governments that are facing severe budgetary shortfalls. The State of New Hampshire expects to experience a budget shortfall of nearly \$540 million, over half a billion dollars. That is about a 20-percent drop in State revenues.

In the city of Manchester, which is our largest city, they expect to spend \$11 million between this year and next related to COVID-19 expenses—money they hadn't budgeted for. They had hoped that some of those expenses would get reimbursed by FEMA, but under the recent order from the administration, FEMA is being told to no longer reimburse those expenses.

So what I am hearing from mayors and municipal leaders in New Hampshire is that they are soon going to have to face some very difficult choices about whether they are going to have to cut essential services like trash collection and water and sewer and whether they are going to have to lay off teachers and firefighters and police officers.

The bill we voted on last week, that skinny bill, provided no financial help for families struggling to pay the bills and put food on the table. There was no help in there to feed kids, nothing to address broadband needs—the needs that we have seen in New Hampshire for telehealth and for remote learning. We have significant parts of our State and significant communities where we have students who don't have access to technology to do remote learning.

There wasn't nearly enough to help with testing and contact tracing and no real assistance for the Postal Service even as it faces bankruptcy.

Funding for schools in that skinny bill? That was tied to whether the students are going in person or learning remotely. Well, in New Hampshire, we believe those kinds of decisions should not be made in Washington; they should be made by States and local school districts. If local school districts don't feel they can bring kids back safely, then they shouldn't be forced to do that just to get the help they need to ensure that kids can go to school safely.

I think the American public wants results. They want a bipartisan, comprehensive bill so we can address the needs of Granite Staters and the people of this country. That is what I am fighting for, and I believe it is past time for people to come to the negotiating table so we can get that done.

What we have seen during this pandemic is unemployment levels that we have not had in this country since the Great Depression. We need to provide additional unemployment benefits for people who need those dollars so that they can continue to pay their rent, their mortgages, put food on the table, and pay their bills. We need to make sure this emergency relief continues to be available to Granite Staters.

Small businesses need a second round of PPP loans, which would prioritize those smallest businesses and those industries that have been hardest hit by this pandemic, industries like tourism and the hospitality sector.

We need to provide support to our live venues. I recently visited the Bank of New Hampshire Stage in Concord, our capital. I heard firsthand how their business has been affected by the pandemic and the ripple effect that has on all live entertainment venues, on the performers who depend on those venues to be able to support themselves and the other members who are part of their performances.

We need to make sure that childcare centers are supported. I was visiting a small business, a restaurant that has two locations in New Hampshire—one in Portsmouth and one in Epping. The business is called Popovers. It is very popular. What I heard from them is that the PPP loans had made a huge difference. They were able to keep some of their employees on. But as they are looking to the fall, they are worried about whether those employees are going to be able to come back full time because they don't have access to childcare and they are not sure whether schools are going to be remotely or in person. We need to provide help so that those businesses can get their employees back to work and people can continue to support their families.

We need a comprehensive bill that provides emergency housing relief and food assistance to Granite Staters.

We should support our counties and towns that are experiencing historic

drops in revenues and that desperately need help to continue providing the most basic services—schools, firefighters, police, trash collection, water and sewer, and wastewater treatment—because those have been dramatically affected by the loss in revenue.

Of course, we urgently need assistance for our nursing homes and for our long-term care facilities, which in New Hampshire account for more than 80 percent of the COVID-19 deaths, the highest percentage in the country.

We need an answer from the administration as to why they are not disbursing the funds that Congress directed. For instance, the CARES Act provided up to \$200 million for nursing home infection control efforts. To date, only \$17 million of that has been sent out to those long-term care facilities that need it.

On top of that, HHS has only spent about half of the \$16 billion that Congress provided for the acquisition of personal protective equipment and other medical supplies. Nursing facilities and providers across the care system in New Hampshire desperately need this help, and they need it now.

We had a hearing this morning in the HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, and I had a chance to ask some of the officials from HHS about why they have not distributed these funds. And, of course, the answer they gave me was this: Well, we don't know. That is not part of our responsibility.

Well, that is part of everybody's responsibility—to ensure that funds that Congress has provided get distributed in a way that Congress has said they should be distributed, because we have people across this country who need that help and they need it now.

We need a comprehensive bill to help treatment and recovery centers for those who are still struggling with substance use disorders, because we have seen this crisis worsen during the pandemic. We had been seeing deaths go down from overdoses in New Hampshire, and since the pandemic, we are beginning to see those numbers go up again.

This isn't a problem that is unique to New Hampshire. I heard Senator CAPRTO in the hearing earlier this morning talking about the challenges that West Virginia is facing. It has become more critical than ever that Congress provide substantial funding for substance-use disorder treatment and prevention.

We need real support for the post office, which was lacking from that skinny bill last week. The Postal Service is the only Federal agency mentioned in the Constitution, and every community in New Hampshire and the United States relies on its essential services, especially those States that have rural communities. A lot of rural communities in New Hampshire don't have access to the internet. They depend on the post office for communications going in and out and the packages that go in and out. What I am hearing from Granite Staters is that there are Postal Service delays that are affecting

their ability to pay their bills and to receive medications, and that small businesses are not able to complete their transactions. Congress has a responsibility to enact legislation that will restore timely delivery and fully fund the Postal Service.

Finally, we need to ensure that the Census Bureau has the time necessary to execute a complete and accurate 2020 count. You know, it has been interesting to me to see the efforts of this administration to try and politicize the census, because this is no red State or blue State problem. The States with the lowest percentage of households that have been counted during the census are Alabama, Montana, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, and South Carolina. They are mostly in the South, but not all. We must give the Census Bureau time to make a complete and accurate count by including a statutory delay for the apportionment and redistricting count that is part of any package before we go home. This is something that the Census Bureau asked us for last spring, and it is something that we should make sure they receive, even though under political pressure they changed their request.

Bipartisanship on these priorities is possible. We were able to negotiate the CARES Act legislation that passed the Senate by a vote of 96 to 0. We did it before. We can do this again because that is how government is supposed to work. We are supposed to come together and negotiate and deliver for the American people.

Probably the most often heard remark that I hear in New Hampshire is this: Why can't you just all work together to address the needs of this country?

That is what we should be doing around everything, and it is what we should be doing around responding to this coronavirus.

We should not recess until we can get a bill to the President's desk. We were sent here to do a job. We have an obligation to get it done. The foot dragging has gone on for far too long. Brinkmanship should end because time is running out on the needs of the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning the Republican majority of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee authorized another smattering of subpoenas in what seems to be an ongoing effort to disparage a former Vice President and his family.

While the rest of the country is busy fighting COVID-19, this is what the Homeland Security Committee has been up to—using the powers of the Senate to, in effect, conduct opposition research for President Trump's campaign.

The Republican chairman has said he plans to release a report about it next

week—merely a month before election day. There is a dark similarity here to the Republican effort in the House in the previous election to discredit the Democratic Presidential candidate with the Select Committee on Benghazi.

You may remember the now-minority leader of the House Republican caucus bragging that the Republicans created the committee to bring down Hillary's poll numbers. You know what they say about a political gaffe: It is when politicians tell the truth.

Well, it seems like the Republican chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has made the same gaffe that Minority Leader MCCARTHY made in 2016. In a little-noticed interview with a Wisconsin radio station last month, Senator JOHNSON said that his probe would "help Donald Trump win reelection," and yet somehow the current activities of the Republican majority in the Homeland Security committee are even worse than what the House Republicans did in 2016, because in the rush to find scraps of information for these investigations, Senate Republicans may have collected and propagated disinformation that came from Putin's intelligence agents.

Some of the allegations that the Homeland Security chairman is now pursuing are the same ones pushed by Andriy Derkach, a known Russian agent who was sanctioned by President Trump's own Treasury Department for interfering in our elections.

Powerful Senate Republicans are echoing the same claims that the Russians are pushing, the same nonsense that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 elections and not just Putin.

We have all become so inured to scandal during this scandalous administration, but the fact that a powerful Senate committee may have fallen victim to misinformation from Moscow is appalling.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the Democratic leader yield?

Mr. SCHUMER. I will yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The chair will remind Senators that Rule XIX provides that "No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator."

Mr. SCHUMER. I am aware of it. Everything I have stated here is factual—everything, every single thing.

So, this afternoon, my colleagues and I have drafted a simple resolution that calls for the cessation of any Senate investigation or activity that allows the U.S. Congress to act as a conduit for Russian disinformation.

I cannot fathom how any Member of this Chamber could justify blocking such a resolution. There must not be a single aspect of this Chamber that wittingly or unwittingly furthers the propaganda machine of Vladimir Putin.

Now, I know what my friend from Wisconsin might say. He will deny re-

ceiving information from the particular Russian agent that I have mentioned, Mr. Derkach, but Chairman JOHNSON has never provided a full accounting of all the Russian- and Ukrainian-linked individuals he sought information from. One of the chairman's subpoenas, for example, targeted a Ukrainian national who is an associate of Mr. Derkach.

So anticipating his objection to this resolution, I would simply ask the chairman to provide a full accounting of whom he sought information from, so we can know who they are, what their motives are, and, therefore, the Senate can see if they are trying to interfere with our elections.

The chairman should have no issue furthering a complete accounting of his contacts with Russian and Ukrainian sources. The American people ought to know whether the U.S. Senate has been sullied by potentially receiving information from discredited Russian agents. The American people should expect the Senate to pass this resolution today.

What were our Founding Fathers most worried about? One of the top things—top things—was interference by foreign powers in our elections. Back then, their concerns were about bribery or treason or a foreign actor who infiltrated our government. Today, in our information age, the methods of foreign interference are different, but the risks are the same.

Our chief adversaries—Russia, China, Iran, North Korea—have found that disinformation and misinformation are a weak point in open societies like ours. That makes it incumbent on us—all of us—here in the Congress to be careful about the information we receive and repeat.

In the zeal for partisan advantage, we hope the Republican majority on the Homeland Security Committee has not become a sympathetic audience and a potential entrance point to foreign influence campaigns, wittingly or unwittingly. What a disastrous and disgraceful state of affairs. The Senate should pass this resolution today.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Oregon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise in support of this resolution offered by the Democratic leader. We are calling for an end to a horribly flawed congressional investigation. The foreign threats to our democracy—attempts to poison it with disinformation and to sow distrust—are an established matter of fact.

It is especially troubling because for periods over the last year, two Senate committees have conducted an investigation involving Ukraine, former Vice President Biden, and his son Hunter: the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, led by our colleague from Wisconsin, Chairman JOHNSON; and our colleague from Iowa, Chairman GRASSLEY, of the Finance Committee, in which I am the

ranking Democrat. My staff has joined in interviews and received documents pertinent to the investigation.

Given my Finance Committee role and my position on the Senate Intelligence Committee, I am unable to discuss classified information or details of an ongoing inquiry. However, I can discuss public information about the spread of Russian propaganda and the pathway it is following from Russian agents, through the U.S. Senate, to the American people.

The Russian Government is again interfering in our election. This has been confirmed by our intelligence community. Its interference campaign includes disinformation about Vice President Biden and the work he was doing to fight corruption in Ukraine.

To spread this disinformation, Russia enlists the help of characters like Andriy Derkach and Andriy Telizhenko. Derkach has been identified by American counterintelligence as an active agent for Russian intelligence. This agent, instead of being treated as a foreign enemy, has met personally with the President's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, to further his task of undermining elections in America. I am not sure, colleagues, what you should call an American who aids a Russian agent, but counselor to the President is certainly not it.

In August, the Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center issued a threat assessment on foreign threats to our election. It identified Derkach as a Kremlin-linked actor involved with attempting to denigrate former Vice President Biden.

On September 3, Senator SCHUMER and I wrote a letter, along with several of our Democratic colleagues, urging the Treasury Department to issue sanctions against Derkach. It did so the following week, describing his role in what it called "a covert influence campaign centered on cultivating false and unsubstantiated narratives concerning U.S. officials in the upcoming 2020 Presidential Election."

Telizhenko is yet another Giuliani associate who, according to press accounts, American counterintelligence has identified as a conduit for Russian attacks on our elections. He has also been a star witness in the Johnson-Grassley investigation.

Derkach and Telizhenko have released what appears to be heavily edited portions of phone calls Vice President Biden held with Ukrainian officials in the course of his anti-corruption work. Some were released on the very same day. Telizhenko is promising further releases. Telizhenko also told the Washington Post that he forwarded more than 100 emails to staff on Senator JOHNSON's committee and answered their questions.

Our colleague from South Carolina, Senator GRAHAM, was involved in the earliest stages of the Johnson-Grassley inquiry in 2019, but in February of 2020, Chairman GRAHAM said: "I called the attorney general this morning and

RICHARD BURR, [then, of course] chairman of the Intel Committee, and they told me take very cautiously anything coming out of the Ukraine against anybody."

The disinformation that these two have spread—Derkach and Telizhenko have spread—the disinformation these two have spread, largely a collection of unproven allegations and wild conspiracy theories, has obviously made it into many media outlets in the country all too willing to spread the products of Russian intelligence. It has been circulated by the President's own legal team.

From there, that disinformation became the basis of much of the work of the Johnson-Grassley inquiry. I am going to have more to say on the details of that investigation in the days ahead, but for now, I will say this: Chairman JOHNSON has repeatedly claimed in the media that he has uncovered new and damaging information about Vice President Biden's activity in Ukraine. This is simply not true. Nothing I have seen—not one bit of evidence—could lead to the conclusion that Vice President Biden did anything wrong in Ukraine. What I have seen is a monthlong investigation that still has no legitimate basis, burning through an incredible amount of manpower and taxpayer-funded resources. Neither of these committees, by the way, under the rules of the Senate, have any jurisdiction over our diplomatic ties with Ukraine. It has no legislative purpose.

This investigation, as I have pointed out on a number of occasions, also is happening under a clear double standard that has favored Republicans in the Senate and stonewalled oversight by Democrats. In my view, that is a sign that the flimsy accusations made against the Vice President can't stand up to real scrutiny.

The real nature of this inquiry has been clear all along. It began as a counterprogramming during the impeachment trial, and the urgency behind the investigation really almost seemed to die out when the trial ended. It only returned—and again, these are facts. All of these are facts. It only returned when the Vice President established himself as the Democratic frontrunner. The day after the Biden victory in the South Carolina primary, Chairman JOHNSON sent a letter to the committee announcing his intention to kick-start the investigation with a subpoena.

So now what I am going to do is outline what Senator JOHNSON said in his own words, because I think that is also very important as Senators consider this resolution. These are Senator JOHNSON's words specifically.

My colleague said in March: "[I]f I were a Democrat primary voter, I'd want these questions satisfactorily answered before I cast my final vote."

The chairman said in August: "I would think it would certainly help Donald Trump win reelection and cer-

tainly be pretty good, I would say, evidence about not voting for Vice President Biden."

He said in September: "Stay tuned. In about a week we're going to learn a whole lot more of Vice President Biden's unfitness for office."

Furthermore, the chairman, in my view, looking again at the public record, cannot credibly take issue with the work the Vice President was doing because he supported it publicly at the time.

In June 2014, at a Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Ukraine, Chairman JOHNSON stated: "If we have to tie aid or help to make sure that anti-corruption laws are passed, I think we should do it."

In 2016, Chairman JOHNSON wrote a letter with a bipartisan group of members of the Senate Ukraine Caucus to former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The letter reads:

Succeeding in these reforms will show Russian President Putin that an independent, transparent and democratic Ukraine can and will succeed. It also offers a stark alternative to the authoritarianism and oligarchic cronyism prevalent in Russia. As such, we respectfully ask that you address the serious concerns raised—

And we are talking here about the Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

We similarly urge you to press ahead with urgent reforms to the Prosecutor General's Office and Judiciary.

So these are the words, colleagues, the words of the chairman of the committee. That is why Senator SCHUMER and I believe this investigation, the Johnson-Grassley investigation, is baseless. We have brought forward a resolution that we believe is important to defending our democracy. It comes down to a question of what we want campaigns and elections to be all about.

In my view—and I have always said this—right at the core of my being, I want elections about our best ideas. That is why I serve on the Finance Committee, to try to come up with the best ideas in healthcare, taxes, trade, and the like. Elections ought to be about our best ideas and having real debates and not attacking the other side with farfetched foreign misinformation, especially at a time when the American people are dealing with the crushing weight of one crisis stacked on another.

There are 200,000 Americans who have died of COVID-19. I couldn't disagree more with the President's handling of the coronavirus pandemic. We have seen so much economic hurt. I championed on the floor and, for a while, we had bipartisan support for basically bringing unemployment into the relevant century and getting an extra \$600 per week to people and covering gig

workers and all kinds of other people. Yet, still, the economy has collapsed, and millions are out of work. My Oregon neighbors—a number of them—have seen their communities reduced to ashes. Thousands and thousands of homes and businesses have been lost. There has been a national outcry against racism and violence against Black Americans.

Our elections are supposed to be about those kinds of issues, and in all of them, what I have tried to do is devote my public service to bringing people together and getting parties to find common ground on the best ideas of how to make changes in these areas. Now, that sure seems to me to be what the Senate should be all about rather than baseless attacks and foreign disinformation.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution that Senator SCHUMER and I have championed. It is long past time for this badly flawed investigation by our colleagues to end.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of a resolution opposing efforts to launder Russian disinformation through the Congress, which is at the desk. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Is there objection?

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

I want to first point out—I want to thank the previous Presiding Officer for pointing out the fact that if this is not a violation of rule XIX, it is coming pretty darn close.

What you just witnessed here is this: We have witnessed Democrats doing what Democrats do so well, accusing the other side of doing exactly what they do—only 10 times or 100 times worse.

Earlier today, I chaired a business meeting of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, precipitated, created, made necessary by the fact that the ranking member of my committee presented an absurd, ridiculous interpretation of our rules. Based on the subpoena authority I received earlier on June 4, the ranking member said, in order to actually schedule a subpoena or schedule a meeting—a deposition—I could come back for another vote.

During my opening statement of that business meeting, having just described that level of meddling—which, by the way, the ranking member also provided that ridiculous interpretation to our witness, the witness, Jonathan Winer, an individual, by the way, who decided not to cooperate with the Department of Justice inspector general in his report on the FISA abuse. He decided not to show up for his deposition that had been previously scheduled. Having just

explained that in my opening statement, I would like to read the next part, which describes the duplicity and the hypocrisy of the Democrats.

I said: The most recent example of this hypocrisy was a letter and classified addendum created by senior Democratic leaders that accused Senator GRASSLEY and me—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair will remind Senators that rule XIX provides that “[N]o Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.”

Mr. JOHNSON. I appreciate the warning. I don’t think I did that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. JOHNSON. Let me continue.

The most recent example is a letter and classified addendum created by senior Democratic leaders that accused Senator GRASSLEY and me of relying on foreign disinformation. This “intelligence product,” which was full of false allegations, was produced, classified, and then leaked to the press more than a week before Senator GRASSLEY or I were given access to it. Many in the media dutifully reported this hot tip. Democrats then used those media reports to repeat, distort, and embellish the false charges. This coordinated smear—and that is what you have to call it. It is a coordinated smear which continues today on the floor of the Senate—culminated in an August 7 opinion piece in the Washington Post submitted by Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL.

But John Ratcliffe, the Director of National Intelligence, wrote:

I can confirm the IC did not create the classified addendum to the 13 July letter, nor did we authorize its [release].

The foreign information we were falsely accused of receiving—we have a misprint here.

The foreign information we were falsely accused of receiving utilized—purportedly comes from a Ukrainian named Andriy Derkach, who has since been sanctioned by the Treasury Department. Although neither Senator GRASSLEY nor I ever sought, received, or used any information from Mr. Derkach, the media has continued to report otherwise for weeks, despite our repeated and unequivocal denials.

But it is true that a chart produced by Mr. Derkach is now part of our investigatory record, not because of me or Senator GRASSLEY but because Senator PETERS’ staff introduced it into the record.

So as was the case in the 2016 election, the only foreign disinformation being used to interfere in this investigation has been introduced by Democrats against Republicans and not by Republicans.

Given all the concerns expressed by Democrats over foreign disinformation, it is notable that we have not heard the same concern over disclosure of the

Steele dossier containing Russian disinformation. We are aware of this fact because, during the course of this investigation, my chief counsel uncovered it buried in four classified footnotes to the Department of Justice inspector general FISA report. We also know the FBI was aware of this as early as 2016. Think about that. The FBI knew that Russian disinformation was contained in the Steele dossier as early as August of 2016. Yet they continued the investigation, and that investigation spilled over into a special counsel and disrupted America’s Government and politics for years.

We also note that the Steele dossier was bought and paid for by the DNC and Clinton campaign. Apparently, Democrats are willing to look the other way when they pay for or use disinformation against Republicans.

That is what I read in my opening statement at our business meeting earlier today.

As I look at this resolution, the last “whereas” talks about a congressional investigation that alleges the same discredited claims by Derkach. I don’t know who Derkach is. As I said earlier, Senator GRASSLEY and I have repeatedly, unequivocally, denied we did not solicit; we did not accept; we did not receive any information from Mr. Derkach whatsoever. Yet Democrats persist in pushing this false allegation.

As a matter of fact, I am not sure our committee has alleged anything yet. About the only thing that I have alleged is the glaring and obvious conflict of interest.

I have to step back here. I just have to give a little history about Ukraine. In February of 2014, Ukrainians, courageous Ukrainians—basically two factions: one that wanted to integrate closer to the West and the younger Ukrainians who wanted to rid themselves of the corruption of the Soviet legacy—joined together in massive protest on the Maidan. Approximately, February 20, 21, over 80 Ukrainians were slaughtered by snipers protesting to rid Ukraine of corruption and increase their ties to the West.

Less than 2 months later—and I have asked my colleagues: Is there any disinformation here? Is this anything from Russian sources? Two months later, here are the series of events that occurred.

On April 16, 2014, Vice President Biden met with his son’s business partner, Devon Archer, at the White House. That is kind of a big deal—anybody meeting with the Vice President at the White House. Hunter Biden’s business partner got to do that.

Five days later, Vice President Biden visited Ukraine. The media described him as the public face of the administration’s handling of Ukraine. The next day, April 22, Archer joined the board of Burisma.

Again, Burisma is this company that is owned by what George Kent from the State Department called an “odious oligarch,” Mykola Zlochevsky. It is hard to say Ukrainian names.

Six days later, after Archer joined the board, British officials seized \$23 million from the London bank accounts of Burisma's owner, Mykola Zlochevsky. Fifteen days later, on May 13, Hunter Biden joined the board of Burisma. And over the course of the next, approximately, 4 to 5 years, Hunter and his firms were paid more than \$3 million for his and Archer's board participation.

Again, Ukraine had just gone through a revolution. Their leadership was desperate for U.S. support. We all have to believe that Mr. Zlochevsky, an odious oligarch, would have made those Ukrainian officials well aware of the fact that the son of the Vice President of the United States, the public face of the administration's handling of Ukraine, was sitting on his board.

So what kind of signal did that send to Ukrainians who were trying to stand up and were being pressured by U.S. officials to rid their country of corruption? It basically said: If you want U.S. support, don't touch Burisma.

The fact is, when all was said and done, Burisma and Mykola Zlochevsky were never held to account. The investigation, the prosecution of him was ceased. It never occurred.

In terms of Russian disinformation, these false charges, these wild claims against me and Senator GRASSLEY—I was way ahead of the curve when it came to Russian disinformation. Back in 2015, as chairman of the European Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I held three hearings focusing on what Russia does to destabilize the politics in countries—an attempted coup in Montenegro and other places in Eastern Europe. So I am well aware of what Russia is doing—well aware. I don't condone it. I condemn it. I am not having any part of pushing it.

But I have to say, for all the crocodile tears the Democrats shed in terms of Russian disinformation, the effects on our politics, I would argue that the Russian disinformation that has been perpetrated on our politics and the effect it has on the election pales in comparison to the false allegations, for example, that Russia colluded with the Trump campaign. It was promoted by Democrats for years, culminating in a special counsel and finally an impeachment. But how Democrats have used and how the media has promoted and carried the water for Democrats all this time has had a far greater effect, by orders of magnitude, in terms of destabilization and affecting the politics and affecting the elections. That is basically the truth.

I would just ask my colleagues and I would ask the American public to take a look at what has really been happening here. The false allegations, the basic playbook the Democrats engage in, time and again, create a false narrative, create a false intelligence product, accuse the other side of things that you are doing tenfold. That is what is happening here.

I, personally, am tired of it. As a result, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am very disappointed that my colleague has objected.

I just want to make a brief response reflecting on my role as a senior member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Again, as I indicated earlier, I can't get into anything classified or sources and methods, but before we leave this subject, I just want to remind the Senate that the Russian disinformation campaign is going on now. It is not some abstract issue. The Russian disinformation campaign is going on now.

The Russians have attempted to rewrite the history of the 2016 campaign. It is the conclusion of the intelligence community—this is not Democrats; it is not Republicans; it is the intelligence community—that they are trying to interfere again, this time in the 2020 election, including with these attacks on Vice President Biden, and they are saying this now. And active Russian agents, like Mr. Derkach, apparently are having press conferences. I heard a report that he may have had one today.

So Members of the Senate—again, this is a matter of public record—have been presented with specific warnings about these Kremlin-backed conspiracies and lies again and again, including in classified settings. As I wrap this up, I would only ask that Members of this great institution reflect on that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, a quick response because in my other paper here, I did not have the full quote from John Ratcliffe. I would like to read it now.

This is referring to the intelligence product that senior Democratic leaders created, leaked to the press, accusing Senator GRASSLEY and I, falsely, of receiving information from Andriy Derkach.

John Ratcliffe, Director of National Intelligence, wrote:

I can confirm the IC did not create the classified addendum to the 13 July letter, nor did we authorize its creation. The IC was not consulted prior to its creation and subsequent release to the entire membership of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Then, referring to that addendum, he said it “by no means reflects the full and complete analysis of the IC.”

I would ask unanimous consent to enter into the RECORD an article that was published today by John Solomon talking about the extensive—extensive—contacts by members of the Obama administration in terms of the NSC and the State Department and the Ambassador with Andriy Telizhenko. It is right here.

We have a nice picture of House Member ELLIOT ENGEL as well.

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

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

DEMOCRATS HAD EXTENSIVE CONTACT WITH UKRAINIAN THEY NOW USE FOR ‘RED SCARE’ ATTACK ON GOP

(By John Solomon)

September 16, 2020—2:30pm

For months, Democrats on Capitol Hill have waged a whisper campaign to disparage the reputation of a former Ukrainian government official named Andriy Telizhenko, who has emerged as a fact witness for Republicans investigating the controversial business deals of Joe Biden's son Hunter.

Led by Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Gary Peters (D-Mich.), the Democrats have tried to suggest—without evidence—that Telizhenko is connected to Ukrainian Parliamentary member Andriy Derkach, identified by U.S. intelligence as leading Russian disinformation efforts targeting Joe Biden in the 2020 election and sanctioned by the Trump Treasury Department.

Their campaign will break into the open Wednesday on the Senate floor when Democrats try to force a vote on a resolution criticizing Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson (R-Wisc.) suggesting the probe he and Senate Finance Committee chairman Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) are leading into the Bidens' Ukraine dealings is part of Derkach's election meddling. Their argument is thin, relying on the fact that Telizhenko has talked publicly about some of the same issues as Derkach. Their resolution is likely to fail in the GOP-controlled Senate.

But the Democrats' character-assassination campaign suffers a much bigger problem: Long before he assisted the GOP Senate investigation, Telizhenko was a trusted mid-level Ukrainian government contact for the Obama-Biden administration, according to scores of U.S. government emails and memos obtained by Just the News.

The memos show Telizhenko routinely arranged sensitive meetings for senior State Department officials at the U.S. embassy in Kiev, met with senior Democrats on Capitol Hill, including current House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), and facilitated contacts with Ukrainians for the National Security Council and the U.S. Justice Department in Washington dating to 2013. He also was cleared for meetings inside the Obama White House, Secret Service entry logs show.

His contacts included such senior State officials as William Taylor and Geoffrey Pyatt, two ambassadors, the memos show.

In another words, the man the Democrats are now using for a “red scare” attack on the GOP senators was actually their own party's Ukrainian contact, vetted and cleared by the State Department to meet with senior officials like ambassadors and DOJ prosecutors on sensitive foreign matters.

Telizhenko also was hired by the Democratic-leaning firm known as Blue Star Strategies to help Burisma Holdings—the Ukrainian gas firm that hired Hunter Biden as a board member in 2014—lobby the State Department and Ukrainian prosecutors to drop corruption allegations against the company in 2016, the memos show.

Telizhenko, in fact, was so trusted and familiar with Obama administration officials that he was on a first-name basis, trading smiley face emoticons and arranging coffee and beer outings in Washington with such contacts as Obama-era National Security Council staffer Elisabeth Zentos, the memos show.

"Hi Andrii! I'm doing ok. Yes, definitely got some rest over the weekend. How about you?" Zentos wrote April 4, 2016 to Telizhenko from her official White House email account. "Survive the visit ok? Also, should we still plan for coffee this week? Maybe Wednesday or Friday? Hope all is well! Liz."

A month earlier, a planned beer outing with Zentos got changed. "Would you be up for doing coffee instead of beer though? I'm realizing that if I drink beer at 3 p.m., I will probably fall asleep while attempting to work afterward," Zentos wrote.

Zentos and Telizhenko also discussed the sensitive case of Burisma and its founder, Mykola Zlochevsky, in a July 2016 email exchange with the subject line "Re: Z," the shorthand Telizhenko used to refer to the Burisma founder. Their email exchange did not mention Hunter Biden's role in the company but showed the Obama White House had interest in the business dealings of Hunter Biden's boss.

"Hi Liz, Yes, It would be great to meet, tomorrow whatever works best for you 12:30pm or 6pm—I am ready," Telizhenko wrote the NSC staffer, adding a smiley face. Zentos eventually replied when he suggested a restaurant: "Ooh, that would be wonderful—thanks so much!"

Attached to Telizhenko's email was an org chart showing the structure of some foreign companies that had been connected at one point to Zlochevsky's business empire.

The memos show Zentos first befriended Telizhenko when she worked at the U.S. embassy as far back as 2014.

The memos show that officials at the Obama Justice Department, the NSC, and the State Department enlisted Telizhenko for similarly sensitive diplomatic matters dating to 2013 including:

Arranging for senior members of the Ukraine Prosecutor General's Office to travel to Washington in January 2016 to meet with NSC, State, DOJ and FBI officials to discuss ongoing corruption cases. At the time, the Ukraine prosecutors had an escalating corruption probe of Burisma, where Hunter Biden served on the board. Within weeks of the Washington meeting, Vice President Joe Biden had pressured Ukraine's president Petro Poroshenko to fire the lead prosecutor, Viktor Shokin.

Securing a meeting in February 2015 at the U.S. embassy in Kiev with a deputy Ukrainian prosecutor whom U.S. officials wanted to confront about a bribe allegedly paid by Burisma.

Facilitating a draft statement in November 2013 from members of the Ukrainian parliament to President Obama denouncing then-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, whom the Obama administration would help oust from power a few weeks later.

"We, people of Ukraine, appeal to you with request to support Ukrainian people in their standing for freedom, justice and democracy," the November 2013 draft statement from Telizhenko to the U.S. embassy in Kiev read. "The President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich proved that he is not the guarantor of constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, freedom of choice and right for free expression."

The draft statement was fielded by a military attache at the U.S. embassy who urged Telizhenko to get it to the embassy's political section for consideration. "The ambassador has not shared with me what the position of the US government would be on such a statement, other than his message yesterday morning," the attache wrote. "... I'm sure once you pass this statement to Ambassador Pyatt's political section, they will render a timely response."

Photos taken by U.S. and Ukrainian government photographers show Telizhenko facilitated meetings between 2014 and 2016 with key lawmakers in Washington, including Democrat Reps. Engel and Marcy Kaptur and then-GOP Sen. Bob Corker, as well as other U.S. agencies.

And the emails show U.S. embassy officials in Kiev routinely sought advice and insights from Telizhenko about happenings inside the Ukrainian government. "Andrii, we have heard that there may be a briefing today. Do you know the specifics?" embassy political officer Stephen Page asked in a January 2014 email.

Such contacts are normal in the diplomacy and national security business of the United States. But they take on significance now because they have been missing from the Democrats' attacks on Telizhenko and the GOP senators who have interviewed him in their probe of the Bidens. The question now is: If Telizhenko is so bad as Democrats claim, why did the Obama administration and Democrats so frequently engage him?

Sen. Wyden's recent statement ignored that issue. "While Democrats are pushing for more aggressive action against Russian assets interfering in our elections, Republicans are using their conspiracy theories to advance bogus investigations," he said.

U.S. intelligence officials tell *Just the News* that while they remain vigilant in fighting Russian interference in the 2020 election, they have no direct evidence Telizhenko is, like Derkach, connected to the Kremlin. However, they have extensive evidence he was welcomed by the U.S. government during the Obama years and that he assisted Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani's probe of legal matters in Ukraine, including finding political dirt last year on the Bidens.

The officials also noted there is open source intelligence that Telizhenko actually engaged in a rivalry in the Ukrainian press with Derkach and derided the Ukrainian parliamentary member as a Russian operative just a few months ago. The open source information includes a BuzzFeed article quoting Telizhenko and social media posts, the officials said.

Ukraine is a country with much corruption and many mysterious characters. But one thing is clear: U.S. government memos corroborate Andrii Telizhenko was trusted by the Obama administration for many years before congressional Democrats turned on him.

Mr. JOHNSON. The same person they are saying is just this dangerous Russian agent, they were using extensively throughout the Obama administration to set up contacts. He actually had the ability to go to meetings in the White House, and he attended those. This is the person whom now they are saying, because we spoke to him and got a little bit of information from him, we are dealing in Russian disinformation.

If they had that level of concern, why did Democratic lobbying firm Blue Star Strategies employ him for over a year, and why did Democrats deal with him so frequently during the Obama administration?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

CRIME

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, as we all know and as any American who has watched the news over the summer knows, there has been a terrible increase in crime in America's cities. As-

saults, shootings, murders have been higher this year, and my home State has not been safe from this trend. In fact, in St. Louis, MO, there were 55 murders in the month of July. That compares to 22 murders a year earlier in July, which we thought were way too many then. In Kansas City, MO, homicides in the first 6 months of this year were about 40 percent higher than they were last year.

One of the Kansas City victims was a 4-year-old boy named LeGenD Taliferro. He was murdered in the early hours of July 29 while he was asleep—a 4-year-old boy murdered while he was asleep—by a random shooting, violence going on outside his home. So early in July, the Justice Department launched an effort in Kansas City that has become a national effort, which they called Operation LeGenD, named for little LeGenD Taliferro. Under Operation LeGenD, Federal law enforcement officers are working alongside local police to solve crimes, to make arrests, to track down fugitives, and to prepare cases for trial so criminals can be held accountable. The key phrase there is "alongside." Federal agents aren't going in and taking over the police department; they are going in to add assistance to the police department.

On that topic, there was no immediate raid of trafficking centers or drug gangs or anything like that. I, frankly, thought the Justice Department was wrong in not announcing earlier to Federal officials and local officials what they were going to do and when they were going to do it, but I think we worked with them to see that that isn't going to continue to be the case. In fact, in early August, they made a similar determination to go into St. Louis.

One of the advantages of having Federal officers work with the local police in these cases is, one, they bring a whole lot more intensity to the moment. With the extra help, suddenly something becomes possible that wasn't possible before. Also, many of the people arrested can face Federal charges as well as other sentences.

Certainly in our State—in Kansas City and Missouri both—the two different U.S. attorney's offices have done a great job working with local officials before this but are even better able to look at what Federal charges might be faced to take some of that load off the local prosecutor and also look for another way to get these people off the street.

By September 1, in Kansas City, the operation had led to the arrest of 355 people suspected of serious crimes in Kansas City. More than 100 of those 355 people have been charged in Federal court. In St. Louis, where I said before that the government decided to bring Operation LeGenD—the Justice Department made that decision in early August, and by September 1, there were already 359 arrests, and 128 of those people arrested were looking at Federal charges as well.

In addition to St. Louis and Kansas City, the Department of Justice has launched Operation LeGend in seven other cities. This is not a Federal overreach. It is not the Federal Government, again, taking over local law enforcement. It is not the first step toward martial law. It is not a crack-down on peaceful protests. What it is, is a cooperative effort with cities that have been suffering from increases in violent crime.

Under this operation, officers have arrested, nationwide, more than 2,000 people, including 163 people for murder, and one of the people arrested was the alleged killer of 4-year-old LeGend Taliferro.

The rise of violence in cities this year—and particularly the cities I am talking about that have benefited, I think, from Operation LeGend—has been incredibly rapid and unbearably destructive, not to mention totally unacceptable. It has taken a toll on lives un-lived, families torn apart, communities terrorized, people wondering what is going to happen when they or their children walk out the front door or play in the backyard or, like little LeGend, are sound asleep in their beds.

Nothing we do can fully heal the damage, certainly, that these victims of violent crime and their families have suffered, but we can get the justice that both the victim and people who care about them deserve.

We may have a lot of disagreements in the Congress, but I hope we can agree that violent criminals belong behind bars. I hope we can all agree that all parents deserve a safe neighborhood where they can raise their children. I hope we can all agree that the police do a difficult and dangerous job, and they deserve all the support and appreciation we can give them.

Not long ago, LeGend Taliferro's mother spoke about her son and the pain of losing him. She said: "He was a ball of joy, and I want his legacy to live on and I want us to continue to fight against violence and get justice for my son and others." That is the end of that mother's quote, but it is not the end of a life that mother will now live without her son or the life he didn't get to live. And there are too many lives that didn't get to be lived, too many lives lost through needless violence.

Operation LeGend gives local law enforcement the valuable support they need to get violent criminals off the street. Again, it was named for an innocent 4-year-old boy. It could have been named for any of the thousands of other victims of violent criminals in dozens of other cities this year. It could have been named for St. Louis Police Officer Tamarris Bohannon, who was killed in the line of duty last month. It could have been named for the two officers in California who had a sneak attack as they were sitting and trying to secure the local transportation center just in the last couple of days. It is a tragedy that it had to be named for anyone.

While some people have sought to defund the police and to disparage the police, Operation LeGend is successful because it supports the police. These are some of the hardest jobs in America, second only to the families of people who care deeply about their loved ones who have decided to serve in that job to protect us all.

American communities are safer because of Operation LeGend. They will be safer as we continue to work toward greater and more effective community policing. They will be safer when people who are violent criminals are no longer walking around to perpetuate further violence.

I salute the Justice Department for their efforts and the local departments that have reached out and taken advantage of the moment to get something done that they were not able to get done by themselves.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, when I was growing up, I was raised to believe in the American dream. My mom taught me that we were blessed because God and our Founders created the greatest country ever, where anything was possible. We weren't allowed to complain. Debt, Big Government, socialism, and communism were bad. College was for a better paying job. Church on Sundays was absolutely not optional.

While I didn't always appreciate my tough-love, my-way-or-the-highway mom growing up, I now thank God every day for my mom and this country. She gave me the opportunity to experience every lesson this country had to offer before I was 20.

Sadly, the values that I grew up with are becoming a way of the past, but I believe these values, these virtues, can and should be part of our country's future. The left has worked hard over the last 50 years to discredit the values of the America I was raised with and the values of the America I want my grandkids to grow up with.

In recent weeks, we have seen the Democrats try hard to paint our President and the entire Republican Party as "darkness," but let me tell you what darkness would actually look like in America.

What if our country turned the keys over to the far left and turned away from capitalism in favor of socialism? The data is already in on that. The result would be the same as it has been throughout history: Socialism would destroy our economy and cause widespread poverty and oppression. Darkness.

What if our country just gave up on the battle to protect innocent human life and agreed with the political party that proudly embraces the killing of the unborn at any time, for any reason? Darkness.

What if we decide to change our First Amendment, editing out our freedom of

speech and freedom of religion, forcing Christians and Jews to retreat from the public square and silencing any who dare to speak up? Darkness.

What if America did what every authoritarian government in history has done and must eventually do—disarm the American people? Darkness.

What if we defunded our police forces across the country, even just partially? What would happen to public safety? How would life in our cities be affected? Turn on your TV for the answer. Darkness.

What if we allowed people to throw homemade bombs at police and burn down police stations and then pretended that these violent demonstrations are peaceful? Darkness.

What if we enacted the Green New Deal? Literal darkness.

What if we let China—a Communist country that systematically imprisons and murders its own citizens—take advantage of American workers and put them out of work? Darkness.

What if we teach our kids that America is a bad country with an evil history that must be erased and that America is fundamentally a morally bankrupt country? Darkness.

Republicans are fighting for issues that the American public care about. People want good jobs, a good education for their kids, and they want to live in safe communities. Republicans are working to defend our law enforcement, invest in our military, secure the border, and stop illegal immigration. Republicans are standing up to dictators in Latin America and to Communist China, after the Democrats have appeased them for decades.

Here is the fundamental difference between Democrats and Republicans: Democrats want to control your life; Republicans want to give you a life. Republicans want to give every American the opportunity to live their version of the American dream. Governments don't do that. Politicians don't do that.

The American people are dreamers, and if we get government out of their way, the innovation, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit of the American people and American business will shine bright.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the dangerous path that national Democrats are spiraling on down and to caution our countrymen not to follow them. Radicals on the far left have hijacked an otherwise righteous cause and are in command of a once proud political party that traces its heritage back to Jefferson and Madison.

The violence the radicals have unleashed threatens lives. The cancel culture they imposed curtails liberty. And their misguided means of creating economic equality endangers the pursuit of happiness.

Joe Biden, NANCY PELOSI, and their hand-picked Democratic candidates are

empowering the radical wing of today's national Democratic Party—the same people responsible for the chaos now on full display across our country. The national leaders of the Democratic Party offer them sanctuary.

They make excuses for radicals' destructive behavior, the way an embarrassed parent does for a mischievous child. To them, the riots that are occurring from Minneapolis to Indianapolis are only peaceful protests. Promises to defund police departments are just ways of reimagining police—whatever that means. It is the same sleight of hand that turns government-run healthcare into Medicare for all who want it.

Most Democrats will not publicly embrace the socialist policies the mob howls for because they know the American people will not buy it. But once in power, they will be all too happy to implement these radical policies, and that means a mainstream national Democratic agenda that will abolish and defund police departments; take away on-the-job insurance; pack the Supreme Court of the United States; raise taxes; give Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico the same number of U.S. Senators that the State of Indiana has; eliminate the legislative filibuster and, therefore, the right of the minority within this institution; and spend trillions of dollars of new government programs that Americans don't need or want.

They are allies—the destroyers and these national Democrats I reference—only they can't be straight with the American people about their alliance, and their leaders just can't seem to summon the simple moral clarity that says racism is evil and so is using it to justify violence and vandalism.

Blessedly, in my State, local Democratic elected officials have had enough. In fact, in recent weeks, several Hoosier public servants have left their party and they have become Republicans. To clearly understand the choice before us, we need only listen to their explanations why.

This is Brian Snedcor, mayor of Hobart, who just switched from a Democrat to a Republican. He says:

I must be true to my God, my family, myself and those that have supported and believed in me . . . I want Hobart to be a place for business to come and the American Dream to be achieved.

And then we have Dave Wedding, Vanderburgh County sheriff, who also just became a Republican. Sheriff Wedding says:

I'm tired of seeing fires set in our streets. I'm tired of people defying God, our church, our police, our government and everything we stand for.

I happen to believe that every regular American feels the same way, and they will look to us to protect the American Dream and put out the fires—literal and figurative—in our streets.

The choice that each of us must make in the coming weeks is pretty

darned clear: law and order or anarchy; an economy that is growing or employers and workers which are grounded; citizens who are free and flourishing or subjects dependent on government.

What the radicals don't understand is that though we were born by revolution, the history of America is one of steady progress—a determined march together for the common good and towards an ever better union. We have to lead that march.

When far-left Democrats offer dangerous ideas and unfulfillable promises, Republicans will counter with innovative thinking and results-driven policies. We will create ways to help every American access affordable healthcare, afford a college education, advance their careers, raise a family, and buy a home that they can call their own.

Republicans will play a part in the reinvigoration of economically disadvantaged areas, both rural and urban. Ours is an America where everyone lives free of fear and is able to speak their mind, and where citizens, no matter their color or their ZIP Code, can climb as high and fly as far as their ambition and ability allows.

Their way leads to a dead end, ours to an endless frontier. They tear down. We will build. The path forward is clear.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me on the floor today. It is clear that America is facing two separate, very different paths.

Last Thursday, the Democrats in this Chamber blocked much needed assistance to families and small businesses struggling to make ends meet amidst the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and they did it for one reason only—politics. Our friends across the aisle didn't want to provide \$15 billion in childcare, more than \$250 billion of additional Paycheck Protection Program loans for small businesses, \$105 billion for schools, and \$20 billion for farmers.

While this aid is vital to my fellow Iowans, it would have helped families and communities all across the Nation, in red and blue States. There is no denying that the damage being caused by this pandemic is real. Businesses are being shut down, schools are being closed, and lives are being lost. Yet this toll is apparently not enough for the other side to set politics aside, even momentarily, to come together and help our fellow citizens with their daily struggles.

This senseless obstruction is leaving Iowa families to fend for themselves when they most need a helping hand. In so many ways, this represents the distinct difference between the two political parties at this very moment.

While Senate Republicans are leading efforts to get America back up and running and guarantee opportunities for everyone, Democrats are embracing obstruction and anarchy.

Following the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, my friend Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina introduced legislation to tackle police reform in a meaningful way. The bill he proposed would have enacted long overdue policies, such as finally making lynching a Federal crime, ending the use of police choke holds, expanding the use of body cameras by law enforcement, and increasing other forms of transparency and accountability.

Yet despite the impassioned pleas of Americans across the country demanding justice for George Floyd and other African-Americans who have died in police custody, Democrats blocked the Senate from even debating Senator SCOTT's thoughtful police reform bill this past summer.

Shouldn't we all be able to agree, regardless of our party affiliation, that Congress needs to take action to guarantee that no American should fear walking on the streets, especially in their own neighborhood? That guarantee should include people of color and peaceful protesters, as well as our law enforcement officers doing their jobs.

As a consequence of the Democrats' obstruction, the streets in some of America's great cities have descended into a state of chaos and lawlessness, immersed in violence and vandalism, arson and murder.

When taxpayers turn to their elected leaders—whether for assistance to provide for their families during a pandemic, for protection from unfair policing practices, or for simple safety when walking down the street—the Democrats have responded with silence and inaction.

Even when I attempted to call up a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act—a bill that is very personal to me and that also had bipartisan support—the Democrats objected to that bill as well. And the same was true for my commonsense bill, Sarah's Law, which would hold illegal immigrants who harm or murder an American citizen accountable.

It is no wonder that folks across this country are so frustrated with Washington and fed up with politicians. Folks, just one friendly reminder: Our country's direction will soon be decided by her people. America must now choose between two paths to take into the future, and that choice could not be starker.

At a time when we need leadership and reassurance, the Democrats are instead offering obstruction, lockdowns, and anarchy. Our friends across the aisle are actually promising—folks, they are promising—to increase taxes on hardworking Americans and even promising to defund the police. That is right, folks. You get to pay more taxes in exchange for less safety and security. That doesn't sound like a good deal to me.

Speaking of bad bargains, you can expect the Democrats to pass their Green New Deal if they are given the chance.

This radical environmental plan would destroy our very way of life in Iowa.

The roadmap offered by Republicans is much brighter, to say the least: reopening America safely; real reforms to end excessive use of force by police without putting the safety of everyone at risk by defunding the police; building upon the successful pro-growth policies that created the greatest economy and historically low unemployment rates for every demographic; and bringing the jobs that were exported under the previous administration back to America and ending our dependency on foreign nations like Red China.

Folks, with our country and the world facing one of the greatest health and economic emergencies in history, we simply cannot risk our recovery on the radical designs of the Democrats. Let's pursue the path towards a renewed United States of America that guarantees safety and greater opportunities for every citizen to pursue the American dream.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from Illinois.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 549

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am going to make a unanimous consent request in a moment, but I would like to preface it by saying what it is about so that as we explain it after the unanimous consent request is objected to, it will be clearer.

In the nation of Venezuela, there exists today an incredible political situation. I have been there to see it. There is a dictator in charge, and life on the street is deadly—so deadly that millions of Venezuelans are fleeing the country as fast as possible.

There is a limitation on food and medicine. There is so much suffering and starvation and deprivation that these people have given up everything, and they are just leaving. The United States knows that this is under the leader, Maduro. It reached a point where it is physically dangerous—so much so that we have a warning to American travelers not to go to Venezuela, to stay away because it is too dangerous.

Yet thousands of Venezuelans now in the United States are facing the threat of being forced return to this deadly, dangerous situation. The same State Department that warns Americans not to travel to Venezuela is now trying to force those Venezuelans who are here as students and others to go back to this deadly situation.

Senator MENENDEZ and I and others think it just makes sense for us to give these people a shelter until it is safe for them to return to their home. That is what this request is about.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 549 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time

passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. THUNE. Reserving the right to object. On behalf of my colleague Senator LEE, who cannot be here to object on his own because he is chairing an Energy subcommittee hearing, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I know the Senator from South Dakota is making the objection on behalf of Senator LEE, and I have been called to do the same thing from time to time. I won't assign any political blame to him, but I will say this is a serious mistake and deadly mistake for these Venezuelans.

This is an issue which in many parts of America is red hot. Those of Venezuelan ancestry or those who are here in a temporary status cannot understand what just happened. They want to stay here safely. They don't want to be forced to return to this nation that is such a dangerous place under this dictator.

A number of times in the last year, Senator MENENDEZ, who is on the floor with me here, has joined with me on behalf of the Venezuelan people. President Trump boasts that he supports these people.

The idea is simple: While the country remains a dictatorial nightmare, grant Venezuelans in the United States temporary protected status or TPS. It is the kind of commonsense move a self-confident nation and one that really cares about humanity would do to demonstrate real leadership and accept.

TPS is a temporary immigration status provided to foreign nationals if returning to their country poses a serious threat to their safety for any variety of reasons—natural disaster, environmental disaster, extraordinary conditions, armed conflicts. Certainly by every objective measure, the situation in Venezuela today is deadly and dangerous. It is not a permanent immigration status we are seeking for these Venezuelans, just a measure of American decency and solidarity with those who might be in the United States when a calamity occurs in their home country. Prior administrations of both political parties have granted it for people from countries facing these circumstances.

The situation in Venezuela is dire. Currently, the United States is working with regional partners to foster an end to the disastrous dictatorship clinging to power in Venezuela.

I was there before the sham 2018 election. What I saw was heartbreaking—people starving and fainting at work from malnutrition; hospitals without power or basic medicines. I visited a Catholic children's hospital in Caracas. They told me they didn't have the basics to treat these children. Antibiotics and cancer drugs were unavailable.

Millions were fleeing this country and still are, as refugees into neighboring countries. There is brutal political repression. If you disagree with Maduro publicly, be prepared to go to prison. There is staggering government corruption and dismantling of the government's democracy. Now, the tragic impacts of coronavirus have made the situation worse as well.

I supported this administration's efforts to work with other nations to support the interim Presidency of Juan Guaido. I had a chance to speak with President Guaido on the phone yesterday. I am deeply moved by his courage and concern for the Venezuelan people amid the suffering. Think about what he is up against. Here is a man who at any moment could face imprisonment or worse.

It is remarkable that more than 2 years after an internationally discredited Presidential election, Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro is now planning another illegitimate election instead of finally holding a fair, credible Presidential contest.

I asked President Guaido: Are there going to be any international observers of this international election coming up this December?

Oh, yes.

I said: Who?

He said: The Russians.

I said: What a coincidence. They are observing our election too.

Venezuela has tragically fallen from President Trump's attention. One simple step he could take is grant TPS to Venezuelans here in the United States. He repeatedly refuses. There are travel warnings to Americans telling people not to go close to Venezuela, but for the Venezuelans here on visa or TPS status: You have to go home. The President has refused, I suspect, because the depth of his anti-immigrant cruelty really has no limits.

Despite the chest-thumping to audiences in Florida about taking on Venezuelan dictators, President Trump has, in fact, turned his back on the Venezuelans in the United States who truly need his protection. Nobody should be surprised, as former National Security Advisor John Bolton wrote in his book, that the President praised Maduro as "smart" and "tough" and waffled on any kind of coherent policy in the region and told Bolton not to get too deeply involved. President Trump can't have it both ways.

I have met many Venezuelans in my home State of Illinois. I can tell you that they are desperately worried about being forced to return to the chaos, violence, and hopelessness of the current Venezuela.

The Trump administration's travel advisory says it all:

Do not travel due to COVID-19, crime, civil unrest, poor health infrastructure, kidnapping, arbitrary arrest and detention of U.S. citizens . . . Violent crime, such as homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, and carjacking, is common.

Yet the Republicans come to the floor and object to our efforts to protect the Venezuelans who are doing

their best to avoid what I just read as a warning to American travelers.

Just today, U.N. investigators released findings saying that under Maduro, Venezuela has “committed egregious violations” amounting to crimes against humanity. How can this President and the State Department possibly force people to return to Venezuela under these conditions? And now, with Maduro detaining returning refugees and calling them “bioterrorists,” the idea of going back is even more dangerous.

Since the White House wouldn’t act more than a year ago, the House, under Democratic control, passed a bipartisan bill granting TPS to Venezuelans by a margin of 272 to 158. Senator MENENDEZ, Senator RUBIO, and I introduced a similar Senate bill, but the majority leader, MITCH MCCONNELL, still refuses to bring up any bill that just might not please President Trump—even ones that supposedly he is publicly supporting.

Senator MENENDEZ and I have tried to call up the House bill for passage, only to face objections, just as we did today, from Senate Republicans who refuse to stand up to this President’s failure on this and so many other foreign policies.

When we brought this up last July, Senate Republicans objected because they said they wanted to debate it in the Judiciary Committee. Well, 12 months passed with plenty of opportunities. Our Venezuelan TPS bill was referred to the committee in February of 2019. Yet there has been no action, no hearing, no markup. The Immigration Subcommittee is not overloaded with work. Under Chairman CORNYN, we have had exactly one subcommittee meeting in the past 1½ years. It hasn’t held a single hearing this year, and the Senate Judiciary Committee hasn’t considered a single immigration bill.

This administration could grant TPS without congressional action, but it refuses. Senate Republicans could pass the bipartisan House bill to grant Venezuelans TPS, but they refuse as well. Let it be clear that the real failure to help Venezuelans in the United States rests on their shoulders—the President and the Republican majority in the Senate.

The Venezuelan policy, like so many others with this administration and the Senate, is only there to serve President Trump and no one else.

I made my offer in the hope that we could bring this matter to the floor. I am sorry it met an objection. I thank my colleagues for joining me on this effort.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there may be portions where I may say a few words in Spanish, and I will provide a translation for the clerk.

I ask unanimous consent to be able to do that.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, we are here today once again to join Senator DURBIN, who has been on the floor with me or I with him I don’t know how many times now as it relates to this issue. We are here to urge the Senate to immediately approve legislation that would designate Venezuelans for temporary protected status.

There are some 200,000 Venezuelans who are currently living in the United States. They are unable to return home safely, and they would benefit from TPS.

We should be doing the right thing. We should be upholding American values and offering them protection, but once again, our Republican colleagues have blocked our efforts.

We know what is at stake. Venezuela continues to experience the worst humanitarian crisis in our hemisphere. Its people continue to suffer food and medicine shortages, levels of criminal violence akin to a conflict zone, and grave human rights abuses under the Maduro regime. As if that were not enough, Venezuelans face the alarming spread of COVID-19 with a public health system in ruins.

For 7 years, Maduro’s devastating abuses of the Venezuelan people have left them with little choice but to stay and suffer or flee and have a chance at survival—flee the political persecution, flee the oppression.

In Maduro’s Venezuela, families struggle to feed themselves and children tragically die of treatable diseases. More than half of all Venezuelan doctors have fled the country, and 40 percent of hospitals lack electricity and 70 percent lack regular access to water. Senate Republicans want to leave the Venezuelans who are in the United States at risk of deportation back to Maduro’s nightmare rather than take action. Meanwhile, the Maduro regime is using the spread of COVID-19 to further tighten its control.

Last month, Human Rights Watch reported that dozens of journalists, healthcare workers, human rights lawyers, and political opponents have been detained or prosecuted for merely criticizing or questioning the regime’s official statistics on the pandemic.

Take the case of Ivan Virguez, a 65-year-old human rights attorney who had expressed concern on Facebook about “quarantine centers” that had been set up by the regime. In response, police officers handcuffed him to a metal tube in a prison yard, under the Sun for 2 hours, and left him without access to a bathroom for over a day, causing him to become sick with bladder pain. Ivan remains under house arrest and without access to his criminal file and no due process.

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

As Senator DURBIN said, “just today, the United Nations released a report finding that Maduro’s yearslong cam-

paign of extrajudicial killings and torture amounts to crimes against humanity.” Yet President Trump and Senate Republicans refuse to provide humanitarian protection to Venezuelans in the United States.

The extraordinary conditions in Venezuela have forced more than 5 million Venezuelans to flee their country in search of protection. Last year, I traveled to Cucuta, which is the border city between Colombia and Venezuela, and I saw for myself the thousands of refugees and migrants who cross every day. I will never forget their stories—stories of heartbreak and suffering from people leaving everything they have ever known behind—their homes, their loved ones—in an attempt to survive.

We have applauded Venezuela’s neighbors, including Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil, for welcoming Venezuelan refugees and migrants despite their having far fewer resources than the United States. Yet the Trump administration has failed to ensure that America lives up to its history as a beacon of freedom and hope around the world.

Many Venezuelans in the United States today who would be eligible for TPS are stuck in immigration detention. The Trump administration and the Republican-led Senate have failed to grant them TPS, which leaves them facing uncertainty and the fear of deportation. Many others who have come from Venezuela to seek political asylum have been turned back and deported—back to countries like Mexico and with all of the risks that those border cities present. They have not even been given a chance to make their political asylum claims.

So make no mistake: The Trump administration has all of the authority it needs to designate Venezuela immediately—it doesn’t need this legislation—but the President has chosen not to. That is why we introduced legislation that would grant TPS to our Venezuelan brothers and sisters. The House has already passed a similar bill.

Now, I have had other issues here in the Senate for which I have had to do this before, and I will do it again. I am not going to relent in our effort to grant Venezuelans the protections they deserve. Every time my Republican colleagues have wanted to stop our Nation from ultimately making progress, we have had to shame them into submission, and this is no different. I am not going to stop until the United States truly stands in solidarity with the Venezuelan people.

If you don’t want to give them TPS, let them make their claims for political asylum, but then you take them and turn them away before they can make cases for political asylum when we know—God—that there is a good case for political asylum coming out of Venezuela.

Then we have had colleagues in the past, one being Senator SCOTT, of Florida, who came and objected to our TPS proposal for Venezuelans. He suggested

that we have to change all of TPS because, in fact, it had become more than a temporary protected status.

Well, guess what. The Ninth Circuit Court actually made a decision which I disagree with, but we call attention to the action that comes on the heels of a disappointing Ninth Circuit decision issued on Monday that says that the Trump administration's cruel efforts to strip protections of over 300,000 current TPS holders is permissible. So there goes the argument that, oh, well, TPS is permanent. No. The President could have granted it, and he can end it when he feels the conditions in Venezuela no longer should give the opportunity for Venezuelans to continue to have temporary protected status. So that argument is out of the way.

As for debating this in the Committee on the Judiciary, well, you have had over a year to debate it since we started this. You are in the majority. You control the committee, and you control the subcommittee. You could have had the debates. We don't come to the floor lightly to seek unanimous consent. We do it after having waited a considerable time for the debates to have taken place—the debates you said you wanted—but they haven't come.

There are people living, working, and raising families legally in the United States who have Venezuelan backgrounds. Yet the President is doing everything he can to line them up for deportation. Of those at risk, 130,000 essential workers are among them, who have sacrificed their health during this pandemic to ensure that all Americans have access to healthcare, food, and basic necessities.

The administration's efforts are also endangering over 273,000 U.S. citizen children who call a TPS holder "Mom" or "Dad." That is right. In the midst of a deadly pandemic, this administration wants to deport the parents of hundreds of thousands of American children or force these families to relocate their children to unstable, wholly unfamiliar countries.

This callous disregard for TPS holders and the greater immigrant community has to stop. We shouldn't wait for the Ninth Circuit's decision to be appealed. We have to create a permanent solution for TPS holders who have become integral to our communities and deserve a pathway. The Senate should not only take up TPS but pass the American Dream and Promise Act, H.R. 6, which passed the House with bipartisan support more than a year ago.

What are we waiting for?

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Venezuelans deserve TPS right now. We cannot wait.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues Senator MENENDEZ and Senator DURBIN in urging the U.S. Senate to do the right thing and grant protected status to

Venezuelans in this country. At this moment, I thank them for their continued leadership on this issue and for making sure we have immigration policies that live up to what this country has always stood for.

As my colleagues have pointed out, Venezuela is suffering a dire humanitarian crisis under the dictatorship of Nicolas Maduro. Its economy has collapsed, and its medical system is in free fall. They are governing through a reign of terror.

Even before COVID-19 struck, Venezuelans were facing shortages of food, of water, of gasoline, and other life-saving items. The pandemic has taken a very bad situation and made it much worse—in fact, desperate. An estimated two-thirds of physicians in Venezuela lack access to basic sanitary equipment, like gloves, masks, soap, or goggles, and only 25 percent of the doctors have reliable running water in their hospitals and clinics.

On top of this desperate economic situation, you have the political tyranny and terror that has been imposed by the Maduro regime. In fact, as my colleagues pointed out just this morning, U.N. investigators found that Venezuelan security forces and allied groups have committed systemic human rights violations, including killings and torture, amounting to crimes against humanity. Reasonable grounds exist to believe that President Maduro and his Interior and Defense Ministers ordered or contributed to these crimes against humanity, which are documented in the U.N. report. The U.N. factfinding mission has said that other national jurisdictions and the International Criminal Court should consider prosecutions. So you have a desperate situation.

President Trump claims to support the people of Venezuela who are facing this tyranny and this desperation. In fact, as Senator DURBIN said, he has on numerous occasions said he was sympathetic and that he wanted to help.

Here is what he said last year: "To the Venezuelans trapped in this nightmare, please know that all of America is behind you."

That is what President Trump said. Yet he has refused to use his authority to take action to grant Venezuelans here in the United States that temporary protected status. He wants to send them back to what he describes as a nightmare—a nightmare that is getting worse by the day as documented by the U.N. report. He wants to send them back to a place where the U.N. has just implicated the government in crimes against humanity.

Because the President refuses to do what he says—refuses to actually take action to help—the House has passed legislation to grant Venezuelans TPS. My colleagues Senator MENENDEZ and Senator DURBIN have introduced that legislation here in the Senate, and I am proud to cosponsor it. Yet, as we are saying here today, the fastest thing to do is to just take up the House bill and

pass it. So it is incredibly disturbing that our Republican colleagues would get up and block a vote on that action on the very day when the government in question, the Government of Venezuela, has been found to have committed crimes against humanity.

The majority in this Senate says: Well, don't worry about that. If you are here in the United States, we are going to insist that you go back home. We are going to insist that you put yourself and your family back this danger.

That is what our Senate Republican colleagues are saying by blocking the vote on this House TPS measure. They are forcing innocent people to go home to what the President himself described as a nightmare.

As my colleagues have said and as we know, this is part of an inhumane, anti-immigration agenda from this administration—from the Muslim ban, to ending DACA, to the termination of TPS for many other populations. This President has separated families and instilled fear in our communities.

Senator MENENDEZ referenced the Ninth Circuit Court's decision from earlier this week, the decision of its upholding, on a 2-to-1 vote, the President's decision to rescind TPS protections for over 400,000 individuals who are here, working in our communities, living here legally with their families. Many of them have been here for over 20 years. As he said, 130,000 of them are on our frontlines as essential workers. More than 10,000 of them are medical professionals who put themselves at risk to help others throughout our communities and our country. These are individuals who are our neighbors and small business men and women, and they are contributing to our communities and to our country. The President has said he wants to deport them—400,000 people—despite this hour of peril both here and even more so in the countries to which they would be required to return.

That is why we have to pass the SECURE Act—to provide stability and security to those who are on TPS. That is why we have to pass the American Dream and Promise Act that the House passed last year.

That is why we need to grant TPS to Venezuela, so, as my colleagues say, this country can do what Presidents from both political parties have done in the past and Members of the House and Senate from both political parties have done in the past, which is to live up to the idea that we are a place of refuge for those who are facing political persecution at home.

I don't know how you can more clearly define "political persecution" on this day than a finding by the United Nations that the Government of Venezuela is committing crimes against humanity, against the people of Venezuela. Yet, that is the day that, once again, we saw our Republican colleagues block this legislation that would allow our country to live up to our tradition of doing the right thing.

As Senator MENENDEZ said, I look forward to joining him as we continue to press this issue. I guess the only good news is that it seems to be getting a little harder for the other side—our Republican colleagues—to find somebody who wants to come here in the light of day and object to it. I hope that in the coming days, that number will be zero and we can actually pass this important piece of legislation.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Dugan nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David W. Dugan, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 179 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Collins	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Loeffler	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Durbin	McSally	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer		

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Cortez Masto	Leahy
Bennet	Duckworth	Markey
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Menendez
Booker	Gillibrand	Merkley
Brown	Hassan	Murphy
Cantwell	Heinrich	Murray
Cardin	Hirono	Peters
Carper	Kaine	Reed
Casey	King	Rosen
Coons	Klobuchar	Schatz

Schumer	Stabenow	Warner
Shaheen	Tester	Whitehouse
Sinema	Udall	Wyden
Smith	Van Hollen	

NOT VOTING—4

Capito	Sanders
Harris	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON MCGLYNN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 180 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Shelby
Cramer	Loeffler	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Durbin	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Murphy	
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Jones	Shaheen
Brown	Kaine	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Capito	Sanders
Harris	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

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

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 debate on the nomination of Iain D. Johnston, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Todd Young, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Deb Fischer, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Tim Scott, Thom Tillis.

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 Iain D. Johnston, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, 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 North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 81, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 181 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Gardner	Portman
Baldwin	Graham	Reed
Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Bennet	Hassan	Roberts
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blunt	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cardin	Inhofe	Sasse
Carper	Johnson	Schatz
Casey	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shaheen
Coons	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sinema
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Smith
Cotton	Lee	Stabenow
Cramer	Loeffler	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Tester
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Daines	McSally	Tillis
Duckworth	Moran	Toomey
Durbin	Murkowski	Udall
Enzi	Murphy	Warner
Ernst	Paul	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Perdue	Wicker
Fischer	Peters	Young

NAYS—15

Blumenthal	Brown	Gillibrand
Booker	Cantwell	Hirono

Klobuchar
Markey
Menendez

Merkley
Murray
Schumer

Van Hollen
Warren
Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Burr
Capito

Harris
Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 81, the nays are 15.

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 Iain D. Johnston, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

HEALTHCARE HEROES

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, healthcare workers have long been regarded as some of our Nation's most critical and courageous servants. During this time of challenges and uncertainty, this has never been more accurate.

Each day, our healthcare professionals make tireless sacrifices to protect and serve our country, even when it means risking their own lives to take care of others. People like Jennifer Campbell, a registered nurse from White River Health System, are a great example. She is recognized as the in-house expert for all COVID-19 testing. She has taken ownership of the community drive-up testing and worked with the Arkansas Department of Health to organize community testing.

In Malvern, Vickie Robbins, a registered nurse at Baptist Health-Hot Spring County, has volunteered to work extra hours, offered to operate drive-through screening, and volunteered to treat COVID-19 patients. Also, Lora Turknott, a registered nurse at Baptist Health-Conway, has been dependable and flexible with the hours she works to support the needs of different shifts. She provides compassionate care with a positive attitude.

During visits to medical facilities across Arkansas during the in-State work period, I was honored to personally thank frontline workers like them and so many others for the critical care they are providing. The work of these frontline workers and their colleagues has become much more difficult. We are grateful for all they do and represent.

Congress overwhelmingly supported the men and women of the medical community who are treating COVID-19 patients and are working to find a cure to address the public health crisis with the passage of the CARES Act. This critical relief was a necessary lifeline for hospitals to continue providing services to meet the demands of the communities and helping our doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals stay safe while providing care and treatment for patients.

There is more that we can do to support healthcare and ensure that pa-

tients get reliable care. Listening to the needs of hospitals is incredibly important in many efforts to assist these vital facilities, protect the jobs they create, and empower their ability to serve communities and patients all across Arkansas. Insight from the healthcare community is a valuable resource that helps shape the policies that directly impact their mission.

Along with continuing to provide critical resources like PPE, here are three things Arkansas healthcare professionals recommend we can do to improve services. First of all, we can expand broadband so more patients can take advantage of telehealth; make expanded telehealth services to Medicare permanent; and, finally, provide certainty for the 340B drug discount program.

Telehealth has become vital to providing effective care for patients during this public health emergency. Access to medical providers without leaving home offers convenience and safety against potential exposure to COVID-19. Having the option for virtual doctors' visits can be a challenge, particularly for rural areas, where broadband connectivity is limited.

This emergency has amplified the need for this connection, but, too often, providers in rural communities are unable to meet the increased demand for telehealth services. So my colleagues and I have introduced legislation to help healthcare providers expand telehealth benefits and improve access to broadband.

The Healthcare Broadband Expansion During COVID-19 Act would bolster funding for providers in rural areas to increase connectivity. This bill would help more patients get the care they need.

We have a unique opportunity to see how the modifications and updates we made to health programs during this health emergency can be beneficial in the long term.

The CARES Act provided the Department of Health and Human Services with the authority to waive telehealth requirements for Medicare during this emergency. Providers and patients have adapted expanded telehealth opportunities. We can continue to strengthen this access by making these services permanent.

Earlier this summer, I joined a bipartisan group of Senators to urge our Nation's top health agencies to make the permanent changes to telehealth requirements for Medicare that Congress authorized in the CARES Act.

Last month, President Trump issued an Executive order to improve healthcare in rural America by expanding telehealth resources and services. The President's action included a proposal to parts of Medicare's telehealth coverage. This is a step in the right direction. I look forward to working with the administration to implement a rule that will enhance the delivery of healthcare to Medicare patients.

When Arkansas hospital administrators shared their concerns over future

eligibility in the 340B program, I signed on to support Senator THUNE's bill to provide certainty to current participants. As hospitals paused elective procedures and as admissions decreased for Medicare and Medicaid patients, administrators' concerns that their hospitals would no longer be eligible for the 340B program increased. These are among the key metrics used to determine acceptance into the program. The 340B drug discount program has provided flexibility to Arkansas hospitals to help lower drug prices. Extending eligibility so they can care for low-income patients is critical.

These are three measures we can take to help patients continue to get quality, reliable care. We must remember that, like our valued healthcare workers, we play an important role in fighting the virus. By following the guidance and recommendations laid out by our public health officials, we can help our medical heroes and make a positive impact to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been exactly 90 days since the Supreme Court rejected President Trump's effort to end deportation protection for Dreamers. Dreamers, of course, are young immigrants who came to the United States as children, toddlers, or infants and who grew up in this country believing they were part of America, only to learn when they were old enough to be told, as teenagers, that they were undocumented through no fault of their own.

In an opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts, the Supreme Court held that the President's attempt to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, was "arbitrary and capricious."

It was 10 years ago that I joined with then-Republican Senator Dick Lugar, of Indiana, on a bipartisan basis, to call on President Obama to use his legal authority to protect Dreamers from deportation. President Obama heard our call. He responded by creating the DACA Program. DACA provides temporary protection to Dreamers from deportation on a 2-year basis, which is renewable if they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass criminal and national security background checks. More than 800,000 Dreamers came forward to sign up for DACA.

DACA unleashed their full potential, and they could see there might be a future. They began to contribute to our country as soldiers, teachers, and small business owners. More than 200,000 DACA recipients are essential critical infrastructure workers. That is not my choice of words. It is the definition of President Trump's Department of Homeland Security. More than 200,000 DACA recipients are essential critical infrastructure workers. Among these

essential workers, 41,700 DACA recipients are in healthcare. They are doctors, intensive care nurses, paramedics, and respiratory therapists.

Despite this incredible story of these innocent children coming to the United States while not having legal status in this country but having fear of deportation and still being determined to be part of America's future, as well as the fact that they would serve our country as essential workers and healthcare workers, on September 5, 2017, President Trump repealed DACA. Hundreds of thousands of Dreamers faced losing their work permits and being deported to countries they may not even remember.

The Federal court stepped in and ordered the Trump administration to continue DACA for Dreamers who had already received this protection. However, Dreamers who had not already received DACA were blocked from applying from this protection for nearly 3 years while the case languished in court. The Center for American Progress estimates that approximately 300,000 Dreamers had been unable to apply for the program because the case was in court.

On June 19, the day after the Supreme Court rejected President Trump's repeal of DACA, I led a letter from 43 Democratic Senators to the President. We called on the President to follow the law, to immediately comply with the Supreme Court's decision and reopen DACA for those who were eligible to apply. It has been 3 months now. We haven't received any response from President Trump, and the Trump administration refuses to reopen DACA.

In July, a Federal judge issued an order for the Trump administration to begin receiving new applications for DACA. Instead, Acting—and let me underline “Acting”—Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf has issued a memo saying that the DHS will “reject all initial requests for DACA.”

Let's be clear. The Supreme Court of the United States rejected President Trump's repeal of DACA. That means DACA returns to its original status, and the Trump administration, under Court order, must reopen the program, and it must do it now. Instead, Mr. Wolf is saying the DHS will turn away 300,000 applicants who are Dreamers who are eligible for DACA but who have not had a chance to apply.

It is important to note that the non-partisan Government Accountability Office has concluded that Acting Secretary Wolf is illegally serving. This calls into serious question any legal authority he claims in issuing a memo to refuse to reopen DACA.

This administration, which is telling America it is dedicated to law and order, is in open defiance of the Supreme Court. The stakes are high both for the rule of law and, just as importantly, for the lives of Dreamers. To ignore this is to ignore a legitimate

order of the highest Court in the land. Republicans and Democrats in Congress should come together to compel this President to follow the law and immediately comply with the Supreme Court's mandate.

On June 4 of last year, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act. This legislation would give Dreamers a path to citizenship—my goal for years. It passed on a strong bipartisan vote. It has been pending in the Senate, sitting on the desk of Republican leader MITCH MCCONNELL, for more than 12 months.

After the Supreme Court decision, I sent a letter, signed by all 47 Democrats, calling on Senator MCCONNELL to immediately give us a vote on the Dream and Promise Act. It has been 3 months. Still no reply.

The Dream and Promise Act would also provide a path to citizenship for 400,000 immigrants who have been living in the United States on temporary protected status. More than 90 percent of them are originally from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti. Most of them have lived in the United States for over 20 years.

As with DACA, TPS recipients must register with the government, pay a fee, and clear criminal and national security background checks. Like DACA recipients, TPS recipients are making important contributions to America. More than 130,000 TPS holders are essential critical infrastructure workers, and 11,600 are healthcare workers.

My friend, the Senator from Arkansas, just came to the floor and lauded our healthcare heroes across America in the midst of this pandemic. I have given that same speech. I think we all have, and we mean it. Yet did you ever stop and think how many of those healthcare workers are the DACA recipients, Dreamers, TPS holders—the so-called immigrants—whom we want to reject and remove from this country? We praise them on one hand, and we tell them to get the heck out of the United States on the other. How can that be consistent?

Two years ago, I negotiated bipartisan legislation with a path to citizenship for DACA and TPS recipients. President Trump profanely dismissed our bill in an Oval Office meeting that has now become infamous. Instead, the President is trying to rescind TPS protections and deport hundreds of thousands of immigrants from our country.

A Federal judge concluded that the President broke the law and blocked his effort to end TPS. Earlier this week, in a divided decision, two Republican-appointed judges ruled the other way and lifted the injunctions. This decision makes it even more important that the Senate immediately consider the Dream and Promise Act.

Over the years since I introduced the DREAM Act, I decided the only way to tell the story of this bill was to tell the story of the Dreamers. I have come to the floor 125 times to tell the stories. Today will be the 126th. I want to tell

you the story of these two people. I will start with Esmeralda Tovar-Mora. In this photo, she is with her husband, whom I will talk about more in just a moment.

Esmeralda is the 126th Dreamer's story I have told in the Senate, and it is a good one. She came to the United States from Mexico at the age of 2, so she obviously had no voice in that decision. She grew up in Hutchinson, KS.

She sent me a letter, and here is what she said about growing up:

Growing up in the United States has been the only thing that I've known. Pledging allegiance to the American flag and singing the national anthem on a daily basis made me believe that I was truly American.

She was a good student—no, she was excellent. In high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society and president of the Key Club. She sang in her church choir and played on the tennis team. She graduated magna cum laude.

Esmeralda's experiences in the Key Club visiting nursing homes convinced her she wanted a career in healthcare.

Thanks to DACA—thanks to DACA—Esmeralda was able to work as a waitress to support herself through college. She is now a case manager at a mental health center and a medication aide in an Alzheimer's ward in Hutchinson, KS.

She is married to Michael Mora, seen in this picture. Specialist Mora serves in the Kansas National Guard and recently returned from a 9-month tour in the Middle East—National Guardsman, 9 months in the Middle East—serving a country that will not recognize his wife as a citizen.

Let me introduce you to someone else. This is special. This beautiful little girl is Esmeralda and Michael's daughter Rose. She just turned 4.

Esmeralda is on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic, and here is what she said:

We've been on lockdown since March 30. Since family members can't visit, my patients are scared and lonely. Many have started asking me to call them Grandma or Grandpa, a little crumb of comfort at a time when the world around them is going crazy. I'm happy to be their adopted granddaughter. It eases the pain of scrubbing my hands until they're raw and the anxiety that I could infect my beautiful family. It also makes me happy to know that I am appreciated here in Hutchinson, because right now I've got an added stress: The U.S. government wants to deport me.

I want to thank Esmeralda for her service. She is truly a health hero—an immigrant health hero. She is a DACA health hero. She is putting herself and her family at risk every day to protect others—Americans—loving members of families, and it may be their last day on Earth. She should not also have to worry about whether she is going to be deported and her family torn apart. Isn't it enough that her husband is serving our country to prove how much this family loves America?

Would we be stronger as a country if we tell Esmeralda Tovar-Mora to leave

or if she becomes an American citizen and continues to work on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic? I don't think the answer is even hard. I think it is clear.

Esmerelda and hundreds of thousands of other Dreamers and TPS holders are counting on those of us in the Senate to solve this crisis that President Trump created.

I am sorry that Senate Republicans are ignoring President Trump's defiance of the Supreme Court and refusing to bring the Dream and Promise Act to the floor.

As long as I am a U.S. Senator, I will be coming to this floor to fight for Esmerelda Tovar-Mora and all immigrants. It would be an American tragedy to deport this brave and talented healthcare worker in the midst of this pandemic. We must ensure that Esmerelda and hundreds of others of our essential workforce are not forced to stop working when we need them more than ever, and we must give them a chance—just a chance—to earn their way to citizenship.

Mr. President, it has been my honor to represent Esmerelda and the hundreds of thousands of Dreamers over the years. They have never disappointed me—never.

Many times we brought to the floor of the Senate the Dream Act, bills containing the Dream Act. We have managed to pass them a few times but never at the same time as the House, so they have never become law. So for decades—literally for decades—these young people have waited for their chance. They have done everything they can possibly do to prove they love this country. What will it take to convince my colleagues? What will it take to convince them that losing this beautiful young woman, with this pretty little girl, Rose, and telling this man, who served our country in the Kansas National Guard in a 9-month tour of duty in the Middle East—what will it take to convince my Senate colleagues that these are worthy people to become American citizens?

Some of us just lucked out; we were born here. There was never a moment where we made a decision; we were Americans from the start. But for others, they have had to prove their way into this country. Hasn't this wonderful young woman proved her way into America? Hasn't she told us why she should be given the right to become—a great honor—a citizen of the United States of America?

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 697

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, the brave men and women of our law

enforcement are facing an onslaught of violence, harassment, and abuse. They deserve better. These selfless individuals are true heroes who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities.

Right now, as Hurricane Sally moves across Florida's panhandle and Alabama, causing massive flooding and storm surge, law enforcement officials are working tirelessly to keep people safe. They are going out in these extremely dangerous conditions to rescue those in need.

We can never truly repay them for their service and their sacrifice. Throughout my 8 years as Governor, we lost 51 members of law enforcement in the line of duty, and you wouldn't believe the bravery of these individuals and the strength of the families and communities who support them.

As Governor and now Senator, supporting and investing in our law enforcement has always been a top priority. Because of our efforts, Florida has a 49-year low in our crime rate. Americans are moving to Florida in droves, not just for low taxes and great weather but because we have safe communities, and that is thanks to our hard-working law enforcement. That is why it is so disturbing to see the harassment, the insults, and the abuse from the liberal mob.

I remember what it was like for American soldiers coming back from Vietnam. Whether you agreed or disagreed with that war, the abuse and insults directed at our military men and women were disgusting and disgraceful. We are seeing the same thing today directed at our men and women in blue. It is just as disgraceful.

The radical left wants to defund the police—the most dangerous policy idea of my lifetime. Think about that for a minute. If you defund the police, who do you call when your house gets broken into? Who is going to patrol the streets to prevent drug trafficking and violence? Who is going to investigate murders and rapes and assaults and robberies? Who is going to protect our schools? We only have to turn on our TVs for the answer.

Over the past several months, rioters and thugs, filled with hate inspired by this goal of defunding the police, have turned their words into violent action in cities across this great country—throwing homemade bombs at officers and setting fire to police stations.

We have watched Democratic mayors and Governors turn their backs on law-and-order and try to pretend that these violent demonstrations are somehow peaceful, and their partners in the media have helped.

This past weekend, we saw another horrific act of senseless violence as two sheriff's deputies in Los Angeles were ambushed by a deranged gunman. In the evening, rioters surrounded the hospital where the deputies were fighting for their lives and chanted "We hope they die." We hope they die? We should all be denouncing this heinous

act—all of us—and praying for the speedy and full recovery of the deputies. We should all be denouncing the cruel, heartless, and frankly pathetic disregard for human life that was clearly evident from these protesters.

This anti-police mentality is raging in American cities and threatening the future of America as we know it. Our law enforcement officers dedicate their lives to protecting our communities, and we can't let these acts of violence continue.

We can all agree that reforms need to be made. That is why it is so unbelievable that my Democratic colleagues refuse to even debate the police reform bill led by Senator SCOTT of South Carolina. Instead of actually doing something and having a chance at providing healing to our Nation, Senate Democrats turned their backs on our law enforcement.

But we can't let the radical left use the crimes of a few bad actors to demonize good, hard-working police officers—officers like Sergeant Adrian Rodriguez and Sergeant James Henry of the Lakeland Police Department. They began the department's Neighborhood Program over 6 years ago and lead two outstanding teams of officers who do everything from reading at the local kindergarten classes to assisting a SWAT team with the service of high-risk drug warrants. No matter the assignment, their teams work nonstop to build community pride in the citizens' police department.

Officer Jimmie Bizzle of the Tampa International Airport Police Department is dedicated to bettering his community and supporting individuals who experience homelessness. He trains his colleagues on how to connect homeless individuals with the resources and services they need.

Corporal Margo Fergusson of the Tampa Police Department spent years of her career defending and protecting children by investigating crimes in the department's Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit, working tirelessly to hold offenders accountable. During the pandemic, she has been working with her fellow officers and local schools to disbursing food to families who might need a helping hand.

Detective Michelle Mahoney of the Clearwater Police Department is part of the department's Refuse to Lose Program, which engages the faith-based community with youth offenders to help them succeed and stay on a good path, offering services like tutoring, employment, and mental health help. She is known for her empathy, understanding, and compassion for her community.

Instead of attacking and defunding the police and starving these hard-working men and women of the resources they need to do their job, we need to do the opposite. We need to fund the police. We need to recognize and support the individuals who have worked so hard to make our Nation the safe America we know and love. We

need to reject dangerous proposals that threaten our communities and strip the safety we hold dear. It is time to stand up and say “enough.”

Defunding the police is un-American and the antithesis of the values that make America great. Police officers across the country risk their lives every day to keep people safe, and they deserve our appreciation. They uphold their oath to serve and protect.

Today, I am introducing a Senate resolution to condemn the widespread violence, the hatred and vilification of law enforcement, and express our unwavering support for the brave men and women in uniform who protect us.

I am proud to have Senator DAINES here today and thank him for his unwavering commitment to law enforcement and for joining us today. We ask that all of our colleagues join us in support.

To the sheriffs, police chiefs, sheriff's deputies, police officers, highway patrol, State troopers, Federal marshals, and many other law enforcement officials who serve in Florida and across the country, thank you. It is time that you get the respect you deserve, and I won't accept anything less.

Mr. President, at this time I would like to yield to my colleague from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Florida for yielding his time. He is not only the Senator from Florida; he is also a former Governor.

Mr. President, I am here today to talk about the brave men and women of law enforcement in Montana and across this Nation. These men and women, many who are my friends, are the best of the best. Montana heroes literally put their lives on the line every day to protect our families—our moms, our dads, our kids. They don't do it for the pay or the accolades; they do it to serve their communities, to keep us safe.

The men and women wearing that badge accept that every time they leave home to go to their shift and give their loved ones a kiss goodbye, they may never come back home. That is courage.

My home county sheriff—Gallatin County, MT—Sheriff Brian Gootkin—just a little over 1 week ago, we had a huge, massive wildfire that struck the Bridgers just north and east of Bozeman. It has been my hometown for 56 years. There were huge plumes of smoke, a great big fire—11,000 acres. They rushed into the fire and evacuated the residents there. Twenty-eight homes were destroyed, and not a single person lost their life. I can tell you why—because of the actions of the Gallatin sheriff's department, firefighters, and other agencies.

This courage is something we should celebrate every day. This is something we should defend every day, including right here on the floor of the U.S. Senate. But, sadly, some people have other ideas.

The way that members of our law enforcement are being treated right now around this country is atrocious. It is disturbing. Just this past weekend, two members of L.A.'s law enforcement, a man and a woman, were ambushed while sitting in their car—shot point-blank. Many of you have seen the horrifying videos.

If that weren't sickening enough, there were violent protesters storming the hospital that they were being treated at and chanting “Let them die.” There are no words to describe the outrage of what is happening here. This anti-police rhetoric is beyond dangerous, and those who support it should be ashamed of themselves. They should be publicly condemned by every Senator, every Representative, and every Governor across this great country.

In fact, just this year, 37 officers have been killed. By the way, that is more than a 20-percent increase over the same time last year. Being a police officer in this country is more dangerous than ever before. I am having private conversations with members of law enforcement, our peace officers, men and women who will quietly tell you that it is difficult to continue to serve in this environment where they are not getting the support of their elected officials. I will tell you they are getting the support of their communities in many cases, though. But where is the outrage being expressed by those who are elected to serve, and how are these heroes repaid?

Cities and towns across our country, including Montana's very own city, Missoula, are talking about reducing their budgets and proposing abolishment in some areas—abolishment of police departments. That talk is crazy. We have some of this crazy talk in Montana, where some of our communities were looking to take school resource officers out of our schools. They were looking to slash budgets. Thankfully—thankfully—the community rose up, and they pushed back and, in most cases, stopped it. That is happening right in Montana in some communities.

The Senators standing before you today will not accept it. We should not be defunding the police. We should be defending them.

To my Democratic colleagues who support defunding these American heroes and these Montana heroes, you should be ashamed. I will always back the blue.

I yield back to my colleague Senator SCOTT.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, first, I want to thank my colleague from Montana for his unwavering support for law enforcement. It is hard to believe that in a State like Montana, which is so supportive of law enforcement, there would be any city that would be thinking about reducing their police budget. It shouldn't be happening around the country.

I am honored to stand here today to support our brave law enforcement and say enough is enough. We are not going to tolerate violence, attacks, and vilification of our law enforcement. I am proud to introduce the Back the Blue resolution today. I am asking all of my colleagues to join me in support.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 697, submitted earlier today. Further, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, thank you very much for the recognition. Reserving the right to object, as a former New Mexico attorney general and assistant U.S. attorney, I have worked closely with law enforcement for many years. I have worked hard to prosecute violent crimes in my career, including crimes where law enforcement officers were the victims. I have been privileged to work with law enforcement in New Mexico, and we are all thankful for the tremendous work of the Capitol Police here in our Nation's Capital.

The Senate is united in our respect for law enforcement. Just 5 months ago, in May, the Senate passed a number of bills and a bipartisan resolution during National Police Week in support of those who serve our communities in the face of risk.

We all agree that deadly violence targeting law enforcement is appalling, and we all have expressed gratitude for the brave men and women who serve in law enforcement. The recent shooting of two law sheriff's deputies in California was heinous. Our prayers go out to the officers and their families, and the perpetrator must be brought to justice.

Like many of us here on both sides of the aisle, I am also dedicated to embracing a moment before our Nation where we confront the very real issues of systemic racial injustice. We have policy disagreements on how to do that, but I hope that we can all agree the Senate should be a place for coming together and making progress to respond to this moment in our country, not fanning the flames of division and anger.

The initial draft of this resolution has some vague but divisive language that I do not think belongs in a Senate resolution, and a number of other Members agree. Our side is asking for some reasonable changes in good faith. To reflect the public safety and trust between law enforcement and communities is fundamental to the security and prosperity of our Nation. I hope that the Senator from Florida and his colleagues are willing to accept those changes, which I will offer in response to his request. Then the Senate can

speak with a united voice and set a good example for our Nation at a time like this.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of my resolution at the desk; further, that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I appreciate my colleague's interest in expressing support for the brave men and women of law enforcement. That is exactly what my resolution does. Why, then, would my colleague object to my resolution and propose his own to accomplish the same thing?

At first, his resolution appears to resemble my own. I note, however, that my resolution condemns not only the cowardly attacks of this past week on the Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies but also condemns the rhetoric and policies that have incited this recent spike in targeted violence against law enforcement. My colleague's resolution makes no such condemnation.

My resolution calls out the radical politicians, reckless media figures, and organized protest movements that have sought to vilify law enforcement officers as a whole and incite, encourage, or celebrate widespread criminal activity and violence against law enforcement officers. My colleague's resolution is silent about this.

My resolution calls out the radical politicians for pursuing a dangerous campaign to defund the police and starving law enforcement agencies of much needed resources to combat the crime wave sweeping through our communities. My colleague's resolution makes no such condemnation.

We have to be honest about what is happening here and across our great country. We have rioters chanting "Let them die" outside a hospital caring for two police officers who were violently attacked. "Let them die"?

Americans have the right to peacefully protest, and I support that right. But that is not what we are talking about here. We are talking about acts of violence against law enforcement, families, and businesses. My colleague's proposal takes out all references to this bad behavior.

Expressing support for law enforcement without condemning the people and groups who are perpetrating, instigating, and celebrating the violent acts committed against law enforcement officers is not enough. We can't be afraid to condemn violence against law enforcement and the defund police movement. I have no such fear.

Those radical politicians, reckless media figures, and organized protest movements deserve to be condemned for inciting, committing, and cele-

brating acts of violence against law enforcement. I stand firmly behind my resolution and behind our Nation's law enforcement.

If my colleague would be willing to work with me, we may be able to find common ground to ensure any resolution includes language that firmly denounces the violence and the causes of that violence in our communities, but my colleague's resolution does not go far enough, so I therefore respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. UDALL. Yes, there is. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. UDALL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Indiana.

50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE VINCENNES UNIVERSITY JASPER CAMPUS

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise this evening to recognize the 50-year anniversary of Vincennes University Jasper Campus.

Vincennes University was founded in 1801 as part of the Northwest Territory back then that would later become the State of Indiana. For over 200 years, Vincennes University has been a premier institution of higher learning for those seeking knowledge in manufacturing, logistics, aviation, and other important fields of study.

In 1970, when I was a mere junior in high school, this university expanded and established a new campus in my hometown.

With open enrollment and concentrating on jobs with fields where there were employee shortages, Vincennes University Jasper Campus is providing opportunities for all Hoosiers to add new skills to their resume that will ultimately lead to good-paying jobs, mostly right there in Indiana.

Notably, with their partnership with Purdue University, this campus provides low-income students or those in need of remedial coursework with a stepping stone to one of the Nation's top engineering schools.

I have to admit, VU Jasper Campus holds a special place in my heart. At the company I founded in the early eighties, we use this as an excellent source of recruiting people into our own company who generally come there fully skilled, ready to go, and generally end up sticking with the job, which is great.

As a Jasper native, I have seen firsthand what an asset this campus has been to our community and the economic benefit it has added to Dubois and surrounding counties.

We are lucky to have VU in Jasper, and I am happy to be here on the floor of the U.S. Senate to celebrate with them on their golden anniversary.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss this unprecedented obstruction that American families are facing from the Democrats. In a time when Congress really should be working toward bipartisan solutions on coronavirus, Democrats keep obstructing—over and over and over again.

It does seem to be their singular focus. It seems to me that they are going to continue to obstruct all the way until November 3, election day, putting politics first and American families last.

The obstruction has reached levels that has even made Members of their own caucus "uncomfortable," "alarmed," and "frustrated." Now, those are not my words; they are the words of Democrats sitting in Congress, in the United States, in this very building. Democrats are telling their leaders that the leaders are failing them by failing to compromise and work together toward solutions that would benefit the American people.

So the bad news for American families is that, last week, Democrats in this body, in the U.S. Senate, blocked, obstructed a targeted coronavirus aid package with policies, amazingly, that the Democrats had at one time supported. But they came here to the floor of the Senate and voted, in lockstep, no—no to children, no to jobs, no to paychecks, no to fighting the disease.

They actually blocked relief that would, one, have gotten kids back to school so kids wouldn't fall further behind from the school they have already missed, and it would have let parents get back to work. They voted no. They blocked people getting back to work safely. They blocked paycheck protection money so that paychecks could continue to go and businesses—small businesses—could remain open.

They blocked money for vaccines and treatment, for testing, so we could put the disease in the rearview mirror.

Now, the good news is that the majority of the Senate did support the legislation to help children and their parents and workers and the small businesses and the medical personnel fighting against the disease. But all those votes came from the Republican side of the aisle. Republicans are united. The Republican bill received 52 "yes" votes. All 52 were Republican. Not one single Democrat voted yes, even though the majority of that body had backed the relief efforts.

When you talked to them, they said, oh, yes, they are for this and this and this, but they voted on the U.S. Senate floor to block it. It is interesting. They even blocked allowing the Senate to discuss these issues. All we did was

come to the floor and say: We have some proposals. Let's discuss them. If you don't like them, offer amendments. We can discuss those, debate those.

They even blocked a motion to move to get that bill to the floor of the Senate—step 1 of legislating. They said no. So they may say they want to help the American people, but that is not what happened on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

The New York Times had a headline that said: "Hopes Dim for More Stimulus as Democrats Block Narrow GOP Plan." Well, they are right; it is a narrow plan because it is targeted. It is targeted to kids and schools, to workers, jobs, and the disease.

It doesn't include all of the extraneous things that NANCY PELOSI and the House put in: money for environmental justice; money for the National Endowment; money for this, that, and the next thing; money for—you name it—direct paychecks to illegal immigrants. That is just the tip of the iceberg when you take a look at their entire list. To me, it was NANCY PELOSI living on "Fantasy Island."

POLITICO said of the vote: "Senate Democrats block Republican COVID relief proposal"—Senate Democrats block—once again, blocking the things that the American families all across this country are asking when they look to Congress for help and relief.

USA TODAY had the headline: "Senate Democrats block \$300 billion coronavirus stimulus package, leaving little hope for relief before November"—\$300 billion. That is a huge amount of money that could do so much to help our schools, to help our students, to help small businesses, to help our workers, and to help fight the disease.

Unfortunately, this has been the record that we have seen coming from the Democrats ever since the pandemic began. While the virus was raging in March, Democrats delayed help for Americans by blocking the CARES Act.

The New York Times headline at that time, on March 22, said: "Emergency Economic Rescue Plan in Limbo as Democrats Block Action." So they were blocking it back in March, and they were blocking it last Thursday.

In April, as small businesses were forcibly shut down by the government, they were fighting to, one day, reopen their doors—that is all they wanted to do, get back to business; they wanted to keep employees on the payroll—Democrats, once again, blocked funding for the Paycheck Protection Program.

This is a wonderful program, Mr. President. Thirteen thousand of these loans were taken in the State of Wyoming by small businesses. I am sure, in your home State of South Dakota, similar small businesses took advantage of this opportunity. Our average loan was about \$78,000. These are small businesses that just needed help making the payroll, keeping people work-

ing, keeping people on the payroll, looking forward to the days that they could return to business as usual.

What was the NPR, National Public Radio, point on this on April 9? It was this: "Senate Democrats Block GOP Efforts to Boost Small Business Aid"—Senate Democrats blocking aid for small businesses all across the country.

Then, in August, as unemployment insurance was set to expire, Republicans asked for consent on this floor to extend the program. Democrats came to this very floor and, once again, objected.

So, today, with an opportunity to finish the fight against coronavirus, the Democrats have a full roadblock in place against any further relief. The cold, hard truth that we face is that they have delayed aid, and they have divided this country all year long.

I would go so far as to say this has hurt the country; it has hurt families; it has hurt our students; it has hurt our schools; it has hurt our healthcare providers; and it has certainly hurt people trying to recover from the disease.

Remember that the year started with the Democrats' completely partisan impeachment farce. We sat here, day after day, listening as the Democrats brought forth charge after charge against the President. That is how we started the year, and now we are ending with their blocking of coronavirus relief.

Let me assure the country, Republicans will not let you down. Republicans will continue working to put the virus in the rearview mirror and deliver what we are seeing right now, and it is the great American comeback. It is people getting back to work—over 10 million Americans back to work over the last 4 months. It is an unemployment rate down below 9 percent. It was over 9 percent for 4 months.

It is businesses reopening, kids going back to school, a vaccine on the way—great, optimistic ideas and thoughts regarding the vaccine. I met with the Secretary of Health and Human Services earlier today. I am very encouraged and optimistic about a vaccine being available to many at the end of the year.

So there is a lot to be optimistic about as the country comes back from the coronavirus because this is the great American comeback.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. BARRASSO assumed the Chair.)

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am here on the floor this evening to talk about what Congress needs to do right now to help the American people with regard to this coronavirus pandemic. We are not out of the woods yet. People are still struggling, with the economy being weak, and we still have a real healthcare crisis to deal with.

Since this crisis began, Congress has come together as Republicans and Democrats both here in the Senate and

over in the House, working with the White House, to pass five coronavirus bills—five. Legislation addressed both the healthcare crisis and the economic free-fall that were caused by the virus and also by the government-imposed shutdowns. The biggest of these bills was the one you hear most about; that is, the roughly \$2 trillion in the CARES Act that was passed by a vote in this Chamber of 96 to 0—totally bipartisan.

Unfortunately, since May, when the last of these bipartisan bills was enacted, partisanship has prevailed over policy, and Washington has been paralyzed, unable to repeat the coming together for the public good.

Democrats in this Chamber have consistently insisted that the only way forward is a bill called the Heroes Act. This is a \$3.5 trillion piece of legislation that passed the House of Representatives 4 months ago along partisan lines.

By the way, \$3.5 trillion would be the most expensive legislation ever to be enacted.

When this bill passed the House 4 months ago, POLITICO and others in the media accurately called it a messaging bill that had no chance of becoming law.

It is disappointing that Democrats have continued to push this "my way or the highway" approach because this bill is a nonstarter for a lot of reasons, including the price tag and the fact that it includes non-COVID-related provisions. To name one example, it repeals the State and local tax deduction cap. That is a \$135 billion Tax Code change, and most of the benefit is going to go to the top 1 percent of wage earners. What does it have to do with COVID-19?

Now is not the time to give tax breaks to the wealthy, to make changes to our immigration policy, or impose unprecedented mandates on State election procedures that are normally in the province of the States, not us—all of which are part of the Heroes Act. Instead, this should be a time where we focus on what the American people need right now and help them to handle this healthcare and economic challenge they are facing, but that hasn't happened.

Last week I spoke on this floor about all the things in the targeted bill that was voted on last Thursday in this Chamber, where there is bipartisanship, where Democrats and Republican actually agree.

I talked about the need to extend the PPP program—Paycheck Protection Program—which is helping small businesses keep their doors open, but it expired on August 8. A lot of small businesses are saying to me back home in Ohio: I am barely holding on. When is this coming? I need an extension to this program.

Yet we can't seem to get our act together here even though it is totally nonpartisan, as far as I can tell.

The bill we voted on last Thursday also has more funding for something

desperately needed in my home State of Ohio and other States around the country, which is more money for testing. It also has more money, by the way, for developing a vaccine more quickly and effectively and for getting these anti-viral therapies up and going. All of this is stuff we should be able to agree on, right? No, we haven't been able to.

Another thing that was in that bill last Thursday was providing funding for the schools so they can reopen—K-12 but also for our colleges and universities. These schools are starting to reopen, and they need the help badly. Actually, it had enough funding in there that it was slightly more than the funding that was in the Heroes Act, the Democrats' proposal, for the same purpose—\$105 billion. Why couldn't we get together?

What else did it have? It had something very important for a lot of people who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. It had an extension of the current Federal supplement for unemployment insurance in the States. It had a \$300-per-week, Federal-taxpayer-paid additional supplement on top of the roughly \$350 that States already provide on average for unemployment. Yet that was rejected.

We couldn't even have a good vote to proceed on the bill, to have a debate on the bill so we could have an honest debate and say, oh, \$300 is too much, or it is not enough, or maybe the PPP program needs to be slightly changed this way or that way, or maybe there is less money for schools needed or more money for schools.

We couldn't even get on the bill because you need 60 votes to do that, and we only had 52, which is a majority of this Chamber, but it is not the 60-vote supermajority. Fifty-two Republicans supported it. Unfortunately, no Democrats were able to support it. I don't get that because all we were saying was, let's get on this bill and have a debate, and if later on in the process you don't like where we ended up, there is another 60-vote margin, and you can filibuster it again.

We couldn't even get on the bill to have a debate. To me, that is really sad because the American people weren't given the opportunity to get some help, but also they weren't given the opportunity to see what the differences are and have this out in the open.

That is legislation that 52 Republicans supported. We are ready to go. Let's have the discussion. Let's have the debate.

The Federal funds to help the unemployed get by was a particular concern of mine, and I want to focus on that tonight. That unemployment benefit is a classic example of where Senate Democrats have blocked what I think is a reasonable compromise—I will explain why I think that—and instead have decided to provide nothing. Nothing.

What we should do instead is we should embrace a compromise together for these families who continue to

struggle to make ends meet because some people can't go back to work still because their movie theater or their bowling alley or their motor coach company can't hire them. Either they are shut down or they simply can't hire them back. There are people who are unemployed who still need our help.

Early on in this pandemic, both Republicans and Democrats recognized this. We recognized the need to bolster the State-run unemployment insurance programs to help offset the massive job losses we saw in March and April. That is why the CARES Act we talked about earlier—this bipartisan bill—contained an unprecedented \$600-per-week additional Federal supplement on top of the State supplement for 4 months.

By the way, the State benefit in Ohio on average is \$360. The \$600 was on top of \$360, coming up to \$960 per week. We did that for a period of 4 months. That provided an important income source for a lot of people. It made a huge difference in the lives of a lot of people who early on couldn't work because the government was actually closing down businesses, saying: You can't open.

Some say that was too much. We will talk about why they say that. But it was a big help, and it was appropriate in a sense at the time to do something that big because the government itself was saying: You are going to lose your job through no fault of your own. We the government are saying you have to shut down, so we are going to provide you an unemployment benefit.

It was also used for other things—to pay rent, to pay that car payment, to just get by.

As the year has gone on, we have made progress now on slowing the spread of the coronavirus, adding testing, adding more personal protective gear, and so on. Many parts of our economy have been able to reopen in a safe and sustainable manner. And that is good. Without the help we provided in the legislation—the five bills we passed—we wouldn't be so far along. They helped. They helped keep the doors open at a lot of small businesses. They helped provide the money for our healthcare system, for testing.

With that reopening around the country, hiring picked back up, and now we have far fewer people on unemployment than we did at the beginning of this pandemic. So there are fewer people who need unemployment insurance. Unemployment is at about 8.4 percent. That is what it was last month. That is down from over 15 percent in the spring. Now, 8.4 percent is still too high, particularly compared to the record lows we saw just before this pandemic. It is more than twice what it was then. But it is undoubtedly a step in the right direction. Unemployment claims are either holding steady or dropping now in most States. That is good.

With this positive progress we were seeing, I think it was fair for Congress to want to take another look at the original unemployment insurance sup-

plement, which expired at the end of July, and see whether there was a new supplement that we could continue to help those in need while better reflecting this improved economy and the need for workers rather than a situation where the government was actually imposing shutdowns of much of our economy.

That is where things broke down. At the end of July, the \$600 supplement ended. Everybody knew it was going to end then. But Republicans and Democrats couldn't agree on how to best structure an additional UI supplement.

By the way, having differences isn't unusual around here. We have debates all the time. That debate was a big part of the negotiations in July and August. What is disappointing to me and to many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and to so many people we represent is that instead of taking us up on our offer that we offered—to extend the \$600 per week to be able to negotiate something, for 2 weeks, which would have put a lot of pressure on the negotiations—think about it—the Democrats said no. I don't know why they said no, but Democrats would not even allow us to extend the \$600 to put pressure on negotiations. Deliberately, they allowed these benefits to expire. It went from a \$600 benefit on top of the State benefit to zero Federal benefit.

Let me repeat that. Rather than work to agree on a weeklong extension of a lifeline for so many people to buy time to work something out, Democrats instead chose to let these benefits expire and allowed millions of Americans to go without benefits.

When we hit this impasse on the UI issue that Congress just couldn't break, the Trump administration stepped in, and President Trump quickly signed an Executive order on August 8—so a week after the benefit expired—which authorized FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to begin distributing an emergency lost wage assistance unemployment check.

So the government stepped in at the executive branch and said: You guys in Congress can't figure this out. The \$600 has gone to zero, so you just have the State benefit now, and you have a lot of people still unemployed through no fault of their own. It is tough to get by on 360 bucks a week.

So President Trump and his administration stepped in and said: We will provide it temporarily—temporarily, because that is all the money they had through what is called the Wage Assistance Program. Under this program, \$44 billion from the Disaster Relief Fund was made available to States to use as a supplement to their unemployment insurance programs—still leaving \$25 billion, by the way, in that fund for natural disasters.

I spoke to Labor Secretary Scalia on Friday. I asked him: Is there any money left in that fund?

Remember, this was done on August 8, and they had a limited amount of money.

He said: No, ROB. Actually, it was a temporary program, meant to be a bridge so Congress would get its act together between August 8 and now.

So basically, in a month and a week, surely Congress would do something here, but we haven't. Now, that money has run out. Now, people who were getting the \$600 benefit, down to zero, and then back up to \$300, which most are getting in a lump sum because it takes a while to process this money—that \$300 is now ending. No more \$300-per-week Federal supplement.

By the way, almost every State and territory except for two has applied for and received some of this funding from the Feds. Ohio was able to receive enough funding to cover 6 weeks of lost benefits, so basically from August 1 until now. Ohio got \$1.4 billion from the fund. It is sending out its unemployment insurance benefits this week. Next week it ends because they have run out of money. They have used the Federal money.

The \$300 supplement has now ended. It is surely time for us to act. It would be timely this week and next week to now do something to provide for a supplement for people who lost their job through no fault of their own.

We could have solved this last Thursday with the targeted relief bill that came to the floor for a vote that I talked about. The timing was perfect. We could have done that because part of the negotiations that we had among ourselves, Republicans, over this and with some Democrats, I suppose, was, what is the right level? What we came up with was \$300. That was part of the bill that got 52 votes last Thursday but needed the 60 votes, and Democrats blocked it. Even though it got the majority of the Senate, it didn't get the supermajority of 60 that it needed. Again, we couldn't even get on the legislation to talk about it. That \$600 supplement in this bill was changed to \$300, which was consistent with where the administration has been over the last 5 or 6 weeks. That helps the vast majority of unemployed individuals make ends meet without driving our deficit even higher.

The \$600-a-week supplement was not sustainable over time, in part, because people were actually making more money on unemployment insurance than they were with their jobs. You were being paid more not to work than to work at \$600 on top of the State benefit. In fact, under that supplement of \$600, the median wage earner in America received 134 percent more of his or her previous wages, making it harder, therefore, to jump back into the workplace and get our economy moving again.

By the way, I heard this all over Ohio, and I know every single one of my colleagues has. They heard it from businesses, particularly small businesses but also larger businesses. The Ford Motor Company told me they had a 25-percent absenteeism rate when I visited them over the August break be-

cause people weren't coming back to work because of the benefit that they had been getting of \$600. So it was felt in small businesses, yes, but also midsize and larger businesses and also a lot of nonprofits.

I heard it from hospitals. I heard it from people who provide addiction services, recovery services, treatment programs. Nonprofits are having a hard time getting people to come back because, again, the \$600 on top of the State benefit average of the, say, \$350—\$950 a week was more than they were able to pay them. People were making more on unemployment insurance than they were at work. This was as the economy was starting to pick up. We needed jobs.

We said: How about \$300? Why did we pick \$300? Well, again, \$600 is so generous that it is paying people more. By the way, the Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan group here in Congress, analyzes these things. They analyzed it and said, if you continue the \$600 until next year, which is what the Democratic proposal is in their legislation, the Heroes Act—if you continue the \$600 until next year, that would result in 8 out of 10 people on unemployment insurance getting paid more on unemployment insurance than they would at work, 80 percent. That is from the CBO.

What is the right number instead of having 80 percent paid more by not working? Well, I think \$300 is about the right number. Some could say that is too high, too, but the \$300 on top of the State benefit was what was rejected last Thursday by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

By the way, when 80 percent of people are making more money by not working, it hurts everybody. It hurts these businesses. Small businesses and these nonprofits are not able to get people to come to work. Look at the "Help Wanted" signs you may see in your own community. It hurts the economy when you don't have this workforce and you don't have these jobs coming back.

It also hurts the workers. I think all of us should want to reconnect people to work. That is where people get their healthcare. If they have it, they are likely to get it at work. That is where about 80 percent of us get it. It is where people get their retirement, if they have it. We want more people to have that, but a 401(K) is going to be through work. This is where people get the training they need to keep up with what is happening with their job. It is where people connect with other people. It is where people get self-respect and self-esteem by working. We should be encouraging work.

Again, I think somewhere there is a number there where you are helping people who need the funds to be able to get by because they are unemployed through no fault of their own, yet you are not offering such a high benefit that it is more advantageous not to work.

The \$300-a-week amount offered last Thursday is generous compared to regular unemployment insurance. In Ohio, with the supplement, you go from \$360 a week State benefit to \$660 per week. It is a big change. It makes a big difference in people's lives. It would cover 90 percent of the lost wages for the median worker nationwide. The \$300 per week covers 90 percent of the lost wages, helping particularly low- and middle-income wage earners get by without creating, again, this \$600 disincentive to work.

Even if \$300 wasn't the perfect solution, it was certainly a starting point. It was a policy point that could have been debated and amended on the floor had we gone to the legislation. Again, we were blocked even to go to the bill to talk about it. Democrats blocked us from debating it, and so people got nothing. They don't get the \$300, which, again, 90 percent of lost wages for the median-wage worker would have been replaced by that. But they get zero. All people are left with is the State benefit now.

Again, unfortunately, in this place, politics was put ahead of the interest of struggling families who need extra help. It is stunning to me that this is the point we have reached in Congress's work to address this coronavirus pandemic.

Early on, there were so many bipartisan victories we achieved because Republicans and Democrats alike said: This is a crisis. We have to address this not as our party might want to do but as Americans—recognizing the severity of the challenge we were facing. It was encouraging to see us come together to craft the CARES Act, which passed 96 to 0 and made a big difference.

I had hoped we would be able to recognize from that victory the importance of hashing out our disagreements and coming up with a solution, finding common ground to be able to help those we represent. Unfortunately, the opposite has happened. Politics seem to have taken over. On the other side of the aisle, the Speaker of the House and others may think this is good politics for them not to move forward with something. Maybe they are right. Maybe it is good politics somehow, but it is not what is best for the American people.

By opposing a reasonable compromise on unemployment insurance, as an example, what this Congress is doing is leaving the American people high and dry at the exact time that funding for these benefits has run out.

Again, the short-term bridge that the administration provided, \$300 a week, is running out. It doesn't need to happen. Let's come to the negotiating table this week and next week. We are going to be here next week. We are supposed to vote on a continuing resolution, the funding program. We will be here. We know what the differences are. We know what the similarities are. We know how to put together a package. We know what it has to be and

what the compromise is. For Republicans and Democrats alike, it is now on us to come up with that bipartisan solution on unemployment insurance and the other pressing issues we face as the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Valderrama nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the Valderrama nomination, the postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; I further ask that following the disposition of the Valderrama nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Johnston nomination; finally, I ask that the postcloture time on the Johnston nomination expire at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. 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 each.

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

RUSSIA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, earlier today, my colleagues, Senator SCHUMER and Senator WYDEN violated the Senate rules by attempting to offer a resolution disparaging oversight work being done by me and Senator JOHNSON. My colleague, Ranking Member WYDEN, said that the investigation Senator JOHNSON and I are engaged in is advancing a Russian disinformation campaign. To be clear, that investigation is focused on potential conflicts of interest and other wrongdoing regarding the time Vice President Biden was lead on the Obama administration's Ukraine policy. At that same time, his son, Hunter Biden, was on the board of a corrupt Ukrainian gas firm called Burisma. This investigation is a good-government investigation to better understand the effect these potential conflicts had on policy execution. This investigation is based on Federal Government records from the Obama adminis-

tration and records from a Democratic lobby shop, Blue Star Strategies. If those records are Russian disinformation, then that says more about the Obama administration than the purpose of this investigation.

I have also addressed the claim that this investigation is somehow connected to Andriy Derkach. I have said publicly on many occasions that I have never received information or material from him. I have never solicited information from him. The same is true for my staff. In fact, the only two times that I am aware of that my staff have come in contact with his information are, No. 1, when the Democrats introduced his records into a transcribed interview, and No. 2, when Minority Leader SCHUMER, Speaker PELOSI, Senator WARNER, and Representative SCHIFF used it in their July 13, 2020, letter.

They also attempted to link Andriy Telizhenko to Andriy Derkach, apparently to cast him as a nefarious foreign agent, but they neglected to mention his many connections to the Obama-Biden administration, including White House meetings and outings with White House staff. They also omitted his work for Blue Star Strategies, which was working on behalf of the corrupt Ukrainian firm that hired Hunter Biden while his father was the face of U.S. policy toward Ukraine. Democratic connections to Mr. Telizhenko are many and well documented. If they are so concerned that he is a conduit for disinformation, why did they work with him for so long?

Maybe the Democrats should take a pause and realize that they are the only ones pushing Russian disinformation. Let's not forget about the Steele Dossier. Thanks to now-declassified information, we know the dossier was filled with Russian disinformation. The Democrats bought-and-paid-for crown jewel ironically was an example of the very disinformation and collusion that it falsely accused the Trump campaign of. The Democrats pushed it for years. Now that it is a failed document, they have tried to run the same baseless smear tactic on this investigation. The facts simply aren't on their side. If my colleagues on the other side are as concerned about foreign disinformation as they claim to be, they would stop relying on it to falsely attack us. Let's stop playing these games and get back to business for the American people.

CONGRATULATING LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO ON 150 YEARS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this year, Loyola University Chicago celebrates the 150th anniversary of its founding, which occurred on September 5, 1870. Loyola Chicago is a world-class institution with a storied history as a Roman Catholic Jesuit university, a strong track record of academic excellence, and the proud home of the Loyola Ramblers.

Loyola University Chicago was founded under the name of St. Ignatius College by Arnold Damen, S.J., to serve Chicago's Catholic immigrants. In 1909, the school was granted a new charter by the State of Illinois and renamed "Loyola University Chicago". That same year, the newly-named Loyola Chicago granted its first professional graduate degrees and organized its first football, basketball, and indoor baseball teams. Today, Loyola Chicago is the only Jesuit Catholic university in Illinois.

Throughout its history, Loyola Chicago has upheld its Jesuit values—being an institution of rigorous liberal arts education and academic excellence, while also being a place of inclusion and acceptance for marginalized communities, including immigrants. Loyola Chicago's Stritch School of Medicine led the country as the first medical school to accept DACA recipients, many of whom have committed to working in a medically-underserved community in Illinois after graduation.

In addition, under its previous president, Father Michael Garanzini, Loyola Chicago created Arrupe College. Arrupe is a 2-year degree program that brings Loyola Chicago's academic quality together with a focus on affordability and care for the whole person. Arrupe's low-cost and wrap-around services—including meals, childcare, and transportation—bring a high-quality Loyola Chicago education to low-income and students of color in the Chicagoland area who otherwise may not have a chance to succeed in college.

Loyola Chicago's focus on service is part of the fabric of the institution and its community. Loyola Chicago supports more than 300 community partner organizations in Chicago and the Chicagoland suburbs through student, staff, and faculty service and volunteer work. Loyola Chicago's impact can be found almost anywhere in the Chicagoland area.

Illinois has been served well and enriched by the many contributions of Loyola University Chicago. I look forward to the school's many contributions in the years ahead and several more successful runs at the NCAA basketball tournament being led by their team chaplain, the now world famous Jean Dolores Schmidt, known to all as simply Sister Jean.

I thank Loyola for its many contributions to our State and country. It is my distinct honor to congratulate President Jo Anne Rooney—the school's first female president—and the entire Loyola community of staff, faculty, students, and alumni on your 150th anniversary.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be U.S. district judge for the

Eastern District of Wisconsin. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted in support of cloture.

Mr. President, I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the motion to confirm the nomination of Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted in support of confirmation.

Mr. President, I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Christy Criswel Wiegand, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. district judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted in support of cloture.

Mr. President, I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Hala Y. Jarbou, of Michigan, to be U.S. district judge for the Western District of Michigan. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted in support of cloture.

Mr. President, I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the motion to confirm the nomination of Christy Criswell Wiegand, of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. district judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted in support of confirmation.

Mr. President, I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Thomas T. Cullen, of Virginia, to be U.S. district judge for the Western District of Virginia. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted to oppose cloture.

Mr. President, I was unable to attend the rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Diane Gujarati, of New York, to be U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of New York. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted in support of cloture.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER EDWARD H. MURRAY

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service of Commander Edward H. Murray of the U.S. Navy on the occasion of his retirement after 20 years of Active Duty. I would like to briefly share with my colleagues some of the highlights of his fine career.

For the past 20 years, Commander Murray excelled in leading Navy Sailors as an E-2C naval flight officer. He served sea tours with VAW-116, deploying on the USS *Constellation* and USS *Abraham Lincoln* in support of coalition forces in Iraq and operations in the Western Pacific. He also deployed to the Western Pacific with VTC-12 on-board the USS *Bonhomme Richard*, providing airspace and diplomatic coordination. Ashore, Commander Murray's assignments included a special selection as aide-de-camp to the four-star commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in Naples, Italy, during operations in

Kosovo and Libya. He also served my colleague, Senator TIM Kaine of Virginia, as a legislative fellow and then continued his service in the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs as deputy director of the Senate Liaison Office.

I have gotten to know Commander Murray over the past 2 years through his assignment to the Navy's Appropriations Matters Office. As a representative of the Chief of Naval Operations and Secretary of the Navy, he provided valuable support to Members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees regarding the Navy's budgetary needs. His efforts to provide timely and transparent information to the committees contributed to the enactment of the Defense Appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2019 and 2020. Commander Murray also provided superior support to me and many of my colleagues as we traveled across Europe and Asia conducting oversight of critical national security assets abroad.

As Commander Murray departs the Pentagon, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate him on his retirement; to thank him, his wife Amanda, and his family for their years of service; and to wish him the very best going forward.

REMEMBERING FIREMAN 2ND CLASS ALBERT RENNER

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, today, as he is buried in the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery just outside of his hometown of Mandan, ND, I honor the life and patriotism of Navy Fireman 2nd Class Albert Renner. Like so many young men of this "greatest generation," he answered the call to defend his country during World War II. On December 7, 1941, at the age of 24, he made the ultimate sacrifice along with 2,402 other soldiers and sailors during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He was serving on the USS *West Virginia*, which sank after being hit by at least seven torpedoes and two bombs.

Last year, aided by a positive DNA sent by his surviving siblings several decades ago, Albert Renner's remains were finally positively identified. On Tuesday, his body arrived at the Minneapolis airport. A full military escort motorcade carrying his casket traveled the 400 miles home to Mandan. Many citizens, including veterans and fire and police men and women, stopped along the highway to solemnly pay their respects as the motorcade passed by.

Attending today's funeral service and burial are members of his family who have traveled from across the Nation to pay their respects to this beloved member of their family. Even though many of them never met him, together they are mourning the lost blessings of Albert not being a part of their family for the past 79 years.

Albert could have had a rewarding life on the family farm or in some other profession. He could have had a wife and family and home of his own.

His burial service today is a poignant reminder of how the sacrifice of heroes defending our Nation have an impact far into the future on those who knew and loved them—and those who never will.

Navy Fireman 2nd Class Albert Renner died so Americans could live in peace and prosperity. He is now back in his home State, lying in eternal rest with other North Dakota heroes. I thank the many patriots who are committed to identifying the remains of all unknown American service members and bringing them home.

To the family of Navy Fireman 2nd Class Albert Renner, I join citizens across our State and Nation in sending our sincere condolences. It is heroes like Albert who have kept our communities, State, Nation, and world safe. His life made a difference in the lives of all of us. We are forever grateful.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ZOEY'S CONGENITAL CATARACT AWARENESS DAY

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, a special little girl named Zoey is celebrating her first birthday on September 28, 2020. In recognition of this day, Spencer County Judge Executive John Riley is declaring it as Zoey's Congenital Cataract Awareness Day. It is the hope of her parents that every primary care clinician in Spencer County, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and beyond, is aware of this rare cause of blindness that can be surgically treated when diagnosed early enough. As an ophthalmologist, I have had the privilege of participating in these surgeries and know how life-changing early intervention can be. Fortunately for Zoey, after three surgeries, she has a very promising prognosis. I am honored to help make Zoey's birthday wish come true by sharing her story and thereby raising awareness for the early detection and treatment of congenital cataracts.●

RECOGNIZING TRINITY AT CITY BEACH

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today I am pleased to honor Trinity at City Beach in Sandpoint as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for September 2020 and recognize them for their efforts to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Established by Justin Dick, Trinity moved to its City Beach location in 2009 and has been an integral part of the Sandpoint community for more than a decade. Named after the holy trinity of peppers, onions, and celery found in traditional Creole cooking,

Trinity attracts tourists and locals alike and has developed a reputation for its quality food, service, and views of Lake Pend Oreille. In addition to serving quality southern cuisine, the restaurant also provides dozens of local jobs and enhances the cultural richness of Northern Idaho through their day-to-day service and steady participation in community events.

In recent months, Trinity at City Beach has done their part to reduce the spread of COVID-19, offering carryout and dine-in eating to the Sandpoint community while safely maintaining CDC social distancing and face covering guidelines. Additionally, Dick and his team have raised money and collected food to be donated to nonprofit organizations and healthcare centers in the Sandpoint area to help ease the burden on frontline workers.

Congratulations to Justin Dick and all of the employees of Trinity at City Beach on being selected as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for September 2020. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:36 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2639. An act to establish the Strength in Diversity Program, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2639. An act to establish the Strength in Diversity Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 4582. A bill to extend, temporarily, daylight saving time, and for other purposes.

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-5428. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an investigation of a Forest Service (FS) employee fatality that occurred during the Frog Fire in Modoc County, California, on July 30, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5429. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to implementation and progress of the strategic plan to improve capabilities of Department of Defense training ranges and installations (OSS-2020-0704); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5430. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral DeWolfe H. Miller III, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5431. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Privacy Program" (RIN0790-AK66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5432. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repeal of DFARS Clause 'Ordering'" (RIN0750-AL10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5433. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Defense Logistics Agency Energy as a Source of Fuel" (RIN0750-AK90) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5434. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of 'Micro-purchase Threshold'" (RIN0750-AK17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5435. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program" (RIN0790-AJ40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5436. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Security Agency/Central

Security Services Privacy Act Program" (RIN0790-AK68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5437. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Security Service Privacy Program" (RIN0790-AK67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5438. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Reconnaissance Office Privacy Act Program" (RIN0790-AK71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5439. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5440. A communication from the Director, Naval Reactors, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's reports on environmental monitoring and radioactive waste disposal, radiation exposure, and occupational safety and health; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5441. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Proclamation 7463 of September 14, 2001, with respect to certain terrorist attacks; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5442. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13848 of September 12, 2018, with respect to the threat of foreign interference in or undermining public confidence in United States elections; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5443. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amending the 'Accredited Investor' Definition" (Release No. 33-10824) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5444. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Amendments to Regulation Crowdfunding; Extension" (Release No. 33-10829) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5445. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Effective-Upon-Filing Procedure for NMS Plan Fee Amendments and Modified Procedures for Proposed NMS Plans and Plan Amendments" (RIN3235-AM56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the

President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5446. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modernization of Regulation S-K Items 101, 103, and 105” (RIN3235-AL78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5447. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Removal of Control of Emissions from Manufacture of Polystyrene Resin” (FRL No. 10014-46-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5448. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category - Reconsideration” (FRL No. 10014-41-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5449. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Improved Agency Guidance Documents” (RIN0960-AI47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5450. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Waiver of Recovering of Certain Overpayment Debts Accruing During the COVID-19 Pandemic Period” (RIN0960-AI51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5451. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2021” (RIN0938-AU05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 20, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5452. A communication from the Supervisor of the Regulations and Dissemination Team, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers” (RIN1205-AB78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5453. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, three (3) reports of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee (CPAC) from 2019 relative to memoranda of understanding and cultural property agreements; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5454. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Convention on Cultural Property Imple-

mentation Act, a report relative to actions taken in fiscal year 2019 to conclude cultural property agreements with Bulgaria, China, Honduras, and Algeria; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5455. A communication from the Acting Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act 2020 Annual Report to Congress”; to the Committees on Finance; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5456. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Food Labeling; Gluten-Free Labeling of Fermented or Hydrolyzed Foods; Correction” (RIN0910-AH00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5457. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Procedures for PBGC Guidance” (RIN1212-AB49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5458. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board’s budget request for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5459. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Direct Grant Programs, State-Administered Formula Grant Programs, Non Discrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program, Strengthening Institutions Program, Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program, and Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions Program” (RIN1840-AD45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5460. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the notice of the rescission of outdated guidance documents; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5461. A communication from the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation’s fiscal year 2019 Actuarial Evaluation of the Expected Operations and Status of the PBGC Funds; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5462. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits” (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5463. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; I-5 Bridge Construction Project, Columbia River, Vancouver, Washington” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2020-

0247)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5464. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; North Atlantic Ocean, Ocean City, Maryland” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2020-0361)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5465. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Potomac River, Between Jones Point, Virginia, and National Harbor, Maryland” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2020-0245)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5466. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Dolan Fireworks, Lake Erie, Bratenahl, Ohio” (Docket No. USCG-2020-0532) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5467. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Person in Charge of Fuel Transfers” ((RIN1625-AC50) (Docket No. USCG-2018-0493)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5468. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Passenger Carrier No-Defect Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports” (RIN2126-AC29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5469. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Office of Economics and Analytics, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Auction of Flexible - Use Service Licenses in the 3.7-3.8 GHz Band for Next-Generation Wireless Services; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 107; Bidding in Auction 107 Scheduled to Begin December 8, 2020” (FCC 20-110) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5470. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Cumberland River, Hendersonville, Tennessee” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2020-0518)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5471. A communication from the Program Analyst, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “In the Matter of Update to Parts 2 and 25 Concerning Non-Geostationary, Fixed-Satellite Service Systems and Related Matters” ((FCC 20-119) (IB Docket No. 16-408)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate

on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5472. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5473. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5474. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: FAR Case 2019-009, Prohibition on Contracting with Entities Using Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment" (RIN9000-AN92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5475. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program: Clarifying Annual Rates of Pay and Amending the Employment Status of Judges of the United States Court of Appeals of Veterans Claims" (RIN3206-AN52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5476. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employment in the Excepted Service" (RIN3206-AN30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5477. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Office of Management and Budget, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-234. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Jersey expressing opposition to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposed changes to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule adopted in 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 76

Whereas, In 2015, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") adopted an Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing ("AFFH") rule that established a new framework for HUD funding

recipients to meet their longstanding legal obligation under the federal Fair Housing Act to reduce barriers to fair housing and equal opportunity; and

Whereas, The AFFH rule was promulgated in response to the recommendations of the United States Government Accountability Office and affected stakeholders centered on the need for HUD to bolster its fair housing planning obligations by providing greater clarity and support to HUD funding recipients and facilitating local decision-making on fair housing priorities and goals; and

Whereas, The AFFH rule achieves these ends by providing clearer standards for meeting fair housing obligations, greater transparency, increased access to data concerning fair housing conditions and access to opportunity, and new mapping and customizable assessment tools, as well as by encouraging collaboration between jurisdictions and community input and participation; and

Whereas, The AFFH rule ultimately serves to help HUD funding recipients take meaningful actions to overcome historic patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, and foster inclusive communities that are free from discrimination; and

Whereas, On August 9, 2018, HUD issued an advance notice of a proposed rulemaking that would undo much of the AFFH rule for the stated reasons that the rule impeded the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing and provided inadequate autonomy to HUD funding recipients; and

Whereas, The AFFH rule has not been in effect long enough to adequately assess its effect on the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing, the rule does not in fact dictate how communities should meet their fair housing obligations, and the rule has produced concrete improvements in fair housing, such as the commitment of Chester County, Pennsylvania to reduce the number of Section 8 recipients living in high-poverty census tracts by five percentage points; and

Whereas, It is altogether fitting, proper, and in the public interest, for this House to express opposition to HUD's proposed rulemaking that would upend the AFFH rule and exacerbate housing inequities in both this State and across the United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House expresses its opposition to and disapproval of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposed rulemaking revising its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule adopted in 2015.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and each member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-235. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to eliminate funding disparities among land-grant institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 125

Whereas, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have been providing a crucial means for the educational and economic advancement of African-Americans for more than a century; and

Whereas, By serving the African-American community, HBCUs serve all Americans by preparing gifted young men and women to achieve their dreams and succeed in their life goals; and

Whereas, Today, there are more than 100 HBCUs in the United States, all of which embody many of our most deeply cherished values such as equality, diversity, opportunity, and hard work; and

Whereas, HBCUs have their roots in the federal Morrill Act of 1862, which required that each state have at least one land-grant institution. Historically, most of these institutions have been predominantly white. Since African-Americans were barred from many of these land-grant institutions, a second Morrill Act was adopted in 1890 requiring states to show that race was not a factor in the admission criteria of land-grant institutions or else they would lose federal funding; and

Whereas, Instead of unifying the institutions, some states opted to create separate land-grant colleges for African-Americans, which allowed those states to keep segregated colleges and at the same time not lose federal funding; and

Whereas, 1890 land-grant institutions—HBCUs—have largely received less funding per student when compared to their 1862 land-grant counterparts, in some instances receiving only half the funding given to other institutions; and

Whereas, It should be a public policy goal of the federal government to enact laws aimed at eliminating the existing funding inequity between HBCUs and 1862 land-grant institutions; and

Whereas, By increasing funding to HBCUs, the federal government would be providing vital support to these institutions as they continue their endeavor to improve the quality of life of African-Americans by providing them with high quality education; and

Whereas, It is important, therefore, that Congress and the President of the United States enact legislation which eliminates the existing funding inequities between HBCUs and 1862 land-grant institutions in order to have equal education opportunity through equal funding for all land-grant institutions; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey respectfully urges Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation aimed at eliminating the existing funding inequity between Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which are the 1890 land-grant institutions of higher education, and the 1862 land-grant institutions of higher education.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and Vice-President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and to every member of New Jersey's Congressional delegation.

POM-236. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to explore further avenues of relief for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 130

Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic has dramatically affected Michigan and the United States. The first cases in Michigan were reported on March 10, 2020, and since these initial reports more than 56,000 cases have been confirmed and more than 5,000 Michiganders have lost their lives to the novel coronavirus. Nationally, there have been more than 1.7 million cases and 100,000 deaths; and

Whereas, Mitigating the spread of the virus has required extraordinary public health

measures. Governor Gretchen Whitmer has issued executive orders prohibiting large gatherings, closing all primary and secondary schools, and requiring the temporary closure of all nonessential businesses. At the federal level, the White House Coronavirus Task Force's guidelines recommended the closure of places where people gather, including businesses, where there is evidence of community transmission. While some industries and regions of the state have begun to partially reopen, it is unclear how long mitigation measures will be necessary before normal operations can resume; and

Whereas, These measures have greatly impacted the livelihoods of business owners across the state and our nation. With the forced closures, small business owners have been forced to lay off workers and forgo income for months, while still needing to make payments for utilities, mortgages and rent, and other expenses. According to a survey by the Small Business Administration of Michigan, one in seven, or about 14 percent, of small businesses are not confident that they will survive the Pandemic. Nationally, a survey found that 7.5 million small businesses are at risk of shutting down; and

Whereas, Federal and state governments have a responsibility to assist small businesses since government mitigation measures, while for the greater good, contributed significantly to the current economic crisis. The economic uncertainty and devastation caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the related mitigation policies are not the fault of small business owners. It would be unjust to fail to help them and to allow them to bear an unfair share of the burden of addressing this crisis; and

Whereas, The failure of these businesses could have wide ranging negative effects for Michigan and the United States. Since the beginning of the crisis, more than 40 million Americans have filed for unemployment, including more than 1.7 million in Michigan. If small businesses are unable to reopen, many of these claimants may not be able to return to work, magnifying the already devastating economic impact of COVID-19; and

Whereas, The small business relief already enacted by Congress is not sufficient to mitigate these effects. As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Congress created the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to provide loans to small businesses. Even though additional money was subsequently appropriated to the program, the PPP has been unable to prove relief to millions of small businesses that have been affected by the crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to explore further avenues of relief for businesses affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-237. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to immediately send humanitarian aid to Lebanon in response to the Beirut port explosion; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 303

Whereas, On August 4, 2020, a cache of the chemical substance ammonium nitrate which was being stored in a warehouse on the Port of Beirut in Lebanon caught fire, resulting in an explosion that killed more than

150 people and wounded over 5,000 others. According to experts, the blast registered on seismographs at 3.3, and the blast was the third most powerful explosion in history after Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan during World War II; and

Whereas, In addition to the tragic loss of life, the explosion has largely destroyed the port and its infrastructure, which was responsible for 60 percent of Lebanon's imports and was one of the largest and busiest ports on the eastern Mediterranean Sea. As a result of the explosion, most of the city's grain reserves and food imports were destroyed, which is likely to cause widespread food insecurity for years to come. In addition, the city of Beirut is suffering billions in damages, with the explosion shattering glass as far as 15 miles from the scene. In response to the widespread devastation from the blast, a two-week state of emergency has been declared; and

Whereas, The people of Lebanon were already suffering from daily power outages, a lack of safe drinking water, food and fuel shortages, and limited public health care before the explosion. The COVID-19 Pandemic exacerbated these issues, resulting in Lebanon's worst economic crisis since the 1975-1990 Civil War. Now with the devastation from the explosion, it has become nearly impossible for the Lebanese people to obtain basic human rights without humanitarian aid; and

Whereas, Rescue efforts have been hampered by the lack of electricity, and medical professionals are stitching the wounded in the streets under their cellphone lights. Public Health Minister Hamad Hassan said Lebanon's health sector is short of beds and Jacked the equipment necessary to treat the injured and care for patients in critical condition. Meanwhile, many buildings and homes have been reduced to an uninhabitable mess of glass, leaving as many as 300,000 people homeless. Furthermore, the toxic gases released from the explosion, combined with the impact of COVID-19 and the thick Mediterranean summer air, have created a deeply oppressive atmosphere where the people of Beirut cannot breathe; and

Whereas, Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab and his government have stepped down after citing mass corruption that contributed to the disaster. Before the resignation, Prime Minister Hassan Diab made a plea to other countries for aid. France, Russia, Iraq, and Iran have sent planes full of doctors, medical supplies, medication, and more to help Lebanon through this crisis: now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Congress and President of the United States to send humanitarian aid in the form of medical supplies, medications, and emergency funding to Lebanon in the wake of the Beirut Port Explosion, and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-238. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, expressing the support for the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 6 to remove the deadline for state ratification of the equal rights amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-239. A resolution adopted by the Pennsylvania State Council of the Junior Order United American Mechanics memorializing its opposition to the desecration and destruction of American war monuments in this country; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-240. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to recipients of public financial assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-241. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to territory and statehood status; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Eric J. Soskin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

*Sarah E. Feinberg, of West Virginia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

*Chris Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

*Robert E. Primus, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2022.

*Theodore Rokita, of Indiana, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for the remainder of the term expiring January 3, 2021.

*Theodore Rokita, of Indiana, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term expiring January 3, 2026.

By Mr. JOHNSON for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*John M. Barger, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2022.

*Christopher Bancroft Burnham, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2024.

*Frank Dunlevy, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2022.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4584. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the definition of water heater under energy conservation standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4585. A bill to maintain prompt and reliable postal services during the COVID-19 health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4586. A bill to amend the CARES Act to require the uniform treatment of nationally

recognized statistical rating organizations under certain programs carried out in response to the COVID-19 emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 4587. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to establish a program to expand access to broadband in unserved and underserved areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 4588. A bill to improve programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 4589. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to increase transparency, to support regulatory certainty, and to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 4590. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to reform agency process requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4591. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to reform agency process requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 4592. A bill to establish a Maritime Task Force and a private sector advisory committee to address the health, safety, security, and logistical issues relating to the continuation of maritime travel, including the resumption of cruise operations, in United States waters during the COVID-19 public health emergency; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 4593. A bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 4594. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 4595. A bill to temporarily extend the period of validity of J-1 visas issued to employees and contractors of the United States Agency for Global Media and its broadcasting networks; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 4596. A bill to provide tax relief for persons affected by certain 2020 disasters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4597. A bill to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to permit the entry into the United States of pets accompanying United States nationals repatriating during public health emergencies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 4598. A bill to provide for assistance for small manufacturers in the defense industrial supply chain on matters relating to cybersecurity; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 4599. A bill to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4600. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the responses of the Department of Defense to sex-related offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 4601. A bill to establish an Animal Cruelty Crimes Section within the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 4602. A bill to prohibit the obstruction of emergency vehicles; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MCSALLY:

S. 4603. A bill to promote the use of forest restoration residue harvested on National Forest System land for renewable energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 4604. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to certain persons in the defense sectors of nuclear weapons states that at not fulfilling their obligations under article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. LOEF-FLER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 697. A resolution expressing support for the brave men and women of our law enforcement agencies and urging the people of the United States to "Back the Blue"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 698. A resolution designating September 2020 as "National Spinal Cord Injury

Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 699. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as "Patriot Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 700. A resolution designating the week of September 19 through September 26, 2020, as "National Estuaries Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 839

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 959

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 959, a bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes.

S. 1210

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1210, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make permanent the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 1820

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1820, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by requiring a uniform anti-doping and medication control program to be developed and enforced by an independent Horseracing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority.

S. 2001

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2001, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 2815

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2815, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission.

S. 2936

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2936, a bill to provide for the admission and protection of refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable individuals, to provide for the processing of refugees and asylum seekers in the Western Hemisphere, and to modify certain special immigrant visa programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3051

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3051, a bill to improve protections for wildlife, and for other purposes.

S. 3264

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3264, a bill to expedite and streamline the deployment of affordable broadband service on Tribal land, and for other purposes.

S. 3353

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3353, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3353, *supra*.

S. 3366

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3366, a bill to amend the Federal

Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at no cost to members of Gold Star Families.

S. 3393

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3393, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 3471

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3471, a bill to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

S. 3605

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3605, a bill to amend the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 to provide specialty crop block grants to fund State food banks and food access networks.

S. 3718

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3718, a bill to expand the waiver of affiliation rules for certain business concerns with more than 1 physical location, and for other purposes.

S. 3753

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3753, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs have physical locations for the disposal of controlled substances medications.

S. 3761

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3761, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans service organizations and recognized agents and attorneys opportunities to review Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating determinations before they are finalized, and for other purposes.

S. 3899

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3899, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a retraining assistance program for unemployed veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4003

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4003, a bill to improve United States consideration of, and strategic support for, programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence from the onset of humanitarian emergencies and to build the capacity of humanitarian actors to address the immediate and long-term challenges resulting from such violence, and for other purposes.

S. 4110

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4110, a bill to designate residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern, and for other purposes.

S. 4150

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4150, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide assistance to certain providers of transportation services affected by the novel coronavirus.

S. 4152

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4152, a bill to provide for the adjustment or modification by the Secretary of Agriculture of loans for critical rural utility service providers, and for other purposes.

S. 4159

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4159, a bill to amend the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act to accommodate emerging technologies.

S. 4234

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4234, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to identify a certain amount of Federal spectrum to be reallocated for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use, and for other purposes.

S. 4258

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4258, a bill to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives.

S. 4349

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4349, a bill to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

S. 4417

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4417, a bill to provide temporary impact aid construction grants

to eligible local educational agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 4422

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4422, a bill to establish the Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4482

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4482, a bill to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress an annual report regarding instances of Arab government retribution toward citizens and residents who engage in people-to-people relations with Israelis.

S. 4526

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4526, a bill to ensure that COVID-19-related Federal programs and assistance provide for the translation of informational materials relating to awareness, screening, testing, and treatment for COVID-19 into priority languages.

S. 4544

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4544, a bill to specify the Federal share of the costs of certain duty of the National Guard in connection with the Coronavirus Disease 2019.

S. 4559

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4559, a bill to respond to the provision of bounties by the Government of the Russian Federation for the killing of members of the Armed Forces of the United States and members of the Resolute Support Mission led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and with respect to certain Russian political figures and oligarchs, and for other purposes.

S. 4571

At the request of Mr. PETERS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4571, a bill to extend certain deadlines for the 2020 decennial census.

S. RES. 274

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 274, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and other rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices, and condemning the practice of non-consenting organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 672

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator

from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 672, a resolution designating September 2020 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

AMENDMENT NO. 1551

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1551 intended to be proposed to S. 2657, a bill to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 697—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND URGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO “BACK THE BLUE”

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. LOEF-FLER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 697

Whereas the cowardly attack on 2 Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies on September 12, 2020, is the latest example of an alarming trend of targeted violence toward Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers;

Whereas, as of September 11, 2020, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that 37 law enforcement officers have been feloniously killed in the United States in 2020, representing a more than 20 percent increase in law enforcement homicides compared to the same period last year;

Whereas more than 800,000 sworn law enforcement officers in the United States perform innumerable daily acts of bravery and service for their communities that often go entirely unreported;

Whereas radical politicians, reckless media figures, and organized protest movements bent on sowing civil unrest have sought to vilify and denigrate the courageous men and women of our law enforcement agencies, while inciting, encouraging, or celebrating widespread criminal activity and violence against law enforcement officers;

Whereas crime rates, including rates of violent crime, have dramatically risen in several cities across the United States as radical politicians pursue a dangerous campaign to “defund the police”, starving law enforcement agencies of much-needed resources to combat the growing threat to their communities;

Whereas maintaining law and order is fundamental to the safety, security, and prosperity of our communities; and

Whereas now is the time to “Back the Blue”, and express our full-throated support for the selfless work of our courageous law enforcement officers who protect all law-abiding citizens against the threats posed by criminals and violent domestic groups inter-

ested in sowing chaos and destruction: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses gratitude to the brave men and women of our Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies who selflessly serve their communities;

(2) stands united to “Back the Blue” and support the law enforcement agencies and officers that stand on the front lines every day to maintain law and order so that our communities can prosper;

(3) condemns the perpetrators, instigators, and celebrators of violence against law enforcement officers; and

(4) calls for the people of the United States to—

(A) denounce the recent cowardly attack on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies;

(B) assist in the identification and apprehension of the criminal who perpetrated the cowardly attack; and

(C) pray for the speedy and full recovery of the deputies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 698—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS “NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 698

Whereas approximately 294,000 individuals in the United States live with spinal cord injuries, which cost society billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages;

Whereas there are approximately 17,810 new spinal cord injuries in the United States each year;

Whereas more than 42,000 individuals with spinal cord injuries are veterans;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries;

Whereas nearly half of all spinal cord injuries to individuals 30 years of age or younger occur as a result of motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas the average remaining years of life for individuals living with spinal cord injuries has not improved significantly since the 1980s;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce, prevent, and reverse paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for individuals living with spinal cord injuries, enhancing the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2020 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for new therapies that offer promise and hope to individuals living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people across the United States who are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with spinal cord injuries and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 699—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17 AS “PATRIOT WEEK”

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 699

Whereas the events that led to the signing of the Constitution of the United States by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, have significance for every citizen of the United States and are honored in public schools across the United States on Constitution Day, which is September 17 of each year;

Whereas the rule of law, the social compact, democracy, liberty, equality, and unalienable human rights are the essential values upon which the United States flourishes;

Whereas diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the United States, and the motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States, “E pluribus unum”, Latin for “out of many, one”, symbolizes that individuals in the United States from all walks of life are unified by shared values;

Whereas exceptional, visionary, and indispensable individuals such as Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry, John Adams, John Marshall, George Washington, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison founded or advanced the United States;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions signed in Seneca Falls, New York, the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr., express sentiments that have advanced liberty in the United States; and

Whereas the Bennington flag (commonly known as the “76 flag”), the Betsy Ross flag, the current flag of the United States, the flag of the women’s suffrage movement, the Union flag (commonly known as the “Fort Sumter flag”), the Gadsden flag, and the flags of the States are physical symbols of the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as “Patriot Week”;

(2) recognizes that understanding the history of the United States and the first principles of the United States is indispensable to the survival of the United States as a free people;

(3) acknowledges, in great reverence to the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks, that citizens of the United States should take time to honor the first principles, founders, documents, and symbols of their history;

(4) recognizes that each generation should renew the spirit of the United States based on the first principles, historical figures, founding documents, and symbols of the United States; and

(5) encourages citizens, schools and other educational institutions, and Federal, State, and local governments and their agencies to recognize and participate in Patriot Week by honoring, celebrating, and promoting the study of the history of the United States so that all people of the United States may offer the reverence that is due to the free republic.

SENATE RESOLUTION 700—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2020, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 700

Whereas estuary regions cover only 13 percent of the land area in the continental United States but contain nearly 43 percent of the population, 40 percent of the jobs, and nearly 50 percent of the economic output of the United States;

Whereas the oceans, estuaries, and Great Lakes of the United States continue to fuel economic growth across the United States, which is evidenced by the fact that, by 2016—

(1) employment levels in economic sectors relating to oceans and estuaries had increased by 14.5 percent from employment levels in those sectors in 2007, before the Great Recession; and

(2) the average employment level of the entire economy of the United States had increased by 4.8 percent from that employment level in 2007, before the Great Recession;

Whereas, between 2015 and 2016, economic sectors relating to estuaries, oceans, and Great Lakes in the United States—

(1) created 85,000 new jobs;

(2) employed 3,300,000 individuals; and

(3) contributed \$124,000,000,000 to the gross domestic product;

Whereas, by 2018, the ocean economy supported 2,300,000 jobs in the United States, and the compensation paid to employees in such sector was \$161,900,000,000;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support more than 1,740,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2017—

(1) commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in the United States generated more than \$244,000,000,000 in sales and contributed \$110,700,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

(2) angler trip expenditures totaled nearly \$10,500,000,000; and

(3) saltwater recreational fishing supported 487,000 jobs, generated \$73,800,000,000 in sales across the United States, and contributed \$41,500,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for—

(1) countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight; and

(2) many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas, by the 1980s, the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the original 13 colonies;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters

have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical waste, and marine debris;

Whereas harmful algal blooms are hurting fish, wildlife, and human health and are causing serious ecological and economic harm to some estuaries;

Whereas changes in sea levels can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) authorizes the development of comprehensive conservation and management plans to ensure that the designated uses of estuaries are protected and to restore and maintain—

(1) the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of estuaries;

(2) water quality;

(3) a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and

(4) recreational activities in estuaries;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 29 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate or contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and Tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 19 through September 26, 2020, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State, local, and Tribal government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 19 through September 26, 2020, as “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of estuaries;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) supports the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2656. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. CARPER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3051, to improve

protections for wildlife, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2656. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. BARASSO (for himself and Mr. CARPER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3051, to improve protections for wildlife, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “America’s Conservation Enhancement Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT, DISEASE, AND PREDATION

Sec. 101. Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict.

Sec. 102. Losses of livestock due to depredation by federally protected species.

Sec. 103. Depredation permits for black vultures and common ravens.

Sec. 104. Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force.

Sec. 105. Invasive species.

Sec. 106. North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Sec. 107. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

Sec. 108. Modification of definition of sport fishing equipment under Toxic Substances Control Act.

Sec. 109. Reauthorization of Chesapeake Bay Program.

Sec. 110. Reauthorization of Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998.

Sec. 111. Chesapeake watershed investments for landscape defense.

TITLE II—NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Sec. 201. Purpose.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Sec. 203. National Fish Habitat Board.

Sec. 204. Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Sec. 205. Fish Habitat Conservation Projects.

Sec. 206. Technical and scientific assistance.

Sec. 207. Coordination with States and Indian Tribes.

Sec. 208. Interagency Operational Plan.

Sec. 209. Accountability and reporting.

Sec. 210. Effect of this title.

Sec. 211. Nonapplicability of Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Sec. 212. Funding.

Sec. 213. Prohibition against implementation of regulatory authority by Federal agencies through Partnerships.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 301. Study to review conservation factors.

Sec. 302. Study and report on expenditures.

Sec. 303. Use of value of land for cost sharing.

TITLE I—WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT, DISEASE, AND PREDATION

SEC. 101. THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE FOR REDUCING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 7001(d) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 742b note; Public Law 116-9) is amended—

(1) by striking “paragraph (7)(A)” each place such term appears and inserting “paragraph (8)(A)”;

(2) by striking “paragraph (7)(B)” each place such term appears and inserting “paragraph (8)(B)”;

(3) in paragraph (6)(C)(iv), by striking “subparagraph (C)” and inserting “clause (iii)”;

(4) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8);

(5) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) **THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE FOR REDUCING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT.**—

“(A) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph:

“(i) **BOARD.**—The term ‘Board’ means the Reducing Human-Predator Conflict Technology Advisory Board established by subparagraph (C)(i).

“(ii) **PRIZE COMPETITION.**—The term ‘prize competition’ means the Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict established under subparagraph (B).

“(B) **AUTHORITY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the America’s Conservation Enhancement Act, the Secretary shall establish under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) a prize competition, to be known as the ‘Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict’—

“(i) to encourage technological innovation with the potential to advance the mission of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with respect to reducing the frequency of human-predator conflict using nonlethal means; and

“(ii) to award 1 or more prizes annually for a technological advancement that promotes reducing human-predator conflict using nonlethal means, which may include the application and monitoring of tagging technologies.

“(C) **ADVISORY BOARD.**—

“(i) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established an advisory board, to be known as the ‘Reducing Human-Predator Conflict Technology Advisory Board’.

“(ii) **COMPOSITION.**—The Board shall be composed of not fewer than 9 members appointed by the Secretary, who shall provide expertise in—

“(I) predator-human interactions;

“(II) the habitats of large predators;

“(III) biology;

“(IV) technology development;

“(V) engineering;

“(VI) economics;

“(VII) business development and management; and

“(VIII) any other discipline, as the Secretary determines to be necessary to achieve the purposes of this paragraph.

“(iii) **DUTIES.**—Subject to clause (iv), with respect to the prize competition, the Board shall—

“(I) select a topic;

“(II) issue a problem statement;

“(III) advise the Secretary regarding any opportunity for technological innovation to reduce human-predator conflict using nonlethal means; and

“(IV) advise winners of the prize competition regarding opportunities to pilot and implement winning technologies in relevant fields, including in partnership with conservation organizations, Federal or State agencies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, private entities, and research institutions with expertise or interest relating to reducing human-predator conflict using nonlethal means.

“(iv) **CONSULTATION.**—In selecting a topic and issuing a problem statement for the prize competition under subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (iii), respectively, the Board shall consult widely with Federal and non-Federal stakeholders, including—

“(I) 1 or more Federal agencies with jurisdiction over the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities;

“(II) 1 or more State agencies with jurisdiction over the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities;

“(III) 1 or more State, regional, or local wildlife organizations, the mission of which relates to the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities; and

“(IV) 1 or more wildlife conservation groups, technology companies, research institutions, institutions of higher education, industry associations, or individual stakeholders with an interest in the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities.

“(v) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Board shall comply with all requirements under paragraph (8)(A).

“(D) **AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall offer to enter into an agreement under which the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation shall administer the prize competition.

“(ii) **REQUIREMENTS.**—An agreement entered into under clause (i) shall comply with all requirements under paragraph (8)(B).

“(E) **JUDGES.**—

“(i) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Secretary shall appoint not fewer than 3 judges who shall, except as provided in clause (ii), select the 1 or more annual winners of the prize competition.

“(ii) **DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.**—The judges appointed under clause (i) shall not select any annual winner of the prize competition if the Secretary makes a determination that, in any fiscal year, none of the technological advancements entered into the prize competition merits an award.

“(F) **CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in the case of a cash prize awarded under the prize competition for a technology that addresses conflict between humans and marine predators under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(G) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a cash prize is awarded under this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the prize competition that includes—

“(i) a statement by the Board that describes the activities carried out by the Board relating to the duties described in subparagraph (C)(ii);

“(ii) if the Secretary has entered into an agreement under subparagraph (D)(i), a statement by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that describes the activities carried out by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation relating to the duties described in paragraph (8)(B); and

“(iii) a statement by 1 or more of the judges appointed under subparagraph (E) that explains the basis on which the winner of the cash prize was selected.

“(H) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The Board and all authority provided under this paragraph shall terminate on December 31, 2023.”; and

(6) in paragraph (8) (as redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or (6)(C)(i)” and inserting “(6)(C)(i), or (7)(C)(i)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “or (6)(D)(i)” and inserting “(6)(D)(i), or (7)(D)(i)”; and

(ii) in clause (i)(VII), by striking “and (6)(E)” and inserting “(6)(E), and (7)(E)”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that data collected from the tagging of predators can inform innovative management of those predators and innovative education activities to minimize human-predator conflict.

SEC. 102. LOSSES OF LIVESTOCK DUE TO DEPRE- DATION BY FEDERALLY PROTECTED SPECIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPRE-
DATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “depredation” means actual death, injury, or destruction of livestock that is caused by a federally protected species.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “depredation” does not include damage to real or personal property other than livestock, including—

(i) damage to—

(I) other animals;

(II) vegetation;

(III) motor vehicles; or

(IV) structures;

(ii) diseases;

(iii) lost profits; or

(iv) consequential damages.

(2) FEDERALLY PROTECTED SPECIES.—The term “federally protected species” means a species that is or previously was protected under—

(A) the Act of June 8, 1940 (commonly known as the “Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act”) (54 Stat. 250, chapter 278; 16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

(C) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.).

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

(4) LIVESTOCK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “livestock” means horses, mules and asses, rabbits, llamas, cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, bees, honey and beehives, or any other animal generally used for food or in the production of food or fiber.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “livestock” includes guard animals actively engaged in the protection of livestock described in subparagraph (A).

(5) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means the grant program established under subsection (b)(1).

(6) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM FOR LOSSES OF LIVESTOCK DUE TO DEPRE-
DATION BY FEDERALLY
PROTECTED SPECIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall establish a program to provide grants to States and Indian Tribes to supplement amounts provided by States, Indian Tribes, or State agencies under 1 or more programs established by the States and Indian Tribes (including programs established after the date of enactment of this Act)—

(A) to assist livestock producers in carrying out—

(i) proactive and nonlethal activities to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to depredation by federally protected species occurring on—

(I) Federal, State, or private land within the applicable State; or

(II) land owned by, or held in trust for the benefit of, the applicable Indian Tribe; and

(ii) research relating to the activities described in clause (i); and

(B) to compensate livestock producers for livestock losses due to depredation by federally protected species occurring on—

(i) Federal, State, or private land within the applicable State; or

(ii) land owned by, or held in trust for the benefit of, the applicable Indian Tribe.

(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

(A) REPORTS TO THE SECRETARIES.—Not later than September 30 of each year, a State or Indian Tribe desiring to receive a grant under the program shall submit to the Secretaries a report describing, for the 1-year period ending on that September 30, the losses of livestock due to depredation by federally protected species occurring on—

(i) Federal, State, or private land within the applicable State; or

(ii) land owned by, or held in trust for the benefit of, the applicable Indian Tribe.

(B) ALLOCATION.—The Secretaries shall allocate available funding to carry out this Act among States and Indian Tribes for a 1-year period ending on September 30 based on the losses described in the reports submitted for the previous 1-year period ending on September 30 under subparagraph (A).

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), a State or Indian Tribe shall—

(A) designate an appropriate agency of the State or Indian Tribe to administer the 1 or more programs supplemented by the grant funds;

(B) establish 1 or more accounts to receive grant funds;

(C) maintain files of all claims received and paid under grant-funded programs, including supporting documentation; and

(D) submit to the Secretaries—

(i) annual reports that include—

(I) a summary of claims and expenditures under the program during the year; and

(II) a description of any action taken on the claims; and

(ii) such other reports as the Secretaries may require to assist the Secretaries in determining the effectiveness of assisted activities under this section.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) no State or Indian Tribe is required to participate in the program; and

(2) the program supplements, and does not replace or supplant, any State compensation programs for depredation.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, of which—

(1) \$5,000,000 shall be used to provide grants for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1)(A); and

(2) \$10,000,000 shall be used to provide grants for the purpose described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

SEC. 103. DEPRE- DATION PERMITS FOR BLACK VULTURES AND COMMON RAVENS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), may issue depredation permits to livestock producers authorizing takings of black vultures or common ravens otherwise prohibited by Federal law to prevent those vultures or common ravens from taking livestock during the calving season or lambing season.

(b) LIMITED TO AFFECTED STATES OR REGIONS.—The Secretary may issue permits

under subsection (a) only to livestock producers in States and regions in which livestock producers are affected or have been affected in the previous year by black vultures or common ravens, as determined by Secretary.

(c) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall require, as a condition of a permit under subsection (a), that the permit holder shall report to the appropriate enforcement agencies the takings of black vultures or common ravens pursuant to the permit.

SEC. 104. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TASK FORCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CERVID.—The term “cervid” means any species within the family Cervidae.

(2) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—The term “chronic wasting disease” means the animal disease afflicting deer, elk, and moose populations that—

(A) is a transmissible disease of the nervous system resulting in distinctive lesions in the brain; and

(B) belongs to the group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, which group includes scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

(3) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, acting jointly.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall establish within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service a task force, to be known as the “Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force” (referred to in this subsection as the “Task Force”) after the completion of the study required by subsection (c).

(2) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

(A) collaborate with foreign governments to share research, coordinate efforts, and discuss best management practices to reduce, minimize, prevent, or eliminate chronic wasting disease in the United States;

(B) develop recommendations, including recommendations based on findings of the study conducted under subsection (c), and a set of best practices regarding—

(i) the interstate coordination of practices to prevent the new introduction of chronic wasting disease;

(ii) the prioritization and coordination of the future study of chronic wasting disease, based on evolving research needs;

(iii) ways to leverage the collective resources of Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian Tribes, and foreign governments, and resources from private, nongovernmental entities, to address chronic wasting disease in the United States and along the borders of the United States; and

(iv) any other area where containment or management efforts relating to chronic wasting disease may differ across jurisdictions; and

(C) develop, from the recommendations developed under subparagraph (B), an action plan that gives States, the Federal Government, Indian Tribes, and the farmed cervid industry specific recommendations to ensure consistent and coordinated management and focused, prioritized research to stop the spread of and mitigate the impacts of chronic wasting disease.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be composed of—

(i) 1 representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with experience in chronic wasting disease, to be appointed by

the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this subsection as the "Secretary");

(i) 1 representative of the United States Geological Survey;

(iii) 2 representatives of the Department of Agriculture with experience in chronic wasting disease, to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture—

(I) 1 of whom shall have expertise in cervid health research; and

(II) 1 of whom shall have expertise in wildlife management;

(iv) in the case of each State in which chronic wasting disease among elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, or moose has been reported to the appropriate State agency, not more than 2 representatives, to be nominated by the Governor of the State—

(I) not more than 1 of whom shall be a representative of the State agency with jurisdiction over wildlife management or wildlife disease in the State; and

(II) in the case of a State with a farmed cervid program or economy, not more than 1 of whom shall be a representative of the State agency with jurisdiction over farmed cervid regulation in the State;

(v) in the case of each State in which chronic wasting disease among elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, or moose has not been documented, but that has carried out measures to prevent the introduction of chronic wasting disease among those species, not more than 2 representatives, to be nominated by the Governor of the State;

(vi) not more than 2 representatives from an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization chosen in a process determined, in consultation with Indian Tribes, by the Secretary; and

(vii) not more than 5 nongovernmental members with relevant expertise appointed, after the date on which the members are first appointed under clauses (i) through (vi), by a majority vote of the State representatives appointed under clause (iv).

(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph requires a State to participate in the Task Force.

(4) Co-CHAIRS.—The Co-Chairs of the Task Force shall be—

(A) the Federal representative described in paragraph (3)(A)(i);

(B) 1 of the Federal representatives described in paragraph (3)(A)(iii); and

(C) 1 State representative appointed under paragraph (3)(A)(iv), to be selected by a majority vote of those State representatives.

(5) DATE OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Task Force shall be appointed not later than 180 days after the date on which the study is completed under subsection (c).

(B) NOTIFICATION.—On appointment of the members of the Task Force, the Co-Chairs of the Task Force shall notify the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Committees on Environment and Public Works and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and Natural Resources and Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(6) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the members appointed to the Task Force—

(A) shall not affect the power or duty of the Task Force; and

(B) shall be filled not later than 30 days after the date of the vacancy.

(7) MEETINGS.—The Task Force shall convene—

(A) not less frequently than twice each year; and

(B) at such time and place, and by such means, as the Co-Chairs of the Task Force determine to be appropriate, which may include the use of remote conference technology.

(8) INTERSTATE ACTION PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the members of the

Task Force are appointed, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretaries, and the heads of the State agencies with jurisdiction over wildlife disease and farmed cervid regulation of each State with a representative on the Task Force, the interstate action plan developed by the Task Force under paragraph (2)(C).

(B) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretaries, any other applicable Federal agency, and each applicable State may enter into a cooperative agreement to fund necessary actions under the interstate action plan submitted under subparagraph (A).

(ii) TARGET DATE.—The Secretaries shall make the best effort of the Secretaries to enter into any cooperative agreement under clause (i) not later than 180 days after the date of submission of the interstate action plan under subparagraph (A).

(C) MATCHING FUNDS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), for each fiscal year, the Secretaries may provide funds to carry out an interstate action plan through a cooperative agreement under subparagraph (B) in the amount of funds provided by the applicable States.

(ii) LIMITATION.—The amount provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under clause (i) for a fiscal year shall be not greater than \$5,000,000.

(9) REPORTS.—Not later than September 30 of the first full fiscal year after the date on which the first members of the Task Force are appointed, and each September 30 thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretaries, and the heads of the State agencies with jurisdiction over wildlife disease and farmed cervid regulation of each State with a representative on the Task Force, a report describing—

(A) progress on the implementation of actions identified in the interstate action plan submitted under paragraph (8)(A), including the efficacy of funding under the cooperative agreement entered into under paragraph (8)(B);

(B) updated resource requirements that are needed to reduce and eliminate chronic wasting disease in the United States;

(C) any relevant updates to the recommended best management practices included in the interstate action plan submitted under paragraph (8)(B) to reduce or eliminate chronic wasting disease;

(D) new research findings and emerging research needs relating to chronic wasting disease; and

(E) any other relevant information.

(c) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN CERVIDAE RESOURCE STUDY.—

(1) DEFINITION OF ACADEMY.—In this subsection, the term "Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences.

(2) STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall enter into an arrangement with the Academy under which the Academy shall conduct, and submit to the Secretaries a report describing the findings of, a special resource study to identify the predominant pathways and mechanisms of the transmission of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The arrangement under subparagraph (A) shall provide that the actual expenses incurred by the Academy in conducting the study under subparagraph (A) shall be paid by the Secretaries, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(3) CONTENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study under paragraph (2) shall—

(A) with respect to wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States, identify—

(i)(I) to the extent possible, the pathways and mechanisms for the transmission of chronic wasting disease within live cervid populations and cervid products, which may include pathways and mechanisms for transmission from Canada;

(II) the infection rates for each pathway and mechanism identified under subclause (I); and

(III) the relative frequency of transmission of each pathway and mechanism identified under subclause (I);

(ii)(I) anthropogenic and environmental factors contributing to new chronic wasting disease emergence events;

(II) the development of geographical areas with increased chronic wasting disease prevalence; and

(III) the overall geographical patterns of chronic wasting disease distribution;

(iii) significant gaps in current scientific knowledge regarding the transmission pathways and mechanisms identified under clause (i)(I) and potential prevention, detection, and control methods identified under clause (v);

(iv) for prioritization the scientific research projects that will address the knowledge gaps identified under clause (iii), based on the likelihood that a project will contribute significantly to the prevention or control of chronic wasting disease; and

(v) potential prevention, detection, or control measures, practices, or technologies to be used to mitigate the transmission and spread of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States;

(B) assess the effectiveness of the potential prevention, detection, or control measures, practices, or technologies identified under subparagraph (A)(v); and

(C) review and compare science-based best practices, standards, and guidance regarding the prevention, detection, and management of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States that have been developed by—

(i) the National Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;

(ii) the National Wildlife Research Center of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;

(iii) the United States Geological Survey;

(iv) State wildlife and agricultural agencies, in the case of practices, standards, and guidance that provide practical, science-based recommendations to State and Federal agencies for minimizing or eliminating the risk of transmission of chronic wasting disease in the United States; and

(v) industry or academia, in the case of any published guidance on practices that provide practical, science-based recommendations to cervid producers for minimizing or eliminating the risk of transmission of chronic wasting disease within or between herds.

(4) DEADLINE.—The study under paragraph (2) shall be completed not later than 180 days after the date on which funds are first made available for the study.

(5) DATA SHARING.—The Secretaries shall share with the Academy, as necessary to conduct the study under paragraph (2), subject to the avoidance of a violation of a privacy or confidentiality requirement and the protection of confidential or privileged commercial, financial, or proprietary information, data and access to databases and research information on chronic wasting disease under the jurisdiction of—

(A) the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

(B) the United States Geological Survey.

(6) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of completion of the study, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(A) the findings of the study; and

(B) any conclusions and recommendations that the Secretaries determine to be appropriate.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(1) for the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, \$5,000,000 to the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to carry out administrative activities under subsection (b);

(2) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,200,000 to the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, to carry out activities to fund research under subsection (c); and

(3) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,200,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to carry out activities to fund research under subsection (c).

SEC. 105. INVASIVE SPECIES.

Section 10 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 666c–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(i) relevant Federal agencies;”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) in consultation with stakeholders, including nongovernmental organizations and industry;”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(p) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025—

“(1) \$2,500,000 to the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers; and

“(2) \$2,500,000 to the Secretary of the Interior.”.

SEC. 106. NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended by striking “not to exceed—” in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through paragraph (5) and inserting “not to exceed \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

SEC. 107. NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.

(a) **BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FOUNDATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

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

“(2) **APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS.**—After consulting with the Secretary of Commerce and considering the recommendations submitted by the Board, the Secretary of the Interior shall appoint 28 Directors who, to the maximum extent practicable, shall—

“(A) be knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to the conservation of fish, wildlife, or other natural resources; and

“(B) represent a balance of expertise in ocean, coastal, freshwater, and terrestrial resource conservation.”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) **TERMS.**—Each Director (other than a Director described in paragraph (1)) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.”; and

(B) in subsection (g)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “(A) Officers and employees may not be appointed until the Foundation has sufficient funds to pay them for their service. Officers” and inserting the following:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Officers”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Foundation shall have an Executive Director who shall be—

“(i) appointed by, and serve at the direction of, the Board as the chief executive officer of the Foundation; and

“(ii) knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to fish and wildlife conservation.”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 4(a)(1)(B) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4403(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “Secretary of the Board” and inserting “Executive Director of the Board”.

(b) **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF FOUNDATION.**—Section 4 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3703) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “(c) **POWERS.**—To carry out its purposes under” and inserting the following:

“(c) **POWERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To carry out the purposes described in”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (11) as subparagraphs (A) through (K), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(C) in subparagraph (D) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “that are insured by an agency or instrumentality of the United States” and inserting “at 1 or more financial institutions that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Securities Investment Protection Corporation”; and

(D) in subparagraph (E) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “paragraph (3) or (4)” and inserting “subparagraph (C) or (D)”; and

(E) in subparagraph (J) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “and” at the end;

(F) by striking subparagraph (K) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)) and inserting the following:

“(K) to receive and administer restitution and community service payments, amounts for mitigation of impacts to natural resources, and other amounts arising from legal, regulatory, or administrative proceedings, subject to the condition that the amounts are received or administered for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources; and

“(L) to do acts necessary to carry out the purposes of the Foundation.”; and

(G) by striking the undesignated matter at the end and inserting the following:

“(2) **TREATMENT OF REAL PROPERTY.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of this Act, an interest in real property shall be treated as including easements or other rights for preservation, conservation, protection, or enhancement by and for the public of natural, scenic, historic, scientific, educational, inspirational, or recreational resources.

“(B) **ENCUMBERED REAL PROPERTY.**—A gift, devise, or bequest may be accepted by the Foundation even though the gift, devise, or bequest is encumbered, restricted, or subject to beneficial interests of private persons if any current or future interest in the gift, devise, or bequest is for the benefit of the Foundation.

“(3) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—The acceptance and administration of amounts by the Foundation under paragraph (1)(K) does not alter, supersede, or limit any regulatory or statutory requirement associated with those amounts.”;

(2) by striking subsections (f) and (g); and

(3) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 10 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3709) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025—

“(A) \$15,000,000 to the Secretary of the Interior;

“(B) \$5,000,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture; and

“(C) \$5,000,000 to the Secretary of Commerce.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

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

“(1) **AMOUNTS FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to the amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities are authorized to provide funds to the Foundation through Federal financial assistance grants and cooperative agreements, subject to the condition that the amounts are used for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources in accordance with this Act.

“(B) **ADVANCES.**—Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities may advance amounts described in subparagraph (A) to the Foundation in a lump sum without regard to when the expenses for which the amounts are used are incurred.

“(C) **MANAGEMENT FEES.**—The Foundation may assess and collect fees for the management of amounts received under this paragraph.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “FUNDS” and inserting “AMOUNTS”; and

(ii) by striking “shall be used” and inserting “may be used”; and

(iii) by striking “and State and local government agencies” and inserting “, State and local government agencies, and other entities”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **ADMINISTRATION OF AMOUNTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In entering into contracts, agreements, or other partnerships pursuant to this Act, a Federal department, agency, or instrumentality shall have discretion to waive any competitive process applicable to the department, agency, or instrumentality for entering into contracts, agreements, or partnerships with the Foundation if the purpose of the waiver is—

“(i) to address an environmental emergency resulting from a natural or other disaster; or

“(ii) as determined by the head of the applicable Federal department, agency, or instrumentality, to reduce administrative expenses and expedite the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources.

“(B) **REPORTS.**—The Foundation shall include in the annual report submitted under

section 7(b) a description of any use of the authority under subparagraph (A) by a Federal department, agency, or instrumentality in that fiscal year.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **USE OF GIFTS, DEVISES, OR BEQUESTS OF MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY.**—Any gifts, devises, or bequests of amounts or other property, or any other amounts or other property, transferred to, deposited with, or otherwise in the possession of the Foundation pursuant to this Act, may be made available by the Foundation to Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities and may be accepted and expended (or the disposition of the amounts or property directed), without further appropriation, by those Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities, subject to the condition that the amounts or property be used for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources.”.

(d) **LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.**—Section 11 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3710) is amended by inserting “exclusive” before “authority”.

SEC. 108. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF SPORT FISHING EQUIPMENT UNDER TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT.

(a) **PROHIBITION.**—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not take any action to regulate the lead content of sport fishing equipment or sport fishing equipment components under the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.).

(b) **DEFINITION OF SPORT FISHING EQUIPMENT.**—In this section, the term “sport fishing equipment” means any sport fishing equipment (as such term is defined in section 4162(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) the sale of which is subject to the tax imposed by section 4161(a) of such Code (determined without regard to any exemptions from such tax provided by section 4162 or 4221 or any other provision of such Code).

SEC. 109. REAUTHORIZATION OF CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM.

Section 117 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

“(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) for fiscal year 2021, \$90,000,000;

“(2) for fiscal year 2022, \$90,500,000;

“(3) for fiscal year 2023, \$91,000,000;

“(4) for fiscal year 2024, \$91,500,000; and

“(5) for fiscal year 2025, \$92,000,000.”.

SEC. 110. REAUTHORIZATION OF CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE ACT OF 1998.

Section 502(c) of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-312) is amended by striking “2019” and inserting “2025”.

SEC. 111. CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED INVESTMENTS FOR LANDSCAPE DEFENSE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENTS.**—The term “Chesapeake Bay agreements” means the formal, voluntary agreements—

(A) executed to achieve the goal of restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed ecosystem and the living resources of the Chesapeake Bay watershed ecosystem; and

(B) signed by the Chesapeake Executive Council.

(2) **CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM.**—The term “Chesapeake Bay program” means the program directed by the Chesapeake Executive Council in accordance with the Chesapeake Bay agreements.

(3) **CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.**—The term “Chesapeake Bay watershed” means the region that covers—

(A) the Chesapeake Bay;

(B) the portions of the States of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia that drain into the Chesapeake Bay; and

(C) the District of Columbia.

(4) **CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**—The term “Chesapeake Executive Council” means the council comprised of—

(A) the Governors of each of the States of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia;

(B) the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

(C) the Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission; and

(D) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(5) **CHESAPEAKE WILD PROGRAM.**—The term “Chesapeake WILD program” means the nonregulatory program established by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1).

(6) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—The term “grant program” means the Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense grant program established by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1).

(7) **RESTORATION AND PROTECTION ACTIVITY.**—The term “restoration and protection activity” means an activity carried out for the conservation, stewardship, and enhancement of habitat for fish and wildlife—

(A) to preserve and improve ecosystems and ecological processes on which the fish and wildlife depend; and

(B) for use and enjoyment by the public.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) **PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a nonregulatory program, to be known as the “Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense program”.

(2) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Chesapeake WILD program are—

(A) coordinating restoration and protection activities among Federal, State, local, and regional entities and conservation partners throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(B) engaging other agencies and organizations to build a broader range of partner support, capacity, and potential funding for projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(C) carrying out coordinated restoration and protection activities, and providing for technical assistance, throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed—

(i) to sustain and enhance restoration and protection activities;

(ii) to improve and maintain water quality to support fish and wildlife, habitats of fish and wildlife, and drinking water for people;

(iii) to sustain and enhance water management for volume and flood damage mitigation improvements to benefit fish and wildlife habitat;

(iv) to improve opportunities for public access and recreation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed consistent with the ecological needs of fish and wildlife habitat;

(v) to facilitate strategic planning to maximize the resilience of natural ecosystems and habitats under changing watershed conditions;

(vi) to engage the public through outreach, education, and citizen involvement to increase capacity and support for coordinated restoration and protection activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(vii) to sustain and enhance vulnerable communities and fish and wildlife habitat;

(viii) to conserve and restore fish, wildlife, and plant corridors; and

(ix) to increase scientific capacity to support the planning, monitoring, and research activities necessary to carry out coordinated restoration and protection activities.

(3) **DUTIES.**—In carrying out the Chesapeake WILD program, the Secretary shall—

(A) draw on existing plans for the Chesapeake Bay watershed, or portions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including the Chesapeake Bay agreements, and work in consultation with applicable management entities, including Chesapeake Bay program partners, such as the Federal Government, State and local governments, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and other regional organizations, as appropriate, to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and protection activities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(B) adopt a Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide strategy that—

(i) supports the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and protection activities developed in accordance with subparagraph (A); and

(ii) targets cost-effective projects with measurable results; and

(C) establish the grant program in accordance with subsection (c).

(4) **COORDINATION.**—In establishing the Chesapeake WILD program, the Secretary shall consult, as appropriate, with—

(A) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

(i) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(ii) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(iii) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(iv) the Chief of Engineers;

(v) the Director of the United States Geological Survey;

(vi) the Secretary of Transportation;

(vii) the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(viii) the head of any other applicable agency;

(B) the Governors of each of the States of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

(C) fish and wildlife joint venture partnerships; and

(D) other public agencies and organizations with authority for the planning and implementation of conservation strategies in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

(c) **GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **CHESAPEAKE WILD GRANT PROGRAM.**—To the extent that funds are made available to carry out this subsection, the Secretary shall establish and carry out, as part of the Chesapeake WILD program, a voluntary grant and technical assistance program, to be known as the “Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense grant program”, to provide competitive matching grants of varying amounts and technical assistance to eligible entities described in paragraph (2) to carry out activities described in subsection (b)(2).

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—The following entities are eligible to receive a grant and technical assistance under the grant program:

(A) A State.

(B) The District of Columbia.

(C) A unit of local government.

(D) A nonprofit organization.

(E) An institution of higher education as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(F) Any other entity that the Secretary determines to be appropriate in accordance with the criteria established under paragraph (3).

(3) **CRITERIA.**—The Secretary, in consultation with officials and entities described in subsection (b)(4), shall establish criteria for the grant program to help ensure that activities funded under this subsection—

(A) accomplish 1 or more of the purposes described in subsection (b)(2); and

(B) advance the implementation of priority actions or needs identified in the Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide strategy adopted under subsection (b)(3)(B).

(4) **COST SHARING.**—

(A) **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SHARE.**—The Department of the Interior share of the cost of a project funded under the grant program shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) **NON-DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SHARE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The non-Department of the Interior share of the cost of a project funded under the grant program may be provided in cash or in the form of an in-kind contribution of services or materials.

(ii) **OTHER FEDERAL FUNDING.**—Non-Department of the Interior Federal funds may be used for not more than 25 percent of the total cost of a project funded under the grant program.

(5) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary may enter into an agreement to manage the grant program with an organization that offers grant management services.

(d) **REPORTING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the implementation of this section, including a description of each project that has received funding under this section.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(2) **SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**—Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall supplement, and not supplant, funding for other activities conducted by the Secretary in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

TITLE II—NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

SEC. 201. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested persons to promote fish conservation—

(1) to achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that lead to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities by—

(A) improving ecological conditions;

(B) restoring natural processes; or

(C) preventing the decline of intact and healthy systems;

(2) to establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by Fish Habitat Partnerships;

(3) to broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by—

(A) increasing fishing opportunities;

(B) fostering the participation of local communities, especially young people in local communities, in conservation activities; and

(C) raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitat play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities;

(4) to fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and the associated database of the National Fish Habitat Assessment—

(A) to empower strategic conservation actions supported by broadly available scientific information; and

(B) to integrate socioeconomic data in the analysis to improve the lives of humans in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals; and

(5) to communicate to the public and conservation partners—

(A) the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships; and

(B) new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the National Fish Habitat Board established by section 203.

(3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Water of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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

(6) **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(7) **PARTNERSHIP.**—The term “Partnership” means an entity designated by Congress as a Fish Habitat Partnership under section 204.

(8) **REAL PROPERTY INTEREST.**—The term “real property interest” means an ownership interest in—

(A) land; or

(B) water (including water rights).

(9) **MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSIONS.**—The term “Marine Fisheries Commissions” means—

(A) the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(B) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and

(C) the Pacific States Marine Commission.

(10) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(11) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

(12) **STATE AGENCY.**—The term “State agency” means—

(A) the fish and wildlife agency of a State; and

(B) any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources of the State or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State.

SEC. 203. NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **FISH HABITAT BOARD.**—There is established a board, to be known as the “National Fish Habitat Board”, whose duties are—

(A) to promote, oversee, and coordinate the implementation of this title;

(B) to establish national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation;

(C) to recommend to Congress entities for designation as Partnerships; and

(D) to review and make recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Board shall be composed of 26 members, of whom—

(A) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of the Interior;

(B) 1 shall be a representative of the United States Geological Survey;

(C) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Commerce;

(D) 1 shall be a representative of the Department of Agriculture;

(E) 1 shall be a representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

(F) 4 shall be representatives of State agencies, 1 of whom shall be nominated by a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies from each of the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western regions of the United States;

(G) 2 shall be representatives of either—

(i) Indian Tribes in the State of Alaska; or

(ii) Indian Tribes in States other than the State of Alaska;

(H) 1 shall be a representative of either—

(i) the Regional Fishery Management Councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852); or

(ii) a representative of the Marine Fisheries Commissions;

(I) 1 shall be a representative of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council;

(J) 7 shall be representatives selected from at least one from each of the following:

(i) the recreational sportfishing industry;

(ii) the commercial fishing industry;

(iii) marine recreational anglers;

(iv) freshwater recreational anglers;

(v) habitat conservation organizations; and

(vi) science-based fishery organizations;

(K) 1 shall be a representative of a national private landowner organization;

(L) 1 shall be a representative of an agricultural production organization;

(M) 1 shall be a representative of local government interests involved in fish habitat restoration;

(N) 2 shall be representatives from different sectors of corporate industries, which may include—

(i) natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction;

(ii) natural resource user industries; and

(iii) industries with an interest in fish and fish habitat conservation; and

(O) 1 shall be an individual in a leadership position in the private sector or landowner representative of an active partnership.

(3) **COMPENSATION.**—A member of the Board shall serve without compensation.

(4) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Board.

(b) **APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (F) through (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(2) **INITIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The initial Board shall consist of representatives as described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of subsection (a)(2).

(B) **REMAINING MEMBERS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the representatives of the initial Board under subparagraph (A) shall appoint the remaining members of the Board described in

subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subsection (a)(2).

(C) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Board a recommendation of not fewer than three Tribal representatives, from which the Board shall appoint one representative pursuant to subparagraph (G) of subsection (a)(2).

(3) STAGGERED TERMS.—Of the members described in subsection (a)(2)(J) initially appointed to the Board—

(A) two shall be appointed for a term of 1 year;

(B) two shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(C) three shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(4) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (H), (I), (J), (K), (L), (M), (N), or (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the Board.

(B) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Following a vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (G) of subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall recommend to the Board a list of not fewer than three Tribal representatives, from which the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy.

(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—An individual whose term of service as a member of the Board expires may continue to serve on the Board until a successor is appointed.

(6) REMOVAL.—If a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subparagraph (a)(2) misses three consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings, the members of the Board may—

(A) vote to remove that member; and

(B) appoint another individual in accordance with paragraph (4).

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies appointed under subsection (a)(2)(E) shall serve as Chairperson of the Board.

(2) TERM.—The Chairperson of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet—

(A) at the call of the Chairperson; but

(B) not less frequently than twice each calendar year.

(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

(e) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish procedures to carry out the business of the Board, including—

(A) a requirement that a quorum of the members of the Board be present to transact business;

(B) a requirement that no recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of two-thirds of all members;

(C) procedures for establishing national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation for the purposes of this title;

(D) procedures for designating Partnerships under section 204; and

(E) procedures for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 204. FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO RECOMMEND.—The Board may recommend to Congress the designation of Fish Habitat Partnerships in accordance with this section.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a Partnership shall be—

(1) to work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote coopera-

tion and coordination to enhance fish populations and fish habitats;

(2) to engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation;

(3) to involve diverse groups of public and private partners;

(4) to develop collaboratively a strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound;

(5) to leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships;

(6) to use adaptive management principles, including evaluation of project success and functionality;

(7) to develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures; and

(8) to implement local and regional priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

(c) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.—An entity seeking to be designated by Congress as a Partnership shall—

(1) submit to the Board an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Board may reasonably require; and

(2) demonstrate to the Board that the entity has—

(A) a focus on promoting the health of important fish and fish habitats;

(B) an ability to coordinate the implementation of priority projects that support the goals and national priorities set by the Board that are within the Partnership boundary;

(C) a self-governance structure that supports the implementation of strategic priorities for fish habitat;

(D) the ability to develop local and regional relationships with a broad range of entities to further strategic priorities for fish and fish habitat;

(E) a strategic plan that details required investments for fish habitat conservation that addresses the strategic fish habitat priorities of the Partnership and supports and meets the strategic priorities of the Board;

(F) the ability to develop and implement fish habitat conservation projects that address strategic priorities of the Partnership and the Board; and

(G) the ability to develop fish habitat conservation priorities based on sound science and data, the ability to measure the effectiveness of fish habitat projects of the Partnership, and a clear plan as to how Partnership science and data components will be integrated with the overall Board science and data effort.

(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS.—The Board may recommend to Congress for designation an application for a Partnership submitted under subsection (c) if the Board determines that the applicant—

(1) meets the criteria described in subsection (c)(2);

(2) identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners, which may include State or local governments, nonprofit entities, Indian Tribes, and private individuals, that are focused on conservation of fish habitats to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private land;

(3) is organized to promote the health of important fish species and important fish habitats, including reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, coral reefs, and estuaries;

(4) identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the Partnership area in the form of geographical focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decision making;

(5) is able to address issues and priorities on a nationally significant scale;

(6) includes a governance structure that—

(A) reflects the range of all partners; and

(B) promotes joint strategic planning and decision making by the applicant;

(7) demonstrates completion of, or significant progress toward the development of, a strategic plan to address declines in fish populations, rather than simply treating symptoms, in accordance with the goals and national priorities established by the Board; and

(8) promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act and each February 1 thereafter, the Board shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report, to be entitled “Report to Congress on Future Fish Habitat Partnerships and Modifications”, that—

(A) identifies each entity that—

(i) meets the requirements described in subsection (d); and

(ii) the Board recommends to Congress for designation as a Partnership;

(B) describes any proposed modifications to a Partnership previously designated by Congress under subsection (f);

(C) with respect to each entity recommended for designation as a Partnership, describes, to the maximum extent practicable—

(i) the purpose of the recommended Partnership; and

(ii) how the recommended Partnership fulfills the requirements described in subsection (d).

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY; NOTIFICATION.—The Board shall—

(A) make the report publicly available, including on the internet; and

(B) provide to the appropriate congressional committees and the State agency of any State included in a recommended Partnership area written notification of the public availability of the report.

(f) DESIGNATION OR MODIFICATION OF PARTNERSHIP.—Congress shall have the exclusive authority to designate or modify a Partnership.

(g) EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) DESIGNATION REVIEW.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, any partnership receiving Federal funds as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be subject to a designation review by Congress in which Congress shall have the opportunity to designate the partnership under subsection (f).

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—A partnership referred to in paragraph (1) that Congress does not designate as described in that paragraph shall be ineligible to receive Federal funds under this title.

SEC. 205. FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

(a) SUBMISSION TO BOARD.—Not later than March 31 of each year, each Partnership shall submit to the Board a list of priority fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Partnership for annual funding under this title.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS BY BOARD.—Not later than July 1 of each year, the Board shall submit to the Secretary a priority list of fish habitat conservation projects that includes a description, including estimated costs, of each project that the Board recommends that the Secretary approve and fund under this title for the following fiscal year.

(c) **CRITERIA FOR PROJECT SELECTION.**—The Board shall select each fish habitat conservation project recommended to the Secretary under subsection (b) after taking into consideration, at a minimum, the following information:

(1) A recommendation of the Partnership that is, or will be, participating actively in implementing the fish habitat conservation project.

(2) The capabilities and experience of project proponents to implement successfully the proposed project.

(3) The extent to which the fish habitat conservation project—

(A) fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the Partnership and is consistent with the purpose of this title;

(B) addresses the national priorities established by the Board;

(C) is supported by the findings of the habitat assessment of the Partnership or the Board, and aligns or is compatible with other conservation plans;

(D) identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures and criteria that are compatible with national measures;

(E) provides a well-defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes;

(F) leverages other funds to implement the project;

(G) addresses the causes and processes behind the decline of fish or fish habitats; and

(H) includes an outreach or education component that includes the local or regional community.

(4) The availability of sufficient non-Federal funds to match Federal contributions for the fish habitat conservation project, as required by subsection (e).

(5) The extent to which the fish habitat conservation project—

(A) will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public;

(B) will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among Federal, State, and local governments, Indian Tribes, and private entities;

(C) increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities;

(D) advances the conservation of fish and wildlife species that have been identified by a State agency as species of greatest conservation need;

(E) where appropriate, advances the conservation of fish and fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and other relevant Federal law and State wildlife action plans; and

(F) promotes strong and healthy fish habitats so that desired biological communities are able to persist and adapt.

(6) The substantiality of the character and design of the fish habitat conservation project.

(d) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION.**—No fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless the fish habitat conservation project includes an evaluation plan designed using applicable Board guidance—

(A) to appropriately assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities carried out using the assistance;

(B) to reflect appropriate changes to the fish habitat conservation project if the assessment substantiates that the fish habitat conservation project objectives are not being met;

(C) to identify improvements to existing fish populations, recreational fishing oppor-

tunities, and the overall economic benefits for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project; and

(D) to require the submission to the Board of a report describing the findings of the assessment.

(2) **ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A State, local government, or other non-Federal entity is eligible to receive funds for the acquisition of real property from willing sellers under this title if the acquisition ensures—

(i) public access for fish and wildlife-dependent recreation; or

(ii) a scientifically based, direct enhancement to the health of fish and fish populations, as determined by the Board.

(B) **STATE AGENCY APPROVAL.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—All real property interest acquisition projects funded under this title must be approved by the State agency in the State in which the project is occurring.

(ii) **PROHIBITION.**—The Board may not recommend, and the Secretary may not provide any funding for, any real property interest acquisition that has not been approved by the State agency.

(C) **ASSESSMENT OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.**—

The Board may not recommend, and the Secretary may not provide any funding under this title for, any real property interest acquisition unless the Partnership that recommended the project has conducted a project assessment, submitted with the funding request and approved by the Board, to demonstrate all other Federal, State, and local authorities for the acquisition of real property have been exhausted.

(D) **RESTRICTIONS.**—A real property interest may not be acquired pursuant to a fish habitat conservation project by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity conducted with funds provided under this title, unless—

(i) the owner of the real property authorizes the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity to acquire the real property; and

(ii) the Secretary and the Board determine that the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity would benefit from undertaking the management of the real property being acquired because that is in accordance with the goals of a Partnership.

(e) **NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (4), no fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless at least 50 percent of the cost of the fish habitat conservation project will be funded with non-Federal funds.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—Such non-Federal share of the cost of a fish habitat conservation project—

(A) may not be derived from another Federal grant program; and

(B) may include in-kind contributions and cash.

(3) **SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or any other provision of law, any funds made available to an Indian Tribe pursuant to this title may be considered to be non-Federal funds for the purpose of paragraph (1).

(4) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce with respect to marine or estuarine projects, may waive the application of paragraph (2)(A) with respect to a State or an Indian Tribe, or otherwise reduce the portion of the non-Federal share of the cost of an activity required to be paid by a State or an Indian Tribe under paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that the State or Indian Tribe does not have sufficient funds not derived from another Federal grant program to

pay such non-Federal share, or portion of the non-Federal share, without the use of loans.

(f) **APPROVAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommended priority list of fish habitat conservation projects under subsection (b), and subject to subsection (d) and based, to the maximum extent practicable, on the criteria described in subsection (c), the Secretary, after consulting with the Secretary of Commerce on marine or estuarine projects, shall approve or reject any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board.

(2) **FUNDING.**—If the Secretary approves a fish habitat conservation project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use amounts made available to carry out this title to provide funds to carry out the fish habitat conservation project.

(3) **NOTIFICATION.**—If the Secretary rejects under paragraph (1) any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board, not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommendation, the Secretary shall provide to the Board, the appropriate Partnership, and the appropriate congressional committees a written statement of the reasons that the Secretary rejected the fish habitat conservation project.

SEC. 206. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the Forest Service and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, may provide scientific and technical assistance to Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(b) **INCLUSIONS.**—Scientific and technical assistance provided under subsection (a) may include—

(1) providing technical and scientific assistance to States, Indian Tribes, regions, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations in the development and implementation of Partnerships;

(2) providing technical and scientific assistance to Partnerships for habitat assessment, strategic planning, and prioritization;

(3) supporting the development and implementation of fish habitat conservation projects that are identified as high priorities by Partnerships and the Board;

(4) supporting and providing recommendations regarding the development of science-based monitoring and assessment approaches for implementation through Partnerships;

(5) supporting and providing recommendations for a national fish habitat assessment;

(6) ensuring the availability of experts to assist in conducting scientifically based evaluation and reporting of the results of fish habitat conservation projects; and

(7) providing resources to secure State agency scientific and technical assistance to support Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

SEC. 207. COORDINATION WITH STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.

The Secretary shall provide a notice to, and cooperate with, the appropriate State agency or Tribal agency, as applicable, of each State and Indian Tribe within the boundaries of which an activity is planned to be carried out pursuant to this title, including notification, by not later than 30 days before the date on which the activity is implemented.

SEC. 208. INTERAGENCY OPERATIONAL PLAN.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director, in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies (including, at a minimum, those agencies represented on the Board) shall develop an interagency operational plan that describes—

(1) the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs for the implementation of this title; and

(2) any interagency agreements between or among Federal departments and agencies to address those needs.

SEC. 209. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING.**(a) REPORTING.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the progress of this title.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an estimate of the number of acres, stream miles, or acre-feet, or other suitable measures of fish habitat, that was maintained or improved by Partnerships under this title during the 5-year period ending on the date of submission of the report;

(B) a description of the public access to fish habitats established or improved under this title during that 5-year period;

(C) a description of the improved opportunities for public recreational fishing achieved under this title; and

(D) an assessment of the status of fish habitat conservation projects carried out with funds provided under this title during that period, disaggregated by year, including—

(i) a description of the fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Board under section 205(b);

(ii) a description of each fish habitat conservation project approved by the Secretary under section 205(f), in order of priority for funding;

(iii) a justification for—

(I) the approval of each fish habitat conservation project; and

(II) the order of priority for funding of each fish habitat conservation project;

(iv) a justification for any rejection of a fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under section 205(b) that was based on a factor other than the criteria described in section 205(c); and

(v) an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian Tribes, or other entities to carry out fish habitat conservation projects under this title.

(b) **STATUS AND TRENDS REPORT.**—Not later than December 31, 2021, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a status of all Partnerships designated under this title;

(2) a description of the status of fish habitats in the United States as identified by designated Partnerships; and

(3) enhancements or reductions in public access as a result of—

(A) the activities of the Partnerships; or

(B) any other activities carried out pursuant to this title.

SEC. 210. EFFECT OF THIS TITLE.

(a) **WATER RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this title—

(1) establishes any express or implied reserved water right in the United States for any purpose;

(2) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water; or

(4) affects any Federal or State law in existence on the date of enactment of the Act regarding water quality or water quantity.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS OR RIGHTS TO PROPERTY.**—Only a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity may acquire, under State law, water rights or rights to property with funds made available through section 212.

(c) **STATE AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this title—

(1) affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under the laws and regulations of the State; or

(2) authorizes the Secretary to control or regulate within a State the fishing or hunting of fish and wildlife.

(d) **EFFECT ON INDIAN TRIBES.**—Nothing in this title abrogates, abridges, affects, modifies, supersedes, or alters any right of an Indian Tribe recognized by treaty or any other means, including—

(1) an agreement between the Indian Tribe and the United States;

(2) Federal law (including regulations);

(3) an Executive order; or

(4) a judicial decree.

(e) **ADJUDICATION OF WATER RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this title diminishes or affects the ability of the Secretary to join an adjudication of rights to the use of water pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 208 of the Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, and The Judiciary Appropriation Act, 1953 (43 U.S.C. 666).

(f) **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this title affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Department of Commerce to manage, control, or regulate fish or fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(g) **EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.**—

(1) **PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.**—Nothing in this title permits the use of funds made available to carry out this title to acquire real property or a real property interest without the written consent of each owner of the real property or real property interest, respectively.

(2) **MITIGATION.**—Nothing in this title authorizes the use of funds made available to carry out this title for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under—

(A) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(B) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(C) the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 100 Stat. 4082); or

(D) any other Federal law or court settlement.

(3) **CLEAN WATER ACT.**—Nothing in this title affects any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including any definition in that Act.

SEC. 211. NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to—

(1) the Board; or

(2) any Partnership.

SEC. 212. FUNDING.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$7,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to provide funds for fish habitat conservation projects approved

under section 205(f), of which 5 percent is authorized only for projects carried out by Indian Tribes.

(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING EXPENSES.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) for administrative and planning expenses under this title; and

(B) to carry out section 209.

(3) **TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out, and provide technical and scientific assistance under, section 206—

(A) \$400,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) \$400,000 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator for use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) \$400,000 to the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for use by the Environmental Protection Agency;

(D) \$400,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Geological Survey; and

(E) \$400,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, for use by the Forest Service.

(b) **AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS.**—The Secretary may—

(1) on the recommendation of the Board, and notwithstanding sections 6304 and 6305 of title 31, United States Code, and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 106-107), enter into a grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or contract with a Partnership or other entity to provide funds authorized by this title for a fish habitat conservation project or restoration or enhancement project;

(2) apply for, accept, and, subject to the availability of appropriations, use a grant from any individual or entity to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(3) subject to the availability of appropriations, make funds authorized by this Act available to any Federal department or agency for use by that department or agency to provide grants for any fish habitat protection project, restoration project, or enhancement project that the Secretary determines to be consistent with this title.

(c) **DONATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may—

(A) enter into an agreement with any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code to solicit private donations to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(B) accept donations of funds, property, and services to carry out the purposes of this title.

(2) **TREATMENT.**—A donation accepted under this title—

(A) shall be considered to be a gift or bequest to, or otherwise for the use of, the United States; and

(B) may be—

(i) used directly by the Secretary; or

(ii) provided to another Federal department or agency through an interagency agreement.

SEC. 213. PROHIBITION AGAINST IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATORY AUTHORITY BY FEDERAL AGENCIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS.

Any Partnership designated under this title—

(1) shall be for the sole purpose of promoting fish conservation; and

(2) shall not be used to implement any regulatory authority of any Federal agency.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. STUDY TO REVIEW CONSERVATION FACTORS.

(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARIES.—In this section, the term “Secretaries” means—

- (1) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (2) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service; and
- (3) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) STUDY.—To assess factors affecting successful conservation activities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Secretaries shall carry out a study—

(1)(A) to review any factors that threaten or endanger a species, such as wildlife disease, for which a listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) would not contribute to the conservation of the species; and

(B) to identify additional conservation measures that can be taken to protect and conserve a species described in subparagraph (A);

(2) to review any barriers to—

(A) the delivery of Federal, State, local, or private funds for such conservation activities, including statutory or regulatory impediments, staffing needs, and other relevant considerations; or

(B) the implementation of conservation agreements, plans, or other cooperative agreements, including agreements focused on voluntary activities, multispecies efforts, and other relevant considerations;

(3) to review factors that impact the ability of the Federal Government to successfully implement the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(4) to develop recommendations regarding methods to address barriers identified under paragraph (2), if any;

(5) to review determinations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in which a species is determined to be recovered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, but remains listed under that Act, including—

(A) an explanation of the factors preventing a delisting or downlisting of the species; and

(B) recommendations regarding methods to address the factors described in subparagraph (A); and

(6) to review any determinations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in which a species has been identified as needing listing or uplisting under that Act but remains unlisted or listed as a threatened species, respectively, including—

(A) an explanation of the factors preventing a listing or uplisting of the species; and

(B) recommendations regarding methods to address the factors described in subparagraph (A).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and make publicly available a report describing the results of the study under subsection (b).

SEC. 302. STUDY AND REPORT ON EXPENDITURES.

(a) REPORTS ON EXPENDITURES.—

(1) FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—At the determination of the Comptroller General of the United States

(referred to in this section as the “Comptroller General”), to facilitate the preparation of the reports from the Comptroller General under paragraph (2), the head of each Federal department and agency shall submit to the Comptroller General data and other relevant information that describes the amounts expended or disbursed (including through loans, loan guarantees, grants, or any other financing mechanism) by the department or agency as a direct result of any provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) during—

(i) with respect to the first report under paragraph (2), the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(ii) with respect to the second report under paragraph (2), the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Data and other relevant information submitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe, with respect to the applicable amounts—

(i) the programmatic office of the department or agency on behalf of which each amount was expended or disbursed;

(ii) the provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (or regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) pursuant to which each amount was expended or disbursed; and

(iii) the project or activity carried out using each amount, in detail sufficient to reflect the breadth, scope, and purpose of the project or activity.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years and 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(A) the aggregate amount expended or disbursed by all Federal departments and agencies as a direct result of any provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) during—

(i) with respect to the first report, the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(ii) with respect to the second report, the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report;

(B) the provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (or regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) pursuant to which each such amount was expended or disbursed; and

(C) with respect to each relevant department or agency—

(i) the total amount expended or disbursed by the department or agency as described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) the information described in clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (1)(B).

(b) REPORT ON CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—

(1) FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—At the determination of the Comptroller General, to facilitate the preparation of the report under paragraph (2), the head of each Federal department and agency shall submit to the Comptroller General data and other relevant information that describes the conservation activities by the Federal department or agency as a direct result of any provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) during—

(A) with respect to the first report under paragraph (2), the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(B) with respect to the second report under paragraph (2), the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years and 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that—

(A) describes the conservation activities by all Federal departments and agencies for species listed as a threatened species or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as reported under paragraph (1), during—

(i) with respect to the first report, the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(ii) with respect to the second report, the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report;

(B) is organized into categories with respect to whether a recovery plan for a species has been established;

(C) includes conservation outcomes associated with the conservation activities; and

(D) as applicable, describes the conservation activities that required interaction between Federal agencies and between Federal agencies and State and Tribal agencies and units of local government pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SEC. 303. USE OF VALUE OF LAND FOR COST SHARING.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 13 as section 14; and

(2) by inserting after section 12 the following:

“SEC. 13. VALUE OF LAND.

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any institution eligible to receive Federal funds under the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) shall be allowed to use the value of any land owned by the institution as an in-kind match to satisfy any cost sharing requirement under this Act.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and executive session on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 1:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Subcommittee on Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

AMERICA'S CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 378, S. 3051.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3051) to improve protections for wildlife, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “America’s Conservation Enhancement Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT, DISEASE, AND PREDATION

Sec. 101. Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict.

Sec. 102. Losses of livestock due to depredation by federally protected species.

Sec. 103. Depredation permits for black vultures and common ravens.

Sec. 104. Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force.

Sec. 105. Invasive species.

Sec. 106. North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Sec. 107. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

Sec. 108. Modification of definition of sport fishing equipment under Toxic Substances Control Act.

Sec. 109. Reauthorization of Chesapeake Bay Program.

Sec. 110. Reauthorization of Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998.

Sec. 111. Chesapeake watershed investments for landscape defense.

Sec. 112. Great Lakes monitoring, assessment, science, and research.

TITLE II—MODERNIZING THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON FUND FOR TOMORROW'S NEEDS

Sec. 201. Purpose.

Sec. 202. Definitions.

Sec. 203. Apportionment of available amounts.

Sec. 204. Expenditures for management of wildlife areas and resources.

Sec. 205. Firearm and bow hunter education and safety program grants.

Sec. 206. Multistate conservation grant program.

TITLE III—NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Sec. 301. Purpose.

Sec. 302. Definitions.

Sec. 303. National Fish Habitat Board.

Sec. 304. Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Sec. 305. Fish Habitat Conservation Projects.

Sec. 306. Technical and scientific assistance.

Sec. 307. Coordination with States and Indian Tribes.

Sec. 308. Interagency Operational Plan.

Sec. 309. Accountability and reporting.

Sec. 310. Effect of this title.

Sec. 311. Nonapplicability of Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Sec. 312. Funding.

Sec. 313. Prohibition against implementation of regulatory authority by Federal agencies through Partnerships.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 401. Sense of the Senate regarding conservation agreements and activities.

Sec. 402. Study to review conservation factors.

Sec. 403. Study and report on expenditures.

Sec. 404. Use of value of land for cost sharing.

TITLE I—WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT, DISEASE, AND PREDATION

SEC. 101. THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE FOR REDUCING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 7001(d) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 742b note; Public Law 116-9) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (2)(C)(v), (3)(C)(v), (4)(C)(v), (5)(C)(v), and (6)(C)(v), by striking “paragraph (7)(A)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraph (8)(A)”;

(2) in paragraphs (2)(D)(ii), (2)(F)(ii), (3)(D)(ii), (3)(F)(ii), (4)(D)(ii), (4)(F)(ii), (5)(D)(ii), (5)(F)(ii), (6)(D)(ii), and (6)(F)(ii) by striking “paragraph (7)(B)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraph (8)(B)”;

(3) in paragraph (6)(C)(iv), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “subparagraph (C)” and inserting “clause (iii)”;

(4) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8);

(5) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) **THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE FOR REDUCING HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT.**—

“(A) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this paragraph:

“(i) **BOARD.**—The term ‘Board’ means the Reducing Human-Predator Conflict Technology Advisory Board established by subparagraph (C)(i).

“(ii) **PRIZE COMPETITION.**—The term ‘prize competition’ means the Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict established under subparagraph (B).

“(B) **AUTHORITY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the America’s Conservation Enhancement Act, the Secretary shall establish under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719) a prize competition, to be known as the ‘Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for reducing human-predator conflict’—

“(i) to encourage technological innovation with the potential to advance the mission of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with respect to reducing the frequency of human-predator conflict using nonlethal means; and

“(ii) to award 1 or more prizes annually for a technological advancement that promotes reducing human-predator conflict using nonlethal means, which may include the application and monitoring of tagging technologies.

“(C) **ADVISORY BOARD.**—

“(i) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established an advisory board, to be known as the ‘Reducing Human-Predator Conflict Technology Advisory Board’.

“(ii) **COMPOSITION.**—The Board shall be composed of not fewer than 9 members appointed by the Secretary, who shall provide expertise in—

“(I) predator-human interactions;

“(II) the habitats of large predators;

“(III) biology;

“(IV) technology development;

“(V) engineering;

“(VI) economics;

“(VII) business development and management; and

“(VIII) any other discipline, as the Secretary determines to be necessary to achieve the purposes of this paragraph.

“(iii) **DUTIES.**—Subject to clause (iv), with respect to the prize competition, the Board shall—

“(I) select a topic;

“(II) issue a problem statement;

“(III) advise the Secretary regarding any opportunity for technological innovation to reduce human-predator conflict using nonlethal means; and

“(IV) advise winners of the prize competition regarding opportunities to pilot and implement winning technologies in relevant fields, including in partnership with conservation organizations, Federal or State agencies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, private entities, and research institutions with expertise or interest relating to reducing human-predator conflict using nonlethal means.

“(iv) **CONSULTATION.**—In selecting a topic and issuing a problem statement for the prize competition under subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (iii), respectively, the Board shall consult widely with Federal and non-Federal stakeholders, including—

“(I) 1 or more Federal agencies with jurisdiction over the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities;

“(II) 1 or more State agencies with jurisdiction over the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities;

“(III) 1 or more State, regional, or local wildlife organizations, the mission of which relates to the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities; and

“(IV) 1 or more wildlife conservation groups, technology companies, research institutions, institutions of higher education, industry associations, or individual stakeholders with an interest in the management of native wildlife species at risk due to conflict with human activities.

“(v) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Board shall comply with all requirements under paragraph (8)(A).

“(D) **AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall offer to enter into an agreement under which the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation shall administer the prize competition.

“(ii) **REQUIREMENTS.**—An agreement entered into under clause (i) shall comply with all requirements under paragraph (8)(B).

“(E) JUDGES.—

“(i) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall appoint not fewer than 3 judges who shall, except as provided in clause (ii), select the 1 or more annual winners of the prize competition.

“(ii) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—The judges appointed under clause (i) shall not select any annual winner of the prize competition if the Secretary makes a determination that, in any fiscal year, none of the technological advancements entered into the prize competition merits an award.

“(F) CONSULTATION WITH NOAA.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in the case of a cash prize awarded under the prize competition for a technology that addresses conflict between marine predators under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and humans.

“(G) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a cash prize is awarded under this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on the prize competition that includes—

“(i) a statement by the Board that describes the activities carried out by the Board relating to the duties described in subparagraph (C)(iii);

“(ii) if the Secretary has entered into an agreement under subparagraph (D)(i), a statement by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that describes the activities carried out by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation relating to the duties described in paragraph (8)(B); and

“(iii) a statement by 1 or more of the judges appointed under subparagraph (E) that explains the basis on which the winner of the cash prize was selected.

“(H) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The Board and all authority provided under this paragraph shall terminate on December 31, 2023.”; and

(6) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “or (6)(C)(i)” and inserting “(6)(C)(i), or (7)(C)(i)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “or (6)(D)(i)” and inserting “(6)(D)(i), or (7)(D)(i)”;

(ii) in clause (i)(VII), by striking “and (6)(E)” and inserting “(6)(E), and (7)(E)”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that data collected from the tagging of predators can inform innovative management of those predators and innovative education activities to minimize human-predator conflict.

SEC. 102. LOSSES OF LIVESTOCK DUE TO DEPREDATION BY FEDERALLY PROTECTED SPECIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPREDATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “depredation” means actual death, injury, or destruction of livestock that is caused by a federally protected species.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “depredation” does not include damage to real or personal property other than livestock, including—

(i) damage to—

(I) other animals;

(II) vegetation;

(III) motor vehicles; or

(IV) structures;

(ii) diseases;

(iii) lost profits; or

(iv) consequential damages.

(2) FEDERALLY PROTECTED SPECIES.—The term “federally protected species” means a species that is or previously was protected under—

(A) the Act of June 8, 1940 (commonly known as the “Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act”) (54 Stat. 250, chapter 278; 16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.);

(B) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

(C) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.).

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

(4) LIVESTOCK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “livestock” means horses, mules and asses, rabbits, llamas, cattle, bison, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, bees, honey and beehives, or any other animal generally used for food or in the production of food or fiber.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term “livestock” includes guard animals actively engaged in the protection of livestock described in subparagraph (A).

(5) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means the grant program established under subsection (b)(1).

(6) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM FOR LOSSES OF LIVESTOCK DUE TO DEPREDATION BY FEDERALLY PROTECTED SPECIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall establish a program to provide grants to States and Indian tribes to supplement amounts provided by States, Indian tribes, or State agencies under 1 or more programs established by the States and Indian tribes (including programs established after the date of enactment of this Act)—

(A) to assist livestock producers in carrying out—

(i) proactive and nonlethal activities to reduce the risk of livestock loss due to depredation by federally protected species occurring on—

(I) Federal, State, or private land within the applicable State; or

(II) land owned by, or held in trust for the benefit of, the applicable Indian tribe; and

(ii) research relating to the activities described in clause (i); and

(B) to compensate livestock producers for livestock losses due to depredation by federally protected species occurring on—

(i) Federal, State, or private land within the applicable State; or

(ii) land owned by, or held in trust for the benefit of, the applicable Indian tribe.

(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—

(A) REPORTS TO THE SECRETARIES.—Not later than September 30 of each year, a State or Indian tribe desiring to receive a grant under the program shall submit to the Secretaries a report describing, for the 1-year period ending on that September 30, the losses of livestock due to depredation by federally protected species occurring on—

(i) Federal, State, or private land within the applicable State; or

(ii) land owned by, or held in trust for the benefit of, the applicable Indian tribe.

(B) ALLOCATION.—The Secretaries shall allocate available funding to carry out this Act among States and Indian tribes for a 1-year period ending on September 30 based on the losses described in the reports submitted for the previous 1-year period ending on September 30 under subparagraph (A).

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), a State or Indian tribe shall—

(A) designate an appropriate agency of the State or Indian tribe to administer the 1 or more programs supplemented by the grant funds;

(B) establish 1 or more accounts to receive grant funds;

(C) maintain files of all claims received and paid under grant-funded programs, including supporting documentation; and

(D) submit to the Secretaries—

(i) annual reports that include—

(I) a summary of claims and expenditures under the program during the year; and

(II) a description of any action taken on the claims; and

(ii) such other reports as the Secretaries may require to assist the Secretaries in determining the effectiveness of assisted activities under this section.

(c) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) no State or Indian tribe is required to participate in the program; and

(2) the program supplements, and does not replace or supplant, any State compensation programs for depredation.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, of which—

(1) \$5,000,000 shall be used to provide grants for the purposes described in subsection (b)(1)(A); and

(2) \$10,000,000 shall be used to provide grants for the purpose described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

SEC. 103. DEPREDATION PERMITS FOR BLACK VULTURES AND COMMON RAVENS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”), may issue depredation permits to livestock producers authorizing takings of black vultures or common ravens otherwise prohibited by Federal law to prevent those vultures or common ravens from taking livestock during the calving season or lambing season.

(b) LIMITED TO AFFECTED STATES OR REGIONS.—The Secretary may issue permits under subsection (a) only to livestock producers in States and regions in which livestock producers are affected or have been affected in the previous year by black vultures or common ravens, as determined by Secretary.

(c) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall require, as a condition of a permit under subsection (a), that the permit holder shall report to the appropriate enforcement agencies the takings of black vultures or common ravens pursuant to the permit.

SEC. 104. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TASK FORCE.

(a) DEFINITION OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE.—In this section, the term “chronic wasting disease” means the animal disease afflicting deer, elk, and moose populations that—

(1) is a transmissible disease of the nervous system resulting in distinctive lesions in the brain; and

(2) belongs to the group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, which group includes scrapie, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service a task force, to be known as the “Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force” (referred to in this subsection as the “Task Force”).

(2) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

(A) collaborate with foreign governments to share research, coordinate efforts, and discuss best management practices to reduce, minimize, prevent, or eliminate chronic wasting disease in the United States;

(B) develop recommendations, including recommendations based on findings of the study conducted under subsection (c), and a set of best practices regarding—

(i) the interstate coordination of practices to prevent the new introduction of chronic wasting disease;

(ii) the prioritization and coordination of the future study of chronic wasting disease, based on evolving research needs;

(iii) ways to leverage the collective resources of Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian

Tribes, and foreign governments, and resources from private, nongovernmental entities, to address chronic wasting disease in the United States and along the borders of the United States; and

(iv) any other area where containment or management efforts relating to chronic wasting disease may differ across jurisdictions;

(C) draw from existing and future academic and management recommendations to develop an interstate action plan under which States and the Federal Government agree to enact consistent management, educational, and research practices relating to chronic wasting disease; and

(D) facilitate the creation of a cooperative agreement by which States and relevant Federal agencies agree to commit funds to implement best practices described in the interstate action plan developed under subparagraph (C).

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be composed of—

(i) 1 representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with experience in chronic wasting disease, to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”);

(ii) 1 representative of the United States Geological Survey;

(iii) 2 representatives of the Department of Agriculture with experience in chronic wasting disease, to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture—

(I) 1 of whom shall have expertise in research; and

(II) 1 of whom shall have expertise in wildlife management;

(iv) in the case of each State in which chronic wasting disease among elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, or moose has been reported to the appropriate State agency, not more than 2 representatives, to be nominated by the Governor of the State—

(I) not more than 1 of whom shall be a representative of the State agency with jurisdiction over wildlife management or wildlife disease in the State; and

(II) in the case of a State with a farmed cervid program or economy, not more than 1 of whom shall be a representative of the State agency with jurisdiction over farmed cervid regulation in the State;

(v) in the case of each State in which chronic wasting disease among elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, or moose has not been documented, but that has carried out measures to prevent the introduction of chronic wasting disease among those species, not more than 2 representatives, to be nominated by the Governor of the State;

(vi) not more than 2 representatives from an Indian tribe or tribal organization chosen in a process determined, in consultation with Indian tribes, by the Secretary; and

(vii) not more than 5 nongovernmental members with relevant expertise appointed, after the date on which the members are first appointed under clauses (i) through (vi), by a majority vote of the State representatives appointed under clause (iv).

(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph requires a State to participate in the Task Force.

(4) CO-CHAIRS.—The Co-Chairs of the Task Force shall be—

(A) the Federal representative described in paragraph (3)(A)(i); and

(B) 1 State representative appointed under paragraph (3)(A)(iv), to be selected by a majority vote of those State representatives.

(5) DATE OF INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Task Force shall be appointed not later than 180 days after the date on which the study is completed under subsection (c).

(B) NOTIFICATION.—On appointment of the members of the Task Force, the Co-Chairs of the Task Force shall notify the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Committees on Environment and

Public Works of the Senate and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(6) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the members appointed to the Task Force—

(A) shall not affect the power or duty of the Task Force; and

(B) shall be filled not later than 30 days after the date of the vacancy.

(7) MEETINGS.—The Task Force shall convene—

(A) not less frequently than twice each year; and

(B) at such time and place, and by such means, as the Co-Chairs of the Task Force determine to be appropriate, which may include the use of remote conference technology.

(8) INTERSTATE ACTION PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the members of the Task Force are appointed, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretary, and the heads of the State agencies with jurisdiction over wildlife disease and farmed cervid regulation of each State with a representative on the Task Force, the interstate action plan developed by the Task Force under paragraph (2)(C).

(B) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary, any other applicable Federal agency, and each applicable State shall enter into a cooperative agreement to fund necessary actions under the interstate action plan submitted under subparagraph (A).

(ii) TARGET DATE.—The Secretary shall make the best effort of the Secretary to enter into any cooperative agreement under clause (i) not later than 180 days after the date of submission of the interstate action plan under subparagraph (A).

(C) MATCHING FUNDS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), for each fiscal year, the Federal Government shall provide funds to carry out an interstate action plan through a cooperative agreement under subparagraph (B) in the amount of funds provided by the applicable States.

(ii) LIMITATION.—The amount provided by the Federal Government under clause (i) for a fiscal year shall be not greater than \$5,000,000.

(9) REPORTS.—Not later than September 30 of the first full fiscal year after the date on which the first members of the Task Force are appointed, and each September 30 thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretary, and the heads of the State agencies with jurisdiction over wildlife disease and farmed cervid regulation of each State with a representative on the Task Force, a report describing—

(A) progress on the implementation of actions identified in the interstate action plan submitted under paragraph (8)(A), including the efficacy of funding under the cooperative agreement entered into under paragraph (8)(B);

(B) updated resource requirements that are needed to reduce and eliminate chronic wasting disease in the United States;

(C) any relevant updates to the recommended best management practices included in the interstate action plan submitted under paragraph (8)(B) to reduce or eliminate chronic wasting disease;

(D) new research findings and emerging research needs relating to chronic wasting disease; and

(E) any other relevant information.

(c) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN CERVIDAE RESOURCE STUDY.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ACADEMY.—The term “Academy” means the National Academy of Sciences.

(B) CERVID.—The term “cervid” means any species within the family Cervidae.

(C) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, acting jointly.

(2) STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall enter into an arrangement with the Academy under which the Academy shall conduct, and submit to the Secretaries a report describing the findings of, a special resource study to identify the predominant pathways and mechanisms of the transmission of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The arrangement under subparagraph (A) shall provide that the actual expenses incurred by the Academy in conducting the study under subparagraph (A) shall be paid by the Secretaries, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(3) CONTENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study under paragraph (2) shall—

(A) with respect to wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States, identify—

(i)(I) the pathways and mechanisms for the transmission of chronic wasting disease within live cervid populations and cervid products, which may include pathways and mechanisms for transmission from Canada;

(II) the infection rates for each pathway and mechanism identified under subclause (I); and

(III) the relative frequency of transmission of each pathway and mechanism identified under subclause (I);

(ii)(I) anthropogenic and environmental factors contributing to new chronic wasting disease emergence events;

(II) the development of geographical areas with increased chronic wasting disease prevalence; and

(III) the overall geographical patterns of chronic wasting disease distribution;

(iii) significant gaps in current scientific knowledge regarding the transmission pathways and mechanisms identified under clause (i)(I) and potential prevention, detection, and control methods identified under clause (v);

(iv) for prioritization the scientific research projects that will address the knowledge gaps identified under clause (iii), based on the likelihood that a project will contribute significantly to the prevention or control of chronic wasting disease; and

(v) potential prevention, detection, or control measures, practices, or technologies to be used to mitigate the transmission and spread of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States;

(B) assess the effectiveness of the potential prevention, detection, or control measures, practices, or technologies identified under subparagraph (A)(v); and

(C) review and compare science-based best practices, standards, and guidance regarding the prevention, detection, and management of chronic wasting disease in wild, captive, and farmed populations of cervids in the United States that have been developed by—

(i) the National Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service;

(ii) the United States Geological Survey;

(iii) State wildlife and agricultural agencies, in the case of practices, standards, and guidance that provide practical, science-based recommendations to State and Federal agencies for minimizing or eliminating the risk of transmission of chronic wasting disease in the United States; and

(iv) industry or academia, in the case of any published guidance on practices that provide practical, science-based recommendations to cervid producers for minimizing or eliminating the risk of transmission of chronic wasting disease within or between herds.

(4) DEADLINE.—The study under paragraph (2) shall be completed not later than 180 days after the date on which funds are first made available for the study.

(5) DATA SHARING.—The Secretaries shall share with the Academy, as necessary to conduct the study under paragraph (2), subject to

the avoidance of a violation of a privacy or confidentiality requirement and the protection of confidential or privileged commercial, financial, or proprietary information, data and access to databases on chronic wasting disease under the jurisdiction of—

(A) the Veterinary Services Program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and

(B) the United States Geological Survey.

(6) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of completion of the study, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(A) the findings of the study; and

(B) any conclusions and recommendations that the Secretaries determine to be appropriate.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(1) for the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, \$5,000,000 to the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to carry out administrative activities under subsection (b);

(2) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,200,000 to the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, to carry out activities to fund research under subsection (c); and

(3) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,200,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, to carry out activities to fund research under subsection (c).

SEC. 105. INVASIVE SPECIES.

Section 10 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 666c-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(i) relevant Federal agencies;”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) in consultation with stakeholders, including nongovernmental organizations and industry;”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(p) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025—

“(1) \$2,500,000 to the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers; and

“(2) \$2,500,000 to the Secretary of the Interior.”.

SEC. 106. NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT.

Section 7(c) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4406(c)) is amended by striking “not to exceed—” in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through paragraph (5) and inserting “not to exceed \$60,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

SEC. 107. NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.

(a) **BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FOUNDATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3702) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

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

“(2) **APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS.**—After consulting with the Secretary of Commerce and

considering the recommendations submitted by the Board, the Secretary of the Interior shall appoint 28 Directors who, to the maximum extent practicable, shall—

“(A) be knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to the conservation of fish, wildlife, or other natural resources; and

“(B) represent a balance of expertise in ocean, coastal, freshwater, and terrestrial resource conservation.”; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) **TERMS.**—Each Director (other than a Director described in paragraph (1)) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.”; and

(B) in subsection (g)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “(A) Officers and employees may not be appointed until the Foundation has sufficient funds to pay them for their service. Officers” and inserting the following:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Officers”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Foundation shall have an Executive Director who shall be—

“(i) appointed by, and serve at the direction of, the Board as the chief executive officer of the Foundation; and

“(ii) knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to fish and wildlife conservation.”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 4(a)(1)(B) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4403(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “Secretary of the Board” and inserting “Executive Director of the Board”.

(b) **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF FOUNDATION.**—Section 4 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3703) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “(c) **POWERS.**—To carry out its purposes under” and inserting the following:

“(c) **POWERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To carry out the purposes described in”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (11) as subparagraphs (A) through (K), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(C) in subparagraph (D) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “that are insured by an agency or instrumentality of the United States” and inserting “at 1 or more financial institutions that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Securities Investment Protection Corporation”;

(D) in subparagraph (E) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “paragraph (3) or (4)” and inserting “subparagraph (C) or (D)”;

(E) in subparagraph (J) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “and” at the end;

(F) by striking subparagraph (K) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)) and inserting the following:

“(K) to receive and administer restitution and community service payments, amounts for mitigation of impacts to natural resources, and other amounts arising from legal, regulatory, or administrative proceedings, subject to the condition that the amounts are received or administered for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources; and

“(L) to do acts necessary to carry out the purposes of the Foundation.”; and

(G) by striking the undesignated matter at the end and inserting the following:

“(2) **TREATMENT OF REAL PROPERTY.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of this Act, an interest in real property shall be treated as including easements or other rights for preservation, conservation, protection, or enhancement by and for the public of natural, scenic, historic, scientific, educational, inspirational, or recreational resources.

“(B) **ENCUMBERED REAL PROPERTY.**—A gift, devise, or bequest may be accepted by the Founda-

tion even though the gift, devise, or bequest is encumbered, restricted, or subject to beneficial interests of private persons if any current or future interest in the gift, devise, or bequest is for the benefit of the Foundation.

“(3) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—The acceptance and administration of amounts by the Foundation under paragraph (1)(K) does not alter, supersede, or limit any regulatory or statutory requirement associated with those amounts.”;

(2) by striking subsections (f) and (g); and

(3) by redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 10 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3709) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025—

“(A) \$15,000,000 to the Secretary of the Interior;

“(B) \$5,000,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture; and

“(C) \$5,000,000 to the Secretary of Commerce.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

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

“(1) **AMOUNTS FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to the amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities are authorized to provide funds to the Foundation through Federal financial assistance grants and cooperative agreements, subject to the condition that the amounts are used for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources in accordance with this Act.

“(B) **ADVANCES.**—Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities may advance amounts described in subparagraph (A) to the Foundation in a lump sum without regard to when the expenses for which the amounts are used are incurred.

“(C) **MANAGEMENT FEES.**—The Foundation may assess and collect fees for the management of amounts received under this paragraph.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by striking “FUNDS” and inserting “AMOUNTS”;

(ii) by striking “shall be used” and inserting “may be used”; and

(iii) by striking “and State and local government agencies” and inserting “, State and local government agencies, and other entities”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **ADMINISTRATION OF AMOUNTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In entering into contracts, agreements, or other partnerships pursuant to this Act, a Federal department, agency, or instrumentality shall have discretion to waive any competitive process applicable to the department, agency, or instrumentality for entering into contracts, agreements, or partnerships with the Foundation if the purpose of the waiver is—

“(i) to address an environmental emergency resulting from a natural or other disaster; or

“(ii) as determined by the head of the applicable Federal department, agency, or instrumentality, to reduce administrative expenses and expedite the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources.

“(B) **REPORTS.**—The Foundation shall include in the annual report submitted under section 7(b) a description of any use of the authority under subparagraph (A) by a Federal department, agency, or instrumentality in that fiscal year.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **USE OF GIFTS, DEVISES, OR BEQUESTS OF MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY.**—Any gifts, devises, or bequests of amounts or other property, or any other amounts or other property, transferred to, deposited with, or otherwise in the

possession of the Foundation pursuant to this Act, may be made available by the Foundation to Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities and may be accepted and expended (or the disposition of the amounts or property directed), without further appropriation, by those Federal departments, agencies, or instrumentalities, subject to the condition that the amounts or property be used for purposes that further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants, and other natural resources.”.

(d) **LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.**—Section 11 of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3710) is amended by inserting “exclusive” before “authority”.

SEC. 108. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF SPORT FISHING EQUIPMENT UNDER TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT.

Section 3(2)(B) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2602(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (vi) by striking the period at the end and inserting “, and”; and

(3) by inserting after clause (vi) the following: “(vii) any sport fishing equipment (as such term is defined in section 4162(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) the sale of which is subject to the tax imposed by section 4161(a) of such Code (determined without regard to any exemptions from such tax provided by section 4162 or 4221 or any other provision of such Code), and sport fishing equipment components.”.

SEC. 109. REAUTHORIZATION OF CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM.

Section 117 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1267) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

“(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) for fiscal year 2020, \$90,000,000;

“(2) for fiscal year 2021, \$90,500,000;

“(3) for fiscal year 2022, \$91,000,000;

“(4) for fiscal year 2023, \$91,500,000; and

“(5) for fiscal year 2024, \$92,000,000.”.

SEC. 110. REAUTHORIZATION OF CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE ACT OF 1998.

Section 502(c) of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-312; 112 Stat. 2963; 129 Stat. 2579; 132 Stat. 691) is amended by striking “2019” and inserting “2025”.

SEC. 111. CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED INVESTMENTS FOR LANDSCAPE DEFENSE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CHESAPEAKE BAY AGREEMENTS.**—The term “Chesapeake Bay agreements” means the formal, voluntary agreements—

(A) executed to achieve the goal of restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed ecosystem and the living resources of the Chesapeake Bay watershed ecosystem; and

(B) signed by the Chesapeake Executive Council.

(2) **CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM.**—The term “Chesapeake Bay program” means the program directed by the Chesapeake Executive Council in accordance with the Chesapeake Bay agreements.

(3) **CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED.**—The term “Chesapeake Bay watershed” means the region that covers—

(A) the Chesapeake Bay;

(B) the portions of the States of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia that drain into the Chesapeake Bay; and

(C) the District of Columbia.

(4) **CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**—The term “Chesapeake Executive Council” means the council comprised of—

(A) the Governors of each of the States of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia;

(B) the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

(C) the Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission; and

(D) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(5) **CHESAPEAKE WILD PROGRAM.**—The term “Chesapeake WILD program” means the non-regulatory program established by the Secretary under subsection (b)(1).

(6) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—The term “grant program” means the Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense grant program established by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1).

(7) **RESTORATION AND PROTECTION ACTIVITY.**—The term “restoration and protection activity” means an activity carried out for the conservation, stewardship, and enhancement of habitat for fish and wildlife—

(A) to preserve and improve ecosystems and ecological processes on which the fish and wildlife depend; and

(B) for use and enjoyment by the public.

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) **PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a nonregulatory program, to be known as the “Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense program”.

(2) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Chesapeake WILD program include—

(A) coordinating restoration and protection activities among Federal, State, local, and regional entities and conservation partners throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(B) engaging other agencies and organizations to build a broader range of partner support, capacity, and potential funding for projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(C) carrying out coordinated restoration and protection activities, and providing for technical assistance, throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed—

(i) to sustain and enhance restoration and protection activities;

(ii) to improve and maintain water quality to support fish and wildlife, habitats of fish and wildlife, and drinking water for people;

(iii) to sustain and enhance water management for volume and flood damage mitigation improvements to benefit fish and wildlife habitat;

(iv) to improve opportunities for public access and recreation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed consistent with the ecological needs of fish and wildlife habitat;

(v) to facilitate strategic planning to maximize the resilience of natural ecosystems and habitats under changing watershed conditions;

(vi) to engage the public through outreach, education, and citizen involvement to increase capacity and support for coordinated restoration and protection activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(vii) to sustain and enhance vulnerable communities and fish and wildlife habitat;

(viii) to conserve and restore fish, wildlife, and plant corridors; and

(ix) to increase scientific capacity to support the planning, monitoring, and research activities necessary to carry out coordinated restoration and protection activities.

(3) **DUTIES.**—In carrying out the Chesapeake WILD program, the Secretary shall—

(A) draw on existing plans for the Chesapeake Bay watershed, or portions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including the Chesapeake Bay agreements, and work in consultation with applicable management entities, including Chesapeake Bay program partners, such as the Federal Government, State and local governments, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and other regional organizations, as appropriate, to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and protection activities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed;

(B) adopt a Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide strategy that—

(i) supports the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and protection ac-

tivities developed in accordance with subparagraph (A); and

(ii) targets cost-effective projects with measurable results; and

(C) establish the grant program in accordance with subsection (c).

(4) **COORDINATION.**—In establishing the Chesapeake WILD program, the Secretary shall consult, as appropriate, with—

(A) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

(i) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(ii) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(iii) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(iv) the Chief of Engineers;

(v) the Director of the United States Geological Survey;

(vi) the Secretary of Transportation;

(vii) the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(viii) the head of any other applicable agency;

(B) the Governors of each of the States of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

(C) fish and wildlife joint venture partnerships; and

(D) other public agencies and organizations with authority for the planning and implementation of conservation strategies in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

(c) **GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **CHESAPEAKE WILD GRANT PROGRAM.**—To the extent that funds are made available to carry out this subsection, the Secretary shall establish and carry out, as part of the Chesapeake WILD program, a voluntary grant and technical assistance program, to be known as the “Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense grant program”, to provide competitive matching grants of varying amounts and technical assistance to eligible entities described in paragraph (2) to carry out activities described in subsection (b)(2).

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—The following entities are eligible to receive a grant and technical assistance under the grant program:

(A) A State.

(B) The District of Columbia.

(C) A unit of local government.

(D) A nonprofit organization.

(E) An institution of higher education.

(F) Any other entity that the Secretary determines to be appropriate in accordance with the criteria established under paragraph (3).

(3) **CRITERIA.**—The Secretary, in consultation with officials and entities described in subsection (b)(4), shall establish criteria for the grant program to help ensure that activities funded under this subsection—

(A) accomplish 1 or more of the purposes described in subsection (b)(2); and

(B) advance the implementation of priority actions or needs identified in the Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide strategy adopted under subsection (b)(3)(B).

(4) **COST SHARING.**—

(A) **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SHARE.**—The Department of the Interior share of the cost of a project funded under the grant program shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) **NON-DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SHARE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The non-Department of the Interior share of the cost of a project funded under the grant program may be provided in cash or in the form of an in-kind contribution of services or materials.

(ii) **OTHER FEDERAL FUNDING.**—Non-Department of the Interior Federal funds may be used for not more than 25 percent of the total cost of a project funded under the grant program.

(5) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary may enter into an agreement to manage the grant program with an organization that offers grant management services.

(d) **REPORTING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the implementation of this section, including a description of each project that has received funding under this section.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(2) **SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**—Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall supplement, and not supplant, funding for other activities conducted by the Secretary in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

SEC. 112. GREAT LAKES MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(2) **GREAT LAKES BASIN.**—The term “Great Lakes Basin” means the air, land, water, and living organisms in the United States within the drainage basin of the Saint Lawrence River at and upstream from the point at which such river and the Great Lakes become the international boundary between Canada and the United States.

(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Great Lakes support a diverse ecosystem, on which the vibrant and economically valuable Great Lakes fisheries depend.

(2) To continue successful fisheries management and coordination, as has occurred since signing of the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between the United States and Canada on September 10, 1954, management of the ecosystem and its fisheries require sound, reliable science, and the use of modern scientific technologies.

(3) Fisheries research is necessary to support multi-jurisdictional fishery management decisions and actions regarding recreational and sport fishing, commercial fisheries, tribal harvest, allocation decisions, and fish stocking activities.

(4) President Richard Nixon submitted, and Congress approved, Reorganization Plan No. 4 (84 Stat. 2090), conferring science activities and management of marine fisheries to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(5) Reorganization Plan No. 4 expressly excluded fishery research activities within the Great Lakes from the transfer, retaining management and scientific research duties within the already-established jurisdictions under the 1954 Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, including those of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and the Department of the Interior.

(c) **MONITORING, ASSESSMENT, SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director may conduct monitoring, assessment, science, and research, in support of the binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin.

(2) **SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.**—The Director shall, under paragraph (1)—

(A) execute a comprehensive, multi-lake, freshwater fisheries science program;

(B) coordinate with and work cooperatively with regional, State, tribal, and local governments; and

(C) consult with other interested entities groups, including academia and relevant Canadian agencies.

(3) **INCLUDED RESEARCH.**—To properly serve the needs of fisheries managers, monitoring, assessment, science, and research under this section may include—

(A) deepwater ecosystem sciences;

(B) biological and food-web components;

(C) fish movement and behavior investigations;

(D) fish population structures;

(E) fish habitat investigations;

(F) invasive species science;

(G) use of existing, new, and experimental biological assessment tools, equipment, vessels, other scientific instrumentation and laboratory capabilities necessary to support fishery management decisions; and

(H) studies to assess impacts on Great Lakes Fishery resources.

(4) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—Nothing in this section is intended or shall be construed to impede, supersede, or alter the authority of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, States, and Indian tribes under the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between the United States of America and Canada on September 10, 1954, and the Great Lakes Fishery Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 931 et seq.).

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—For each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, there is authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000 to carry out this section.

TITLE II—MODERNIZING THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON FUND FOR TOMORROW'S NEEDS

SEC. 201. PURPOSE.

The first section of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669) is amended by adding at the end the following: “One of the purposes of this Act is to provide financial and technical assistance to the States for the promotion of hunting and recreational shooting.”.

SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (9) as paragraphs (4) through (11), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) for the purposes of determining the number of paid hunting-license holders in a State, the term ‘fiscal year’ means the fiscal year or license year of the State;

“(3) the term ‘hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment’ means any activity or project to recruit or retain hunters and recreational shooters, including by—

“(A) outreach and communications as a means—

“(i) to improve communications with hunters, recreational shooters, and the general public with respect to hunting and recreational shooting opportunities;

“(ii) to reduce barriers to participation in these activities;

“(iii) to advance the adoption of sound hunting and recreational shooting practices;

“(iv) to promote conservation and the responsible use of the wildlife resources of the United States; and

“(v) to further safety in hunting and recreational shooting;

“(B) providing education, mentoring, and field demonstrations;

“(C) enhancing access for hunting and recreational shooting, including through range construction; and

“(D) providing education to the public about the role of hunting and recreational shooting in funding wildlife conservation.”.

SEC. 203. APPORTIONMENT OF AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.

(a) **APPORTIONMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES.**—The first subsection (c) of section 4 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c) is amended—

(1) by inserting “APPORTIONMENT OF REVENUES FROM PISTOLS, REVOLVERS, BOWS, AND ARROWS.” after the enumerator;

(2) by striking “One-half” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), ½”;

(3) by striking “: Provided, That” and inserting a period;

(4) by striking “each State shall be apportioned not more than 3 per centum and not less

than 1 per centum of such revenues” and inserting the following:

“(2) **CONDITION.**—The amount apportioned to each State under paragraph (1) shall be not greater than 3 percent and not less than 1 percent of the revenues described in that paragraph”;

(5) in paragraph (2) (as so designated), by striking “one-sixth of 1 per centum of such revenues” and inserting “¼ of 1 percent of those revenues”;

(6) by striking “For the purpose” and inserting the following:

“(3) **POPULATION DETERMINATION.**—For the purpose”;

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **USE OF FUNDS.**—In addition to other uses authorized under this Act, amounts apportioned under this subsection may be used for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**—Section 4 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subsection (c) and subsection (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), in paragraph (3), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “subsection (d)”.

SEC. 204. EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.

Section 8 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669g) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the third sentence, by striking “and public relations”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “, as a part of such program”.

SEC. 205. FIREARM AND BOW HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAM GRANTS.

Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h-1(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) the enhancement of hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment; and”.

SEC. 206. MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 11 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “Not more than” and inserting the following:

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not more than”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) **AVAILABILITY FOR HUNTER AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTER GRANTS.**—Not more than \$5,000,000 of the revenues covered into the fund from any tax imposed under section 4161(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for a fiscal year shall be available to the Secretary exclusively for making hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sport recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities.”;

(2) in subsection (b)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “International”;

(3) in subsection (c)(2)(A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “International”; and

(B) in clause (i), by inserting “or to recreational shooting activities” after “wildlife”; and

(4) in subsection (d), by inserting “or to recreational shooting activities” after “wildlife”.

(b) **STUDY.**—Not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall—

(1) review and evaluate the effects of the funds made available under subparagraph (B)

of section 11(a)(1) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h-2(a)(1)) on funds available for wildlife conservation; and

(2) submit a report describing the results of the review and evaluation under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

TITLE III—NATIONAL FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

SEC. 301. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested persons to promote fish conservation—

(1) to achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that lead to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities by—

(A) improving ecological conditions;

(B) restoring natural processes; or

(C) preventing the decline of intact and healthy systems;

(2) to establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by Fish Habitat Partnerships;

(3) to broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by—

(A) increasing fishing opportunities;

(B) fostering the participation of local communities, especially young people in local communities, in conservation activities; and

(C) raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitat play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities;

(4) to fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and the associated database of the National Fish Habitat Assessment—

(A) to empower strategic conservation actions supported by broadly available scientific information; and

(B) to integrate socioeconomic data in the analysis to improve the lives of humans in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals; and

(5) to communicate to the public and conservation partners—

(A) the conservation outcomes produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships; and

(B) new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat.

SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the National Fish Habitat Board established by section 303.

(3) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Water of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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

(6) **NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator” means the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(7) **PARTNERSHIP.**—The term “Partnership” means an entity designated by Congress as a Fish Habitat Partnership under section 304.

(8) **REAL PROPERTY INTEREST.**—The term “real property interest” means an ownership interest in—

(A) land; or

(B) water (including water rights).

(9) **MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSIONS.**—The term “Marine Fisheries Commissions” means—

(A) the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission;

(B) the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and

(C) the Pacific States Marine Commission.

(10) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(11) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

(12) **STATE AGENCY.**—The term “State agency” means—

(A) the fish and wildlife agency of a State; and

(B) any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources of the State or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State.

SEC. 303. NATIONAL FISH HABITAT BOARD.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **FISH HABITAT BOARD.**—There is established a board, to be known as the “National Fish Habitat Board”, whose duties are—

(A) to promote, oversee, and coordinate the implementation of this title;

(B) to establish national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation;

(C) to recommend to Congress entities for designation as Partnerships; and

(D) to review and make recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Board shall be composed of 26 members, of whom—

(A) one shall be a representative of the Department of the Interior;

(B) one shall be a representative of the United States Geological Survey;

(C) one shall be a representative of the Department of Commerce;

(D) one shall be a representative of the Department of Agriculture;

(E) one shall be a representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies;

(F) four shall be representatives of State agencies, one of whom shall be nominated by a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies from each of the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and Western regions of the United States;

(G) two shall be representatives of either—

(i) Indian Tribes in the State of Alaska; or

(ii) Indian Tribes in States other than the State of Alaska;

(H) one shall be a representative of either—

(i) the Regional Fishery Management Councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852); or

(ii) a representative of the Marine Fisheries Commissions;

(I) one shall be a representative of the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council;

(J) seven shall be representatives selected from at least one from each of the following:

(i) the recreational sportfishing industry;

(ii) the commercial fishing industry;

(iii) marine recreational anglers;

(iv) freshwater recreational anglers;

(v) habitat conservation organizations; and

(vi) science-based fishery organizations;

(K) one shall be a representative of a national private landowner organization;

(L) one shall be a representative of an agricultural production organization;

(M) one shall be a representative of local government interests involved in fish habitat restoration;

(N) two shall be representatives from different sectors of corporate industries, which may include—

(i) natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction;

(ii) natural resource user industries; and

(iii) industries with an interest in fish and fish habitat conservation; and

(O) one shall be a leadership private sector or landowner representative of an active partnership.

(3) **COMPENSATION.**—A member of the Board shall serve without compensation.

(4) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Board may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Board.

(b) **APPOINTMENT AND TERMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (F) through (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(2) **INITIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The initial Board shall consist of representatives as described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of subsection (a)(2).

(B) **REMAINING MEMBERS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the representatives of the initial Board under subparagraph (A) shall appoint the remaining members of the Board described in subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subsection (a)(2).

(C) **TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.**—Not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Board a recommendation of not fewer than three Tribal representatives, from which the Board shall appoint one representative pursuant to subparagraph (G) of subsection (a)(2).

(3) **STAGGERED TERMS.**—Of the members described in subsection (a)(2)(J) initially appointed to the Board—

(A) two shall be appointed for a term of 1 year;

(B) two shall be appointed for a term of 2 years; and

(C) three shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

(4) **VACANCIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (H), (I), (J), (K), (L), (M), (N), or (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the Board.

(B) **TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.**—Following a vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (G) of subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall recommend to the Board a list of not fewer than three Tribal representatives, from which the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy.

(5) **CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.**—An individual whose term of service as a member of the Board expires may continue to serve on the Board until a successor is appointed.

(6) **REMOVAL.**—If a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subsection (a)(2) misses three consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings, the members of the Board may—

(A) vote to remove that member; and

(B) appoint another individual in accordance with paragraph (4).

(c) **CHAIRPERSON.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies appointed under subsection (a)(2)(E) shall serve as Chairperson of the Board.

(2) **TERM.**—The Chairperson of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet—

(A) at the call of the Chairperson; but

(B) not less frequently than twice each calendar year.

(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public.

(e) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish procedures to carry out the business of the Board, including—

(A) a requirement that a quorum of the members of the Board be present to transact business;

(B) a requirement that no recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of two-thirds of all members;

(C) procedures for establishing national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation for the purposes of this title;

(D) procedures for designating Partnerships under section 304; and

(E) procedures for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 304. FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO RECOMMEND.—The Board may recommend to Congress the designation of Fish Habitat Partnerships in accordance with this section.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a Partnership shall be—

(1) to work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish populations and fish habitats;

(2) to engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation;

(3) to involve diverse groups of public and private partners;

(4) to develop collaboratively a strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound;

(5) to leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships;

(6) to use adaptive management principles, including evaluation of project success and functionality;

(7) to develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures; and

(8) to implement local and regional priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

(c) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION.—An entity seeking to be designated by Congress as a Partnership shall—

(1) submit to the Board an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Board may reasonably require; and

(2) demonstrate to the Board that the entity has—

(A) a focus on promoting the health of important fish and fish habitats;

(B) an ability to coordinate the implementation of priority projects that support the goals and national priorities set by the Board that are within the Partnership boundary;

(C) a self-governance structure that supports the implementation of strategic priorities for fish habitat;

(D) the ability to develop local and regional relationships with a broad range of entities to further strategic priorities for fish and fish habitat;

(E) a strategic plan that details required investments for fish habitat conservation that addresses the strategic fish habitat priorities of the Partnership and supports and meets the strategic priorities of the Board;

(F) the ability to develop and implement fish habitat conservation projects that address strategic priorities of the Partnership and the Board; and

(G) the ability to develop fish habitat conservation priorities based on sound science and data, the ability to measure the effectiveness of fish habitat projects of the Partnership, and a clear plan as to how Partnership science and data components will be integrated with the overall Board science and data effort.

(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS.—The Board may recommend to Congress for designation an application for a Partnership submitted under subsection (c) if the Board determines that the applicant—

(1) meets the criteria described in subsection (c)(2);

(2) identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners, which may include State or local governments, nonprofit entities, Indian Tribes, and private individuals, that are focused on conservation of fish habitats to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private land;

(3) is organized to promote the health of important fish species and important fish habitats, including reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, coral reefs, and estuaries;

(4) identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the Partnership area in the form of geographical focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decision making;

(5) is able to address issues and priorities on a nationally significant scale;

(6) includes a governance structure that—

(A) reflects the range of all partners; and

(B) promotes joint strategic planning and decision making by the applicant;

(7) demonstrates completion of, or significant progress toward the development of, a strategic plan to address declines in fish populations, rather than simply treating symptoms, in accordance with the goals and national priorities established by the Board; and

(8) promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1 of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act and each February 1 thereafter, the Board shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report, to be entitled “Report to Congress on Future Fish Habitat Partnerships and Modifications”, that—

(A) identifies each entity that—

(i) meets the requirements described in subsection (d); and

(ii) the Board recommends to Congress for designation as a Partnership;

(B) describes any proposed modifications to a Partnership previously designated by Congress under subsection (f);

(C) with respect to each entity recommended for designation as a Partnership, describes, to the maximum extent practicable—

(i) the purpose of the recommended Partnership; and

(ii) how the recommended Partnership fulfills the requirements described in subsection (d).

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY; NOTIFICATION.—The Board shall—

(A) make the report publicly available, including on the internet; and

(B) provide to the appropriate congressional committees and the State agency of any State included in a recommended Partnership area written notification of the public availability of the report.

(f) DESIGNATION OR MODIFICATION OF PARTNERSHIP.—Congress shall have the exclusive authority to designate or modify a Partnership.

(g) EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) DESIGNATION REVIEW.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, any partnership receiving Federal funds as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be sub-

ject to a designation review by Congress in which Congress shall have the opportunity to designate the partnership under subsection (f).

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—A partnership referred to in paragraph (1) that Congress does not designate as described in that paragraph shall be ineligible to receive Federal funds under this title.

SEC. 305. FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

(a) SUBMISSION TO BOARD.—Not later than March 31 of each year, each Partnership shall submit to the Board a list of priority fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Partnership for annual funding under this title.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS BY BOARD.—Not later than July 1 of each year, the Board shall submit to the Secretary a priority list of fish habitat conservation projects that includes a description, including estimated costs, of each project that the Board recommends that the Secretary approve and fund under this title for the following fiscal year.

(c) CRITERIA FOR PROJECT SELECTION.—The Board shall select each fish habitat conservation project recommended to the Secretary under subsection (b) after taking into consideration, at a minimum, the following information:

(1) A recommendation of the Partnership that is, or will be, participating actively in implementing the fish habitat conservation project.

(2) The capabilities and experience of project proponents to implement successfully the proposed project.

(3) The extent to which the fish habitat conservation project—

(A) fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the Partnership and is consistent with the purpose of this title;

(B) addresses the national priorities established by the Board;

(C) is supported by the findings of the habitat assessment of the Partnership or the Board, and aligns or is compatible with other conservation plans;

(D) identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures and criteria that are compatible with national measures;

(E) provides a well-defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes;

(F) leverages other funds to implement the project;

(G) addresses the causes and processes behind the decline of fish or fish habitats; and

(H) includes an outreach or education component that includes the local or regional community.

(4) The availability of sufficient non-Federal funds to match Federal contributions for the fish habitat conservation project, as required by subsection (e).

(5) The extent to which the fish habitat conservation project—

(A) will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public;

(B) will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among Federal, State, and local governments, Indian Tribes, and private entities;

(C) increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities;

(D) advances the conservation of fish and wildlife species that have been identified by a State agency as species of greatest conservation need;

(E) where appropriate, advances the conservation of fish and fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) and other relevant Federal law and State wildlife action plans; and

(F) promotes strong and healthy fish habitats so that desired biological communities are able to persist and adapt.

(6) The substantiality of the character and design of the fish habitat conservation project.

(d) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION.—No fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless the fish habitat conservation project includes an evaluation plan designed using applicable Board guidance—

(A) to appropriately assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities carried out using the assistance;

(B) to reflect appropriate changes to the fish habitat conservation project if the assessment substantiates that the fish habitat conservation project objectives are not being met;

(C) to identify improvements to existing fish populations, recreational fishing opportunities, and the overall economic benefits for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project; and

(D) to require the submission to the Board of a report describing the findings of the assessment.

(2) ACQUISITION AUTHORITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State, local government, or other non-Federal entity is eligible to receive funds for the acquisition of real property from willing sellers under this title if the acquisition ensures—

(i) public access for fish and wildlife-dependent recreation; or

(ii) a scientifically based, direct enhancement to the health of fish and fish populations, as determined by the Board.

(B) STATE AGENCY APPROVAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—All real property interest acquisition projects funded under this title must be approved by the State agency in the State in which the project is occurring.

(ii) PROHIBITION.—The Board may not recommend, and the Secretary may not provide any funding for, any real property interest acquisition that has not been approved by the State agency.

(C) ASSESSMENT OF OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The Board may not recommend, and the Secretary may not provide any funding under this title for, any real property interest acquisition unless the Partnership that recommended the project has conducted a project assessment, submitted with the funding request and approved by the Board, to demonstrate all other Federal, State, and local authorities for the acquisition of real property have been exhausted.

(D) RESTRICTIONS.—A real property interest may not be acquired pursuant to a fish habitat conservation project by a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity conducted with funds provided under this title, unless—

(i) the owner of the real property authorizes the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity to acquire the real property; and

(ii) the Secretary and the Board determine that the State, local government, or other non-Federal entity would benefit from undertaking the management of the real property being acquired because that is in accordance with the goals of a Partnership.

(e) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (4), no fish habitat conservation project may be recommended by the Board under subsection (b) or provided financial assistance under this title unless at least 50 percent of the cost of the fish habitat conservation project will be funded with non-Federal funds.

(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Such non-Federal share of the cost of a fish habitat conservation project—

(A) may not be derived from another Federal grant program; and

(B) may include in-kind contributions and cash.

(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIAN TRIBES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or any other provision of law, any funds made available to an Indian Tribe pursuant to this title may be consid-

ered to be non-Federal funds for the purpose of paragraph (1).

(4) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce with respect to marine or estuarine projects, may waive the application of paragraph (2)(A) with respect to a State or an Indian Tribe, or otherwise reduce the portion of the non-Federal share of the cost of an activity required to be paid by a State or an Indian Tribe under paragraph (1), if the Secretary determines that the State or Indian Tribe does not have sufficient funds not derived from another Federal grant program to pay such non-Federal share, or portion of the non-Federal share, without the use of loans.

(f) APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommended priority list of fish habitat conservation projects under subsection (b), and subject to subsection (d) and based, to the maximum extent practicable, on the criteria described in subsection (c), the Secretary, after consulting with the Secretary of Commerce on marine or estuarine projects, shall approve or reject any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board.

(2) FUNDING.—If the Secretary approves a fish habitat conservation project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall use amounts made available to carry out this title to provide funds to carry out the fish habitat conservation project.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary rejects under paragraph (1) any fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board, not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the recommendation, the Secretary shall provide to the Board, the appropriate Partnership, and the appropriate congressional committees a written statement of the reasons that the Secretary rejected the fish habitat conservation project.

SEC. 306. TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator, and the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the Forest Service and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, may provide scientific and technical assistance to Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—Scientific and technical assistance provided under subsection (a) may include—

(1) providing technical and scientific assistance to States, Indian Tribes, regions, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations in the development and implementation of Partnerships;

(2) providing technical and scientific assistance to Partnerships for habitat assessment, strategic planning, and prioritization;

(3) supporting the development and implementation of fish habitat conservation projects that are identified as high priorities by Partnerships and the Board;

(4) supporting and providing recommendations regarding the development of science-based monitoring and assessment approaches for implementation through Partnerships;

(5) supporting and providing recommendations for a national fish habitat assessment;

(6) ensuring the availability of experts to assist in conducting scientifically based evaluation and reporting of the results of fish habitat conservation projects; and

(7) providing resources to secure State agency scientific and technical assistance to support Partnerships, participants in fish habitat conservation projects, and the Board.

SEC. 307. COORDINATION WITH STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.

The Secretary shall provide a notice to, and cooperate with, the appropriate State agency or Tribal agency, as applicable, of each State and

Indian Tribe within the boundaries of which an activity is planned to be carried out pursuant to this title, including notification, by not later than 30 days before the date on which the activity is implemented.

SEC. 308. INTERAGENCY OPERATIONAL PLAN.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Director, in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies (including, at a minimum, those agencies represented on the Board) shall develop an interagency operational plan that describes—

(1) the functional, operational, technical, scientific, and general staff, administrative, and material needs for the implementation of this title; and

(2) any interagency agreements between or among Federal departments and agencies to address those needs.

SEC. 309. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING.

(a) REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the progress of this title.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an estimate of the number of acres, stream miles, or acre-feet, or other suitable measures of fish habitat, that was maintained or improved by Partnerships under this title during the 5-year period ending on the date of submission of the report;

(B) a description of the public access to fish habitats established or improved under this title during that 5-year period;

(C) a description of the improved opportunities for public recreational fishing achieved under this title; and

(D) an assessment of the status of fish habitat conservation projects carried out with funds provided under this title during that period, disaggregated by year, including—

(i) a description of the fish habitat conservation projects recommended by the Board under section 305(b);

(ii) a description of each fish habitat conservation project approved by the Secretary under section 305(f), in order of priority for funding;

(iii) a justification for—

(I) the approval of each fish habitat conservation project; and

(II) the order of priority for funding of each fish habitat conservation project;

(iv) a justification for any rejection of a fish habitat conservation project recommended by the Board under section 305(b) that was based on a factor other than the criteria described in section 305(c); and

(v) an accounting of expenditures by Federal, State, or local governments, Indian Tribes, or other entities to carry out fish habitat conservation projects under this title.

(b) STATUS AND TRENDS REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2021, and every 5 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a status of all Partnerships designated under this title;

(2) a description of the status of fish habitats in the United States as identified by designated Partnerships; and

(3) enhancements or reductions in public access as a result of—

(A) the activities of the Partnerships; or

(B) any other activities carried out pursuant to this title.

SEC. 310. EFFECT OF THIS TITLE.

(a) WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in this title—

(1) establishes any express or implied reserved water right in the United States for any purpose;

(2) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water; or

(4) affects any Federal or State law in existence on the date of enactment of the Act regarding water quality or water quantity.

(b) **AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE WATER RIGHTS OR RIGHTS TO PROPERTY.**—Only a State, local government, or other non-Federal entity may acquire, under State law, water rights or rights to property with funds made available through section 312.

(c) **STATE AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this title—
(1) affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under the laws and regulations of the State; or

(2) authorizes the Secretary to control or regulate within a State the fishing or hunting of fish and wildlife.

(d) **EFFECT ON INDIAN TRIBES.**—Nothing in this title abrogates, abridges, affects, modifies, supersedes, or alters any right of an Indian Tribe recognized by treaty or any other means, including—

(1) an agreement between the Indian Tribe and the United States;

(2) Federal law (including regulations);

(3) an Executive order; or

(4) a judicial decree.

(e) **ADJUDICATION OF WATER RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this title diminishes or affects the ability of the Secretary to join an adjudication of rights to the use of water pursuant to subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 208 of the Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, and The Judiciary Appropriation Act, 1953 (43 U.S.C. 666).

(f) **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this title affects the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibility of the Department of Commerce to manage, control, or regulate fish or fish habitats under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

(g) **EFFECT ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.**—

(1) **PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.**—Nothing in this title permits the use of funds made available to carry out this title to acquire real property or a real property interest without the written consent of each owner of the real property or real property interest, respectively.

(2) **MITIGATION.**—Nothing in this title authorizes the use of funds made available to carry out this title for fish and wildlife mitigation purposes under—

(A) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(B) the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.);

(C) the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662; 100 Stat. 4082); or

(D) any other Federal law or court settlement.

(3) **CLEAN WATER ACT.**—Nothing in this title affects any provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), including any definition in that Act.

SEC. 311. NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to—

(1) the Board; or

(2) any Partnership.

SEC. 312. FUNDING.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

(1) **FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$7,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to provide funds for fish habitat conservation projects approved under section 305(f), of which 5 percent is authorized only for projects carried out by Indian Tribes.

(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING EXPENSES.**—There is authorized to be appropriated

to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount appropriated for the applicable fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) for administrative and planning expenses under this title; and

(B) to carry out section 309.

(3) **TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to carry out, and provide technical and scientific assistance under, section 306—

(A) \$400,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(B) \$400,000 to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator for use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) \$400,000 to the Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for use by the Environmental Protection Agency;

(D) \$400,000 to the Secretary for use by the United States Geological Survey; and

(E) \$400,000 to the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, for use by the Forest Service.

(b) **AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS.**—The Secretary may—

(1) on the recommendation of the Board, and notwithstanding sections 6304 and 6305 of title 31, United States Code, and the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 106-107), enter into a grant agreement, cooperative agreement, or contract with a Partnership or other entity to provide funds authorized by this title for a fish habitat conservation project or restoration or enhancement project;

(2) apply for, accept, and, subject to the availability of appropriations, use a grant from any individual or entity to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(3) subject to the availability of appropriations, make funds authorized by this Act available to any Federal department or agency for use by that department or agency to provide grants for any fish habitat protection project, restoration project, or enhancement project that the Secretary determines to be consistent with this title.

(c) **DONATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may—

(A) enter into an agreement with any organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code to solicit private donations to carry out the purposes of this title; and

(B) accept donations of funds, property, and services to carry out the purposes of this title.

(2) **TREATMENT.**—A donation accepted under this title—

(A) shall be considered to be a gift or bequest to, or otherwise for the use of, the United States; and

(B) may be—

(i) used directly by the Secretary; or

(ii) provided to another Federal department or agency through an interagency agreement.

SEC. 313. PROHIBITION AGAINST IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATORY AUTHORITY BY FEDERAL AGENCIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS.

Any Partnership designated under this title—

(1) shall be for the sole purpose of promoting fish conservation; and

(2) shall not be used to implement any regulatory authority of any Federal agency.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 401. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) voluntary conservation agreements benefit species and the habitats on which the species rely;

(2) States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, landowners, and other stakeholders

should be encouraged to participate in voluntary conservation agreements; and

(3) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, should consider the enrollment in, and performance of, conservation agreements and investment in, and implementation of, general conservation activities by States, Indian Tribes, units of local government, landowners, and other stakeholders in making determinations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SEC. 402. STUDY TO REVIEW CONSERVATION FACTORS.

(a) **DEFINITION OF SECRETARIES.**—In this section, the term “Secretaries” means—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(2) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service; and

(3) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) **STUDY.**—To assess factors affecting successful conservation activities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Secretaries shall carry out a study—

(1) to review any factors that threaten or endanger a species for which a listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) would not contribute to the conservation of the species;

(2) to review any barriers to—

(A) the delivery of Federal, State, local, or private funds for such conservation activities, including statutory or regulatory impediments, staffing needs, and other relevant considerations; or

(B) the implementation of conservation agreements, plans, or other cooperative agreements, including agreements focused on voluntary activities, multispecies efforts, and other relevant considerations;

(3) to review factors that impact the ability of the Federal Government to successfully implement the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(4) to develop recommendations regarding methods to address barriers identified under paragraph (2), if any;

(5) to review determinations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in which a species is determined to be recovered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, but remains listed under that Act, including—

(A) an explanation of the factors preventing a delisting or downlisting of the species; and

(B) recommendations regarding methods to address the factors described in subparagraph (A); and

(6) to review any determinations under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) in which a species has been identified as needing listing or uplisting under that Act but remains unlisted or listed as a threatened species, respectively, including—

(A) an explanation of the factors preventing a listing or uplisting of the species; and

(B) recommendations regarding methods to address the factors described in subparagraph (A).

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and make publicly available a report describing the results of the study under subsection (b).

SEC. 403. STUDY AND REPORT ON EXPENDITURES.

(a) **REPORTS ON EXPENDITURES.**—

(1) FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—At the determination of the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this section as the “Comptroller General”), to facilitate the preparation of the reports from the Comptroller General under paragraph (2), the head of each Federal department and agency shall submit to the Comptroller General data and other relevant information that describes the amounts expended or disbursed (including through loans, loan guarantees, grants, or any other financing mechanism) by the department or agency as a direct result of any provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) during—

(i) with respect to the first report under paragraph (2), the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(ii) with respect to the second report under paragraph (2), the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Data and other relevant information submitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe, with respect to the applicable amounts—

(i) the programmatic office of the department or agency on behalf of which each amount was expended or disbursed;

(ii) the provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (or regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) pursuant to which each amount was expended or disbursed; and

(iii) the project or activity carried out using each amount, in detail sufficient to reflect the breadth, scope, and purpose of the project or activity.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years and 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(A) the aggregate amount expended or disbursed by all Federal departments and agencies as a direct result of any provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) during—

(i) with respect to the first report, the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(ii) with respect to the second report, the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report;

(B) the provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (or regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) pursuant to which each such amount was expended or disbursed; and

(C) with respect to each relevant department or agency—

(i) the total amount expended or disbursed by the department or agency as described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) the information described in clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (1)(B).

(b) REPORT ON CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—

(1) FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—At the determination of the Comptroller General, to facilitate the preparation of the report under paragraph (2), the head of each Federal department and agency shall submit to the Comptroller General data and other relevant information that describes the conservation activities by the Federal department or agency as a direct result of any provision of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to that Act) during—

(A) with respect to the first report under paragraph (2), the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(B) with respect to the second report under paragraph (2), the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years and 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that—

(A) describes the conservation activities by all Federal departments and agencies for species listed as a threatened species or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as reported under paragraph (1), during—

(i) with respect to the first report, the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report; and

(ii) with respect to the second report, the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of submission of the report;

(B) is organized into categories with respect to whether a recovery plan for a species has been established;

(C) includes conservation outcomes associated with the conservation activities; and

(D) as applicable, describes the conservation activities that required interaction between Federal agencies and between Federal agencies and State and Tribal agencies and units of local government pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SEC. 404. USE OF VALUE OF LAND FOR COST SHARING.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 13 as section 14; and

(2) by inserting after section 12 the following:

“SEC. 13. VALUE OF LAND.

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any institution eligible to receive Federal funds under the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) shall be allowed to use the value of any land owned by the institution as an in-kind match to satisfy any cost sharing requirement under this Act.”.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Barrasso substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 2656), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3051), as amended, was passed.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 698, S. Res. 699, and S. Res. 700.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:45 a.m., Thursday, September 17; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; finally, following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Valderrama nomination under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

WILDFIRES

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, the West is on fire. At this very moment, historic wildfires are raging across our Western States. Communities have been devastated. Homes have been destroyed. Businesses have been turned to rubble. In the wake of these disasters, many families have been left with absolutely nothing.

Nevadans are no strangers to seeing wildfires wreak havoc in our State. Just this year, Nevada has seen over 650 fires. Yet what is happening now is something different. These are some of the largest fires the West has ever seen. Already, in 2020, over 4.7 million acres of land have been burned across

our Nation, and we have already seen billions of dollars in economic losses and damage.

Despite what you might hear from our President, these disasters are not blue State issues. That kind of partisan sentiment is just unconscionable. We must take a nonpartisan approach to saving lives and protecting property from fires that know no partisan affiliation. It doesn't matter that these fires are in the State of California or in the State of Oregon or in the State of Idaho. These disasters are happening in our United States. These fires are impacting our communities, and in this time of crisis, we have a responsibility to really help one another—to help our communities and to help our friends and our neighbors.

People have died in these disasters, and some people are still missing. Over 30,000 courageous men and women are risking their lives to fight these fires and to save those families and save those properties. I am really proud to say that Nevada's firefighters have been deployed to assist in combating many of these disasters. I am so proud of them.

As a result of these fires, the air quality in some of our communities is so poor and so unhealthy that it is exceeding 20-year records. This toxic haze has already impacted air quality in my own State of Nevada, and it is not just in Western States. This harmful smoke is spreading. It has been measured as far away as the east coast—in places like New York City and right here in Washington, DC. These fires put our collective health—all of ours—in jeopardy, especially now, during the pandemic.

As I have said before, these fires impact every single one of us. Do you know why? It is because this is an environmental issue; this is an economic issue; this is a public health issue; and it is absolutely a climate issue.

The science speaks for itself. Climate change and increased temperatures directly correlate to the growing intensity of these wildfires, and the longer we fail to address climate change, the more costly and more dangerous and deadly the impact is going to be for our friends, our neighbors, our States, and our communities.

September is wildfire preparedness month, and make no mistake: We need to get a handle on these disasters. We need to provide resources to our local communities, to our firefighters, and to our land management agencies immediately. This is why I cosponsored my colleague Senator HARRIS' Wildfire Defense Act, which is legislation that would provide FEMA resources so that our local communities can develop wildfire defense plans and allow all of us to respond more effectively.

We also need to address climate change, and we need to be proactive and practical, which is why, earlier this year, I cosponsored Senator CARPER's climate change resolution. This

resolution recognizes that climate change is real, that human activity is the primary cause, and that Congress must take immediate action to address one of the most pressing issues of our time.

We need to act. Lives are on the line, and we need to act now. Nevada, the West, and Americans across the country are counting on all of us. So we need to get to work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

WILDFIRES

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, apocalypse, fire, fueled by wind coming over the top of the Cascade Mountains, turning into a blowtorch that races down the western slopes of those mountains, incinerating the towns in its path—that is what is happening in my home State of Oregon.

Imagine suddenly waking up at 4:30 in the morning to a house filled with smoke. You realize you have to clear the area before the situation gets a lot worse. You and your partner race to pack up some essentials, load them and your pets into the car in your garage, and then you can't get the garage door open because there is no power. The power lines have been taken down by the winds and by the power poles being burned and falling over. So you open the garage door by hand, and just as you are about to lift it, you look out a little window, and you see an inferno engulfing your neighbor's home. So you make a desperate dash in the other direction and out the backdoor—the fire at your heels. You race toward the river at the bottom of the hill, hoping—praying—there will be some kind of safety.

It is a terrifying scenario, but it is not out of some movie. For Larry Tripoli and Fran Howe, of Gates, OR, it was a reality just a few nights ago when the Beachie Creek fire roared through Santiam Canyon, incinerating homes, businesses, and entire neighborhoods. They got to the river, and they waded knee deep in the water as the trees burned around them on both banks.

Fran recalled: "I thought we were going to die."

Fortunately, help arrived late that night, just before 12 midnight. The firefighters and emergency workers risked their lives and safety to come and rescue those who were fleeing the fire. Many folks worked to help their neighbors get noticed even as the fire was descending on the town.

At this moment, all across Oregon, people are facing similarly terrifying experiences as historic wildfires have burned more than a million acres—more than twice those burned in a normal year. They burned in a small period of time—most of them over this past week. There are 10 citizens who have lost their lives, and dozens are missing. We are afraid there will be more bad news to come.

It is hard to imagine. I mean, I have seen the results of a fire near John Day that came down a valley, and there were widely spaced homes in the forest on both sides of the river, and I have seen that those homes were burned. But I have never seen anything like this—neighborhood after neighborhood, the commercial district, the apartment complexes, the mobile home housing parks, completely scorched—every building you can see.

When I toured this last Friday, the only thing I could compare it to were pictures I had seen of Hiroshima after the bomb; cities in Europe that had been firebombed, like Dresden—massive devastation, incinerating everything.

This is what has just happened in my home State. In one town of Phoenix, OR—this is a picture from Phoenix. The mayor estimated that perhaps 1,000 residences had been burned between the mobile homes, the manufactured homes, the apartment complexes, and the standalone houses—several thousand people with nothing to return to.

You know, I met with folks last Friday and Saturday as Senator WYDEN and I started in the north part of the State and went all the way down south. I traveled 600 miles by car. I was driving. I never got out of the smoke. I remember fires where we passed 20 miles through the smoke, 30 miles through the smoke. I drove over 600 miles. I was never out of that smoke.

Parts of the State glowed like the aftereffects of a bomb. This is our State capital with that orange, fire-infused sky behind it in Salem, OR, the result of the Santiam fire that comes down toward the city of Salem.

That smoke doesn't just hover and stay in one place. As the wind starts to blow, it spreads across the country. So here we are. This is the September 15 fire chart. These purple areas—an index of over 500 parts per million—incredibly unhealthy to breathe, and you can see the State of Oregon covered, on through Idaho and Montana, right on across the country—California.

Everyone is dealing with the smoke. I just got off a Zoom call just a little while ago, and the first three people who spoke were talking about how uncomfortable they were because of their asthma or breathing conditions affected by the smoke. The air quality in Portland has ranked as the worst among the world's major cities for the last 5 days in a row, and in smaller towns across the State, it has been far worse.

People saw all kinds of dramatic, powerful scenes of the approaching fires, the approaching bank of clouds. It was a week ago Monday that I decided to drive up to the Columbia Gorge. I didn't get 20 miles from my house, and I saw this wall of smoke. So I got off the freeway and took the old scenic highway up to Crown Point—a lookout point high in the cliffs where you can see way to the east and way to

the west—just to see that. What is going on with this massive cloud? You could see how dramatic the approaching smoke cloud was from these fires.

As we think about these devastating fires, we have to think about them in terms of the individuals who have been so dramatically affected. Some have been injured by the fires; some have been killed by the fires.

So as Senator WYDEN and I proceeded from the northern border to the southern border to visit fire refugees in different centers that have been set up and to visit some coordinated care briefings and then to visit two towns—Phoenix and Talent—that had been incinerated, the most powerful moment was sitting down at a table with individuals along the way.

I took away this collective impression: individuals who had escaped and were just thinking, my goodness, how fortunate I am that I got out with my life; individuals who had escaped, but they didn't know the fate of their family members who may not have escaped. One father lost the grandmother in the family and his son, who died in a car with the family dog in the son's lap, and as he was going to search for his wife, he met a woman on the road. He said, "I am searching for my wife," and she responded, "I am your wife." Because she was so affected by the smoke and burned by the fire, he didn't recognize her.

I met folks who realized that they had escaped but also recognized that every single thing—a lifetime of records, photos, film, financial records, family heirlooms—all of it, everything, gone.

So the issues become even more complicated. Think about the children who were just starting school when these Labor Day fires descended. They lost their laptops; they lost their tablets after being coached on how to attend school electronically. The family has lost, perhaps, their funds, and now they are driving 40, 60 miles to family or to a friend's house. How do they sign up for school? How do they deal with the stress that is on them from what has happened and the remaining stress of the impact on the family and those they are still searching for?

And food—road closures stop the movement of food from getting to them, getting to stores and restaurants and communities. There are food shortages because they can't be resupplied.

Whether it is Breitenbush Hot Springs, one of our State's most beloved resorts, losing half of its buildings or Simple Machine Winery in Talent burning to the ground—this is an adjacent city, Phoenix and Talent. One woman told me: I not only lost everything, I lost my job because the business I work at has burned to the ground as well. This is on top of the pandemic, and this is on top of the economic implosion.

Many of the residences that burned were those that served lower income citizens—the mobile home parks, the

manufactured housing parks where the houses are closer together and the fireproofing of the walls is less than required in stick-built houses. Apartment complexes—I saw this whole field where you could see steel girders going up two stories and crossbeams at the top of the steel and then steel stairs and nothing else. They were almost like a sculpture standing in the middle of the field, and there was one after another, after another in the heart of these apartment complexes. The apartments were completely gone.

I also heard on this trip such appreciation for our local leaders and our first responders—the firefighters, the EMTs, the National Guard unit doing an incredible job of helping to rescue them, an incredible job of doing point defense or a lot more residences would have burned. They were risking their lives trying to get people out before that blowtorch of a fire descended on a town. They were building fire lines and clearing dead brush and trees from around houses, dropping water.

I saw orange splotches as I toured these two towns from when the retardant had been dropped. But then, as the smoke compiled, the planes couldn't fly—not to drop water, not to drop fire retardant.

These families are going to need everything we can possibly do to help them out. They are devastated and rebuilding their lives. Getting their feet on the ground is going to be really hard.

Friends will help, and family will help, and local government will help. But we, too, at the Federal level need to be there to help and make sure these FEMA programs are expeditiously conducted to assist the individuals with the individual assistance and then to assist the communities with the rebuilding—rebuilding of these towns. Local revenues? Those are gone. Property taxes? Those are gone. Revenues from the local businesses, the fees they pay? Those are gone. We are going to have to provide a lot of support.

I applaud the White House for quickly approving Governor Brown's request for an emergency declaration. Our whole legislative delegation was calling and requesting and saying: Pay attention to this; we need it quickly. And we got it. We got it quickly. That emergency declaration is really about food and shelter assistance.

Then we said that we really need the major disaster declaration, and we got that within about a day of its being submitted—again, prompt action by the White House.

Then we applied for a health emergency declaration, and we got that this morning—again, expeditiously.

Those are doors where you have to unlock the door to the resources, and those declarations are the keys that open that door. But now we need the supplies to come through that door to really start this long process of support for individuals and for our communities.

One of the things we encountered was the valuable help of our Oregon State National Guard. Three years ago I worked to start funding a training program for the National Guard so they could help fight these fires, and our Oregon portion of this was the training of 375 National Guard members put into three 125-member teams. It was great that they were trained and ready to go, but we ran into a problem, and that problem was we didn't have enough crew chiefs. The crew chiefs come from outside to conduct the team's work, and you need five or six crew chiefs for every team, for every group of 125. The crew chiefs are all tied up all around the country.

Then the Governor said: We need not only those 375; we need two more teams—another 250. The initial response was, no, the funds aren't available. But I checked and found out there were funds left, and they were approved quite quickly—again, a thank-you to the executive branch for approving them at that point.

We still needed crew chiefs, and I just got word a short period ago that there are crew chiefs now en route to Oregon. We have found some from around the country to go and enable those Oregon National Guard members to be able to be deployed. So that is another step forward.

We can't stop there. We have to look beyond the immediate crisis. We have to help the families rebuild the homes. We have to help the local businesses recover, rebuild.

We have to think about not just the fire damage but the smoke damage. I have introduced the Smoke-Ready Communities Act that would enable communities to prepare safe zones where you have filtered air in key buildings so those who have lung conditions and are affected by the smoke have somewhere safe to get to, to be able to breathe.

I think it is a pretty logical thing for us to do and a small-dollar investment in partnership with communities to create some highly filtered space of air for people with lung challenges.

I have written the Wildfire Smoke Emergency Declaration Act because in the past we thought only of the direct fire impact, but now we are seeing all this smoke that is having such a major impact. In the last major smoke episode, we saw our outdoor activities like the Shakespeare Festival close down. We saw furniture salesmen who couldn't sell the furniture because of smoke damage. We had a massive impact on our wine industry with smoke-tainted grapes. By the way, even though the buyers of those grapes turned them down, it turned out they were pretty good grapes, and the community came together and created an Oregon wine, a unity wine, and it was great wine and people loved it. So those grapes found a home and found a product. They came together to solve a problem. We had trouble with our hazelnuts with the smoke.

So a declaration act and the Smoke-Ready Communities Act but also action to help field workers. Think about the field workers—the agriculture workers working right now harvesting, and they are in that smoke—500 parts per million small particles damaging their lungs. We need to be set up to help the agricultural community. They are truly frontline workers whose health shouldn't be compromised in that manner.

And we need to make our forests more resistant to fires. Now, I know President Trump has said that is the whole key, and why can't Oregon and California get their act together. Well, let me point out that the majority of the forest we are talking about, those are Federal forests. It is Federal forest. It is Federal management that is so missing.

What I proposed in the Wildfire-Resilient Communities Act is that we spend \$1 billion. It should be \$1 billion dollars a year thinning these overgrown second-growth forests. What do you get out of that? You get jobs; you get saw logs for our mills, and you get a forest that is much more resistant to fire.

It isn't just the thinning. Then it is what they call the mowing to reduce the shrubs that have built up, and then it is the prescribed burn that goes back 2 or 3 years later. This is to avoid the pattern of the fire in the past we had which was to burn the shrubbery on the floor which grows back quickly and prevents that over-dense forest. So we should do that. We should pass the Wildfire-Resilient Communities Act, put the funding in, and create permanent authorization for our collaboratives.

What is a collaborative? To those outside the forest world, that probably isn't a familiar term. It is where you bring the environmental community and the timber community together, and they develop what they call a prescription for thinning the forest and mowing it and doing a prescribed burn. By working together and having a plan, they stay out of the courts because court paralysis has been a major obstacle. So let's take that collaborative model. Let's build on the success of the collaborative and stewardship agreements, which are very similar, but it takes resources and here has been the challenge.

Every time we seek the resources to do more on the front end to make the forest more fire-resilient, it is blocked by individuals who say: Hey, let's go back to the 1950s clearcuts. My friends, that doesn't work. When you clearcut and replant, you now create a new forest where the trees are too close together and they are all the same height and they are absolutely primed once again for fire. The thinning, the prescribed burns, the mowing, this has a big impact.

I went to a forest outside of Sisters, OR, where these measures have been used, and there was a fire that had

been bearing down on Sisters, OR. And when it met the section of the forest that had been thinned, it stopped because the fuel wasn't there to propagate itself forward, and because of the thinning, the fire crews could get through the forest to the frontline of the fire. So it worked very effectively that way.

Now there are situations of high winds when the forest fire becomes a blow torch. Nothing is going to stop it. But often fires move at a modest pace, and that is where the thinning and mowing and prescribed burns can make a real difference. So I am hoping we can have partnership in that approach.

Some have said: Well, isn't it the environmental laws that prevent us from undertaking this effort? And the answer is no. We have 2.3 million acres in Oregon that have gone through the environmental process. We could do the thinning, mowing, prescribed burns tomorrow if we had the funds to do it.

So jobs, fire resilience, better timber stands, better ecosystem, saw logs to the mill. That is all the win, win, win, win products of this approach.

Colleagues, I know many of you have come to me and said: What can we do? Well, there are really two things. Help us do forest management in the collaborative style, in the stewardship style—in the thinning, prescribed burn, mowing style. Help us do that, and also let's recognize that this situation in Oregon and California and many, many other States isn't simply a freak occurrence of the winds. It is a situation where the forest is drier than it has ever been before. Drier than a kiln-dried 2 by 4. If you have gone to the hardware store to get kiln-dried 2 by 4s, they have been baked to have all the moisture baked out of them. There is less moisture in the forest during these periods of drought and heat than there is in that kiln-dried 2 by 4. They are ready to burn at a second's notice.

So this is the result of the changing dynamic of climate. The forest season has gotten much longer. It is no longer a June through August affair; it is a March through October affair. In California, it is a year-round calendar affair now. If you track this decade over decade, each one is worse. There is a longer fire season with more intensive fires and more acres burned. So that is a more difficult project.

Our Earth is wrapped by the commons of our air, and that air holds now a lot more carbon dioxide and a lot more methane and traps a lot more heat, and it is affecting everything. In Oregon, it isn't just the fires. It is also our snowpack. Our snowpack, decade after decade, is smaller and smaller. Why? Because it is warmer and warmer.

How does that affect things? Well, do you like to fish? If you like to fish, you know that a warmer, smaller stream is bad for the salmon returning; it is bad for the trout. And if you are a farmer, you know that smaller snowpack means less irrigation water and less

water to recharge the groundwater that you use when you don't have enough irrigation water, when you have to pump it out of the ground. So we have big impacts not just with the timber community with the forest burning but also on our ag community and our fishing community. The three pillars of our rural economy are all being substantially affected.

Offshore, it is a warmer Pacific Ocean, and it is a more acidic Pacific Ocean—30 percent more acidic than before we started burning fossil fuels. And people say: What is the connection? Well, those waves take the carbon dioxide in the air and convert it to carbonic acid. There is a 30-percent increase in acidity that is affecting our shellfish reproduction. Worry about that—that shellfish are having a hard time reproducing.

So this isn't an urban issue versus a rural issue. This is not a red issue versus a blue issue. This is the economy, the pillars of America, in farming, fishing, and forests being profoundly affected.

So let's work together to take this on. Yes, improve our forest management. We have altered the forests dramatically with our replantings that grow up at the same height and are too close together, but we can make those same second-growth forests far more resilient, jobs, and saw logs at the same time.

Let's work together to improve the health of the forest, especially around our urban areas, our small towns.

To my colleagues who say this is a moment when we are seeing not just the fires, we are seeing other impacts around the Nation; we are seeing the intense storms in the Midwest; and we are seeing the tropical storms and hurricanes hitting the gulf and never-before-seen storm surges on the East Coast—so we are all in this together. Let's work together to assist the families so powerfully affected. Let's work together to rebuild the communities. Let's work together to fund forest management in a way it has to be funded as a counterpart to the strategy of forest replanting that we have undertaken.

Let's work together to take on the warming planet because it affects everything and not just in Oregon and not just in the United States but across our planet. It is our responsibility. Let's get it done.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:45 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:56 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

ALLEN DICKERSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 30, 2025, VICE CAROLINE C. HUNTER, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL RIGAS, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE MARGARET WEICHERT, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

NATHAN A. SIMINGTON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2019, VICE MICHAEL P. O'RIELLY, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. MARK C. SCHWARTZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JONATHAN P. KOERNIG

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 16, 2020:

THE JUDICIARY

TODD WALLACE ROBINSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

DAVID W. DUGAN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

STEPHEN P. MCGLYNN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I firmly support H.R. 2639—The Strength in Diversity Act of 2020. This bill will bring much-needed support to school districts that are committed to school diversity initiatives.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 185; YEA on Roll Call No. 186; NAY on Roll Call No. 187; YEA on Roll Call No. 188; and YEA on Roll Call No. 189.

HONORING MARY BETH SANCHEZ

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a mother, friend and family member, my cousin, Mary Beth Sanchez, who will be celebrating her 60th birthday on October 9, 2020.

Mary Beth is a kind, caring and loving woman whose presence always lights up a room. Family means the world to Mary and she always goes out of her way to show it.

Happy 60th Birthday, Mary Beth.

We love her.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BILLIE FRANCES POLK

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Billie Frances Polk, a lifelong native of Woodville, Texas who passed away recently at the age of ninety. Mrs. Polk was a retired Director of the Woodville Housing Authority.

Billie was born on December 24, 1929 to Oscar and Lilla Chambless Fortenberry in Woodville, Texas. She spent her life growing up and working in Tyler County. Billie was the recipient of the James E. Wheat Award which recognizes truly exceptional leaders. She unselfishly gave of her time and talents to the Tyler County Dogwood Festival, a festival that celebrates the traditions and beauty of East Texas.

Mrs. Polk was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She frequently reminded her loved ones of what her father often said, "All we have is what we give away." She lived her life in this way, continuously giving to others, without any strings attached.

Billie is remembered by her friends and family as a great example of Southern grace and

hospitality. Whether it was enjoying her family or gathering with her friends for bridge, she wanted to recognize others. Her delight came from opening her home to friends and strangers alike.

In facing life's obstacles, Mrs. Polk would remind others, "All we need in times like these is just a closer walk with Thee." Billie gave of all she had, and because of that she was very rich. Indeed, she had a closer "walk with Thee."

Billie was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar and Lilla Fortenberry; husband, Alford Lee Polk; sister, Bobbie Jean Swinney; and brother, Lloyd C. Fortenberry.

Mrs. Polk is survived by her daughters, Cindy Green and husband, Greg of Woodville, Jennifer Balbuena and husband, Arturo of Houston and Nancy McNally and husband, Billy of Woodville; brother, Cecil Fortenberry and wife, Margie of Woodville; sister, Jayne Best and husband, Bertis of Woodville; grandchildren, Jill Nichols and husband Reece, Josh McClure and wife Christa, Jinger Fowler and husband Kris, Holly Douglas and husband Josh, Melissa Howe and husband Matt, Will McNally and wife Kelli and Cheryl Marshall and husband Derek and 16 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Mrs. Billie Polk, for her many years of faithful service to her community. My thoughts and prayers remain with her family and friends during this difficult time.

HONORING FRED IMLER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fred Imler of Imler's Poultry, who recently was awarded the Agricultural Community Excellence Award by the Farm-City Committee of the Blair County Chamber of Commerce.

The Imler family has been active in southcentral Pennsylvania's agricultural community for over a century, and six generations of Imlers have taken part in building the family's business. The Imler family has been a leader in our community since at least 1903, when Fred's great-great uncle operated a general store in Bedford County. In 1918, the business moved from Bedford County to Altoona. In 1951, Fred became a partner in the business and, following years of hard work, he became the full owner in 1977. Since then, Fred has worked tirelessly to provide quality products and excellent customer service.

As a leader in our region's agriculture industry, Fred consistently gives back to our community. Fred and his son frequently attend auctions at county fairs throughout the region, and they have made it a priority to buy animals to help local students obtain higher education.

Today, I join the Blair County Chamber of Commerce in recognizing Fred Imler's service to the agriculture community, and congratulate my friend on this well-deserved honor. As Fred Imler and his family continue to serve Pennsylvanians, I wish them every continued success.

REMEMBERING MR. ED BEARSS

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Ed Bearss, former chief historian for the National Parks Service from 1981 to 1994, author, and WWII veteran. Mr. Bearss just celebrated his 98th birthday.

Mr. Bearss served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the invasion of Guadalcanal and the Russell Islands. He received the Purple Heart after being badly wounded by gunfire at "Suicide Creek," Cape Gloucester.

Blessed with an impeccable memory, Mr. Bearss returned home to finish his education and became a regional historian for the National Parks Service in 1955. During his tenure as Chief Historian of the National Parks Service, Mr. Bearss helped craft national parks policy for 14 years.

After retiring Mr. Bearss continued to advocate for historic preservation through tours and lectures. He was an anchor for historic programming with the Smithsonian Institute and National Geographic Society.

Please join me in a moment of silence to honor and thank Mr. Bearss for the many years of service to his country both at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend because I was hosting an official event at the House Agriculture Committee. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 188.

ISRAEL, UAE AND BAHRAIN PEACE AGREEMENTS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the historic diplomatic breakthrough that was just accomplished.

Yesterday, President Donald Trump hosted leaders from Israel, UAE, and Bahrain at a

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

ceremony at the White House where the two Arab nations signed an agreement to normalize relations and make peace with Israel.

Make no mistake, this is a historical achievement and I want to congratulate all parties, especially President Trump, on this major accomplishment to bring peace to the region.

To put it lightly, Israel is in a bad neighborhood with many state and non-state actors who wish nothing more than to bring death and destruction to Israel.

However, we know that violence is not the answer and we will only bring peace to the region through careful and deliberate negotiations. Yesterday is an example of that diplomacy and a step in the right direction.

Israel is and always has been our strongest ally in the middle east. The United States must always continue to support Israel by providing necessary resources for their protection, as well as diplomatic support to achieve a lasting peace.

I am proud of the efforts made here and will continue to do everything in my power to support our ally Israel and bring peace to the Middle East.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS P. ESCOBAR

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and passing of a gentle caring soul. As August turned to September, Louis Escobar entered eternal life.

Louis was a role model to many young people and a mentor to many in the LGBTQ community. The first Latino elected to Toledo City Council, he served three years as Council President.

Louis' servant's heart led him to involvement in a wide array of Toledo Area community organizations including Northwest State Community College, the AIDS Resource Center, The Fair Housing Center, Toledo Sister Cities, Toledo/Lucas County Homelessness Board, the Latino Arts Council, the Latino/Hispanic Alliance of Greater Toledo, Stonewall Democrats, St. Paul's Community Center, the Area Office on Aging and many others. Always, his life was helping others to rise.

Louis was born to Nancy and Peter Escobar. He graduated from Central Catholic High School in Toledo, then went on to earn his bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College, a Master of Divinity from SS Cyril and Methodius Seminary, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Detroit. A loving and deeply spiritual seminarian, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1976 and served St. Joseph Tiffin, St. Agnes Toledo, and St. Joseph Maumee parishes. He taught at Central Catholic and Tiffin Calvert high schools. Later, Louis worked as a counselor and probation officer, for the HIV/AIDS Task Force, in community mental health through the Zepf Center, Latino empowerment with Adelante, serving the most vulnerable while at La Posada, and at Owens Corning and the University of Toledo.

We offer his companion, his mother and brothers, nieces and nephews and many dear

friends our compassion and sympathy. As they mourn Louis' loss, may they find comfort and strength in his memories and his teachings.

Louis Escobar was a kind, gentle, intelligent, brave and pioneering soul who endured deep illness for a very long time with such dignity and bearing. His struggles as a gay man in the Catholic Church where he desired to become a priest, and as a rising Latino leader were prophetic and huge. He never yielded as a standard bearer for truth and social justice. His election and steady, honorable service on City Council rising as its president became part of America's transformative social and political change toward human rights and liberty and equality for all. Louis Escobar lived the change he knew in his heart was essential for humankind to advance the reality of the human condition. His lifelong partner Kelly cared for him throughout his long illness and set the standard for love and fealty to family. Our community mourns his loss and expresses its deep gratitude for his courage, love, service, and sacrifice.

A U.S. flag is being flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of his life.

CELEBRATING THE MOORESTOWN 8U BASEBALL TEAM, THE BABE RUTH STATE TOURNAMENT, SOUTH JERSEY CHAMPIONS

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Moorestown 8U baseball team, who on August 26, 2020, became the eight-year-old Southern New Jersey Baseball State Champions.

Led by Coach Andy Berman and Assistant Coaches Geoff Degener, Dustin Jerdan, and Ron Obermeier, the Moorestown 8U baseball team displayed incredible perseverance all season amidst a global pandemic. Their countless hours of practice, dedication to safety, and commitment to their teammates led them to win Moorestown 8U Baseball Team's first State Championship while staying safe and healthy. Throughout the entire season they dominated their opposition, losing only one game and making it to the State Final, which they won 9 to 2.

I congratulate team members Ben Berman, Braden Castner, Austin Degener, Jack Finazzo, Jace Jerdan, Jack Krumins, Shane Krumins, Matt Laufer, Brett Obermeier, Eshaan Panchal, Alex Seamon, and Nate Seibel on their incredible season and state championship.

I'm proud to be able to celebrate the success of some of the talented student-athletes from New Jersey's Third District. I want to congratulate the entire coaching staff, the team, and their parents on their tremendous season.

LENNY KRAWCHECK

HON. JOE CUNNINGHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Lenny Krawcheck to the city of Charleston in his time as the chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals. In his more than four decades on the board, Lenny played a critical role in shaping Charleston into the destination it is today, a consummate tourist attraction that has never lost its charm or sense of self.

Lenny became chairman of the board in 1979 at the request of Mayor Joe Riley. During his tenure he helped revitalize the city, while staying true to Charleston's unique history and culture. Lenny quickly developed a reputation as a knowledgeable and fair arbiter. Even if folks disagreed with the final decision made by the Board of Zoning Appeals, they respected Lenny's integrity and commitment to do right by the city.

As he leaves public service to focus on his personal life, the city of Charleston owes Lenny Krawcheck an enormous debt of gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY BRINDISI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I missed a vote on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 as I was at the White House Ceremony for the signing of the historic Abraham Accords. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call Vote No. 186 On Agreeing to H. Res. 1107, YEA.

HONORING LINDA CASSARLY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linda Cassarly for her generous efforts to beautify Altoona, Pennsylvania and honor our military community.

Ms. Cassarly has been a seamstress serving the Greater Altoona area for years. Recently, she volunteered her time and talents to refurbish, Christmas wreaths that the City of Altoona uses to decorate the downtown area for the holidays.

In addition to her wreath project, Ms. Cassarly has helped to refurbish military monuments around the city. As the mother of a combat veteran, she understands the importance of preserving these tributes to those who have served our country. To honor the region's military community, Ms. Cassarly refurbished the area surrounding a memorial plaque on Juniata Street in Altoona, made two "Quilts of Honor" with the names of Pennsylvanians who were killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan, and created banners for thirteen Gold Star families in Pennsylvania. Her

work honors servicemembers' selfless sacrifices, and it ensures that their service will never be forgotten.

Linda Cassarly is an incredibly dedicated volunteer and a valued member of our community. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank Ms. Cassarly for her generous service to our region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 186.

IN HONOR OF MAYWOOD BATAAN DAY AND NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I rise to tell my colleagues during this week that ends with National POW/MIA Recognition Day about my district's 78-year old Maywood Bataan Memorial Day tradition. This service honors the men from the village of Maywood, Illinois who became prisoners of war after fighting from December 7, 1941 to April 9, 1942 against invading Imperial Japanese forces in the Philippines.

The men of Maywood were members of Company B of the federated Illinois National Guard 33rd Tank Company, 33rd Infantry Division based at the town's Armory. On November 25, 1940, they became part of the 192nd Tank Battalion of the U.S. Army. In October 1941, 89 men from Company "B" left the United States for the Philippine Islands. They arrived in the Philippine Islands on November 20, 1941—Thanksgiving Day. On December 8, the war started and the Japanese attacked.

These Illinois tankers fought valiantly on the Bataan Peninsula with little food, medicine, fuel, or ammunition. Relief from the United States never came. Malaria, scurvy, and dysentery reached epidemic proportions. On April 9, 1942, Bataan was surrendered. The following day, some 85,000 American and Filipino soldiers, as Japanese captives, all became victims of the greatest atrocity of the Pacific War: the Bataan Death March. A seemingly endless line of sick and starving men began their 85 mile trip up from the tip of Bataan to Camp O'Donnell in central Luzon. More than 12,000 died en route.

Survivors of the March endured three and a half years of death camps, brutal labor, and untold abuse. Many were taken to Japan aboard hell ships to be slave laborers for Japanese companies. Of the more than 10,000 Americans taken prisoner on Bataan, between 6,000 and 7,000 died. Of the 89 men of Company "B" who left the U.S. in 1941, only 43 would return from the war.

This is the first year that the Memorial, which was scheduled for September 13, has had to be postponed. I ask my fellow rep-

resentatives to join me in commending the hard work and dedication of Maywood Bataan Day Organization President Col. Richard A. McMahon, Jr. and his Board of Directors. And on this Friday, September 18, National POW/MIA Recognition Day may we all pause to remember the men and women of Bataan who gave so much in the fight against tyranny.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XOCHITL TORRES SMALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I missed a vote on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 as I was at the White House Ceremony to celebrate the signing of the historic Abraham Accords. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YEA on Roll Call Vote No. 186 (On Agreeing to H. Res. 1107).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to a family illness. Had I been present for roll call vote number 183, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for roll call vote number 184, On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the CHARGE Act, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained from the floor on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. I missed roll call vote No. 186. Had I been present to vote on roll call No. 186, I would have voted 'YEA.'

REMEMBERING THOMAS JAMES LONEY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Thomas James Loney, of Youngstown, Ohio who died on September 10, 2020 at the age of 83.

Tom was born July 28, 1937, in Youngstown, the son of Emmett and Ann Haney Loney. He was a 1955 graduate of Wilson High School and was a member of the Pipefitters Union Local 396 for over 62 years. He

had worked for various local contractors and was employed by the Youngstown Board of Education as a pipefitter for over 13 years. He was a member of St. Charles Church.

Mr. Loney enjoyed following Notre Dame football, the New York Yankees and playing golf, but most importantly, spending time with his family and being the center of attention.

Tom was married to the former Margaret Ann Murphy, whom he married July 18, 1959, until her death Jan. 16, 2019.

Mr. Loney is survived by his five children, Mike Loney of Boardman, Teresa Loney (Mark Biroshchak) of Boardman, Katie Loney of Austintown, Thomas (Colleen) Loney of North Lima and Marty (Lisa) Loney of Boardman; one sister, Mary Clayton; nine grandchildren, Joseph (Jessica) Irwin, Alex (Matt) Roth, Matthew Loney, Ryan Loney, Colin Loney, Kevin Darby, Maggie Loney, Abbey Loney and Erinn Loney; and four great-grandchildren, Hank and Nora Irwin, and Owen and Eli Roth. Tom had 31 nieces and nephews, who all thought they were his favorite.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Peggy; his brothers, Jack and Jerry Loney; and his sister, Ann Clifford.

I am very honored to be friends with Mr. Loney's son, Marty, who exemplifies the work ethic that Tom instilled in each of his children and grandchildren. My deepest condolences go out to Tom's family and to all whose lives he touched.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND WORK OF BILL JACKSON

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of Bill Jackson, a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, lifetime member of the African American community in Portland, Oregon, and an exemplary hard worker at Pepsi for the past 50 years.

After Bill ended his service as a Marine in 1970, he took jobs at both Pepsi and Fred Meyer. For the next 30 years, Bill diligently worked two full time shifts, carrying out his tasks at Pepsi during the night before waking up to report for duty at Fred Meyer during the day. Bill's work ethic became so legendary and he had become such a beloved member of the Pepsi family, that he received a rare and distinct honor. At his 40th work anniversary, Pepsi released a run of 12 oz. cans, about 3,500 cases, with his picture proudly displayed on each can. His legacy further became enshrined when Pepsi named a street on its property in Portland, Bill Jackson Way.

Bill has that special ability to connect with people and inspire them. During his time at Pepsi Bill mentored many new hires and skillfully engaged his colleagues in meaningful conversations around race. He also leads those conversations in the Portland community and generously shares his time mentoring underprivileged African American teens.

There is a tireless nature to Bill. It was only five years ago that he stopped working two full time jobs; security at Portland Public Schools and night loader at Pepsi. As Bill enters his well-deserved retirement, I am proud to recognize him for his service to our country, and for

his loyalty, work ethic, and ongoing dedication to others. Bill has made this world a better place.

HONORING ANNE HUNYADY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anne Hunyady of S&A Homes, who this year became the first woman to serve as president of the Blair-Bedford Builders Association in the organization's 59-year history.

In this role, Ms. Hunyady is leading the Blair-Bedford Builders Association as it serves more than 140 members across Bedford and Blair Counties. Additionally, the association is involved in several educational and professional development efforts to support a healthy workforce in Pennsylvania's construction industry. It also gives back to the community with generous charitable support. Under Ms. Hunyady's leadership, I am confident that the Builders Association will continue to be a force for good in our region.

Prior to her selection as president, Ms. Hunyady had been an active participant in the Blair-Bedford Builders Association for seven years, including four years as a board member and two years as vice president.

Throughout her career, Ms. Hunyady has been a strong and dedicated member of our community, and I am grateful for her hard work to serve our neighbors across southcentral Pennsylvania.

Anne Hunyady has demonstrated a clear record of hard work and community service, and I wish her every continued success as she serves as president of the Blair-Bedford Builders Association.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Erik Paul Bethel, of Florida,

to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, Keith W. Dayton, of Washington, to be Ambassador to Ukraine, William A. Douglass, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus, Melanie Harris Higgins, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Burundi, Jeanne Marie Maloney, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini, Michael A. McCarthy, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, Jonathan Pratt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti, Manisha Singh, of Florida, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, James Broward Story, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Barbera Hale Thornhill, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, Thomas Laszlo Vajda, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Union of Burma, Kenneth R. Weinstein, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Japan, and Alex Nelson Wong, of New Jersey, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, all of the Department of State, Edward A. Burrier, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, and other pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Ashok Michael Pinto, of Illinois, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, William E. Todd, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Eric M. Ueland, of Oregon, to be an Under Secretary (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights), both of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine emerging offshore and marine energy technologies in the United States, including offshore wind, marine and hydrokinetic energy, and alternative fuels for maritime shipping.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Security

To hold hearings to examine the United States Coast Guard capabilities for safeguarding national interests and promoting economic security in the Arctic.

SR-253

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the economic impact of America's failure to contain the Coronavirus.

REMOTE

3 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management

To hold hearings to examine state and local cybersecurity, focusing on defending communities from cyber threats amid COVID-19.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 23

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps readiness.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the need for federal data privacy legislation.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 2020, focusing on modernizing the Endangered Species Act.

SD-106

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine COVID-19, focusing on an update on the federal response.

SD-G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Chad F. Wolf, of Virginia, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2021 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SR-325

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations in support of efforts to protect the integrity of U.S. national elections from malign actors.

SVC-217

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the Congressional Budget Office's updated budget outlook.

SD-608

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 3126, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a special behavioral health program for Indians, S. 3264, to expedite and streamline the deployment of affordable broadband service on Tribal land, S. 3937, to amend section 330C of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize special programs for Indians for providing services for the prevention and treatment of diabetes, S. 4079, to authorize the Seminole Tribe of Florida to lease or transfer certain land, and S. 4556, to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director

of the Indian Health Service, to acquire private land to facilitate access to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center in Hemet, California.		SEPTEMBER 24		OCTOBER 1		
Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property To hold hearings to examine threats to American intellectual property, focusing on cyber attacks and counterfeits during the COVID-19 pandemic.	SD-628	10 a.m.	Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	9:15 a.m.	Committee on Armed Services	
			To hold hearings to examine the quarterly CARES Act report to Congress.		Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support	
		SD-106		To hold hearings to examine supply chain integrity.		
	To hold hearings to examine threats to American intellectual property, focusing on cyber attacks and counterfeits during the COVID-19 pandemic.		Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs		SD-G50	
	SD-226			To hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland.		SD-342

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5617–S5680

Measures Introduced: Twenty-one bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4584–4604, and S. Res. 697–700. **Pages S5651–52**

Measures Passed:

America's Conservation Enhancement Act: Senate passed S. 3051, to improve protections for wildlife, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S5666–76**

Portman (for Barrasso/Carper) Amendment No. 2656, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5676**

National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 698, designating September 2020 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month”. **Page S5676**

Patriot Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 699, expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as “Patriot Week”. **Page S5676**

National Estuaries Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 700, designating the week of September 19 through September 26, 2020, as “National Estuaries Week”. **Page S5676**

Johnston Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Iain D. Johnston, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Pages S5637–46**

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

By 81 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. EX. 181), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S5637–38**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, September 17, 2020, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Franklin Ulyses Valderrama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and, if cloture is invoked on the nomination, the post-cloture time be expired, and

Senate then vote on confirmation of the nomination; provided further that following disposition of the Valderrama nomination, Senate continue consideration of the nomination of Iain D. Johnston, that the post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, September 17, 2020, and Senate then vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Page S5646

Valderrama Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Franklin Ulyses Valderrama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, at approximately 9:45 a.m., on Thursday, September 17, 2020. **Page S5676**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 86 yeas to 10 nays (Vote No. EX. 176), Todd Wallace Robinson, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. **Pages S5618–23, S5680**

By 55 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 179), David W. Dugan, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Pages S5637, S5680

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

By 56 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 177), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5623**

By 55 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 180), Stephen P. McGlynn, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Pages S5624–37, S5680

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

By 55 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 178), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S5623–24**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2025.

Michael Rigas, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Army. **Pages S5679–80**

Messages from the House: **Page S5648**

Measures Referred: **Page S5648**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S5648**

Executive Communications: **Pages S5648–50**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S5650–51**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S5651**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5652–54**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5647–48**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5655–65**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S5665–66**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—181) **Pages S5623, S5623–24, S5637, S5637–38**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:56 p.m., until 9:45 a.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5676.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

HHS' CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Health and Human Services' Coronavirus response, focusing on a review of efforts to date and next steps, after receiving testimony from Brett Giroir, Assistant Secretary for Health, Bob Kadlec, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and Robert Redfield, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all of the Department of Health and Human Services.

FEDERAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Federal housing assistance programs, after receiving testimony from Daniel Garcia-Diaz, Managing Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment Team, Government Accountability Office; Ed Olsen, University of Virginia, Charlottesville;

and Diane Yentel, National Low Income Housing Coalition, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 804, to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and fossilized ivory products;

S. 1626, to require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to estimate the value of electromagnetic spectrum assigned or otherwise allocated to Federal entities;

S. 3831, to authorize the position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Travel and Tourism, to statutorily establish the United States Travel and Tourism Advisory Board, with an amendment;

S. 4159, to amend the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act to accommodate emerging technologies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4286, to authorize appropriations for offsetting the costs related to reductions in research productivity resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4462, to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4568, to facilitate the development and distribution of forensic science standards by establishing in the National Institute of Standards and Technology the Organization of Scientific Area Committees for Forensic Science, with an amendment; and

The nominations of Eric J. Soskin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Transportation, Robert E. Primus, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, and Theodore Rokita, of Indiana, Sarah E. Feinberg, of West Virginia, and Chris Koos, of Illinois, each to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Allison Clements, of Ohio, and Mark C. Christie, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PUBLIC LANDS AND WILDFIRES LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a hearing to examine S. 180, to streamline

the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, S. 1295, to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop and maintain a cadastre of Federal real property, S. 1765, to sustain economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to designate new areas for recreation, S. 1870 and H.R. 722, bills to designate a mountain in the State of Utah as “Miracle Mountain”, S. 2533, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to Alaska Native elders for determining eligibility for certain programs, S. 2828, to require the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement allowing for adaptive management of certain Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, S. 2890, to promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for sensible development in Douglas County, Nevada, S. 3241, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to establish the Cerro de la Olla Wilderness in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, New Mexico, S. 3366, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at no cost to members of Gold Star Families, S. 3427, to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, S. 3485, to expand the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to expand revenue sharing for offshore wind, to reauthorize the National Oceans and Coastal Security Act, S. 3670, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River System in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, S. 4431, to increase wildfire preparedness and response throughout the United States, S. 4475, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and H.R. 255, to provide for an exchange of lands with San Bernardino County, California, to enhance management of lands within the San Bernardino National Forest, after receiving testimony from Senators Feinstein, Whitehouse, and Udall; Chris French, Deputy Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Amanda Kaster, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior; Mark Dunn,

Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition, Arlington, Virginia; and Haydn Forward, Heritage Waters Coalition, and Jamie Crockett, Gila Backcountry Services, both of Silver City, New Mexico.

NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION RULE

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Navigable Waters Protection Rule under the Clean Water Act, focusing on the stakeholder reaction, after receiving testimony from Rebecca Roose, New Mexico Environment Department Water Protection Division, Santa Fe; Ray Gaesser, Gaesser Farms, Corning, Iowa; and Douglas Davis, Jr., Fletcher Davis Company, St. Augustine, Florida.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

A motion to authorize the Chairman to issue notices for taking depositions, subpoenas for records, and subpoenas for testimony, to individuals relating to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Crossfire Hurricane Investigation; the DOJ Inspector General’s review of that investigation; and the “unmasking” of U.S. persons affiliated with the Trump campaign, transition team, and Trump administration, as described in Schedule A (Items 1–3); and

The nominations of John M. Barger, of California, Christopher Bancroft Burnham, of Connecticut, and Frank Dunlevy, of California, each to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

SECTION 1201 REFORMS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded a hearing to examine whether the reforms to Section 1201 are needed and warranted, after receiving testimony from Regan A. Smith, General Counsel and Associate Register of Copyrights, Copyright Office, Library of Congress; Vanessa P. Bailey, Intel Corporation, J. Matthew Williams, Mitchell Silberberg and Knupp LLP, Seth D. Greenstein, Constantine Cannon LLP, Morgan Reed, ACT The App Association, and Aaron Lowe, Auto Care Association, all of Washington, D.C.; and Blake E. Reid, University of Colorado Law School Samuelson-Glushko Technology Law and Policy Clinic, Boulder.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 8264–8279; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 116–117; and H. Res. 1115–1118, were introduced.

Pages H4489–90

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H4491

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 6100, to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the criminalization of female genital mutilation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–506);

H.R. 5546, to regulate monitoring of electronic communications between an incarcerated person in a Bureau of Prisons facility and that person's attorney or other legal representative, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–507);

H.R. 2733, to direct the Attorney General to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–508, Part 1); and

H.R. 2438, to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–509, Part 1).

Page H4489

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

Page H4431

Recess: The House recessed at 9:48 a.m. and reconvened at 10 a.m.

Page H4436

Resignation of the House Parliamentarian: Read a letter from Thomas J. Wickham, Jr., in which he announced his resignation as the Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives, effective September 30, 2020.

Page H4437

House Parliamentarian—Appointment: The Speaker appointed Jason A. Smith as Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives to succeed Thomas J. Wickham, Jr., resigned.

Page H4437

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020: H.R. 7909, amended, to facilitate access to child care services safely and securely during the COVID–19 pandemic, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 387 yeas to 33 nays, Roll No. 190;

Pages H4444–47, H4472–73

Child Care Protection Improvement Act: S. 2683, amended, to establish a task force to assist States in

implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety;

Pages H4447–49

Danny's Law: H.R. 3659, amended, to establish an Anti-Bullying Roundtable to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States;

Pages H4449–52

21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020: H.R. 8162, amended, to allow eligible entities under part B of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to use subgrant funds for certain activities carried out by community learning centers, regardless of whether such activities are conducted during nonschool hours or periods when school is not in session;

Pages H4452–55

Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act: S. 881, to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events;

Pages H4455–63

Rural STEM Education Act: H.R. 4979, amended, to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support STEM education and workforce development research focused on rural areas; and

Pages H4463–67

Election Technology Research Act: H.R. 4990, amended, to direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation to carry out research and other activities to promote the security and modernization of voting systems.

Pages H4468–72

Recess: The House recessed at 2:14 p.m. and reconvened at 2:22 p.m.

Page H4473

Recess: The House recessed at 3:14 p.m. and reconvened at 3:23 p.m.

Page H4474

Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act: The House passed H.R. 2574, to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 232 yeas to 188 nays, Roll No. 192.

Pages H4439–44, H4473–74, H4474–75

Agreed to the Foxx (NC) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 255 yeas to 164 nays, Roll No. 191. Subsequently, Representative Scott (VA) reported the bill back to the House with the amendment and the amendment was agreed to.

Pages H4443–44, H4473–74

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–502, shall be considered as adopted.

Page H4439

H. Res. 1107, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2574), (H.R. 2639), (H.R. 2694), and the resolution (H. Res. 908) was agreed to yesterday, September 15th.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H4475.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4472–73, H4473–74, and H4474–75.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Committee Meetings

BUILDING A 100 PERCENT CLEAN ECONOMY: OPPORTUNITIES FOR AN EQUITABLE, LOW-CARBON RECOVERY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Opportunities for an Equitable, Low-Carbon Recovery”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PRIORITIZING FANNIE’S AND FREDDIE’S CAPITAL OVER AMERICA’S HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS? A REVIEW OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY’S RESPONSE TO THE COVID–19 PANDEMIC

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Prioritizing Fannie’s and Freddie’s Capital over America’s Homeowners and Renters? A Review of the Federal Housing Finance Agency’s Response to the COVID–19 Pandemic”. Testimony was heard from Mark A. Calabria, Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency.

WHY DID THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR GENERAL?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Why did the Trump Administration Fire the State Department Inspector General?”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of State officials: Brian Bulatao, Under Secretary of State for Management; Marik String, Acting Legal Adviser; and R. Clarke Cooper, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: On September 15, 2020, Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5309, the “CROWN Act of 2019”; H.R. 7718, the “Protecting the Health and Wellness of Babies and Pregnant Women in Custody Act”; H.R. 8161, the “One-Stop Shop Community Reentry Program Act of 2020”; H.R. 6813, the “Promoting Alzheimer’s Awareness to Prevent Elder Abuse Act”; H.R. 8169, the “Elder Abuse Protection Act of 2020”; H.R. 7636, the “Custodial Interrogation Recording Act”; H.R. 8235, the “Open Courts Act of 2020”; H.R. 8225, the “Fight Notario Fraud Act of 2020”; and H.R. 7636, the “Custodial Interrogation Recording Act”. H.R. 5309 and H.R. 8161 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 7718, H.R. 6813, H.R. 8169, H.R. 7636, H.R. 8235, and H.R. 8225 were ordered reported, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5901, the “Technology Modernization Centers of Excellence Program”; H.R. 7496, the “COVID PREPARE Act”; H.R. 4382, the “Integrity Committee Transparency Act”; H.R. 7107, the “Plum Act”; H.R. 7340, the “Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act”; H.R. 7548, the “PPE Buy America Act”; H.R. 7936, the “Federal Employee Access to Information Act”; H.R. 8109, the “Nonpartisan Postmaster General Act”; H.R. 2277, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1715 Linnerud Drive in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, as the “Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building”; H.R. 5562, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4650 East Rosedale Street in Fort Worth, Texas, as the “Dionne Phillips Bagsby Post Office Building”; H.R. 5972, the “Mary Ann Shadd Cary Post Office Dedication Act”; H.R. 5983, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4150 Chicago Avenue in Riverside, California, as the “Woodie Rucker-Hughes Post Office Building”; H.R. 7502, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 South 16th Street in Clarinda, Iowa, as the “Jessie Field Shambaugh Post Office Building”; H.R. 5451, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 599 East Genesee Street in Fayetteville, New York, as the “George H. Bacel Post Office Building”; H.R. 6016, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14955 West Bell Road in Surprise, Arizona, as the “Marc Lee Memorial Post Office Building”; H.R. 6418, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 509 Fairhope Avenue in Fairhope, Alabama, as the “William ‘Jack’ Jackson

Edwards III Post Office Building”; H.R. 7088, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 James Street in Reidsville, Georgia, as the “Senator Jack Hill Post Office Building”; H.R. 6418, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 509 Fairhope Avenue in Fairhope, Alabama, as the “William ‘Jack’ Jackson Edwards III Post Office Building”; and H.R. 7810, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3519 East Walnut Street in Pearland, Texas, as the “Tom Reid Post Office Building”. H.R. 4382, H.R. 5901, H.R. 8109, H.R. 7496, H.R. 7340, H.R. 7548, H.R. 7107, and H.R. 7936 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 2277, H.R. 5562, H.R. 5972, H.R. 5983, H.R. 7502, H.R. 5451, H.R. 6016, H.R. 6418, H.R. 7088, and H.R. 7810 were ordered reported, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7903, to amend the Small Business Act to establish the Community Advantage Loan Program; H.R. 8211, the “504 Modernization and Small Manufacturer Enhancement Act of 2020”; H.R. 8199, the “504 Credit Risk Management Improvement Act of 2020”; and H.R. 8229, the “Parity for HUBZone Appeals Act of 2020”. H.R. 8199 and H.R. 8229 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 8211 and H.R. 7903 were ordered reported, as amended.

MOVING BEYOND PATCHWORK SYSTEMS: THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION SERVICES IT

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization; and Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a joint hearing entitled “Moving Beyond Patchwork Systems: The Future of Education Services IT”. Testimony was heard from Paul R. Lawrence, Undersecretary, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Carol Harris, Director for Information Technology Acquisition Management Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

MODERNIZING VA’S MEDICAL SUPPLY CHAIN: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PANDEMIC

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Modernizing VA’s Medical Supply Chain: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic”. Testimony was heard from Karen Brazell, Principal Executive Director, Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction and Chief Acquisition Officer, Acting Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Integration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Shelby Oakley, Director of Contracting

and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine matters relating to the budget of the National Nuclear Security Administration, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine advancing U.S. engagement and countering China in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine fixing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of J. Philip Calabrese, and James Ray Knepp II, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, Aileen Mercedes Cannon, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Toby Crouse, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, Michael Jay Newman, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, and Anna Maria Ruzinski, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, and Gregory Scott Tabor, of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas, both of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SR-325.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled “Interim Review of the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence Effort and Recommendations”, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Trump FCC: Four Years of Lost Opportunities”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital Markets, hearing entitled “Insider Trading and Stock Option Grants: An Examination of Corporate Integrity in the COVID-19 Pandemic”, 12 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Worldwide Threats to the Homeland”, 9 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Examining the Barriers and Solutions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Department of the Interior”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8247, the “Veterans Comprehensive, Prevention,

Access to Care, and Treatment Act of 2020”; H.R. 7163, the “VA FOIA Reform Act of 2020”; H.R. 5843, the “Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2020”; H.R. 7785, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain employment and reemployment rights to members of the National Guard who perform State active duty; and H.R. 6092, the “Veteran’s Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act”, 9 a.m., HVC-210 and Webex.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “Enforcing the Ban on Imports Produced by Forced Labor in Xinjiang”, 12 p.m., Webex.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: To hold hearings to examine Albania’s chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 1 p.m., WEBCAST.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:45 a.m., Thursday, September 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Franklin Ulyses Valderrama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Franklin Ulyses Valderrama, and, if cloture is invoked, on confirmation of the nomination.

At 1:30 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Iain D. Johnston, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, September 17

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H. Res. 908—Condemning all forms of anti-Asian sentiment as related to COVID-19. Consideration of H.R. 2694—Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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