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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 11, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF DENHAM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, 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 each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

BIG BEND COUNTRY

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to highlight the 23rd District of Texas, I would like to talk about one of my favorite and one of the most rural parts of the 23rd District, the ghost town of Terlingua. Terlingua, the ghost town, is located near Big Bend National Park.

There are not a lot of ghosts there. There is a lot of history. There are very few people. The population is about 100 people or so. The name comes from tres lenguas, which is Spanish for three tongues because three creeks flow together nearby. It was founded in the mid-1880s as a mining town after the discovery of cinnabar.

There are many things to do there every day. You can go rafting or kayaking on the Rio Grande, mountain biking, camping, hiking, motorcycling, and many, many other outdoor activities.

On the first Saturday in November, more than 10,000 chiliheads convene for two annual chili cookoffs, the Chili Appreciation Society International and the Frank X. Tolbert/Wick Fowler World Chili Championships.

In the 1970s, as a matter of fact, the chili cookoff also sponsored a Mexican fence-climbing contest to parody the U.S. government's plan to reinforce chain link fences along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The other interesting thing about Terlingua is the unique politics of Terlingua. Clay Henry, the first mayor elected, was elected in 1986. Clay Henry was a beer drinking goat, and he defeated a local dog. Some of his campaign posters are still around, and now, they are worth a lot of money.

I invite everyone to explore the beauty of the Big Bend Country and the beauty of the 23rd District.

OBAMACARE WILL LEAD TO DESTRUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is a fundamentally unfair law that is hurting the middle class and lower-income Americans across the country.

In fact, just this week, the labor union Unite Here issued a scathing report on the President's health care law, charging ObamaCare will lead to the destruction of the health care plans for their members and the like, and it will make inequality in our Nation worse.

Unite Here was the first labor union to endorse the then-Senator Obama in his race for President in 2008. So even one of the President's closest union allies has turned against ObamaCare because, as they report, it will hit the average, hard-working American where it hurts the most, in the wallet.

The President and congressional Democrats sold this law as something that would reduce health care costs for the American people.

It is completely unfair to force the people to participate in a program that doesn't live up to that promise. This law was supposed to help insure the uninsured; yet it has never been more unpopular among those without health insurance.

In fact, a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll found that 56 percent of the uninsured have an unfavorable opinion of ObamaCare.

A recent McKinsey study found that affordability was the number one reason cited by the uninsured for why they aren't signing up. The uninsured who cannot afford ObamaCare are set to be hit with another cold reality of the President's signature health care law: they will be penalized for being put into this situation.

The President has the audacity to fine hard-working Americans for not being able to afford his costly and disastrous health care product. This despite the fact that he has exempted big business from ObamaCare, and members of his own administration do not have to purchase ObamaCare plans for themselves.

This kind of selective enforcement is unfair to low-income and middle class families. It is why, last week, my House Republican colleagues were joined by 27 Democrats to pass legislation to eliminate the individual mandate tax penalty under ObamaCare for 1 year.

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Through ObamaCare, the President is marginalizing the very people he says he wants to help, and now, even his closest allies have taken notice.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama's labor union friends are right. ObamaCare is destructive to low- and middle-income families, and the politicians who are responsible for this train wreck must be held accountable.

OUR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of men and women are in Washington, D.C., this week representing America's transit agencies, millions of transit users, with the highest ridership in over a half century: 10.7 billion rides.

Tomorrow, they will be joined by over two dozen streetcar cities. This is one of the fastest growing new development and transit tools that is taking place all across the United States. They are here seeking the Federal Government to step up and do its job.

For the first time in over 150 years, the Federal Government is in retreat on infrastructure. It all started, as you know, with the Constitution designating postal roads as one of the first obligations of our new country, and then we were involved with the development of a system of canals to help promote American commerce.

152 years ago, the Transcontinental Railroad Act was passed that ultimately tied America together from coast to coast and led to the finest passenger and freight rail system in the world.

Later, there were massive water projects in the West, electricification projects that brought the magic of electricity to rural and smalltown America. The interstate freeway system that began germinating under the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt during the Great Depression, blossomed into full flower, signed by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Mr. Speaker, we have established mass transit, with Ronald Reagan establishing a transit account, guaranteeing 20 percent of the gas tax revenues for that critical function and actually raising the gas tax a nickel a gallon, legislation signed by President Reagan.

And then there was the legislation in 1992, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, that promoted flexibility and a large-scale vision process to make the system work. Even the much-maligned Recovery Act, the so-called stimulus, had billions of dollars to help rebuild the country. But we have been stuck now for over a decade.

In 204 days, the bottom falls out of the highway trust fund, which means the Feds are going to have to cut back on transportation funding this summer, which means this spring, State and local governments are going to be holding back.

I have been working with business, labor, and environmental leaders, local governments, AAA, the truckers, bicyclists, and contractors to be able to come forward with a funding program that will work. The first gas tax increase in 21 years is what we have proposed that would be indexed for inflation so we wouldn't have to go through this anymore.

In addition, H.R. 3638 would explore the new methodology that was used in an Oregon pilot project that would pay for road use based on a user fee for the distance traveled. It has the opportunity not just to fund transportation but to transform the travel system in the United States.

Congress needs to step up. What are their solutions if they don't want to raise the gas tax for the first time in 21 years? Maybe we could have a hearing before the Ways and Means Committee on how we are going to finance the reauthorization.

We can, in fact, solve this problem. We can put millions of people to work to revitalize our communities and to make our families safer, healthier, and economically secure. When these men and women visit you on Capitol Hill, please be prepared to say: If not raising the gas tax, tell them what is your solution so that we don't fall off the cliff in 204 days and retard vital progress?

IN HONOR OF JOHN HENRY DAYTON

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

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of my constituents, John Henry Dayton, who passed away on February 9.

John was born in Turlock, California, to Charles and Florence Dayton. He was raised on a ranch in Hughson, California, with his three siblings. Mr. Dayton attended grammar and high school in Hughson and then Oregon State University. In college, he married Beverly Jean Tack. Together, they raised two children.

After college, Mr. Dayton moved back to California. In 1971, John and his business partner, Harold Copp, opened Oakdale Village Pharmacy in the city's first shopping center. Eventually, they opened additional pharmacies in Escalon and Modesto.

Mr. Dayton was later remarried to Susan Thorpe in 1995. Together, they raised two children.

Throughout more than four decades of business in the Oakdale area, John earned a reputation as a knowledgeable, personable, and trustworthy local pharmacist.

In November 2012, John was diagnosed with stage four brain cancer. He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Dayton, and stepson, Kevin Cooper.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Mr. John Henry Dayton and all of his contributions to his family and our community.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

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

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of a short workweek, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence, and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this House to do their work as well as it can be done.

May they be led by Your spirit in the decisions they make. May their faith in You deliver them from any tensions that might tear the people's House apart, and from worries that might wear them out.

All this day, and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all people and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. GALLEGO 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.

IRAN ARMS SHIPMENT

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, last week we once again saw what Prime Minister Netanyahu correctly described as ''the true face of Iran.''

After Israeli Defense Forces intercepted an illicit shipment of rockets, bullets, and mortars reportedly bound for Hamas fighters in Gaza, Israel was able to publicly show how Iran continues to fund and supply terrorism across the globe.

This operation also demonstrated Israel's inherent right and need to defend its people and homeland from neighboring terror groups. Madam Speaker, while the administration is quick to negotiate terms of a nuclear deal with the regime in Tehran, last week's event should serve as yet another stark reminder of whom this administration is really dealing with, but more importantly, whom they are choosing to trust.

While the face of the regime and some of their rhetoric has changed, Madam Speaker, it is clear that the Iranian regime's true intentions and end game has not.

MAYOR CLAY HENRY

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, earlier I was on the floor and I mentioned Clay Henry as one of the former elected officials in the district that I represent. I referred to him as the mayor of Terlingua; and you would think having grown up there and lived there all of my life, I would have remembered that he was actually at one time the mayor of Lajitas. Lajitas is a wonderful resort community in the Big Bend Country, right next to Terlingua. Perhaps I had too many visits with Mayor Clay Henry.

I will tell you that one of the most beautiful parts of the world and one that I urge everyone to get familiar with is the Big Bend Country of west Texas: the Rio Grande River, the canyons. It is an amazing place. I urge everyone to get familiar with that part of the world, as there is really nothing like it in the entire United States.

THE IRS SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the American people have not received the answers they deserved from the IRS. Lois Lerner appeared before the Oversight Committee last week and again refused to provide any insight into her IRS actions in this case.

How can the President claim that there isn't even a ''smidgeon of corruption'' in the IRS targeting scandal? The investigation is still ongoing. If the President truly believes that the IRS did nothing wrong, then instruct them to cooperate with our investigation.

If Lois Lerner truly did nothing wrong, which I doubt, then she should testify and lay the issue to rest. If, as the evidence suggests, the targeting of conservative groups was intentional, then what would be wrong with her explaining why she refuses to testify and continues to reassert her Fifth Amendment rights?

The American people deserve to know if their freedom of speech was abridged for political reasons and if this administration is dedicated to silencing those with opposing views. I call on Lois Lerner and the IRS to be forthcoming so we can ensure that this never happens again.

RECOGNIZING WORLD PLUMBING DAY

(Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Madam Speaker, today is World Plumbing Day. It is easy to take for granted that we can simply turn on a facet and enjoy clean water; however, we should not neglect the importance that clean water conveyance presents.

It is imperative that we keep improving water infrastructure through sound legislation to guarantee every citizen access to clean water. It is important to support and collaborate with groups such as the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, who for almost 90 years have been developing codes and standards that are used to protect systems around the world as well as ensuring America's public health for our communities.

On this World Plumbing Day, I recognize how quality, efficient plumbing systems and those highly trained professionals who work in the industry save our country money and precious resources while enhancing our quality of living, thereby keeping people safe and healthy each and every day.

VOTERS OPPOSE PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the American people continue to oppose amnesty, and they are putting their Member of Congress on notice.

A Washington Post-ABC national survey released last week shows that 39 percent of registered voters are less likely, and only 27 percent more likely, to vote for a congressional candidate who supports a path to citizenship for those in the country illegally.

There is even less support for amnesty among self-described Independents. Forty-one percent are less likely, and only 28 percent more likely, to back a candidate for Congress who favors a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants.

Considering the media bias in favor of amnesty, these are astounding figures. According to the poll, a supermajority of Republicans, 60 percent, claim that they are less likely to support a candidate who favors amnesty. This stands in stark contrast to the meager 14 percent of GOP voters who want their candidate to confer citizenship on those here illegally.

We should listen to the voters, not amnesty proponents.

DECLARING MARCH 31 AS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. MULVANEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend a special thank-you to the hardworking men and women across the Nation, but especially in South Carolina, who dedicate themselves to keeping the lights on during this difficult winter. For so many of us, switching on the light switch is something that we take for granted. It is easy to forget all the hard work that goes into making that happen.

A couple of weeks ago, Winter Storm Pax hit South Carolina leaving a path of destruction in many of the smaller communities in my district without power, crippled by the ice and snow. It is something that was so dramatic that the executive director of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff said that the storm was the most significant weather event in South Carolina since Hurricane Hugo. And I can assure you that, for us, that is saying a lot.

To give some quick numbers as to what happened, more than 3,000 people went to work in South Carolina. The folks from Duke Energy alone cleared more than 7,000 trees off of the power lines in South Carolina. It is these types of efforts that these folks put in every single winter to make sure that something that we take for granted actually happens when we flip on the lights.

In recognition of those efforts, the efforts that they undertake every single winter, I am introducing a bill today to declare March 31 as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

I hope we can count on my colleagues to send this very small thank-you. It is not much, but it is the least we can do to let these folks know that we don't always take them for granted.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL FROM REDDING, CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University Preparatory School from Redding for winning first place in the 2014 Regional Science Bowl competition.

The National Science Bowl is an annual competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy that brings together some of the best and brightest students from across our country. Teams compete in a face-off competition featuring questions on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, energy, and math. The event, while very competitive, also promotes and encourages discovery, innovation, and teamwork and a commitment to bettering our Nation's future.

We are very proud of all the north State teams that competed against dozens of California high schools for a chance to represent California at the National Science Bowl. Their interest and diligent studies in math and science are a testament to the outstanding work from our students, educators, and parents across our region.

Best of luck to Bond, Tyler, Nathan, Kay, and Colleen, who will be traveling to Washington, D.C., next month to compete against teams from across the country in the National Science Bowl. I know you will make us proud. Good luck.

EXECUTIVE OVERREACH

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again remind the President that it is Congress that makes the laws, not the Executive. It is time the President works with Congress, not around it, to achieve realistic policy goals to help grow the economy for hardworking Americans. They work hard and they play by the rules. We need an administration that does the same.

The President's willingness to go around Congress harms the balance between the branches that our Founders sought to protect. Furthermore, it makes both Chambers consider whether legislation they pass will be faithfully executed—all at a time when it is hard enough to come together on the very critical issues.

Governing by Executive fiat and acting as a Congress-of-one does little to restore the faith of the American people in their government. The businesses and families we represent deserve a government willing to work together.

Mr. President, it is time to stop the overuse of Executive actions and get back to the real work of growing our economy and making our Nation a better place for all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

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, March 10, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 10, 2014 at 2:19 p.m.:

Appointments:

Public Interest Declassification Board.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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, March 11, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 11, 2014 at 9:45 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1917.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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, March 11, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 11, 2014 at 10:45 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2019.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

TRANSMITTAL OF ADDITIONAL FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET DOCUMENTS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–84)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, March 10, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I transmit herewith the following hard copy volumes of the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: Appendix, Analytical Perspectives, and Historical Tables.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FARMERS UNDERTAKE ENVIRONMENTAL LAND STEWARDSHIP ACT

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 311) to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to change the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rule with respect to certain farms.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 311

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 ''Farmers Undertake Environmental Land Stewardship Act'' or the ''FUELS Act''.

SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY OF SPILL PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND COUNTERMEASURE RULE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in implementing the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rule with respect to any farm, shall—

(1) require certification of compliance with such rule by—

(A) a professional engineer for a farm with—

(i) an individual tank with an aboveground storage capacity greater than 10,000 gallons;

(ii) an aggregate aboveground storage capacity greater than or equal to 42,000 gallons; or

(iii) a history that includes a spill, as determined by the Administrator; or

(B) the owner or operator of the farm (via self-certification) for a farm with—

(i) an aggregate aboveground storage capacity greater than 10,000 gallons but less than 42,000 gallons; and

(ii) no history of spills, as determined by the Administrator; and

(2) exempt from all requirements of such rule any farm—

(A) with an aggregate aboveground storage capacity of less than or equal to 10,000 gallons; and

(B) no history of spills, as determined by the Administrator.

(b) CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE ABOVEGROUND STORAGE CAPACITY.—For the purposes of subsection (a), the aggregate aboveground storage capacity of a farm excludes all containers on separate parcels that have a capacity that is less than 1,320 gallons.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following terms apply:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) FARM.—The term ''farm'' has the meaning given such term in section 112.2 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) GALLON.—The term ''gallon'' refers to a United States liquid gallon.

(4) SPILL PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND COUNTERMEASURE RULE.—The term ''Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rule'' means the regulation promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under part 112 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 311.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Farmers Undertake Environmental Land Stewardship Act—or the FUELS Act—is an important piece of legislation that brings much-needed relief to the Nation's agricultural community. H.R. 311 is a bipartisan bill that currently has 73 cosponsors from Members on both sides of the aisle.

It passed the House unanimously last Congress and again last year as an amendment to the farm bill. Additionally, this legislation has gained the support of more than 30 producer organizations, including every major farm group.

The EPA-mandated SPCC—or Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure—rules requires that oil storage facilities with a capacity of over 1,320 gallons make costly infrastructure modifications to reduce the possibility of oil spills.

These mandated infrastructure improvements, along with the necessary inspection and certification by a specially licensed professional engineer, would cost farmers tens of thousands of dollars.

The SPCC program dates back to 1973, shortly after the Clean Water Act was signed into law. In the last decade, it has come down harshly on agriculture, and the rules have been amended, delayed, and extended dozens of times, creating enormous confusion in the farming community.

On top of that, the EPA has failed to engage in effective outreach to producers and cooperatives on SPCC's compliance.

The FUELS Act is simple. It revises the SPCC regulations to be reflective of a producer's spill risk and their financial resources. The exemption level would be adjusted upward from an unworkable 1,320 gallons of oil storage to an amount that would protect small farms, 10,000 gallons.

The bill would also place a greater degree of responsibility on farmers and ranchers to self-certify compliance if their oil storage facilities exceed their exemption level. To add another layer of environmental production, the producer must be able to demonstrate that he or she has no history of oil spills.

The University of Arkansas conducted a study, concluding that this bill would exempt over 80 percent of producers from SPCC compliance, saving up to $240 million in costs in Arkansas alone. For the entire country, it could save small farmers up to $3.36 billion.

The last thing the government should be doing is imposing an expensive regulatory burden on farming families. There is no scientific justification for such action, bolstered by the fact that the EPA cannot provide data or even anecdotal evidence of agricultural spills.

A 2005 USDA report found that more than 99 percent of farms surveyed haven't experienced a single incident. In fact, one year after this report was published, EPA endorsed the 10,000-gallon exemption threshold I am proposing in this bill. Unfortunately, they moved the goalpost again a few years later.

By the nature of their occupation, family farmers are already very careful stewards of the land and water. No one has more at stake than those who work on the ground from which they derive their livelihood.

I urge support of the FUELS Act and our Nation's small farmers.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concern on consideration of H.R. 311. This legislation would inexplicably weaken environmental safeguards against oil spills for one specific sector of our economy, American farms.

Under current law, any facility that stores certain quantities of oil is required to take precautionary steps to prevent the discharge of oil into U.S. waters. These requirements apply across the board based on the quantity of oil stored in the facility, which can range from an industrial facility to a service station to, of course, a farm.

These steps, outlined in the EPA's implementation regulations, known as the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure—or SPCC—rule, require facilities put in place appropriate measures to prevent any spilled oil from entering the water, which can include both the construction of containment systems or more simplistic measures to capture small leaks.

The SPCC rule also requires such facilities to have a plan in place in advance that identifies additional measures to clean up any oil that might otherwise escape such containment. These provisions generally have been in place since 1974 and have been in force for farmers since May 2013.

Since that time, all farmers who fall within the guidelines of the SPCC rule should now have put in place appropriately scaled countermeasures based on the size of their facility and the likelihood of an oil spill reaching U.S. waters; yet H.R. 311 would modify the existing obligations for farmers to comply with the SPCC rule.

In many instances, H.R. 311 would alleviate existing SPCC obligations for farmers to develop oil spill contingency plans, especially for those farmers that store less than 10,000 gallons of oil in above-ground containers.

In summary, this bill would tell farmers that currently have these measures in place to stop taking precautionary efforts to prevent spills.

Why does this legislation make this change? Is it because the oil stored on farms is less likely to spill or to pollute U.S. waters than other facilities that store oil? There is no empirical evidence in the committee record that this is the case.

Is it because the oil stored on farms is any different from oil stored at other facilities? Again, the answer is likely no.

The stated reason for this legislation is that these safeguards simply cost too much for American farmers, but the reality is, for many farmers, many of these costs have already taken place, especially any capital costs that might have been required for containment structures.

So, in reality, many of the compliance cost concerns expressed in this bill may well be overstated, as annual compliance costs may now be reduced simply to cover periodic maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, again, I have concerns with this legislation, and I hope that, as we continue to work through this issue, we will come up with a more sensible way of addressing the protection

of our American farms, as well as the protection of our U.S. waters.

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

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, March 11, 2014.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Today, March 11, the House of Representatives is scheduled to consider H.R. 311, under suspension of the rules. This bill would decrease the oversight of oil storage and safeguards against spills at locations around the country for one class of facilities without showing that they are safer than other facilities with the same volume of oil.

H.R. 311 increases the amount of storage capacity that triggers various requirements under the spill prevention, control and countermeasure (SPCC) rules for any ''farm,'' defined as ''a facility on a tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising of animals, including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold, $1,000 or more of agricultural products during a year.'' Consequently, more operations will be subject to weaker requirements or will be exempt altogether, as compared to the safeguards currently in place.

Oil is no less harmful to waterways and the people and wildlife that depend on the nation's waters if it happens to be spilled at an agricultural operation. It is common sense that any facility located such that a spill could reasonably reach waterways and cause harm—including agricultural facilities—should take steps to prevent spills and plan to respond to those that occur. Coming so soon after the chemical and coal slurry spills in West Virginia and the coal ash spill in North Carolina, it is nothing short of astonishing that Congress would weaken protections that seek to prevent, plan for, and address spills that could contaminate drinking water supplies or harm aquatic life.

The changes that H.R. 311 would impose would weaken current protections enormously. Take for instance the provisions that exempt facilities from the SPCC requirements; under H.R. 311, agri-businesses with an ''aggregate aboveground storage capacity'' of oil of 10,000 gallons or less would be exempt, compared with 1,320 gallons under current law. That provision alone is troubling, but the bill is even weaker than it appears at first blush, as it would also change the threshold for storage containers that can be ignored in the calculation of aboveground storage capacity from 55 gallons to 1,320 gallons, so long as a facility has not had a history of spills. That would allow covered operations to avoid the SPCC planning and prevention requirements entirely by having an unlimited number of 1,319–gallon tanks on site.

Agri-business operations already have been given significant flexibility in meeting the SPCC requirements. They have had an extended period of time to comply with changes to the applicable provisions; other facilities have been subject to these requirements since 2010 or 2011, whereas agri-businesses with the requisite oil storage capacity were due to comply in May, 2013. Section 1416 of the March, 2013 continuing resolution, Public Law 113–6, later prohibited the use of funds to enforce this requirement until September, 2013. The rules also provide flexibility in developing plans for certain operations with smaller storage volumes and a good history with respect to spills. And EPA provided for individual extensions of the deadline under some circumstances. Given that the deadline has now passed for farms, it is hard to understand what H.R. 311 would accomplish, aside from allowing newly-exempt operators to ignore the plans and procedures they have already developed, and rewarding those facilities that did not comply with the rules on time.

Congress should not gamble the nation's water resources for the sake of one industry. Please maintain sensible safeguards against oil spills and oppose H.R. 311.

Sincerely,

SCOTT SLESINGER,
Legislative Director,
Natural Resources Defense Council.

Mr. CRAWFORD. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady for her comments. I would say that the 10,000-gallon threshold that we have described here is actually taken right from the EPA.

Up to 2005, they were perfectly comfortable with the 10,000-gallon threshold, so we are basically saying that we definitely want to work with the EPA and use the thresholds that they see as viable or that they did see up to that point.

The other thing is that, in agriculture, it is not a one-size-fits-all type of a scenario, where there are different scales of production and different levels of production.

Economies of scale are certainly better equipped and use lots more fuel on their farm, and so we are trying to implement some guidelines that do respect the financial resources as well as the size of the operation.

And, again, there is no empirical evidence that there have been any kind of spills that would warrant this level of regulation for farmers and certainly not to the degree that 1,320 gallons calls for, and that would catch up virtually every farmer in the United States.

What we are trying to do is to implement some common sense into this in a way that even the EPA has already agreed to in past rules; so I just would, again, urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation. This will be, I believe, in total, the sixth time that we will have passed this out of the House.

Again, I think this is good commonsense legislation. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting H.R. 311.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 311.

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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VÁCLAV HAVEL

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 506) honoring the life and legacy of Václav Havel by directing the House of Representatives Fine Arts Board to provide for the display of a bust of Václav Havel in the United States Capitol.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 506

Whereas Václav Havel, former President of the Czech Republic, passed away on December 18, 2011, at 75 years of age, at his country home in Hrádeček in the Czech Republic;

Whereas Václav Havel is widely recognized and respected throughout the world as a defender of democratic principles and human rights;

Whereas through his extensive writings, Václav Havel courageously challenged the ideology and legitimacy of the authoritarian communist regimes that ruled Central and Eastern Europe during the Cold War;

Whereas Václav Havel, who was imprisoned multiple times by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia for his advocacy of universal human rights and democratic principles, maintained his convictions in the face of repression;

Whereas Václav Havel was one of the founders of Charter 77, a group of 242 individuals who called for the human rights guaranteed under the 1975 Helsinki accords to be realized in Czechoslovakia;

Whereas Václav Havel was a cofounder of the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted, an organization dedicated to supporting dissidents and their families which helped to advance the cause of freedom and justice in Czechoslovakia;

Whereas Václav Havel, as leader of the Civic Forum movement, was a key figure in the 1989 ''Velvet Revolution'', the peaceful overthrow of the Czechoslovakia communist government;

Whereas, on February 21, 1990, Václav Havel addressed a Joint Session of Congress where he stated, ''Thomas Jefferson wrote that 'governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed'. It was a simple and important act of the human spirit. What gave meaning to that act, however, was that the author backed it up with his life. It was not just his words but it was his deeds as well.'';

Whereas following the Velvet Revolution, Václav Havel was democratically elected as President of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in 1990, and after a peaceful partition forming 2 separate states, democratically elected President of the Czech Republic in 1993;

Whereas under the leadership of Václav Havel, the Czech Republic became a prosperous, democratic country and a respected member of the international community;

Whereas also under his leadership the Czech Republic became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on March 12, 1999, and continues to be a valued ally of the United States;

Whereas during his lifetime, Václav Havel received praise as one of the world's great democratic leaders and was awarded many international prizes recognizing his commitment to peace and democratic principles;

Whereas, on July 23, 2003, President George W. Bush honored Václav Havel with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award of the United States Government, for being ''one of liberty's great heroes'';

Whereas after leaving office as president of the Czech Republic in February 2003, Václav Havel remained a voice on behalf of democratic dissidents worldwide and against authoritarian regimes; and

Whereas the legacy of Václav Havel inspires those that advocate and work for freedom from tyranny: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That to honor the life and legacy of Václav Havel, the House of Representatives Fine Arts Board shall provide for the display of an appropriate bust of Václav Havel in the House of Representatives wing of the United States Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the House resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 506, directing the House Fine Arts Board to place a bust of Václav Havel in the United States Capitol, which will serve as an honor of his exemplary life and legacy.

Václav Havel was a man of many talents and contributions to the world. He was a Czechoslovakian playwright, essayist, and poet.

Born and raised in Prague, during his formative years, Havel and his family were among the countless who fell under oppression when the Communists came to power and confiscated all their property; yet, still, he carried on, finding his way professionally working in the arts, but he knew he had more to give.

Havel's contributions to society are without measure. Havel used his gifts of the written word to rally his countrymen behind the true meanings of freedom and the need for the human spirit to break free from the clutches of the communist empire.

Within his well-known essay, ''The Power of the Powerless,'' he insightfully pointed out how citizens under communist regimes were forced to ''live within a lie.'' He stood as someone who would not be oppressed and served as a lead negotiator, actually, in what would be the end of more than four decades of communist rule.

Many remember him for his instrumental role in the Velvet Revolution, where he became a dominant figure in the final push for a democratic government.

Havel fought for his home, Czechoslovakia, with words and with ideas, and he aided the fight for the oppressed, and he won. Havel became a leader when his countrymen and women needed him the most.

He was so respected by his peers in Czechoslovakia that he was chosen to lead postcommunist Czechoslovakia first as an interim President and then was voted unanimously to become President of Czechoslovakia in December of 1989 by its Parliament.

□ 1545

In today's environment, it is somewhat awe inspiring that he was so respected that he was unanimously elected to President. You don't find that too often these days.

Six months later, Havel was elected as President at a popular election in July of 1990; and through his leadership and influence, Mr. Havel helped guide states from underneath the Soviet regime to their place in respected democracies in Europe. He helped bring down the Iron Curtain, and he aided his country's transition into a free market economy. He certainly deserves to be honored with his bust in this building that celebrates our own democracy and supports democracy, liberty, and freedom across the globe.

So I urge my colleagues to support the resolution. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 506, and I wish to associate myself with the words of the gentlelady from Michigan, as well.

Václav Havel was an iconic defender of democracy, a protector of human rights, and an inspiration to people all over the world in their struggle to assert human rights as a universal freedom. His writings and his activism were essential in bringing democracy to a region long plagued by the authoritarianism of a Communist dictatorship.

In 1990, Mr. Havel was elected President of the former Czechoslovakia and later, in 1993, the Czech Republic. Under Mr. Havel's administration, the Czech Republic became and remains to this day a staunch ally of the United States. After his time in elected office, Mr. Havel continued to serve as a voice for the oppressed throughout the world and a champion of freedom until his death in 2011.

This bust of Václav Havel in the United States Capitol is a very fitting tribute because it is a tribute to an international leader and a man whose works helped to reshape the map of the world and the hope for freedom and human rights throughout the world.

I urge all the Members of this body to support H. Res. 506 unanimously, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my privilege to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), who is the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, as the author of this resolution, I rise today to honor the life of a rather extraordinary man, Václav Havel.

As we watch the crisis unfolding in Ukraine, I think it is important to reflect upon the life of the man who led the people of Czechoslovakia out from under the thumb of the totalitarian system he had grown up under, out from under the Soviet Union, and played a very key role in the founding of not one, but of two vibrant European democracies, one of them the Czech Republic and the other the Slovak Republic.

I remember a young Croatian journalist, with tears in his eyes, saying, if only we had had someone, someone like Václav Havel, when it came to the divisions in the former Yugoslavia. Because, as he stated, the ideals that Václav Havel had enunciated, political pluralism, tolerance, and democratic capitalism, the way forward, the same way forward as was broadcast by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty—broadcasts, by the way that were never heard in Yugoslavia; we never broadcast there. But he said those themes managed, without the loss of a single human life, for Václav Havel not only to bring independence for the Czechoslovakian people, but then to set up a separate Slovakia and a separate Czech Republic after the referendum.

As a playwright, Václav Havel revealed the absurdity he lived under under communist ideology. He discredited—he discredited—the repressive Czechoslovak Communist regime, and following the brutal Soviet suppression of the 1968 Prague Spring, which was a movement for greater political liberalization, Havel was banned from the theater. Their attempt to silence him was to not allow his words to be heard. But instead, they greatly underestimated his passion for freedom, because instead of succumbing to their intimidation, Václav Havel became the voice and increased—increased—his political activity.

Havel played the central role in drafting the now famous Charter 77 Manifesto and was a founding member of the dissident organization based upon those very principles, and in 1979 he founded the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Persecuted. These and other opposition efforts earned him multiple stays in prison as a so-called guest of the Communist authorities.

But Havel and the cause of freedom prevailed. Following the successful Velvet Revolution of 1989, Václav Havel became President of Czechoslovakia, and that was by a unanimous vote of the Federal Assembly, and that ended 41 years of repressive Communist rule.

The following year, Czechoslovakia held its first free elections in four decades, resulting in overwhelming support for Havel to retain the Presidency. As leader of an independent Czechoslovakia, Havel presided over the peaceful separation of the Czech and Slovak Republics, a momentous and challenging task. As President of the Czech Republic, he paved the way for the country's entrance both into NATO and into the European Union.

A strong supporter of Radio Free Europe, President Havel invited this U.S. international broadcaster to move to Prague, offering the former Czechoslovak Parliament building as a headquarters for them. And when some questioned the broadcaster's role after the fall of communism, Havel stated:

> We need your professionalism and your ability to see events from a broad perspective.

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he might consume to the gentleman.

Mr. ROYCE. Havel's zeal for liberating oppressed people did not diminish in later years, when he continued to advocate for democratic reforms in places such as Belarus, Burma, Cuba, and Iran.

In reference to his role as a democratic activist, Havel simply wrote:

> We never decided to become dissidents. We simply went ahead and did certain things that we felt we ought to do, that seemed decent for us to do, nothing more nor less.

The legacy of this freedom fighter serves as an inspiration for peaceful, democratic activists today. It is fitting, therefore, for us to pass this resolution and provide for a bust of Václav Havel to be displayed in the Capitol Building, the workplace of our great democracy. There alongside similar images of the great champions of freedom—Winston Churchill, Louis Kossuth, Raoul Wallenberg—his statue will remind future generations of the impact one man can have in the advancement and in the protection of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the original cosponsors of this resolution, as well: Majority Leader CANTOR, Minority Leader PELOSI, Majority Whip MCCARTHY, Minority Whip HOYER, Appropriations Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY, and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ELIOT ENGEL, with whom I worked particularly closely in trying to advance the values of Václav Havel.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, we want to thank Mr. ROYCE, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for introducing this resolution and promoting the idea of having a bust of Václav Havel in the U.S. Capitol. We completely agree with his motivation and the words that he has shared with us today.

With that, I urge unanimous support for this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would simply close by saying Václav Havel passed away on December 18, 2011, in the Czech Republic. He was 75 years old. And what an incredible life this man led, and I think certainly displaying his bust in the United States Capitol is certainly an appropriate and fitting tribute. So I would urge my colleagues, as well, to unanimously support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary Mr. Václav Havel who died in 2011 at the age of 75.

Mr. Havel will forever be remembered as a defender of democracy and human rights in the former Soviet Union, having fought against communism and repression throughout the Cold War. Mr. Havel played a central role in the 1989 Velvet Revolution that ultimately paved the way toward democratic governance in the Czech Republic.

Mr. Havel went on to serve as the first post-communist President of the Czech Republic. His leadership and vision helped lay the groundwork for the country's prominent standing in our democratic community of nations.

I join my colleagues in support of this bipartisan resolution.

It is time that we honor Mr. Havel's legacy by allowing his bust alongside those of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., Raoul Wallenberg, Sir Winston Churchill, and Sojourner Truth in the U.S. Capitol. Their busts serve as a timeless celebration of some of our most cherished human rights defenders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge your support.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today in this chamber as Members of the People's House sworn to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the ideals enshrined therein—freedom and democracy—it would only be fitting that we honor the life and legacy of a man who embodied those ideals.

Authorizing a bust of Václav Havel to be forever memorialized in these hallowed halls of the United States Capitol alongside some of the world's greatest voices for freedom, equal rights, and human dignity would be an apropos testament to a man who was a tireless advocate for liberty, human rights and for the right of self-determination for the people of Czechoslovakia.

It was Václav's unwavering commitment to his country and to democracy that inspired generations to rise up and break free from decades of communist rule.

But the fervor for which he opposed ruthless dictators wasn't limited to just Eastern Europe, but to wherever they may be.

His support of the people of my homeland, Cuba, meant a great deal and revealed Václav's true nature.

Václav advocated for the rights, dignity, and liberation of the Cuban people and created the International Committee for Democracy in Cuba in order to increase the visibility of the plight of the Cuban people and generate global support for freedom and democracy on the island.

I was honored to have authored the House Resolution in 2012 that celebrated the life and legacy of Václav Havel after his passing, and I stand here today to express my utmost support for H. Res. 506.

Every time we will see his bust in the Capitol will serve as a reminder that we must never give up the struggle against tyranny and oppression—and that is how we will forever honor the memory of Václav Havel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 506.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING VIOLATION OF UKRAINIAN SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 499) condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 499

Whereas the United States has been strongly committed to the sovereignty, democratic development, and prosperity of Ukraine since it secured its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991;

Whereas on January 29, 2014, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives agreed to House Resolution 447, supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear, which resolution was agreed to by the House of Representatives on February 10, 2014;

Whereas the Ukrainian people have the right to freely determine their future, including their country's relationship with other countries and international organizations, without interference, intimidation, or coercion by other countries;

Whereas closer relations with Europe hold out the prospect of a more stable and prosperous Ukraine, which would be of benefit to all countries, including Russia;

Whereas the military intervention by the Russian Federation in Crimea is a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity;

Whereas this military intervention is a violation of international law, including the Russian Federation's obligations under the United Nations Charter;

Whereas this military intervention is a violation of the Russian Federation's obligations under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, in which it pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine and to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine;

Whereas by its military intervention in Ukraine, the Russian Federation has violated the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act Declaration of Principles Regarding Relations Between Participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

Whereas the Russian Federation's military intervention in Crimea represents a reckless escalation of its long-standing efforts to pressure Ukraine through political, diplomatic, and economic means to reduce its ties to Europe and the West and force it into a closer association with Russia, including through the establishment of a Eurasian Union;

Whereas the Russian Federation has used and is continuing to use coercive economic measures, including the manipulation of energy prices and supplies, and trade restrictions to place political pressure on Ukraine and other countries in the region;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has exercised extraordinary restraint to date in response to the use of force against it on its territory;

Whereas the instability in Ukraine has forced 230 Peace Corps volunteers to leave Ukraine; and

Whereas the immediate deployment of international monitors from either the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe or the United Nations to Crimea and in other Ukrainian regions would provide transparency and objective reporting regarding threats of violence and military activity, and regarding civil and political rights, and also enhance the security of the Ukrainian people in all regions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation;

(2) states that the military intervention by the Russian Federation—

(A) is in breach of its obligations under the United Nations Charter;

(B) is in violation of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, in which it pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine and to refrain from the threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine; and

(C) poses a threat to international peace and security;

(3) calls on the Russian Federation to remove all of its military forces from Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, other than those operating in strict accordance with its 1997 agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet Stationing on the Territory of Ukraine, and to refrain from interference in all regions of Ukraine, including by ending its support of separatist and paramilitary forces in Crimea;

(4) declares that the Ukrainian people have the right to determine their own future free from outside interference;

(5) commends the Ukrainian Government for its continued restraint and avoidance of military provocations;

(6) calls on the Ukrainian Government to continue to protect the rights of all minority populations within Ukraine and make clear that it represents all Ukrainian citizens;

(7) calls on all Ukrainians to respect the legitimate government authorities in all parts of Ukraine, including in eastern and southern Ukraine, as well as to respect all Ukrainian laws and the Constitution of Ukraine;

(8) calls for the deployment of independent monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Crimea and other areas of Ukraine;

(9) calls on NATO allies and European Union member states to immediately suspend military cooperation with Russia, including restricting sales to the Russian government of lethal and non-lethal military equipment that might be used to support further aggression in Ukraine or elsewhere in the region;

(10) calls upon the President and the leaders of other democratic states to boycott the G-8 summit in Sochi, Russia, to convene a G-7 summit in June 2014 outside of Russia that does not include Russia, and to consider expelling Russia from the group, given its record of international aggression, domestic repression, and human rights records that are inconsistent with democratic standards;

(11) calls on the Administration to work with our European allies and other countries to impose visa, financial, trade, and other sanctions on senior Russian Federation officials, Russian and Ukranian oligarchs and others complicit in Russia's intervention and interference in Ukraine, majority state-owned banks and commercial organizations, and other state agencies, as appropriate;

(12) states that the United States should participate with its European allies, other countries, and international organizations in a coordinated effort to provide the Ukrainian government with financial, economic, and technical assistance, including asset recovery, to assist a domestic economic recovery program that includes fundamental reforms and effective anti-corruption measures;

(13) calls on the United States, its European allies, and other countries and international organizations to provide assistance to ensure that new elections scheduled for May 2014 are free, fair, and in full accordance with international standards;

(14) calls on the United States and its European allies, other countries, and international organizations to develop a long-term strategy to support economic development and reform in Ukraine, including through enhanced relationships with Western countries, organizations and institutions;

(15) calls on Ukraine and European countries and former Soviet Republics to support energy diversification initiatives to reduce Russian control of energy exports, including by promoting energy efficiency and reverse natural gas flows from Western Europe, and calls on the United States to promote increased natural gas exports and energy efficiency;

(16) supports efforts by Ukraine to achieve energy independence;

(17) supports efforts by Ukraine to improve transparency, combat corruption, and protect individual rights through an independent judiciary and strong rule of law; and

(18) affirms the right of all countries in the region to exercise their sovereign rights within their internationally recognized borders free from outside intervention and to conduct their foreign policy in accordance with their determination of the best interests of their peoples.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 499, a very important declaration of support for the people of Ukraine in this time of peril. This measure condemns Russia's unprovoked aggression in clear and in unmistakable terms. The U.S. has a strong interest in a democratic and prosperous Ukraine and a Ukraine with its territorial integrity intact.

I would like to take this time to recognize, also, Ranking Member ENGEL for coauthoring this bipartisan resolution, and I would also like to thank the members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs for their work to strengthen this resolution at last week's markup where it passed unanimously.

This resolution is an important part of the larger effort to aid Ukraine and impose real costs on Russia, to give Russia something to weigh in the balance, something to take into account for its unacceptable action in the Crimea section of Ukraine.

Among other resolves, the resolution condemns the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation, and it declares that the Ukrainian people have the right to determine their own future free from outside interference.

Importantly, the resolution calls on the administration to work with our allies to impose visa, financial, and other sanctions, as appropriate. Russia's actions cannot go unchallenged.

To show Moscow how isolated its aggression has made it, world leaders are speaking out. Today, the House of Representatives is joining those voices. Ukraine's new government is confronting an economic and financial crisis brought on by years of mismanagement and corruption by previous government officials, and it is doing this while under military invasion and economic coercion by neighboring Russia.

The new government in Kiev cannot succeed without strong and rapid support by the international community. Last week, the House acted quickly on a loan guarantee provision. This is conditioned on Ukraine's undertaking fundamental economic reforms to stabilize its economy.

Addressing Ukraine's energy security must be part of our response here. While the United States recently became the world's largest producer of natural gas, Russia is still the largest exporter. Moscow freely uses its energy resources to advance its foreign policy goals, including by blackmailing countries which are dependent on Russia.

Russia has repeatedly used its natural gas to pressure Ukraine economically and politically. It recently announced that it will significantly hike its prices, a deliberate effort to squeeze Ukraine in order to worsen its current economic crisis and to control it politically.

Fortunately, we have a readily available option to help counter this threat, namely, reducing the current impediments to exports of American natural gas to Ukraine. While Vladimir Putin is selling oil and gas around the world, we still maintain major restrictions on selling our energy to all but a handful of countries.

We should end these self-imposed sanctions on our energy exports to Ukraine. This would undermine Putin's influence. It would bolster our allies throughout Europe and create jobs at home.

I urge all Members to support this important measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2014.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE, I am writing with respect to H. Res. 499, ''Condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation.'' As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H. Res. 499 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this resolution that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H. Res. 499 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this resolution or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H. Res. 499, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H. Res. 499.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 499, condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 499 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on the Judiciary as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2014.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H. Res. 499, ''Condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation,'' which was favorably reported out of your Committee on March 6, 2014.

As you know, H. Res. 499 has been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. In order to expedite floor consideration of the resolution, the Committee on Ways and Means will forgo action on H. Res. 499. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H. Res. 499, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2014.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: Thank you for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 499, condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 499 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Ways and Means as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

□ 1600

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself whatever time I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support of H. Res. 499, a resolution that condemns the recent violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity by Russia.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman ROYCE for his leadership on this issue, as well as Ranking Member ENGEL, and for their introducing this resolution.

As the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, I, along with Leader PELOSI and Whip HOYER and my colleagues on the Ukrainian Caucus and the Foreign Affairs Committee, have watched the developments in Ukraine with concern, particularly over the last 9 months.

Long before the Vilnius Summit and then-President Yanukovych's surprise announcement in November that he would not sign an Association Agreement with the EU, our administration noted with concern the pressure exerted over Ukrainian authorities to act against the interests of their own people.

It began with Russian threats of trade embargo and gas supply cutoffs in Ukraine if they signed the Association Agreement.

After peaceful demonstrators took to the streets in subzero temperatures, chilling cold, risking their own well-being in Kiev to protest the decision, Russia threatened to withhold billions of dollars in promised financial assistance if Yanukovych did not crack down on it.

In mid-February dozens of peaceful protesters were tragically killed by Ukrainian special police receiving orders from then-President Yanukovych.

Now, under the most disingenuous of pretexts, Russian President Putin has ordered his troops to invade an independent, sovereign country in blatant violation of international law. Enough is enough. We must stand with the people of Ukraine at this critical moment.

The people of Ukraine, and the people of all countries in the region, and throughout the world for that matter, have the right to determine their own future free of pressure, free of threats. As Ukrainians attempt to chart out their own course, they should know that the United States stands with them and that we are committed to helping them build a more democratic, prosperous, secure, and just Ukraine.

Before I go any further, I would like to commend the administration, and in particular Secretary Kerry, Assistant Secretary Nuland, Ambassador Pyatt, and the women and men of our Embassy in Kiev, who have worked so tirelessly throughout this crisis to support the democratic aspirations of Ukrainian people.

I witnessed them work tirelessly during this effort, not letting 2 days go by without imploring the leadership in Ukraine to move forward. I noticed the Vice President interceding virtually 3 times a week in that same effort. So I welcome the administration's initial actions in response to Russia's invasion of Crimea, including the announcement of an executive order authorizing visa bans and sanctions on individuals and entities responsible for activities threatening Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

If Russia continues to refuse to pull back troops to its bases, there must be further consequences. These consequences must be severe, including trade and economic sanctions and expulsion from the G8. This resolution puts President Putin on notice that his reckless actions will have consequences. It calls on him to accept international monitors in Crimea and return his troops to its bases. It makes clear our support for meaningful assistance to Ukraine and to Ukraine's interim government.

Therefore, I call on all my colleagues to support this House resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their leadership on this issue in the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The situation in Ukraine continues to be grim. Now is the time to support

those who strive for democracy. Included in H. Res. 499 is an amendment I offered in committee to strengthen the language expressing the support of the House to work with our partners in the Ukraine to improve transparency, combat corruption, and protect individual rights through an independent judiciary and strong rule of law.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, is an important first step, but there is more we must do to address Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty.

I hope to work with the chairman and the ranking member to quickly pass a strong package of sanctions that targets those responsible for the invasion of Crimea and lets Russia know that annexation of Crimea or any part of Ukraine is not an option.

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

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), a leader and a voice for Ukraine's strong move to democracy, a person who is cochair of the Ukrainian Caucus and a person who is committed to Ukraine and is one of the strongest voices here in the U.S. for that.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important resolution supporting the people of Ukraine and condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence by Russia.

Unified, bipartisan American support is needed now more than ever as the Ukrainian people and their freedom are under threat from Russian aggression.

Last week, the House spoke with one voice and took a critical step in support of Ukraine by passing a loan guarantee bill. This resolution is another positive step.

Mr. Putin's military incursion into Crimea is a blatant violation of Russian obligations under a number of multilateral agreements. It demands a strong response, and the administration and Congress have responded accordingly.

In addition to condemning Russia's military occupation to Crimea, this resolution supports the Obama administration's efforts to provide U.S. and international financial assistance to Ukraine.

It also supports the administration's work with our European allies to impose targeted financial, travel, and trade sanctions on Russian officials and institutions responsible for violations of international law.

The Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, which I cochair, has always operated in a spirit of bipartisanship with much success. This has been especially true since the crisis in Ukraine began, because supporting fundamental human rights and democracy in Ukraine and opposing illegal efforts by one country to dominate another, all of this should not be partisan issues.

In closing, I urge the House to once again speak with one voice in support of Ukraine and pass this resolution.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his comments.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER).

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important bipartisan resolution. I want to commend Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for bringing this measure forward.

The United States has been committed to Ukraine's prosperity and sovereignty since it gained independence in 1991. There has never been a more critical time to reaffirm this commitment than right now.

President Putin's unilateral decision to expand Russia's military operations in Ukraine was made with the calculation that the world would respond with words, not deeds. He was wrong. The world must send a clear message to Russia that there will be real consequences for these violations of international laws.

Failure to deter Russia's aggression will embolden President Putin to continue seeking illegitimate power and further threaten stability in this important region of the world. Just as importantly, failure to act would embolden bullies in other areas of the world who are no doubt watching.

This resolution calls for strong action by the United States, such as suspending military cooperation with Russia, boycotting the G8 summit, and imposing sanctions on those involved in this breach of international law. America should also take this opportunity to expand energy production and energy exports to send a clear message to Ukraine, Russia, and our allies that America will not allow Russia to use its energy resources to intimidate the world.

These actions are necessary to show Russia and the rest of the world that the United States will not sit on the sidelines when people are being used as political pawns by so-called leaders seeking to enhance their own power by the use of force.

I urge our colleagues to support this important resolution and demonstrate to friend and foe alike that America still stands for freedom and the ability of people everywhere to determine their own destiny, not have that destiny determined for them by threats, intimidation, and military might.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, this is important, not just with what the resolution says; it is important how we say it as a country. We are gathered here today, and it is no surprise in this Chamber that from time to time we do not see eye to eye on issues. This important matter has brought both sides together, Republican House Members standing shoulder to shoulder with Democrats, joining with the other Chamber, the Senate, both Democrats and Republicans alike with one voice with the administration.

It was only a few weeks ago that I was in Munich and had the opportunity to sit down with Vitali Klitschko, who has been in the midst of all this move for democracy, and, tragically, in the midst of all the violence and killing that has occurred. He spoke with sincerity and passion over what his people are going through right now. He spoke about his country's need to be a free people with a rule of law, stamping out corruption and moving forward in a democratic fashion. He asked that the U.S. speak as well. With this resolution, we have the opportunity to speak in one united, loud, determined voice for democracy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the new Prime Minister of Ukraine will visit Capitol Hill tomorrow, and this resolution is a strong show of support in the House. It shows we will support the people of Ukraine as they try to build a democratic country, a country that is more prosperous, a country that is free of illegitimate outside influence. It also sends a clear message to the leaders and elites in Russia that annexation of territory in a neighboring state will not extend Russia's influence but will instead lead to political and economic isolation.

Let me also speak to the issue of Russia's state-controlled gas company, Gazprom.

□ 1615

They have just threatened to cut off supplies to Ukraine. This is not new. In the past, disputes over natural gas supplies and prices and debts have resulted in Russia shutting off the pipelines in Ukraine in January of 2006 and in January of 2009, not surprisingly, in the middle of the winter, when they would inflict the most damage.

These actions also hit several countries in Europe, which are heavily dependent on Russian gas that transits by pipeline through Ukraine. Those countries are Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic, and Romania. This shortfall would reverberate throughout Europe.

I believe it is very important that we pass this resolution out today.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the cochair of the Ukrainian Caucus.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for allowing me this time.

I want to commend the committee of jurisdiction for bringing this bill before our body in a very timely manner. I am very proud of our country, the standard bearer for liberty across this world.

We as a Congress, in this House in particular, are in the leadership role of standing up for people in another sovereign nation who seek to have the same freedoms that we enjoy. These freedoms are hard earned.

This resolution today, H.R. 499, allows Congress to take the next steps to our firm and continued commitment to Ukrainian sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic advancement so Ukraine can become the great borderland nation she is destined to be.

Additionally, H.R. 499 accompanies H. Res. 447, which this House passed on January 29 and on which those of us here on the floor today were original cosponsors.

The Russian Federation's military invasion of Crimea is a clear violation of every treaty and agreement to which she is a part, including her membership in the United Nations and its 5-member permanent Security Council.

Russia's action is not only a violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity, but also the 1994 Budapest Accord and a complete breach of obligations under the United Nations charter.

The United States continues to condemn those violations. We call on Russia to immediately withdraw all military forces from Crimea. No two nations should shed bloodshed anymore that have the histories of Ukraine and Russia.

We call on the Obama administration and our European allies to impose financial, trade, and visa sanctions in increasing severity on those in Russia responsible for this travesty.

I urge my colleagues to fully support House Resolution 499, and I wish to thank the Ukrainian Caucus founded by Members here today, especially Congressman SANDER LEVIN of Michigan, who has fought at our side for so many decades in word and deed for the freedom of Ukraine.

I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. ED ROYCE of California, for his continued leadership and vigilance, and Congressman BILL KEATING of Massachusetts for allowing me the time today.

Most Americans and people in the world don't know the full history of Ukraine, but no place suffered more in the 20th century than that place, through forced starvation of its own people by the then Soviet Union, by the Great Terror of elimination of millions of minority groups in its borders, by then the invasion of the Nazis and the German government a while later.

Over 14 million people were slaughtered or starved to death or assassinated or buried alive inside the boundaries of what we call greater Ukraine and Belarus. There is no greater moral obligation for the world community than to stand at Ukraine's side now in her fateful hour.

I am so very proud of our country for being a positive force to get a diplomatic resolution and a peaceful settlement so the world community can muster full strength to stop any further bloodshed. What a shame that would be in this 21st century, a century that should be one of democratic advancement and liberty for all.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 7½ minutes remaining.

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

I also want to mention that it was just a few weeks ago, also, I met with Prime Minister Yatsenyuk, as well. We had time to discuss this issue. We had time to, again, recount the valor and courage of those people who took the streets and risked their lives.

It is worthwhile to note that the Prime Minister is in Washington this week, and we want to commend him for his efforts and stand beside him.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our minority whip, who has taken this action forward, who has spoken so loudly, and has provided great leadership on this issue.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Chairman ROYCE for bringing this bill to the floor and Ranking Member ENGEL, and my good friend from Massachusetts for his great leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for this resolution. Hopefully, it will pass unanimously.

Russian forces continue to occupy Crimea in gross violation of international law and binding agreements signed between Ukraine and Russia in 1994 and 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I chaired the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe from 1985 to 1995. It was an extraordinary era, where the Soviet Union crumbled under the weight of its bad economic system and its political terrorism. It is starting to rear its ugly head again.

President Obama and Secretary Kerry have made it very clear—and we need to make it very clear—that Russia cannot interfere in Ukraine without serious costs; and when I say, ''serious costs,'' I mean exactly that, it cannot be empty words. It cannot be ''you ought not to.'' It needs to be ''you must not,'' and ''we will not allow.''

Last week, the President proposed sanctions and travel bans against Russian leaders complicit in their military's intrusion into Crimea. If Russia were to annex Crimea, those costs would rise. A referendum has no legitimacy when there are military forces in the streets.

In any event, as I said, I chaired the Helsinki Commission. The Helsinki Final Act, passed in July of 1975 and signed by President Ford, said emphatically and explicitly that borders cannot be changed other than by political and peaceful means. Military incursion is not an option.

This resolution will send a powerful message on behalf of the American people. The people of Ukraine who want to build a future based on democracy and freedom will hear us and be strengthened by our support.

How do I know that? Because Vaclav Havel, the leader of Czechoslovakia, a Helsinki Final Act activist, spoke from that podium where the President of the United States gives the State of the Union and said the Helsinki Final Act made an extraordinary difference.

Us speaking out will give courage and encouragement.

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

Mr. KEATING. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. HOYER. Those who undermine that project and who threaten Ukraine's territorial integrity or its economic activity will hear us as well.

As I understand the 1994 agreement, Great Britain and the United States, two of the great powers in this world, said that we would protect and come to the aid of Ukraine when they gave up their nuclear weapons in consideration, in part, of that representation, made by us and made by the Russians.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to approve this resolution and send a strong and unmistakable message of solidarity with the people of Ukraine and of unity in defense of democracy in Ukraine and, indeed, throughout the world.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to close.

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

In closing, just recounting the fact that so many of us in this Chamber have the opportunity to travel, to go to different countries, I must say that, each time I go, I will look at different countries, and I will look at the fact that there is no strong rule of law, I will look at the fact that there are no human rights protections, no protections against someone's freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of speech.

I come back to this country, and I kiss the ground that we walk on and take for granted daily.

I have looked at what has transpired in this region. I have looked at the way that laws were put in place in Ukraine and, fortunately, repealed that denied the right to gather together, that denied the right to speak up, human rights violations that I found to exist, too, in Russia, the country that is moving in such an aggressive manner towards Ukraine.

Since 1991, the United States has strongly supported a democratic, prosperous, sovereign Ukraine. In keeping with this commitment, we supported a peaceful, negotiated resolution of the recent crisis there and as hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens came out in the streets of Kiev and throughout Ukraine to express their desire for a more democratic and just state, many of them risking their lives, too many sacrificing their lives.

The recent selection of a new interim government signaled that Ukraine was back on a path toward stability and political and economic health; but instead of gathering here to welcome this event, sadly, we are gathered, now, dealing with an international crisis in Crimea.

We must support Ukraine's efforts. Their efforts are our efforts. Their move for democracy is the staple of our own government.

I urge the entire membership to join with us, to join with Chairman ROYCE, to join with Ranking Member ENGEL, and the rest of this House on the resolution moving forward.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) for his work on this resolution, as well as our ranking member of the committee, ELIOT ENGEL of New York, and also recognize the long, hard work that Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio and Mr. GERLACH of Pennsylvania have put into their engagement on this issue with Ukraine.

I would also add that, if we do not recognize that Russia is using energy as a weapon, we are missing what is really going on in Eastern Europe and Central Europe. It was, in part, Ukraine's reliance on Russia's energy that pushed the now-deposed Ukraine President Yanukovych to abandon the trade deal with the European Union.

□ 1630

It was that attempt to pressure him, and he was tempted by promises of discounts on natural gas. He was pressured by the threat of turning off the valve on that gas. He was pressured to turn toward Russia instead of to the European Union. We believe that Ukraine should have the right to trade with Russia and with the European Union—to trade east and west and north to Poland and south to Moldova. This should be the decision of the Ukrainian people.

I believe the administration must do far more to isolate Russia diplomatically than it has to date and that the Treasury Department should also make clear that the U.S. is on the lookout for Russian enterprises, especially banks, that are involved in illicit activities such as the transfer of stolen Ukrainian assets.

We must remember that the purpose of our pressure on Russia is not simply to punish aggression and certainly not to escalate the confrontation but, instead, to move Putin toward a resolution that protects the independence and the territorial integrity of Ukraine. That is the goal that all of us share, and I urge all Members to support H. Res. 499 and to stand with the people of Ukraine.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the escalating situation in Ukraine. Russia's military occupation of Crimea is a blatant violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and a breach of international law. The United States and our allies must support the Ukrainian people and use all diplomatic and economic options available to address Russia's dangerous actions and unprovoked aggression. That is why I strongly support H. Res. 499, a resolution stating that Russia must immediately withdraw its military from Ukraine, adhere to international law and respect Ukrainian sovereignty.

The people of Ukraine must be able to exercise their sovereign, democratic right to decide their own future without interference or intimidation from Russia. As a member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I will continue working with my colleagues to explore options—including banking sanctions, visa bans and freezing assets of officials—to move President Putin toward a peaceful resolution that ends this crisis and protects Ukraine's rights and borders.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 499, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CARE AND HEALTH ACT

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1814) to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1814

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 ''Equitable Access to Care and Health Act'' or the ''EACH Act''.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO HEALTH COVERAGE MANDATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 5000A(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) ADDITIONAL RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Such term shall not include an individual for any month during a taxable year if such individual files a sworn statement, as part of the return of tax for the taxable year, that the individual was not covered under minimum essential coverage at any time during such taxable year and that the individual's sincerely held religious beliefs would cause the individual to object to medical health care that would be covered under such coverage.

''(ii) NULLIFIED IF RECEIPT OF MEDICAL HEALTH CARE DURING TAXABLE YEAR.—Clause (i) shall not apply to an individual for any month during a taxable year if the individual received medical health care during the taxable year.

''(iii) MEDICAL HEALTH CARE DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'medical health care' means voluntary health treatment by or supervised by a medical doctor that would be covered under minimum essential coverage and—

''(I) includes voluntary acute care treatment at hospital emergency rooms, walk-in clinics, or similar facilities, and

''(II) excludes—

''(aa) treatment not administered or supervised by a medical doctor, such as chiropractic treatment, dental care, midwifery, personal care assistance, or optometry,

''(bb) physical examinations or treatment where required by law or third parties, such as a prospective employer, and

''(cc) vaccinations.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the amendments made by section 1501 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Just yesterday, a Washington newspaper headline read: ''Worst Congress Ever.''

The thrust of the article was an indictment against Washington partisanship for its failure to move significant legislation on behalf of the American people. Now, to some degree, I suppose we have all felt at times that Congress just isn't making any laws. Of course, there are times, however, when Congress must make no law if we are to honor the oath we have sworn, which is to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Indeed, ''Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.''

Today, we have the opportunity to work together, across the aisle, to reaffirm this founding principle of our democracy. Together, we will reinforce the constitutional protection for sincere believers of all faiths against the unnecessary entanglement of government with their private religious expression. H.R. 1814 slightly expands the religious conscience exemption of the Affordable Care Act to include individuals with ''sincerely held religious beliefs'' among those eligible for an exemption from the individual mandate penalty.

In order to qualify for the exemption under the EACH Act, an individual must affirm on an annual tax return that he or she cannot purchase coverage due to a sincerely held religious belief. This term, as defined by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and as widely recognized by

the courts, is designed to protect various types of religious believers, not just those who belong to a traditional, organized religion.

Today's bill must become law. Among the many problems with the Affordable Care Act, the current conscience exemption only protects the religious exemptions of a few select faiths. Now, I am fully aware that not every organization purporting to defend religious liberty is in favor of today's measure. I am, nevertheless, thankful that my good friend from the other side of the aisle, Mr. KEATING, joined me in this effort. His home State of Massachusetts incorporated a similar religious liberty exemption in their State law, and it seems to be working out just fine. Since the law passed, only 6,500 Bay Staters have claimed the conscience exemption.

This fact serves to reinforce the very principle of religious liberty we affirm today. The Constitution does not only protect the religious practices and beliefs of majority faith traditions, but, rather, the First Amendment protects even the smallest faith group and even the single individual against laws that infringe upon their sincerely held religious beliefs.

Yet H.R. 1814 isn't only about constitutional jurisprudence and legislative correctness. It is about real people in my district and in yours who feel that their free exercise of religion is encumbered under the current law. One of them is a constituent of mine named Andrew, who lives in Chillicothe, Illinois. Andrew is a sincere believer whose religious commitment leads him to pursue only nonmedical health care options. According to Andrew, under the current law, he will be required to pay a fine once the individual mandate penalty kicks in. Regrettably, Andrew's religious beliefs were not considered when the present conscience exemption was enacted.

Today, the EACH Act gives individuals like Andrew the ability to practice his religious beliefs without coercive government fining him for coverage he does not intend to use nor can he use and remain true to his most sincere religious beliefs. We recognize, however, that the immense unpopularity of ObamaCare among many Americans might entice otherwise law-abiding citizens to claim an exemption under the EACH Act in order to escape the law's penalty. In order to ensure that individuals do not game the system, this bill includes a strong provision that revokes the exemption and requires the individual to pay a stiff penalty if he or she seeks medical treatment at any point during that year.

H.R. 1814 walks that fine line between protecting the First Amendment for every American and safeguarding taxpayers against potential fraud. Congress has long sought to uphold both of these commitments, and, today, this bill affords us a bipartisan opportunity to do it once again. I urge my colleagues to support this important fix to the Affordable Care Act and to pass H.R. 1814.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I know that this legislation carries important personal significance for some of our colleagues, and I respect that, but I want to express some real concerns about the bill because I feel it is overly broad. It could seriously undermine the Affordable Care Act and would establish a bad precedent for our tax laws.

The bill states that individuals would not be required to obtain health insurance coverage if their ''sincerely held religious beliefs'' cause them to object to treatments that would be covered. The bill does not narrowly define ''sincerely held religious beliefs'' as those of Christian Scientists or other groups who rely on a religious method of healing. As a result, the bill would force the IRS to either accept virtually all attestations of exemption or to determine which Americans' religious beliefs meet that standard. This is impossibly difficult to enforce, and, frankly, it is not a role we want the IRS to take on.

If the IRS chose to define ''sincerely held religious beliefs'' broadly, H.R. 1814 could allow, essentially, anyone opposed to the Affordable Care Act to opt out of coverage. That would lead to an increase in the number of uninsured Americans, and it would shift costs on to other taxpayers. Even if we assume the IRS could set a standard, there are significant problems with the legislation.

The bill claims that individuals receiving ''voluntary'' medical care would lose their exemptions, but the IRS has no way to monitor individuals' use of voluntary medical care, making this totally unenforceable. Furthermore, individuals receiving ''involuntary'' care, such as expensive emergency care, would be allowed to remain exempt from the coverage requirement, passing the costs of their care on to hospitals and other taxpayers.

I understand this is a sensitive issue. If religious groups that receive Medicare and Social Security benefits do not want to obtain health insurance, we need to examine that issue carefully. This bill should have been the subject of hearings. It should have been marked up in committee. Unfortunately, it was not.

The Affordable Care Act is about moving our Nation towards universal health insurance coverage. That is the right thing for the health of our Nation. So I believe we need to tread very carefully when opening up new loopholes or exemptions, and we must be very cautious before assigning such sensitive duties to the IRS.

Because of these concerns, I cannot support this legislation at the present time and in its present form. I hope our colleagues in the Senate will take a careful look at it and make substantial changes before considering it further.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend's comments from California. I would just remind the gentleman that this is a near carbon copy of language that was implemented in the State of Massachusetts. It has had a very minimal effect, and it has impacted and has helped a very small number of people. It is why this bill has received such bipartisan support and is on the suspension calendar here tonight.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), my good friend.

Mrs. BLACK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my strongest support to my friend Mr. SCHOCK's legislation, the Equitable Access to Care and Health Act.

Even some of the President's most ardent supporters now recognize that ObamaCare is a fundamentally unfair law, and I am happy to see that so many Democrats join us in support of this important bill.

Instead of having Federal bureaucrats decide who and what groups should be allowed religious conscience exemptions from this law's tax penalty, individuals, themselves, should be empowered to affirm their objections to this law's onerous and controversial mandates. That is what this commonsense bill would do, and I urge its swift passage to help protect Americans from the Obama administration's war on religious liberties.

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

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), the distinguished gentleman from the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1814, the Equitable Access to Care and Health Act.

One of our inalienable rights as American citizens is that we have the right to proscribe in whatever faith we so choose. With this right comes also the freedom from persecution and different treatment under the law. This body has long recognized the freedom of religion and has worked to ensure individuals of all faiths are treated fairly under the law. Even the Affordable Care Act, which imposes the burden of mandating the purchase of insurance, includes a religious conscience exemption from that individual mandate. However, this exemption is not fairly distributed to all Americans.

□ 1645

While covering many faiths, it doesn't cover all who seek protection. What the EACH Act does is to ensure that this exemption equally applies to

every American who wants it. It also protects individuals' First Amendment rights from being placed in jeopardy because of a requirement to purchase health insurance or pay a penalty.

This is commonsense fairness legislation that extends a fundamental right to all Americans that have religious objections to standard medical care. This is a chance for us to right a wrong that I believe was just a drafting oversight.

Of course, we ensure that the government doesn't impose a $1.5 billion tax on Americans simply because of their religious beliefs.

I thank my good friend and colleague from Illinois on the Committee on Ways and Means (Mr. SCHOCK) for his leadership, as well as the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) for introducing this bipartisan legislation.

I urge all my colleagues to support this bill and vote ''yes'' for religious freedom.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my good friend and neighbor from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Thank you to the gentleman and my colleague from the great State of Illinois for introducing this important bill.

As somebody who has the only Christian Science college in the Nation in his district, this is a very important issue for religious freedom and religious rights.

Principia College in Elsah, Illinois, has 550 students. They sent me this card. They have much more artistic talent than I do. It says:

> Thank you. We are so grateful for your defense of religious freedom and hope that you will continue to advocate for this bill until it passes.

This is the voice of those who need this exemption. This is the voice of those who need their religious rights protected. This is why I am standing here today with my colleague from Illinois to talk about this bill and making sure that it passes.

I would urge all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to respect the students and the faculty that work and attend this college in my district. I would hope that they would support this bill with us.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I respect very much the specific impetus for this bill. Unfortunately, though, there have been no hearings on this legislation, and it was not marked up in committee.

I would like to provide information on current law, on the scope of this legislation, and its potential consequences on our health care system.

This is why I do not support this bill in its present form.

First, it is important to note that the Affordable Care Act contains a religious exemption incorporating one that has been in the Internal Revenue code since 1965. This provision permits an exemption to members of religion that join together to provide mutual aid as a community—for example, the Amish and Mennonite faiths—or participate in a health care sharing ministry, which is akin to insurance. These groups do not participate in government-funded social services, including Medicare or Social Security. This is a longstanding, well-defined, easy to implement exemption, and it was carried over to the ACA.

The ACA's minimum essential coverage requirement was challenged in Federal court under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The court rejected the challenge, concluding that ACA did not impose a substantial burden on plaintiffs' religious exercise, despite claims that the plaintiffs ''believe in trusting in God to protect them from illness or injury'' and did not ''want to be forced to buy health insurance coverage.''

Second, a requirement to purchase minimum health insurance is not a burden on one's exercise of their religious beliefs in the medical treatment they seek. The ACA does not preclude coverage for spiritual healing or prayer treatments. Indeed, the Church of Christ, Scientist explains on their Web site that under current law:

> Various U.S. Federal, State, and private health insurance plans provide for the reimbursement of Christian Science nursing care and practitioner treatment.

Christian Scientists participate in Medicare, and Medicare covers some Christian Science services.

It is the breadth of the language in the bill and the potential unintended consequences implementing it on a national basis that concerns me.

The language provides an exemption if a person files a sworn statement to the IRS that their ''sincerely held religious beliefs'' would cause them to object to the ''medical health care'' that would be covered under ACA's minimum essential health care requirement.

There is no indication as to how the IRS could implement this provision and, as a result, the exemption could essentially be available to anyone opposed to the ACA. While the bill states that individuals receiving ''voluntary'' medical care would lose their exemption, the IRS has no way to monitor individuals' use of voluntary medical care and to enforce this provision.

Under the legislation, individuals receiving ''involuntary'' care—such as emergency care—would be allowed to remain exempt from the coverage requirement, passing the cost of such care on to hospitals and other taxpayers.

Because the bill does not define the ''sincerely held religious beliefs'' an individual would need to cite to avoid purchasing coverage, the IRS would be forced to determine which Americans' beliefs met the standard. Yet just 2 weeks ago, the House considered and passed H.R. 2531, the Protecting Taxpayers from Intrusive IRS Requests Act, that specifically prevented the IRS from asking taxpayers about their religious, political, or social beliefs.

I regret that normal order has not been followed on H.R. 1814 so that these concerns could be surfaced and further information on the broad and problematic consequences of H.R. 1814 considered.

For example, today, the American Academy of Pediatrics just expressed their concerns about the impact of H.R. 1814 on children. The American Civil Liberties Union also opposes the legislation, and the CBO just indicated today that the bill would increase the deficit by $1.5 billion over 10 years and increase the uninsured by about 500,000 each year.

Current religious exemptions in the Tax Code are circumscribed and well-defined. This bill would create a broad and difficult to determine exemption in the individual responsibility requirement and force the IRS to take on an inappropriate role. Congress should take a more careful approach to this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I would just remind my good friend from Michigan that had regular order been used when ObamaCare was passed, perhaps we would not be attempting to try and fix it now that it is law.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld ObamaCare in a 5–4 ruling 2 years ago this summer. The Justices did so by affirming that Congress, contrary to the repeated assurance by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, had effectively created a tax that falls under the enumerated powers of article I of the Constitution, and, like a tax, compliance is mandatory, and enforcement is the job of the Internal Revenue Service.

Since the summer of 2012, we have learned some things about the IRS that raise concerns about the agency's ability to do its job fairly. Likewise, we have watched the Obama administration usurp congressional authority and refuse to enforce the law that bears the President's name.

Among the many ''executive fixes'' that seem to flow from the administration with increasing frequency, none have touched upon one of the most serious problems with ObamaCare, namely, current law will either force millions of Americans to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs or punish them for exercising those beliefs.

We are not likely to agree today—or any day—on the underlying law. ObamaCare is as controversial now—and perhaps even more so—than when it was passed, but we can agree on this:

> Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Less than a mile from this Chamber, on the bank of the tidal basin, are inscribed in marble these words:

> Almighty God hath created the mind free. All attempts to influence it by temporal

punishments or burdens are a departure from the plan of the Holy author of our religion. No man shall suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief, but all men shall be free to possess and maintain their opinions in matters of religion.

Those words, written by Thomas Jefferson, the first Democrat to be called ''Mr. President,'' capture the very essence of today's bill. It is our duty—even our oath that we take before God—to protect the religious freedoms of every American. ObamaCare does not do that. Today's bipartisan measure is a small but necessary step if Congress is to honor the great tradition of religious liberty enshrined in our founding documents and extended to succeeding generations of Americans by law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1814, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the EACH Act on behalf of my constituents in Massachusetts that are seeking to continue to take advantage of the religious conscience exemption to the individual mandate that is currently provided to them under the 2006 Massachusetts health reform law.

Since the individual mandate went into effect in Massachusetts, Donna Smiley, a Christian Scientist from Centerville, has taken advantage of the religious exemption provided in the law that prevents her from being penalized for her religious beliefs. Each year on her state tax return, the form has included a section for her to attest that because of her sincerely held religious beliefs she has chosen not to purchase medical health insurance.

With the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Donna would no longer be able to take advantage of the Massachusetts religious conscience exemption and would be penalized by the federal government for not having insurance. The EACH Act, modeled after the process that has been in place in Massachusetts for the past seven years, would ensure that a fair solution is reached so that Donna and other Americans are not penalized for their religious beliefs next year.

The legislation would modestly expand the religious conscience exemption in the Affordable Care Act to certain individuals who have sincere religious beliefs against medical insurance and related medical care. As we saw in Massachusetts, which served as the model for the Affordable Care Act as well as the EACH Act, it is clear that a similar exemption in no way adversely affected the risk pool or generated a rise in abuse or fraud. According to the most recent report from Massachusetts' health insurance exchange, approximately 0.1% of the population or 6,500 residents apply annually for a religious exemption.

Allowing for this narrow exemption to the Affordable Care Act is the fair and equitable path forward to ensure religious diversity.

I believe there is a bipartisan coalition of support for this measure.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support the Equitable Access to Care and Health (EACH) Act. This bill provides a modest expansion of the religious conscience exemption in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

This bipartisan legislation has 218 cosponsors. The ACA currently provides for a religious conscience exemption; however, the exemption gives preference to only a few faiths. This exemption should be expanded to accommodate other religions whose ''sincerely-held religious beliefs'' would cause them not to purchase insurance.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1814.

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.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2013

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3474) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3474

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 ''Hire More Heroes Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. EMPLOYEES WITH HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM EMPLOYER MANDATE UNDER PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) EXEMPTION FOR HEALTH COVERAGE UNDER TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION.—Solely for purposes of determining whether an employer is an applicable large employer under this paragraph for any month, an employer may elect not to take into account for a month as an employee any individual who, for such month, has medical coverage under—

''(i) chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, including coverage under the TRICARE program, or

''(ii) under a health care program under chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3474, the Hire More Heroes Act, introduced by Representative RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

The Hire More Heroes Act will help ease the burden on small businesses while incentivizing them to hire veterans who have found themselves out of work as they return home from overseas.

President Obama has repeatedly said:

If you've got good ideas, bring them to me—let's go.

Well, Mr. President, here is a really good idea. So let's go.

Our veterans have sacrificed for our country, and as they return home they deserve opportunities and they deserve a job.

One thing I routinely hear from my communities back home is that entrepreneurs want to invest in America and they want to grow their businesses. Well, here is an opportunity to do both.

Too often, we use the term that something is a win-win. Well, I can think of no better term. This is a win for businesses who need workers with outstanding skills and ethics, and a win for veterans who just want a job.

The Hire More Heroes Act allows businesses that hire a veteran enrolled in TRICARE or through the VA to not count that veteran towards the 50-employee threshold for triggering the ACA employee mandate. The 50-employee threshold has been a big disincentive for small businesses to grow. If they have more than 50 workers, they fall under that mandate, and their costs go up.

□ 1700

So firms with 45, 46, 47 workers are very reluctant to grow any bigger, but if they hire a veteran, under this legislation, that won't count for purposes of determining if they have enough workers to trigger the mandate. If that isn't an incentive to hire more veterans, I don't know what it is.

These are veterans who already have health care. They just want and deserve a job. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

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

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

This bill, as has been discussed, encourages veteran employment and the growth of midsize businesses.

For post-9/11 veterans, the unemployment rate has continued to decline. However, the rate of unemployment is still higher than the national average.

For February 2014, the unemployment rate for veterans from this period was 9.2 percent higher than the national average of 5.3.

I am so happy that the Republicans, at this moment, are trying to help the ACA work for veterans, for businesses, and for all Americans. I hope we will join in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), the author of this bill, whose family is a small business-owning family, whose bill came from his own Veterans' Advisory Committee.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from the great State of Texas for being here tonight to talk about this important piece of legislation, bipartisan piece of legislation.

The Hire More Heroes Act is a jobs bill. It is a jobs bill that will not only encourage the hiring of veterans but also one that will allow us businesses to expand and grow our economy without being penalized.

H.R. 3474 would exempt veterans who have health insurance through the VA or the DOD from being counted toward the 50-employee limit under ObamaCare's employer mandate.

Today, an estimated 8.9 million veterans receive health coverage through the VA, yet they will still be counted as an employee in need of health coverage under the employer mandate.

This is a commonsense bill simply saying that a veteran who already has coverage through TRICARE or the VA cannot be counted twice. You are either someone in need of health insurance or you are not.

I introduced the Hire More Heroes Act last year in response to an issue raised at one of my veterans advisory board meeting by Brad Lavite, the superintendent of the Madison County Veterans' Assistance Commission. That commission does great work by providing services to approximately 35,000 veterans in southwestern Illinois, including helping those veterans find employment.

Although veterans returning from combat have 5 years to sign up for TRICARE, they are returning to an economy full of hiring freezes, layoffs, and unemployment rates above 9 percent. The unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans jumped from 7.9 percent in January to 9.2 percent in February. Our veterans deserve more.

We know that our military members receive some of the best training in the world, and we should do everything we can to encourage businesses to take advantage of those skills by hiring those veterans.

A recently released study by the National Small Business Association found that 91 percent of small businesses saw increases in their health care costs, and two-thirds of their members said it was the reason they have held off new hiring of employees.

It is not a secret that we need to address the true drivers of our skyrocketing health care costs. Families see this every day when they pay their monthly premiums or get a medical bill in the mail.

Placing more and more unnecessary regulations on our small businesses does nothing to address this and only exacerbates the problem by forcing businesses to make up for these costs by cutting hours or preventing pay increases.

Forcing employers to offer health insurance is a much more complicated issue than I think some in Washington thought it was going to be.

With the administration delaying the employer mandate yet again, I think we need to start seriously looking at the issue surrounding the employer mandate, and it starts today with passing H.R. 3474, the Hire More Heroes Act, and the other health care reform bills on the floor today.

I want to thank Brad Lavite again, and all of the workers and volunteers at the Madison County Veterans' Assistance Commission for their assistance they provide to veterans, and encourage my colleagues to vote for this commonsense bill to help veterans find work and assist small businesses in hiring qualified, well-trained employees, while providing much-needed relief from ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the cosponsors, the bipartisan cosponsors of this commonsense piece of legislation, especially a couple today that are with us on the floor, my good friend, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD), a veteran herself, and my good friend, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege to yield as much time as she shall consume to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD), a veteran who I think is going to relate her own experience.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I am rising today in strong support of the Hire More Heroes Act introduced by my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

When he first came to me with this idea, it was a no-brainer that I would want to support this effort because of the key constituencies that it serves.

I think that everyone would agree that the intent or the goal of the Affordable Care Act is to make sure that all people have access to affordable health care. That is a large piece of legislation. It needs some work. It needs some fixing, and this legislation seeks to do that.

First of all, the Affordable Care Act requires employers with 50 of more full-time employees to provide health insurance, or to pay a per-employee fine. This measure does a very important thing that would encourage these small business owners to do two things: to grow, as well as to hire more veterans by exempting those who receive insurance, either from the VA, or those reservists, like I was—I was covered under TRICARE for a long period of time after my deployments. It would make it so these employers would not have to count these veterans towards that 50 total.

Secondly, this bill serves veterans. We are facing an unfortunate and unacceptable huge number of unemployed veterans, many people who are young and who are capable and coming back from conflicts overseas, and these are veterans who will serve as a huge asset to businesses of any size because they come with a unique amount of training.

They are highly disciplined. They know what it means to work as a member of a team. They know what it means to put the mission first, and they are servant leaders at their very best.

This bill provides an incentive for businesses to hire veterans. This is a commonsense improvement to the Affordable Care Act that will benefit both of these important groups. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3474.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), another champion for veterans.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I rise in support today of the Hire More Heroes Act sponsored by my friend and colleague from Illinois, Congressman RODNEY DAVIS. I applaud the work of Congressman DAVIS in championing this cause.

I also would like to compliment my friend and colleague from the great State of Hawaii for her service to her country, and also for her bipartisan cooperation on this important piece of legislation.

Unfortunately, too many veterans cannot find work these days as a result of flawed Washington policies like ObamaCare that are hindering job creation. This legislation will give those who have selflessly served our country more employment opportunities by providing American small businesses with the ability to hire more veterans.

Although this administration has delayed the employer mandate, many small businesses in my district in central and eastern Kentucky have expressed deep concern that ObamaCare would discourage them from hiring more workers.

I want to thank, again, Congressman DAVIS for introducing this commonsense legislation that will help our veterans find work without punishing small businesses for hiring these qualified and well-trained employees. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3474, the Hire More Heroes Act.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief because I think the bill speaks for itself, and those who have spoken on its behalf have spoken so eloquently on behalf, especially of the veterans of this country.

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we close, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), the author of this bill.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, thank you to my colleague from Texas for your support on this bill and for managing it here on the floor tonight. It shows today that bipartisanship does happen in the U.S. House of Representatives.

This is a commonsense bill supported by Republicans and Democrats alike. This is something that comes out from the grass roots in Madison County, Illinois, and now has a chance to become law.

I am humbled by the support that we have seen for this piece of legislation and I, again, urge my colleagues to support the Hire More Heroes Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3474.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3979

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 ''Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAIN NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4980H(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

''(5) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

''(A) EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS.—Qualified services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to an eligible employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the terms 'qualified services', 'bona fide volunteer', and 'eligible employer' shall have the respective meanings given such terms under section 457(e).

''(B) CERTAIN OTHER GOVERNMENT AND NONPROFIT VOLUNTEERS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Services rendered as a bona fide volunteer to a specified employer shall not be taken into account under this section as service provided by an employee.

''(ii) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'bona fide volunteer' means an employee of a specified employer whose only compensation from such employer is in the form of—

''(I) reimbursement for (or reasonable allowance for) reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of services by volunteers, or

''(II) reasonable benefits (including length of service awards), and nominal fees, customarily paid by similar entities in connection with the performance of services by volunteers.

''(iii) SPECIFIED EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'specified employer' means—

''(I) any government entity, and

''(II) any organization described in section 501(c) and exempt from tax under section 501(a).

''(iv) COORDINATION WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (A).—This subparagraph shall not fail to apply with respect to services merely because such services are qualified services (as defined in section 457(e)(11)(C)).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to begin by first rising in support of this bill, the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act.

I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA), the author of this very important bill.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of my bill, H.R. 3979, the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act.

This is a good, bipartisan bill that protects our first responders, our volunteer firefighters, and emergency services personnel by ensuring that they are not considered employees under the employer mandate provision of the Affordable Care Act.

If they were, fire companies would be forced to pay for the volunteers' health insurance or pay a fine, driving many fire departments out of business. Simply put, this is a public safety issue.

I first learned about this issue from a volunteer firefighter back home, and I began a crusade to clear this up for volunteer firefighters and localities and the residents of Pennsylvania and every other State.

Here is why this is so important. In my home State of Pennsylvania, 97 percent of fire companies are either entirely or mostly volunteer. Nationally, it is 87 percent.

To be clear, forcing volunteer fire companies to comply with the Affordable Care Act will not extend health insurance to the uninsured. Rather, it will close firehouses, placing people at risk.

Last month, the IRS issued a final rule upholding this bill's intent. However, this is too important of a public safety issue to be left to the changing positions of Federal bureaucrats. We must pass this bill and encourage our friends in the Senate to do the same.

We owe our emergency service volunteers who risk their lives every day rock-solid certainty. This legislation says, once and for all, that volunteer firefighters are just that, volunteers, and should not be subjected to the employer mandate.

I strongly urge passage of the bill.

□ 1915

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I shall consume and rise in support of the bill.

Well, first of all, let me mention that this bill followed regular order. It was brought up in our committee, it was discussed, and it was passed unanimously; and I think that is a plus and, I think, is a good precedent.

Let me also say that this is an important issue, and it was one responded to by Treasury in its regulation. I think there has been a lot of misshaping as to what the regulation process is all about, and there have been times when we essentially have wanted to stop the regulatory process.

I think that has been a serious mistake. It is sometimes used for a purpose, I think, unrelated to the substance of the issue.

In this case, as I said, Treasury listened to the concerns that were expressed—and I think important concerns—and issued their final regulation; and essentially, what we are now doing is to say that what Treasury has decided in its regulation is correct. I think there is no concern about it being changed.

However, this legislation says: let's put it in the books as legislation. And I think so be it because it is so important for this Congress to join the administration in recognizing that volunteer first responders are absolutely critical to the safety and security of communities across the country.

I think it is sometimes not fully understood that 70 percent of all firefighters across the country are volunteers, and for the communities aided

by volunteer first responders, the services donated annually by these volunteers are estimated to be worth more than $140 billion.

So I rise in support of this legislation, as I said, and I want to emphasize that it was raised in regular order. It was brought before our committee. It was discussed within our committee. We took a vote. It was unanimous. Treasury had responded appropriately to the concerns expressed by us.

So I now think we should give a further imprimatur to this legislation and support it, I hope, unanimously.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This is such a commonsense and important bill, and this challenge was brought to me as well by one of my local firefighters, the fire chief of Magnolia Volunteer Fire Department, Gary Vincent.

The bill introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) ensures the work our Nation's volunteers, including volunteer firefighters and emergency responders, are honored, protected, and recognized.

The tradition of volunteer firefighting dates back to colonial times, yet remains vital to thousands of communities throughout the country who rely exclusively upon volunteer fire departments for fire protection and emergency medical services.

The problem is the Affordable Care Act is a complicated law, and sometimes, the IRS has treated volunteers as full-time workers for other purposes. This confusion in the law has created uncertainty for local communities and their firefighters and could jeopardize their ability to respond to emergencies.

No one wants to put local governments and nonprofits at a risk of huge cost increases that could result if volunteers were considered employees under the Affordable Care Act.

The White House does not want that, and neither does Congress. This bill is critical to permanently protecting the 780,000 volunteer firefighters and emergency responders and all other volunteers at our Nation's nonprofits and tribal governments.

The bill provides the certainty of congressional action, rather than relying on regulations that could be repealed, changed, or amended.

I call on my colleagues to put a bipartisan stamp on this bill to honor a value we all agree on, volunteerism. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3979, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleague how many further requests for time he has, and I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yielding myself such time as I may consume, I have about 4 or 5 additional speakers to move through on this important bill.

At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), a fellow member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has been a champion on this issue as well.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas and also my friend from Pennsylvania.

As you heard Congressman BARLETTA talk about, 90 percent of the 1,800 fire departments in Pennsylvania are all volunteer. These are men and women from the community that just come forward to serve.

When you look at what is going on right now, what we have tried to do is close a gap. This is Treasury guidance, so by no means has it been codified. I think what we are doing with this piece of legislation, with H.R. 3979, we make certain—in a time where there is so much uncertainty—that these folks will be protected, will not be looked at in a way that does not make sense to them.

Now, I have got to tell you that I was at an installation of officers back in my hometown of Butler. Ed Kirkwood, the manager of Butler Township, when asked about what could possibly happen, said:

> The township has over 130 volunteer firefighters serving the community. By my calculation, if this is not fixed, the township could go bankrupt. It would require a tax increase of 13.56 mills, or an increase of over two-and-a-half times the current rate to comply.

Basically, if this is not fixed, Butler Township either doubles its taxes or loses their volunteer fire department.

Chief Mike Cadman of Jamestown, when asked about this, said: that would be political suicide.

I would venture that it is worse than political suicide. It is putting our citizens at risk when we don't have to.

Now, at a time when it is so hard and the public looks and says you guys don't get along on anything, this is something, I think, where we have come together and say let's just do something that makes sense. Let's just do something that puts into effect now—it eliminates all the guesswork that these folks are not going to be looked at in a different way under the Affordable Care Act.

And a piece of legislation, the Affordable Care Act, which is so hard to understand and so many are wondering what exactly is covered and what is not covered and how would I comply and how would I not comply, this is just commonsense legislation out of this body that makes sense for all of those volunteers that spend countless hours and time serving the needs of our communities all over our country.

But in Pennsylvania, as I said, 90 percent of our 1,800 fire departments are all volunteer—all volunteer. These folks give up their time and their hours to train, so that they can serve others.

I thank the gentleman for his legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RENACCI), another one of the new, young leaders on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act.

Each day, we continue to learn more about just how broken the government-run health care system is and how it continues to negatively impact families and small businesses.

Now, it is clear that the employer mandate, a key provision within the law, will not only cost jobs, but it could force fire companies to close their doors which would jeopardize public safety.

As a former volunteer firefighter and former mayor of a small town in Ohio, I know that our volunteer fire companies and emergency responders rely primarily on donations to fund their operations.

Throughout the country, nearly 90 percent of all fire departments are volunteers. If these volunteers are forced to comply with the employer mandate, it is undeniable that our local communities will be devastated, as we witness fire companies forced to close their doors because they simply cannot afford to continue operations. This is truly unacceptable.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Representative BARLETTA, for introducing this important legislation, of which I am a proud cosponsor. I urge all of my colleagues in the House to join us in standing up for our hardworking local heroes by supporting the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), another champion of firefighters and emergency responders.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, there is uncertainty in volunteer fire departments across the country, including in my home State of New Jersey, about the negative consequences of ObamaCare's harmful employer mandate. That is why I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3685, the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act.

Designating volunteer firefighters as paid employees under ObamaCare is bad public policy. It threatens public safety. The passage of this legislation will provide a permanent statutory solution that will ensure our Nation's volunteer first responders are protected from ObamaCare's employer mandate.

I urge passage of H.R. 3685.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Texas, Congressman BRADY.

Mr. Speaker, somewhere across America, right now or later tonight, a tone is going to go off. That tone is going to go off, and a husband or a wife, a son or a daughter is going to respond. They are going to get out of their beds. They are going to get out of their workplaces. They are going to respond.

They are going to go to a place of danger, a place to help, a place, from their heart, to do something they want to do.

I remember that tone, for I used to answer that tone at Hollingsworth Volunteer Fire Department in Banks County. When you hear the tone go off, you go out not knowing what you may face or whether you will come home or not.

I am so pleased to stand in support, Mr. Speaker, of H.R. 3979, sponsored by Congressman BARLETTA, because it takes at least part of the uncertainty out of other things in life, when all these men and women want to do is to serve the community.

By taking this uncertainty out and not counting them as full-time employees, it gives those volunteer personnel and their chiefs less to worry about. Instead, they are able to spend more time making sure they are doing what all these great Americans want to be doing, and that is to serve their communities.

The West Jackson Fire Department in my district is really frightfully scared of this rule because it is going to cost them more than they can afford.

So all I ask is for the bipartisanship that has been shown here today. And, for those watching, when the tone goes off, the brave men and women of our country respond. What they don't need is to have a tone go off from Washington that puts them in further jeopardy.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. At this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today, the House has the chance to more permanently establish in law a provision that firefighters across Kentucky's 6th District have told me is vital to their ability to continue protecting our communities.

The Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act will simply ensure, once and for all, that these departments will not fall victim to the costly employer mandate in ObamaCare.

Over 90 percent of Kentucky's fire departments are either fully or mostly volunteer. Fire chiefs have told me that they do not have the resources to provide the health benefits mandated by ObamaCare's employer mandates to these brave and selfless volunteers who have no expectation of receiving such benefits or receive their benefits through other lines of work.

I remain committed to replacing ObamaCare with reforms that will actually lower the cost of health care without jeopardizing the safety of our communities. As an original cosponsor, I am pleased to help introduce this critical legislation.

I commend Congressman BARLETTA for introducing it, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague LOU BARLETTA from Pennsylvania for introducing this commonsense piece of legislation.

□ 1730

As we see, this is another unintended consequence of ObamaCare. I have received a letter from one of my volunteer fire departments just a few months ago that talked about this bill, and it said that the provision that is hurting our firefighters could be devastating to fire departments. Many volunteer fire departments rely upon local donations and fundraisers to fund their basic operations. The addition of a requirement to provide health insurance would present a serious financial challenge to them. Some departments have taken steps to reduce staffing levels and shifts in order to fall under the 50 FTE and 30-hours-worked threshold, which reduces the fire department's baseline emergency response capabilities.

I would like to thank Staunton, Illinois' fire chief for the fire protection district in Staunton, Rick Haase, for sending me this letter, and I would urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. I just want to close by stating—it can be done very briefly—the importance of this legislation. I think we have heard eloquent testimony to it, and I hope we can proceed on a bipartisan basis, as has been true before.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. In closing, I would like to reference the title of this bill, Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders. Democrats and Republicans coming together today are here to make sure that is the law of the land. We are protecting our volunteer firefighters and emergency responders. This bill deserves our support, and I urge its passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. LARSON, for being such a champion for our volunteer firefighters and first responders.

Mr, Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act.

I'm proud to cosponsor this bipartisan bill with Mr. BARLETTA.

This bill makes a sensible fix to the Affordable Care Act that protects volunteer firefighters and first responders in Connecticut and across the country.

I heard concerns from fire chiefs in my district—including Chief Jack Casner from my hometown of Cheshire—that the IRS may incorrectly count volunteers as employees.

We rely on hundreds of volunteer firefighters to keep our community safe.

These men and women are proud to volunteer—and do a terrific job.

And so, with my colleagues, I immediately expressed their concerns to the Obama Administration.

This bipartisan bill codifies important clarifications. . .

and shows that we can work together—as Democrats and Republicans—to make the Affordable Care Act work better for the American people.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting H.R. 3979.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3979, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE CHAKA FATTAH, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable CHAKA FATTAH, Member of Congress:

MARCH 10, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker,
Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, for certain documents from my Congressional Offices.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined under Rule VIII that the subpoena seeks some information that is not material and relevant, and that is not ''consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.'' Accordingly, I intend to move to quash the subpoena to that extent, but to otherwise comply with the subpoena to the extent that it is material and relevant, and to the extent that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

CHAKA FATTAH,
Member of Congress.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION PROCESS REFORM ACT OF 2013

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 3675) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3675

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 ''Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. FCC PROCESS REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 12 the following new section:

''SEC. 13. TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY.

''(a) INITIAL RULEMAKING AND INQUIRY.—

''(1) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2013, the Commission shall complete a rulemaking proceeding and adopt procedural changes to its rules to maximize opportunities for public participation and efficient decisionmaking.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR RULEMAKING.—The rules adopted under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) set minimum comment periods for comment and reply comment, subject to a determination by the Commission that good cause exists for departing from such minimum comment periods, for—

''(i) significant regulatory actions, as defined in Executive Order 12866; and

''(ii) all other rulemaking proceedings;

''(B) establish policies concerning the submission of extensive new comments, data, or reports towards the end of the comment period;

''(C) establish policies regarding treatment of comments, ex parte communications, and data or reports (including statistical reports and reports to Congress) submitted after the comment period to ensure that the public has adequate notice of and opportunity to respond to such submissions before the Commission relies on such submissions in any order, decision, report, or action;

''(D) establish procedures for publishing the status of open rulemaking proceedings and proposed orders, decisions, reports, or actions on circulation for review by the Commissioners, including which Commissioners have not cast a vote on an order, decision, report, or action that has been on circulation for more than 60 days;

''(E) establish deadlines (relative to the date of filing) for—

''(i) in the case of a petition for a declaratory ruling under section 1.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, issuing a public notice of such petition;

''(ii) in the case of a petition for rulemaking under section 1.401 of such title, issuing a public notice of such petition; and

''(iii) in the case of a petition for reconsideration under section 1.106 or 1.429 of such title or an application for review under section 1.115 of such title, issuing a public notice of a decision on the petition or application by the Commission or under delegated authority (as the case may be);

''(F) establish guidelines (relative to the date of filing) for the disposition of petitions filed under section 1.2 of such title;

''(G) establish procedures for the inclusion of the specific language of the proposed rule or the proposed amendment of an existing rule in a notice of proposed rulemaking; and

''(H) require notices of proposed rulemaking and orders adopting a rule or amending an existing rule that—

''(i) create (or propose to create) a program activity to contain performance measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the program activity; and

''(ii) substantially change (or propose to substantially change) a program activity to contain—

''(I) performance measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the program activity as changed (or proposed to be changed); or

''(II) a finding that existing performance measures will effectively evaluate the program activity as changed (or proposed to be changed).

''(3) INQUIRY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2013, the Commission shall complete an inquiry to seek public comment on whether and how the Commission should—

''(A) establish procedures for allowing a bipartisan majority of Commissioners to place an order, decision, report, or action on the agenda of an open meeting;

''(B) establish procedures for informing all Commissioners of a reasonable number of options available to the Commission for resolving a petition, complaint, application, rulemaking, or other proceeding;

''(C) establish procedures for ensuring that all Commissioners have adequate time, prior to being required to decide a petition, complaint, application, rulemaking, or other proceeding (including at a meeting held pursuant to section 5(d)), to review the proposed Commission decision document, including the specific language of any proposed rule or any proposed amendment of an existing rule;

''(D) establish procedures for publishing the text of agenda items to be voted on at an open meeting in advance of such meeting so that the public has the opportunity to read the text before a vote is taken;

''(E) establish deadlines (relative to the date of filing) for disposition of applications for a license under section 1.913 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations;

''(F) assign resources needed in order to meet the deadlines described in subparagraph (E), including whether the Commission's ability to meet such deadlines would be enhanced by assessing a fee from applicants for such a license; and

''(G) publish each order, decision, report, or action not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of such order, decision, report, or action.

''(4) DATA FOR PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Commission shall develop a performance measure or proposed performance measure required by this subsection to rely, where possible, on data already collected by the Commission.

''(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—On the date that is 5 years after the completion of the rulemaking proceeding under subsection (a)(1), and every 5 years thereafter, the Commission shall initiate a new rulemaking proceeding to continue to consider such procedural changes to its rules as may be in the public interest to maximize opportunities for public participation and efficient decisionmaking.

''(c) NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 552b of title 5, United States Code, a bipartisan majority of Commissioners may hold a meeting that is closed to the public to discuss official business if—

''(A) a vote or any other agency action is not taken at such meeting;

''(B) each person present at such meeting is a Commissioner, an employee of the Commission, a member of a joint board or conference established under section 410, or a person on the staff of such a joint board or conference or of a member of such a joint board or conference; and

''(C) an attorney from the Office of General Counsel of the Commission is present at such meeting.

''(2) DISCLOSURE OF NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—Not later than 2 business days after the conclusion of a meeting held under paragraph (1), the Commission shall publish a disclosure of such meeting, including—

''(A) a list of the persons who attended such meeting; and

''(B) a summary of the matters discussed at such meeting, except for such matters as the Commission determines may be withheld under section 552b(c) of title 5, United States Code.

''(3) PRESERVATION OF OPEN MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCY ACTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall limit the applicability of section 552b of title 5, United States Code, with respect to a meeting of Commissioners other than that described in paragraph (1).

''(d) ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION ON COMMISSION'S WEBSITE.—The Commission shall provide direct access from the homepage of its website to—

''(1) detailed information regarding—

''(A) the budget of the Commission for the current fiscal year;

''(B) the appropriations for the Commission for such fiscal year; and

''(C) the total number of full-time equivalent employees of the Commission; and

''(2) the performance plan most recently made available by the Commission under section 1115(b) of title 31, United States Code.

''(e) FEDERAL REGISTER PUBLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any document adopted by the Commission that the Commission is required, under any provision of law, to publish in the Federal Register, the Commission shall, not later than the date described in paragraph (2), complete all Commission actions necessary for such document to be so published.

''(2) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this paragraph is the earlier of—

''(A) the day that is 45 days after the date of the release of the document; or

''(B) the day by which such actions must be completed to comply with any deadline under any other provision of law.

''(3) NO EFFECT ON DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION IN OTHER FORM.—In the case of a deadline that does not specify that the form of publication is publication in the Federal Register, the Commission may comply with such deadline by publishing the document in another form. Such other form of publication does not relieve the Commission of any Federal Register publication requirement applicable to such document, including the requirement of paragraph (1).

''(f) CONSUMER COMPLAINT DATABASE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating and processing consumer complaints, the Commission shall present information about such complaints in a publicly available, searchable database on its website that—

''(A) facilitates easy use by consumers; and

''(B) to the extent practicable, is sortable and accessible by—

''(i) the date of the filing of the complaint;

''(ii) the topic of the complaint;

''(iii) the party complained of; and

''(iv) other elements that the Commission considers in the public interest.

''(2) DUPLICATIVE COMPLAINTS.—In the case of multiple complaints arising from the same alleged misconduct, the Commission shall be required to include only information concerning one such complaint in the database described in paragraph (1).

''(g) FORM OF PUBLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In complying with a requirement of this section to publish a document, the Commission shall publish such

document on its website, in addition to publishing such document in any other form that the Commission is required to use or is permitted to and chooses to use.

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The Commission shall by rule establish procedures for redacting documents required to be published by this section so that the published versions of such documents do not contain—

''(A) information the publication of which would be detrimental to national security, homeland security, law enforcement, or public safety; or

''(B) information that is proprietary or confidential.

''(h) TRANSPARENCY RELATING TO PERFORMANCE IN MEETING FOIA REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission shall take additional steps to inform the public about its performance and efficiency in meeting the disclosure and other requirements of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), including by doing the following:

''(1) Publishing on the Commission's website the Commission's logs for tracking, responding to, and managing requests submitted under such section, including the Commission's fee estimates, fee categories, and fee request determinations.

''(2) Releasing to the public all decisions made by the Commission (including decisions made by the Commission's Bureaus and Offices) granting or denying requests filed under such section, including any such decisions pertaining to the estimate and application of fees assessed under such section.

''(3) Publishing on the Commission's website electronic copies of documents released under such section.

''(4) Presenting information about the Commission's handling of requests under such section in the Commission's annual budget estimates submitted to Congress and the Commission's annual performance and financial reports. Such information shall include the number of requests under such section the Commission received in the most recent fiscal year, the number of such requests granted and denied, a comparison of the Commission's processing of such requests over at least the previous 3 fiscal years, and a comparison of the Commission's results with the most recent average for the United States Government as published on www.foia.gov.

''(i) PROMPT RELEASE OF STATISTICAL REPORTS AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than January 15th of each year, the Commission shall identify, catalog, and publish an anticipated release schedule for all statistical reports and reports to Congress that are regularly or intermittently released by the Commission and will be released during such year.

''(j) ANNUAL SCORECARD REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For the 1-year period beginning on January 1st of each year, the Commission shall prepare a report on the performance of the Commission in conducting its proceedings and meeting the deadlines established under subsection (a)(2)(E) and the guidelines established under subsection (a)(2)(F).

''(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall contain detailed statistics on such performance, including, with respect to each Bureau of the Commission—

''(A) with respect to each type of filing specified in subsection (a)(2)(E) or (a)(2)(F)—

''(i) the number of filings that were pending on the last day of the period covered by such report;

''(ii) the number of filings described in clause (i) for which each applicable deadline or guideline established under such subsection was not met and the average length of time such filings have been pending; and

''(iii) for filings that were resolved during such period, the average time between initiation and resolution and the percentage for which each applicable deadline or guideline established under such subsection was met;

''(B) with respect to proceedings before an administrative law judge—

''(i) the number of such proceedings completed during such period; and

''(ii) the number of such proceedings pending on the last day of such period; and

''(C) the number of independent studies or analyses published by the Commission during such period.

''(3) PUBLICATION AND SUBMISSION.—The Commission shall publish and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate each report required by paragraph (1) not later than the date that is 30 days after the last day of the period covered by such report.

''(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AMENDMENT.—The term 'amendment' includes, when used with respect to an existing rule, the deletion of such rule.

''(2) BIPARTISAN MAJORITY.—The term 'bipartisan majority' means, when used with respect to a group of Commissioners, that such group—

''(A) is a group of 3 or more Commissioners; and

''(B) includes, for each political party of which any Commissioner is a member, at least 1 Commissioner who is a member of such political party, and, if any Commissioner has no political party affiliation, at least one unaffiliated Commissioner.

''(3) PERFORMANCE MEASURE.—The term 'performance measure' means an objective and quantifiable outcome measure or output measure (as such terms are defined in section 1115 of title 31, United States Code).

''(4) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term 'program activity' has the meaning given such term in section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, except that such term also includes any annual collection or distribution or related series of collections or distributions by the Commission of an amount that is greater than or equal to $100,000,000.

''(5) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms 'agency action', 'ex parte communication', and 'rule' have the meanings given such terms in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES AND IMPLEMENTING RULES.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—Subsection (c) of section 13 of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a), shall apply beginning on the first date on which all of the procedural changes to the rules of the Federal Communications Commission required by subsection (a)(1) of such section have taken effect.

(B) SCHEDULES AND REPORTS.—Subsections (i) and (j) of such section 13 shall apply with respect to 2014 and any year thereafter.

(2) RULES.—Except as otherwise provided in such section 13, the Federal Communications Commission shall promulgate any rules necessary to carry out such section not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. CATEGORIZATION OF TCPA INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS IN QUARTERLY REPORT.

In compiling its quarterly report with respect to informal consumer inquiries and complaints, the Federal Communications Commission may not categorize an inquiry or complaint with respect to section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) as being a wireline inquiry or complaint or a wireless inquiry or complaint unless the party whose conduct is the subject of the inquiry or complaint is a wireline carrier or a wireless carrier, respectively.

SEC. 4. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall relieve the Federal Communications Commission from any obligations under title 5, United States Code, except where otherwise expressly provided.

SEC. 5. APPLICATION OF ANTIDEFICIENCY ACT TO UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM.

Section 302 of Public Law 108–494 (118 Stat. 3998) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2015'' each place it appears and inserting ''December 31, 2020''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. 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 into the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the communications sector is one of the most innovative, competitive, and robust sectors of our economy. But for innovation and investment in communications to continue, we must not weigh industry down with needless red tape and delay.

Now, despite the lackluster overall economy, the communications and technology market continues to grow at a very rapid pace. In fact, in 2012, Mr. Speaker, the industry invested $68 billion in broadband infrastructure alone. That totals $1.2 trillion invested in upgrading broadband infrastructure networks since just 1996—$1.2 trillion.

Communications and technology companies, as well as the consumers that enjoy their products and benefit from their services, deserve a transparent and responsive government agency. While agency process has improved under recent chairmen, this legislation will ensure that reforms remain in place from one administration to the next.

Even with the positive changes at the Commission, recent examples of bad processes have resulted in what I would say are dangerous outcomes at the Commission. To wit, late last year, the Federal Communications Commission issued a notice for a study that would call into question the editorial decisions of journalists in their own newsrooms, which I think threatens their First Amendment rights. Somehow, an item as controversial as this study made it all the way through the FCC without so much as a Commission vote. Americans deserve greater accountability and transparency from their government.

So this bill is the result of a multiyear process, ending with bipartisan agreement that takes important

steps towards improving this very important agency. This legislation will produce a joint effort where the Commission establishes procedures to achieve the goals established by Congress.

The Commission is charged with setting its own deadlines and timelines. While the legislation allows the Commission a good deal of flexibility in meeting the goals we have set, the bill includes backstops to ensure accountability. The annual scorecard we call for in the bill requires the Federal Communications Commission to report to Congress on the agency's success in meeting its own self-imposed metrics.

The bill requires the FCC to undertake two separate proceedings, Mr. Speaker. The first requires a notice and comment rulemaking, resulting in the FCC's adopting rules to address several different reforms. Setting a minimum time period for comments in an FCC rulemaking will allow for certainty for those who wish to comment—the public.

In addition, adopted rules must address issues like data dumps at the end of a comment period, transparency as to items pending before the Commissioners, and publication of the language of proposed rules. All those are very important parts of a more open and transparent government and a process that taxpayers can rely upon.

The rulemaking also requires the Federal Communications Commission to adopt deadlines for action on several types of filings before the agency. As I know all too well from my own experience, having been regulated by the Federal Communications Commission when my wife and I were in the radio industry, items can sit at the agencies for literally years without any action, and then they are acted upon and the person bringing the action may have 30 days on something that sat there for 10 years.

Now, the second proceeding is an inquiry that deals with more complex issues, giving the Federal Communications Commission flexibility in deciding whether and how to implement those reforms. Now, by giving the FCC flexibility when setting procedures and deadlines, we are not constraining the agency; rather, we are providing them with goals to meet and allowing them, the professionals there at the FCC, to determine the best way to meet those goals.

Now, many of the reforms in the bill are things that the Commission itself already has the authority to do under existing law; however, the bill also changes the existing Sunshine Act to allow for greater collaboration among the Commissioners themselves. I think that will bring about better government—all of these reforms combined will.

The FCC has started its own review of agency processes, and in a report released earlier this year, many of the areas the agency itself found needing reform mirror provisions of our legislation, H.R. 3675.

The American public expects and deserves a transparent and accountable Federal Government no matter who is in charge in the White House. So let's start this reform with this agency that oversees one of our most innovative and robust sectors of the economy.

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

Mr. DOYLE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my friend and colleague Mr. WALDEN, in support of H.R. 3675, the FCC Process Reform Act of 2013.

The Federal Communications Commission is charged with overseeing industries that make up one-sixth of our national economy. The communications and technology sectors are driving economic growth across the Nation, connecting businesses to markets large and small and delivering innovative, new products and services to consumers. Perhaps more importantly, communications networks are part of the very fabric of our democracy, providing the news and information that makes us informed citizens and voters.

With a mission this critical, both Democrats and Republicans believe that the FCC must be efficient, transparent, and accountable.

We started this debate in the Energy and Commerce Committee with different perspectives about how to achieve these goals. Last Congress, our work on this issue, unfortunately, devolved into a partisan process and a vote on a bill that was dead on arrival in the Senate. But this Congress, thanks to Chairman WALDEN's leadership and consultation with Ranking Members WAXMAN and ESHOO, we were able to come to an agreement on a set of bipartisan reform proposals that were unanimously supported by the committee.

I want to highlight several key provisions in this bill that we believe will improve the functioning of the FCC.

The first reform is the Sunshine Act, to allow FCC Commissioners to collaborate more closely while preserving the transparency of agency decisionmaking. I introduced this legislation along with Representatives ESHOO and SHIMKUS, and I am pleased to see it incorporated in the bill we are considering today.

The second area that I am particularly pleased with is the incorporation of a provision to provide an exemption to the Antideficiency Act for the Universal Service Fund. Today, the FCC relies on temporary exemptions from the Antideficiency Act to be able to administer the Universal Service program that supports connectivity to schools and libraries, known as E-Rate.

The bill we reported out of the Energy and Commerce Committee would have permanently exempted the Universal Service Fund from the Antideficiency Act, but, unfortunately, we were unable to reach agreement with CBO about the impact of this provision.

I want to thank my colleagues in the majority for working with us to come up with an alternative that provides a longer—if not permanent—exemption. I believe it demonstrates our committee's bipartisan support for providing the FCC with the flexibility it needs to administer the E-Rate program.

I also want to compliment FCC Chairman Wheeler for his actions to address transparency and efficiency of FCC decisionmaking. From his very first day at the helm of the agency, he has focused on remedying the concerns identified in the bill that we are considering today.

I urge the FCC to continue to move forward on reforms they can make under their own initiative while we continue to work on this legislation.

Finally, I want to close by saying that I think the manner in which the FCC Process Reform Act was developed should be a model for the entire House going forward. Working together, members of the Energy and Commerce Committee crafted legislation that addressed the concerns from both sides of the aisle. I am proud to have been a part of this effort.

I want to thank my colleague, Chairman WALDEN, for his work. I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation to make the FCC more efficient, transparent, and accountable. I look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate and continuing to help this bill become law.

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

Mr. WALDEN. I thank the gentleman for his kind comments and his diligent work on this effort and that of his colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle.

I think when it comes to reforming the FCC and getting something that really worked for the public, we are joined at the hip. So I appreciate their input and the work we did together. Our subcommittee has actually done quite a bit of bipartisan work over the last couple of years moving forward with an incentive auction program to free up more spectrum for all of these new wireless devices that are out there and new technology and innovation. We are really at the center of the ability of the country to grow, innovate, and produce really good-paying jobs. So I appreciate Mr. DOYLE's comments.

I now yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), the vice chair of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, who has been an extraordinary member of our team in working on this and other major communications policy going forward. He will play a key role tomorrow when we have our hearing on the reauthorization of the Satellite Viewer Act.

Mr. LATTA. I appreciate the hard work that you have done on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3675, the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2013.

The communications industry represents a promising sector of our economy that has fostered widespread investment, innovation, job creation, and greater consumer choice. As the industry evolves and makes unprecedented technological advancements, the possibilities for future innovation and modernization are endless. As Members of Congress, we have to ensure that businesses and entrepreneurs are equipped with the opportunity and flexibility to continue making that sustained progress.

□ 1745

The FCC Process Reform Act would facilitate this effort.

This legislation would initiate much-needed regulatory reforms to the Federal Communications Commission and bring additional transparency and accountability to the agency. I applaud Chairman WALDEN for his efforts and leadership in developing this bipartisan piece of legislation, and I look forward to working with him and other members of the subcommittee as we work forward on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers, and so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I conclude by again thanking my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle for their good work on this legislation, and their partnership on this. This is good government. This is how we get things done on the Energy and Commerce Committee, and it is how we are going to improve the activities and procedures of these agencies to restore a little confidence in at least this sector of government.

The Federal Communications Commission has a lot of work to do. It is very important work for the future of our country.

Tomorrow, as I said, our committee will take up draft legislation to make sure that those who watch television over satellite will be able to continue that process, and we will do some other reforms along the way. Throughout this year, Mr. Speaker, our Subcommittee on Communications and Technology plans to solicit all kinds of information from individuals around the country on how to update the antiquated Telecommunications Act that dates back to either 1934 or 1992 or 1996, depending upon which law. So we have a lot of work to do, Mr. Speaker, and this bill moves an important piece forward. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3675, the Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act of 2013, a bipartisan bill aimed at giving the FCC flexibility while promoting openness, transparency and accountability.

Two years ago, the House of Representatives considered a very different version of the legislation, one which I opposed and that passed largely on partisan lines. I support the bill before us today because it gives the FCC flexibility to evaluate and adopt procedural changes to its rules, rather than putting rigid requirements in statute. The bill enhances transparency by establishing a publicly available, searchable consumer complaint database and provides the Universal Service Fund (USF) with a short term exemption from the Antideficiency Act.

I'm also pleased that the bill includes the FCC Collaboration Act of 2013, a bipartisan bill I introduced last year with Reps. SHIMKUS and DOYLE. For years, current and former FCC Commissioners have called on Congress to pass 'sunshine reform,' so that three or more Commissioners can hold non-public collaborative discussions, as long as no agency action is taken. While I'm disappointed that this provision will not take effect immediately upon enactment, I'm hopeful that the Senate will modify this provision before passing similar legislation. A delay in implementation is the unnecessary delay of a much needed reform.

I thank Chairman WALDEN for working with me and my staff to put forward a bipartisan bill and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3675.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3675, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: H.R. 3474, H.R. 3979, and H. Res. 499, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3474) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 1, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 115]

YEAS—406

Aderholt
Amash
Bachmann
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador

LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—1

Nadler

NOT VOTING—23

Amodei
Bachus
Becerra
Butterfield
Costa
Dingell
Engel
Fattah
Gosar
Gutiérrez
Hoyer
Lewis
McAllister
McCaul
McIntyre
McKeon
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Pascrell
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Schwartz
Wilson (FL)

□ 1854

Messrs. NUGENT, ROHRABACHER and CASSIDY changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 116]

YEAS—410

Aderholt
Amash
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—20

Amodei
Blumenauer
Butterfield
Costa
Dingell
Engel
Gosar
Gutiérrez
Huffman
Lewis
McAllister
McCaul
McIntyre
McKeon
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Pascrell
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Schwartz

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1902

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.

CONDEMNING VIOLATION OF UKRAINIAN SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 499) condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 7, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 117]

YEAS—402

Aderholt
Amash
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—7

Duncan (TN)
Hastings (FL)
Jones
Massie
Moore
Stockman
Yoho

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Rohrabacher

NOT VOTING—20

Amodei
Butterfield
Costa
Dingell
Engel
Gosar
Gutiérrez
Lewis
McAllister
McCaul
McIntyre
McKeon
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Pascrell
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Vela

□ 1911

Ms. MOORE changed her vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to travel arrangements, I missed the following rollcall votes: Nos. 115–117 on March 11, 2014 (today).

If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 115—H.R. 3474—Hire More Heroes Act of 2013, On Passage, ''aye''; rollcall vote No. 116—H.R. 3979—Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014, as amended, On Passage, ''aye''; rollcall vote No. 117—H. Res. 499—Condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation, as amended, On Passage, ''aye.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that today, March 11th, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted: ''aye''—rollcall vote 115—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3474—Hire More Heroes Act of 2013; ''aye''—rollcall vote 116—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3979—Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014, as amended; ''aye''—rollcall Vote 117—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 499—Condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation, as amended.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4138, EXECUTIVE NEEDS TO FAITHFULLY OBSERVE AND RESPECT CONGRESSIONAL ENACTMENTS OF THE LAW ACT OF 2014, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3973, FAITHFUL EXECUTION OF THE LAW ACT OF 2014

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–378) on the resolution (H. Res. 511) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4138) to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3973) to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CELEBRATING BRAIN SCIENCE AWARENESS WEEK

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Brain Science Awareness Week and to highlight amazing advances made by south Florida's neuroscience community to unravel the mysteries of the mind.

At the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine, research is yielding new insights for the treatment of devastating neurological disease, like Alzheimer's. My mother died from complications of Alzheimer's, so I know how terrible this disorder is.

Investigators at The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis are translating progress into hope for understanding traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries that are impacting thousands of our bravest warriors returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq.

On Saturday, March 22, scientists will introduce students to the wonders of the human brain at the Miami Brain Science Fair in hopes of inspiring young people to pursue the educational and professional fields that will fuel the next significant scientific discoveries.

□ 1915

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL C. HOFFMAN FOR WINNING THE FLAME OF HOPE AWARD

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize Michael C. Hoffman of Saratoga Springs for receiving the prestigious Flame of Hope Award from the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York. This award highlights Mike's outstanding dedication and commitment to the Epilepsy Foundation, raising awareness and funds to support the organization's mission of overcoming the challenges created by epilepsy and curing the disease.

Mike is a successful businessowner and has worked for almost four decades to improve the community around him in the capital region of New York. Through his many impressive years as an active member of the Epilepsy Foundation, I am very pleased to see him receive this award.

Again, I thank Michael C. Hoffman for his tireless efforts to improve our communities and congratulate him upon winning the Flame of Hope Award from the Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York.

OBAMACARE IDEOLOGY AND RURAL REALITY

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of rural health care providers.

Once again, we see President Obama standing on ideological grounds rather than actually taking the time to understand who provides medical care to seniors and how they do it. At the same time he is giving stump speeches and trying to convince us that ObamaCare is working, he is taking $422 billion out of Medicare.

Now, part of these cuts come from critical access hospitals, and I am referring to the cuts that he is making to Medicare in his fiscal year 2015 budget. It is similar to what he did each of the past 2 years. He targets the critical access hospitals. In order to pay for ObamaCare, he is proposing to cut Medicare payments to the providers who are providing such an important service—our rural health care providers.

These patients have an extremely difficult time with access to medical care. They are poorer and are less likely to have employer-provided insurance or prescription drug coverage.

Critical access hospitals are the safety net for many Americans. They provide exceptional care. I see it in my district every day. I commend the rural providers.

USE ALL WE CAN AND SELL THE REST

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, ''We eat all we can and we sell the rest.'' That is the slogan for the Blue Bell Creameries in Brenham, Texas, that makes the best ice cream in the world. With the U.S. overabundance of natural gas, especially in Texas, that should be America's foreign energy policy: ''Use all we can and sell the rest.'' In fact, we have so much natural gas in the Dakotas, they are flaring off gas wells.

Mr. Speaker, Ukraine has been invaded by the bully bear Putin. Ukraine buys 60 percent of its natural gas from Russia. In fact, numerous former Soviet republics in Europe are held hostage and rely on Russia for natural gas. We should give these nations an option to buy our gas, but we can't even start the process until our government speeds up the approval of exporting gas.

Russian aggression can be responded to with an energy policy that helps Ukraine and the United States. Meanwhile, the roar of the Russian bear threatens to devour more sovereign territory in Ukraine.

And that's just the way it is.

THE NEIL SIMPSON COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT

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

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, the Neil Simpson coal-fired power plant unit in Gillette, Wyoming, is going to shut down 10 years before its useful life is up. And it is shutting down because the EPA created this rule called Boiler MACT. That stands for ''maximum attainable control technology.''

If it was attainable control technology, the company wouldn't shut it down 10 years before its useful life is up. It is being shut down because it is not attainable. The EPA did not tell the truth when they told people this can be attained. And now that plant will be disassembled, taken to another country and put back up and be burning coal there.

This is not wise policy, Mr. Speaker.

PROPOSED DEACTIVATION OF THE 440TH AIRLIFT WING

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I have grave concerns about the proposed deactivation of the 440th Airlift Wing located at Pope Army Airfield contained in the President's budget. The 440th is absolutely critical to conducting the kind of training that both airborne and special operations forces located at the epicenter of the universe in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, rely on to conduct the high-risk missions they are charged with in combat.

Beyond the immediate hit on readiness, the retirement will have an impact on over 1,200 servicemembers and their families directly associated with the unit.

While I understand we face challenging fiscal times, I expect the Department to take a broad approach when it comes to finding savings. While retiring a particular airframe may make sense on paper, it is incredibly important that we take into account the value of a joint force structure. I find it hard to believe that out-of-State units can provide the same quality of training and operations as the local units that have the long-term relationship with the commanders on the ground.

Additionally, cutting Fort Bragg's airborne operations by an estimated 23 percent could further erode our readiness at a time when the United States simply cannot afford it, eliminating the ability to rapidly mobilize, train, and deploy our most in-demand forces, namely the airborne and special operators.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to prevent these devastating cuts to our forces.

CONGRATULATING EDINA HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY CHAMPS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Edina High School hockey team for becoming repeat State champions.

This weekend, the Edina Hornets won the State high school hockey championship when they cruised to an 8–2 victory in the tournament finals against the tough Lakeville North squad. The Curt Giles-coached team became the very first AA high school hockey team to win back-to-back State championships in 20 years.

Led by senior captain and Minnesota Mr. Hockey finalist Tyler Nanne, the Hornets rolled through the three-game State tournament winning by a combined score of 17–4.

It is certainly a testament to the hard work of these young men that they spend countless hours on the ice honing their craft while still balancing their schoolwork, family time, and other endeavors. Becoming State champs does not happen overnight but through years of dedication.

Mr. Speaker, the teachers, the parents, the students, and the entire school district are tremendously proud of these young student athletes.

Congratulations again to the high school hockey champions in Edina.

THE MANVEL LADY MAVERICKS—TEXAS 5A STATE CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago, I stood in the parking lot of Manvel High School waiting. A few minutes before 4 p.m., the Texas women's 5A State champs came home.

To win State, the Manvel Lady Mavericks had to go through a door blocked by the two-time defending State champion, the Duncanville Panthers. In November, the Lady Mavs knocked on the Panthers' door. It didn't open. For three quarters in the State championships, they banged on the Panthers' door. It didn't budge. But in the last quarter, the Lady Mavs kicked that son of a gun opened and walked through to become the State 5A champs.

As we say in Manvel: Hoka hey, champs, hoka hey.

HONORING FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE'S 92ND AFW FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

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

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take time to recognize the men and women of Fairchild Air Force Base in my home, eastern Washington.

Last week, the 92nd Air Refueling Wing welcomed home the last plane from Manas Transit Center in Kyrgyzstan. For nearly a decade, the Manas Transit Center was home away from home for these men and women. And every day, Fairchild's tankers would launch out of Manas and then refuel the warplanes supporting coalition troops on the ground.

Day in and day out, these gas stations in the sky gave fighters more time over their enemy targets and saved American lives. These crews provided lifesaving fuel for fighters when Osama bin Laden was found.

As the KC–135s and the airmen are returned to Fairchild, we must not forget those we lost. Last spring, Captains Mark Voss, Tori Pinckney, and Tech Sergeant Tre Mackey died in a tanker crash in Kyrgyzstan. I pray for peace for these families and give gratitude to these incredible airmen who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank you to all the leaders and community members at Fairchild Air Force Base for their dedication to our country over the last 9 years. God bless you.

OBAMACARE IMPLEMENTATION FAILS MOTHERS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently, I received a heartbreaking email from Connie in Irmo, South Carolina. Because of ObamaCare, Connie's health care policy premiums have increased $100 a month, and her deductible has grown to over $2,500 a year. She explains the truth, despite Senate smears. These unexpected costs have created significant financial burdens for her family. Connie is the mother of a child who suffers with mental health issues. It is shameful that government regulations are making her choose between seeking medical assistance and feeding her family.

Connie writes:

> It is heart wrenching that as a mother I now have to second-guess myself any time I think about taking my children to the doctors. I may have coverage, but after I pay my premiums, I don't have enough left to pay for the doctor visit itself.

ObamaCare is threatening the middle class and destroying American families and jobs. On behalf of mothers and fathers across this Nation who are suffering at ObamaCare's expense, it is time for the President to work with Congress to repeal this unworkable law and replace it with commonsense solutions.

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

THE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CARE AND HEALTH ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today the House acted on an important piece of legislation that strikes at the very heart of our democracy—the Equitable Access to Care and Health Act, or EACH Act.

The individual mandate of the 2010 health care law included a very narrow exemption for religious groups, meaning that members of certain recognized religious sects could be exempted from the requirement to purchase health care or face a penalty of a tax for noncompliance.

To qualify for the current exemption, individuals must waive all public and private insurance benefits, including Social Security and Medicare. Individuals who participate in Social Security and Medicare but whose religious beliefs cause them to object to medical health care are not eligible for the existing exemption.

The EACH Act, which had bipartisan support, expands this exemption for individuals whose sincerely held religious beliefs would cause them to object to medical health care provided under such coverage.

Mr. Speaker, religious freedom must be protected for all Americans. Passage of the EACH Act is a step forward in safeguarding this fundamental and enduring principle.

□ 1930

UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAINES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, my remarks this evening will focus on the crisis facing Ukraine and our world, the most significant test of the will of liberty-loving people since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

The events halfway around the world remind us how precious our own liberties are and how important it is for the world community of liberty-loving nations, those that respect human life and those that believe in democratic advancement. We have common cause with those who stood in the streets in the subzero temperatures of Ukraine, whose futures are uncertain as I deliver my remarks this evening.

The world community of liberty-loving nations and those that respect treaty obligations and their roles as members of the United Nations Security Council cannot let the kind of illegal invasion of another country stand. Russia, one of the permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations, has invaded a sovereign country, violating her territorial integrity and putting off the day that Ukraine can handle its own internal affairs in order to get rid of the corruption of the former regime and allow the voices of people who so very much want to live in a free society to fully develop.

Our Nation and the world have to stand up for freedom, democracy, and human rights in Ukraine. These precious values will be diminished everywhere if we fail to raise our voices in

support of those whose lives are at risk. The West, involving our allies from around the world, has to exert strong diplomatic initiatives, economic reform, including a financing package that the International Monetary Fund and other nations are putting together, humanitarian relief, if requested, and military assistance to strengthen our NATO alliance and the protection of borders.

Recently, the Ambassador from Ukraine to the United States, Ambassador Motsyk, wrote a letter to Members of Congress, and tonight I am going to read it into the RECORD so every American can hear it:

Dear Members of the United States Congress:

I would like to begin by thanking the United States of America, and specifically the United States Congress, for the unwavering support of Ukraine at these challenging times.

For the past couple of months, Ukraine has been in the world's headlines. The whole world saw the determination of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians who took to the streets to stand for a better life—for freedom, democracy, and the end of blatant corruption that stifled our country for far too long. Yet the Yanukovych regime tried to silence the protesters with guns. Peaceful and unarmed demonstrators were met by special forces with snipers who shot dead almost a hundred people and wounded hundreds more.

In an attempt to prevent further bloodshed and resolve the crisis, on February 21, 2014, leaders of the opposition Vitali Klychko, Oleh Tyahnybok, and Arsenii Yatsenyuk on one side, and the corrupt regime of Viktor Yanukovych on the other, signed an agreement that had been negotiated with the help of foreign ministers of Poland, Germany, and France. Russia's Special Envoy, Vladimir Lukin, was present, but refused to sign it. Therefore, the suggestion by the Russian side that the opposition failed to implement the agreement is groundless.

The agreement called for an end of violence, restoration of the Ukrainian Constitution of 2004 and early presidential elections. However, on February 22, 2014, President Viktor Yanukovych fled the capitol and de facto removed himself from his constitutional authority. Therefore, on February 27, 2014, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine was the only legitimate authority in Ukraine at that time, given the resignation of the government and the President's self-removal from exercising his functions, and restored the 2004 Constitution (approved by 386 votes out of 450), recognized that Viktor Yanukovych removed himself from his constitutional duties through unconstitutional means by 386 votes, including 140 votes from the pro-Yanukovych Party of Regions, and set the early elections of the President of Ukraine on May 25, 2014 (328 votes).

That was 328, a vast majority of members of their Congress, of their Rada, voted for that.

According to Article 112 of the Constitution of Ukraine of 2004, in case of early termination of powers of the President of Ukraine, the functions of the President of Ukraine shall be carried out by the speaker of the Parliament until a new President is elected and inaugurated, the only legitimate supreme authority in Ukraine is the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

The Verkhovna Rada is their Congress.

The Rada elected its new speaker, Mr. Oleksandr Turchynov (by 288 votes), who acts as the President of Ukraine until the elections, and appointed Mr. Yatsenyuk as the Prime Minister (by 371 votes). These actions were made in full compliance with Ukrainian laws.

That is over three-quarters of the membership. As the American people listen to what is happening there, you are watching a country trying to hold its government together. It was like at the beginning of our Republic when we weren't quite sure exactly how it was all going to be put together, but we were trying mightily to create a republic. However, even after the Ukrainian Congress did that, Russia did not recognize these changes and considers the former President, Viktor Yanukovych, its legitimate President, despite the votes of the Parliament, the highest standing body in the Nation of Ukraine.

Producing a piece of paper purporting to be Mr. Yanukovych's letter asking Mr. Putin to send Russian trips to Ukraine, the Federation Council of Russia, upon Mr. Putin's request, approved such a decision.

Some of us who are old enough to remember, remember what it was like living with the Soviet Union, a Soviet Union that invaded its neighbors, a Soviet Union that moved its tanks across Europe, a Soviet Union that killed over 14 million of its own people. There are some Americans old enough to remember that.

Now, the former President of Ukraine, Mr. Yanukovych, who stole from his own people—those are my words, not the Ambassador's—

Mr. Yanukovych is no longer the President of Ukraine, particularly after his escape from Kyiv on February 22, 2014. Therefore, none of his statements have any significance under either Ukrainian or international law. But in any way, even if the legitimate President of Ukraine called upon a foreign country to intervene with its armed forces in Ukraine, such a statement would also be worth nothing, because under the Constitution of Ukraine, Article 85, only the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, its Congress, can approve decisions on admitting units of armed forces of other states to the territory of Ukraine. The Rada clearly stated it had not made any such decisions.

Seeing that Ukraine is determined to pursue its European course, Russia, under the completely trumped up pretext, invaded Crimea with its armed forces.

People of Hungarian-American ancestry understand what it is like to be invaded. People of Polish-American heritage understand what it is like to be invaded. People of Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian heritage understand what it is like to be invaded by the Big Bear. There are plenty of American people who understand what the Ukrainian people are facing right now.

The Russian forces are seeking to establish complete control over Ukraine's military facilities in Crimea, trying to block and disarm Ukrainian military garrisons and border guard bases, blocking airports and ships. The Russian troops and armored vehicles are moving uncontrollably around Crimea, one of Ukraine's states, and numerous Russian military planes and helicopters violated Ukrainian airspace.

Russia's power far outweighs Ukraine, which is nearly defenseless facing this massive force, and yet, Ukrainian soldiers have hunkered down in army bases, in air control stations, trying to stand up as they are surrounded; what courage. What courage.

By countless provocations, Russian military is seeking to instigate an armed conflict and replicate in Ukraine the Abkhazia and South Ossetia scenario. However, Ukrainian servicemen act with utmost restraint and don't react to such provocations, but there's a threat that Russia may engineer provocations against its own troops, and blame them on Ukraine.

Don't forget, Russia's President was head of the KGB, their secret police. He knows these techniques well.

There is also an ongoing accumulation of Russian equipment on the Russian territory in close proximity to the border of Ukraine in the Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk and Chernihiv oblasts.

What does that mean?

These actions may indicate preparedness of the Russian side for possible intervention into the Ukrainian territory across the land border.

The military intervention is accompanied by a huge outburst of fabrications. I can assure you that Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine enjoy the same rights and freedoms as other citizens of my country. Nobody has ever forbidden, forbids, or will forbid the use of the Russian language, as the Russian propaganda tries to demonstrate.

In fact, if you go to Ukraine, people speak many languages. They speak Ukrainian, they speak Russian, some speak a combination. Some speak Polish as well. Some speak German. There are many languages spoken in the nation of Ukraine.

As of today, there is no proof of any violations of Russian minority rights in Ukraine; there were no appeals to the relevant Ukrainian authorities, neither from those allegedly affected nor from Russia's officials. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Parliamentary Commissioner on Human Rights of Ukraine and the Ombudsman of the Russian Federation in case of such appeals to the Russian side, they are transferred to the Ukrainian Ombudsman.

The actions by the Russian Federation constitute an act of aggression against the state of Ukraine. Russian Federation brutally violated the basic principles of Charter of the United Nations obliging all member states to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

What has happened is serious.

Ukraine in the strongest possible terms protested such actions, but Russia officially rejected Ukrainian proposals to hold immediate bilateral consultation (under article 7 of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 1997).

Again, another treaty violation.

Russia's actions pose a serious threat not only to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, but also to the peace and stability in the whole region. Moreover, Russian's action provoke a disbalance in the international security system, and can lead to violations of the regime of international nuclear nonproliferation on a global scale.

When in 1994, Ukraine became a party to the Nonproliferation Treaty and voluntarily surrendered the third-largest nuclear arsenal

in the world, it did so exclusively under certain conditions. These conditions envisaged granting security assurances to Ukraine by the five nuclear states. On December 5, 1994, the United States, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances to Ukraine. The French Republic and the People's Republic of China support the memorandum by signing separate declarations.

Ukraine has thoroughly implemented its commitments under the Nonproliferation Treaty and has taken and fulfilled additional obligations by getting rid of all of its stockpiles of highly enriched uranium.

□ 1945

Today, we witness the situation when the Russian Federation attempts to undermine the NPT regime not only by violating the Budapest Memorandum, but also by violating the Nonproliferation Treaty, which clearly states in its preamble that ''States must refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner.''

Nonadherence by one guarantor state—the Russian Federation—to its commitments under the Budapest Memorandum by the military invasion in Ukraine creates a situation when the threshold states may consider international legal instruments insufficient to ensure security, territorial integrity and inviolability of their borders.

We rely on the commitments contained in the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO in Ukraine, as well as the U.S.-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership and other bilateral documents.

Ukraine is asking the world community to pay attention.

We need help from the guarantor states, the United Nations, NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe—

Who, by the way, have been denied access on repeated attempts to enter Crimea unarmed to observe, Russia has denied them entry.

—the European Union, all civilized nations to protect our sovereignty and territorial integrity by all available means and to prevent a war which would shatter peace in Europe and will have grave and irrevocable consequences for peace and security on a global scale.

Ambassador Motsyk goes on:

The aggression must be stopped, and we rely on the strong and unified position of the global community.

Military units deployed from Russia must leave the territory of Ukraine immediately, and those belonging to the Russian Black Sea Fleet must return to their barracks. Armed gangs that came from Russia must also immediately leave Ukraine.

Crimea is an inalienable part of Ukraine, with citizens of all ethnic backgrounds.

All issues should be resolved through negotiations. There is no alternative to a peaceful and diplomatic solution of the crisis. We hope that wisdom will prevail.

We need America's help, and we count on it.

Sincerely yours,

Olexandr Motsyk

Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States

I also want to say that there has been some conjecture in the news that we have heard the President of Russia say that Crimea really doesn't belong in Ukraine because, back in the 1950s, when there was a Russian leader by the name of Nikita Khrushchev, that he got drunk one night and he kind of consigned Crimea to Ukraine by accident—by accident—because he wasn't thinking.

There are also very interesting facts contained in a book published in Moscow in 2003 entitled ''Ukraine is not Russia.'' Do you know who it was written by? It was written by the former President of Ukraine, President Leonid Kuchma.

In chapter 14 of that book, President Kuchma devoted 13 pages to trace the history of Crimea and Ukraine. He called it the ''Crimean knot.''

The former President said—when he discusses the politics around the transfer of Crimea to Ukraine in 1954, he says the then-transition to Ukrainian administration after Ukraine became independent and how he dealt with separatist forces during his tenure as President.

Kuchma maintains that the transfer of Crimea from Russia to Ukraine came in response to petitions from the Crimeans themselves, who felt Moscow was too far away and insufficiently responsive to their everyday concerns, where their own country, their own capital of Kiev, was likely to be more attentive, particularly on issues of water and other utilities; so they could provide for Crimea better than Moscow, located far, far away.

Crimea then, Kuchma writes, was a desert and frontier land. He is referring back to the post-World War II period, particularly after the devastation of World War II.

That area was just violated and leveled to such an extent. It is hard for people in the West who have never experienced that to fully accommodate what happened there.

The residents believe Ukraine would be a better fit administratively, so he says—President Kuchma who had headed that country—the story of a drunken Nikita Khrushchev ceding Crimea to Ukraine as a gift is a fairytale. Those are his own words.

In 1954, right after Stalin's death—and what a butcher he was—Khrushchev hardly had the unbridled authority to make such unilateral decisions. At the time, he was vying for power inside his own country.

The actual act of transferring Crimea to Ukraine was signed by the head of what was called the Presidium, Kliment Voroshilov, not Khrushchev.

So the President of Russia maybe didn't read history, I don't know; but the point was the transfer to Ukraine came in 1954. It was a consequential date, and it has remained in Ukraine as part of that region for the entire second half of the 20th century and the first decade of this century. I thought it was important to put that on the RECORD.

I also wanted to say, as a Member of Congress, I am so very, very proud of the work that has been done by the Verkhovna Rada, the legal authority in Ukraine that is holding that Nation together. They are our counterpart. They are a legislative branch of their government, just as we are here.

We for many years now, since 1999, have had a parliamentary exchange with Ukraine, founded and signed by all of our Members, with the former speaker of their Parliament, Mr. Oleksandr Tkachenko, and our Speaker here for many congresses back, Speaker Dennis Hastert. That agreement lives today.

Over the last decade and a half, we have had many parliamentary exchanges. We have had teleconferences. We have had journeys by Ukrainian parliamentarians here and American Members of Congress there.

We believe that the collective intelligence of Ukraine is contained in that Rada. We are very proud of the work they are doing, and we want to continue working with them.

Our agreement says that we want to build upon the strategic partnership between the United States and Ukraine, first established in 1996, and that our parliamentary exchange would serve as a conduit in further developing and continuing economic and political cooperation between our two countries.

The types of discussions that we have held—and will continue to do in the future—will encompass economic relations, trade, space exploration, health care, the environment, agriculture, natural resources, and any other matter important to the promotion of close ties between the United States and Ukraine.

This is a moment for more robust engagement with the Parliament of Ukraine and our own Congress. The idea is that we can learn from one another, we can be mutually supportive, and we know how important legislative bodies are to nations that actually expand freedoms, rights of free speech, rights of assembly, rights of free press, rights of free expression of religion, and we are very proud to be partnered with the Verkhovna Rada.

I would also like to read this evening from an excellent article that was written for The New Republic by Yale scholar Dr. Timothy Snyder, the author of a recent bestseller called ''Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin,'' during World War II. It is incredible work.

But in this particular article, he talks about where Putin is vulnerable, where his soft spots are. He states at the beginning of the article:

In dispatching troops to Ukraine, Russia has violated international law, flouted multiple treaty commitments, and set the stage for a European war.

It is right that the American people are paying attention; it is right that we are using our power to try to put the bear back where it belongs and to try to move the situation to stability. The price of poor diplomacy, I think, would be catastrophic.

In this article, Dr. Snyder ends by saying:

Russian propaganda derides Europeans as fey and helpless, and we too often tend to agree. But the European Union does have instruments of influence. Its greatest power, of course, is its attractiveness to societies on its borders, such as Ukraine. But even where membership is not an option, and the European Union faces unambiguous hostility, it can act. Russia's very contempt for the European Union might force Europeans to undertake a more active foreign policy and to take responsibility for their neighborhood.

The United States has to use our power to help push the situation in that direction.

I just wanted to ask if our dear colleague from Iowa, does he have his own Special Order, or does he wish to join in this Special Order? Congressman KING of Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I very much appreciate the gentlelady for yielding to me. I have a few topics I intend to bring up in the subsequent hour.

I want to thank the gentlelady for raising this topic and for the significant information that has been delivered here with regard to Ukraine, the Russians, and the political scenario that we are in.

I am contemplating what this means to the world. I will say, Mr. Speaker, that I am more troubled than many about the circumstances that have unfolded off of the Black Sea.

I have watched as Putin set up the Olympics. It looked like part of it was for self-glorification. When I think about what this means politically, much of the world is looking at Putin, thinking, well, look at all of the $50-plus billion you invested in the Olympics, and now, you see the world opinion now has turned against you when you had all of that good will that was garnered at the Sochi Olympics.

I think it is a little bit different perspective from where I sit, that is that the component of this is true, but I don't think Putin cares about world opinion. I think he cares about how much hegemony he can deliver from the seat that he has. I think that the good will that came among the Russian people, his popularity numbers had to go up.

Remember, this is a man who went through a difficult contentious election in 2012. There were demonstrations in the streets in multiple places around Russia. The tension that was there, as any leader, his hold on power can't just be by force and fear alone, there has to be some support that is there.

I believe that the Olympics actually helped Putin and gave him the support base at home that would allow him to pull off an invasion—an illegal invasion of the Crimea.

I don't think he cares about what we think. I don't think he cares what the President thinks, Mr. Speaker. I don't think he cares so much even what the European Union thinks, as long as they continue to buy gas from him and keep his economy going, but I think that was a component.

The next thing is that I have watched him for a good number of years, and perhaps not with the attention to detail the gentlelady from Ohio has delivered here tonight, but I have long concluded that Vladimir Putin is committed to restoring, to the extent that he can in his time, the old Soviet Union.

I think he sees this as a giant geopolitical chess game. I would think back at the time in 1984 when then Ronald Reagan's ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick stepped down as ambassador to move on with her career.

I remember picking up on page 3 or 4 of the newspaper a little tiny article there that mentioned it. It wasn't any examination, but it said a little quote that I think she was very well known for, Jeane Kirkpatrick.

□ 2000

We were in the depths of the cold war at the time, I would add, and she said: What is going on in this cold war between the United States of America and the Soviet Union is the equivalent of playing chess and Monopoly on the same board. The question is: Will the United States of America break the Soviet Union economically in the Monopoly component of the game before the Soviet Union checkmates the United States militarily?

That was the contest. That was a contest as Reagan and Thatcher saw it. That was the contest as far as Pope John Paul II saw it, I believe. We know how that turned out at least in the temporary. The strength of the economy of the United States and our ability to continue to develop more and more technology—to put SDI up in order to restore our national defenses—became the deciding factor. The Soviet Union could no longer keep up with the United States, and the Soviet Union couldn't keep up with the free world. The juggernaut of our economy overwhelmed the managed economy of the Soviets. Of course, Gorbachev was a player in this, and we had glasnost and perestroika. So I think he saw that he couldn't hold it together anymore, and to the extent that he cooperated with Lady Thatcher and President Reagan, we saw the worm turn of history.

I hold in my office a piece of the Berlin Wall. That is framed in my office, and I have had it since 1989. Excuse me. Actually, it was on September 12 of 1990 that that piece was chiseled out of the wall for me. I didn't get to do that myself. That piece of the Berlin Wall represents a piece of the Iron Curtain, itself. The Berlin Wall was the physical structure of the Iron Curtain that Winston Churchill described at Fulton, Missouri, in 1948. The Iron Curtain was drawn by, I believe, the finger of Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin, whom the gentlelady has mentioned, at Yalta, on February 11, 1945, when we didn't know how World War II was going to turn out.

The Allies got together when we were allied with the Russians, and they drew a line across the map. On the east side of that line, they were going to live under the Soviet Union, under the iron fist of communism. On the west side of that line, people were going to live and be free, and the destinies of hundreds of millions of people were determined at Yalta. It is curious to me that Putin has invaded and occupied Crimea, which includes Yalta.

One day, I hope to stand on that real estate and look out across the bay where that decision was made. It was a momentous time in history, and it began the domino effect of the military invasion and occupation of free country after free country. It spilled over to the east—into Korea, Southeast Asia. I have long believed that, had we held a different position—a stronger negotiating position—and if we had insisted with Stalin that we were not going to hand the Eastern Bloc countries over to him, we might have ended up with the map that we see today rather than the map that was so hard fought through the cold war. Think how different it is.

Now I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that when people think about this—and the gentlelady from Ohio and I discussed this in some of the very engaging conversations we have had—think about how the Iron Curtain was constructed, defined at Yalta on February 11 and 12 of 1945, and how that line moved when the Berlin Wall came down in November 1989 as each of the Eastern Bloc countries stepped up and grasped their freedom. I think of the people by the tens of thousands standing in the square in Prague, rattling their keys in the square at Prague. Over time, they rattled their keys into, essentially, a bloodless revolution that brought about the freedom of the Czechs for the first time in decades. That kind of desire—that heart for freedom—washed across Eastern Europe. It actually washed across Russia for a time. There was a time that I said that freedom echoed all across Europe and all the way to the Pacific Ocean. I believed that for a while, Mr. Speaker.

Of course, we don't believe this today because the Russia that is ruled under Putin isn't the Russia that the Russian people believed they were going to get when the Soviet Union melted down and imploded, and that became what we thought for a time—hoped for a time—was the end of the cold war. Now I fear that it has relaunched and restarted. Yet we should look at this map of where the new Iron Curtain is. It is at the border of Russia. It doesn't go west of the border of Russia, and it should not be allowed to creep west of the border of Russia.

That is what I believe the gentlelady and I are committed to working towards—to restoring the strength and the prosperity of the people who live free and who give the inspiration to those who do not to live as we do, as a free people.

I very much appreciate the gentlelady.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KING for being here this evening, also for attending the briefing this afternoon and for participating fully in that effort.

As you were speaking, I have a piece of the Berlin Wall in my office. I knocked it off with a hammer in 1989, and I have it framed, and it will be there for the people of my region forever. It is all framed, and it is labeled in memory of that incredible moment.

What we learned during that period of time, post World War II, was that we have to maintain our resolve. I say this to the people of Ukraine that we will not forget you, and if liberty-loving nations use their collective power, change is possible, that change for the better is possible. So, for those who have fear and trepidation, know that there have been models of states before.

Take Hungary, which was invaded in 1956. I can remember Cardinal Mindszenty, from my own denomination, being locked up. When the Russian tanks came into Budapest, Cardinal Mindszenty became a symbol of freedom for the whole world. He was held in the U.S. Embassy. They gave him a closet there, and I actually saw it when I was traveling in Budapest. He became a symbol in the West for defiance against the regime, and our government played a role in that. Cardinal Mindszenty was not an American. He was a Hungarian. He was a Roman Catholic prelate. He risked his life, and he never came out of that Embassy. He became a symbol.

If we look at what happened in the fifties and the sixties in Poland, as labor union members began to demonstrate and be killed, Father Jerzy Popieluszko lost his life in standing up for their right to have a better way of life, and, ultimately, Pope John Paul II became a Pope from inside the Iron Curtain. We saw how religious leaders struggled with the people to give them full voice. It is just so historically compelling and from another realm, from an advanced realm of where the human soul seeks to bring a better way of life to people who seem to be fighting against the odds. They don't have a lot of guns and weapons and nuclear weapons and battleships at their behest, but there is a spirit that attends to those who want to build a better way of life. In standing with the people and in thinking with the people of Ukraine, we hope we embody that spirit.

We were graced with the presence at the National Prayer Breakfast recently with the head of the Orthodox Christian congregations of Ukraine's Patriarch Filaret. We also had other leaders from the Greek Catholic, the Baptist, the Jewish denominations in Ukraine. I have this hope that as the Easter and Passover season approaches that the religious leaders will find a way to invite the world community that wants so very much for the people of Ukraine to be free, that we will find a way to pray for their future together. We hope the religious leaders of Ukraine invite us. I would love to be in that procession. What a place for the world community to be in this Easter-Passover season.

There were Muslims and imams who stood in the square in Kiev; there were Orthodox; there were Baptists; there were Catholics; there were Christian leaders; there were union leaders. What courage. They had no weapons. The weapons were all around them, but they stood their ground. The power of that message is not lost on the people of Ukraine. It is not lost on her neighbors. Frankly, it is not lost on Russia. It is a great power to stand with the spirit of those who want to be free and to find a way to do that, to find a peaceful way to do that.

The Russian Government has never known freedom. They have never had a free election. They have no concept of how to run a free society. I first traveled into that region in 1973, trying to find the shattered remnants of our family, and the further I got—the further we drove—we ended up, I remember, going through then-Czechoslovakia as we entered. We were the only civilian car on the road. Every single vehicle on the road was either a little, white delivery truck or a military truck. I can remember our beloved mother, Anastasia, and I were sitting there in the car, and I was driving.

The further we got as we headed toward Prague, the military soldiers would lift the tarp up on the back of the trucks and look at us—these two women, driving in this orange car with a Western license plate. We must have been a real curiosity, and completely unarmed as they checked you before you went over the border. I remember going over that border—and the gun turrets and the barbed wire—as we proceeded east and how our luggage and our car was examined at every border. The further we got, the more lonely it became until we were the only vehicle on the road as we entered Ukraine for the first time, crossing the border at a place called Uzhhorod, and the Soviets making us wait 5 hours at the border so they could take our car apart. It was just a little car. We had just two suitcases. They couldn't believe we were Americans. They thought we would have brought seven trunks. They looked under the car. They held us at the border until it was night. There were no streetlights, and there were no traffic signs.

We had to find our way from Poland to Lviv, the major city on the western side of Ukraine. In riding over the roads, which had huge rocks, I thought, boy, we are going to get a flat. There were no gas stations. I mean, there was nothing. There was no electricity. We just drove into the wilderness in trying to find that town. When we finally got there, which was very late at night, I saw this little sign called ''In-Tourist.'' That was where they allowed guests or foreigners to stay.

I said to Mom: This must be the place.

It was dusty. There was nobody. There was nobody on the streets, and there were no vehicles. There was just this tiny, little sign in the window.

I went in. There was one desk clerk and one gentleman who was dressed in an elevator operator outfit. He didn't speak any English, and I didn't speak his language. He signaled to me that he wanted me to take the car. He was in the car, and we drove it to the Lviv Opera House, which was in complete disarray. I mean it wasn't fixed up like it is today. The car was then seized. It was put behind those closed gates, and I never saw it again until we left the country. So we had to go everywhere on foot, and we were watched everywhere. We were trying to find the pieces of our family. Our grandparents had come to America 100 years before.

I remember how grim it was. I remember people didn't laugh a lot. They didn't have a lot to eat. We tried to find our relatives. We had, through relatives in Poland, tried to notify the village from which our grandparents came. We stayed in the hotel for 3 days, and we thought, well, nobody is coming. Then our mother, who spoke Polish and who could understand Ukrainian and Russian, heard our name on the third day. Here people had been trying to find us for 3 days. We were the only people in the hotel, and they were told that we weren't there. I can remember how awful that was. Of course, the room we stayed in was up on the second floor of a building now that they call the St. George Hotel, but then it was just the In-Tourist Hotel. They stationed a very large woman outside our hotel door there, with a table and a water bottle, and she knew whether we were coming or going or who came in, and there was a listening device in the wall. There were no curtains on the windows, and there was no hot water. I just remember how sparse it was.

□ 2015

I am probably in Congress today because of what I experienced back then and the understanding I came to have of what life was like there and how difficult it was. I can't go into it all this evening, but I learned about the suffering of the people firsthand.

I think one of the shocking experiences I had was how poorly the Soviet government treated its veterans. They asked me for wheelchairs, they asked me for crutches. I couldn't believe how little respect they had for their own people.

So when I see Vladimir Putin invade Ukraine and invade Crimea, he has no respect for the people there.

We got into the villages. You could only go to certain approved villages in those days. I found that in the village of our grandparents they had to build an outhouse for us to visit, with this little tiny set of stones going back to the outhouse. Americans say, What? I said, Yes. Their life was so basic.

I thought I would never eat a potato again in my life because all we ate was

potatoes with lard on top for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and tomatoes that had been canned. They gave us the best they had.

I thought, So this is communism.

The life of the ordinary person is so pitiful. They had no fresh water. I got deathly ill. There were no doctors. You couldn't get medicine. I learned what dysentery was. I learned what unsafe food was. I learned how the relatives, including one of my great uncles, had been tortured and sent to work camps. They called them gulags. His brother died there. I began to understand the full price that families pay who live under those kinds of systems.

So President Putin has no clue to what a free society really means. So much unneeded suffering.

We have this moment in history to make a difference. I know the American people are considering how to make that difference. Freedom-loving people around the world are as well.

I find the judicious and firm acts of President Obama and Secretary Kerry to be very constructive. America can't be the babysitter for the world. On the other hand, there is a conscience that rises in freedom-lovers, and, thinking together, America will make the right decisions, with her allies around the world, to right this situation and to allow those who want their liberty, after paying such an egregious price, to have that moment in their own history.

I see our dear colleague from New York, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, who is appropriately attired this evening in full Ukrainian spirit, has joined us.

Welcome.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Thank you so much, Congresswoman KAPTUR, for your leadership and for organizing a briefing earlier today for Members of Congress with head leaders from the State Department on the actions that are happening, and for your leadership in passing H. Res. 499 today, which condemned the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation. We appreciate very much your making that happen and helping us to pass that resolution.

Once again, the Russians have rattled their sabers and tightened their grip on the Ukraine. In the past 24 hours they have seized a Ukrainian naval base. Even though the Constitution declares Crimea to be an integral part of Ukraine, the pro-Russian regional authorities in Crimea continue to sever links to Ukraine's capital today, canceling incoming flights from Kiev. They have also run out of town any of the monitors that have come from the United Nations or the independent free world. Flights to and from Turkey also have been suspended.

The Russians have threatened to confiscate Western assets and refuse to even speak to the Ukraine's interim prime minister on the phone. The interim prime minister has found $80 billion missing—even loan guarantee money. This Congress needs to work together to find that money and return it rightfully to the Ukrainian people.

Yanukovych, the disgraced former President, did the Russians' bidding and appealed to Ukrainian military units to refuse to follow the orders of the new interim authorities.

Once again, today, the Russians ignored international norms, calls for restraint, and all the cries for justice for all those who were gunned down in Independence Square.

Congresswoman, are you aware that there has been no action to punish the people who killed community leaders and others in Independence Square? Eighty-two people were murdered.

My constituents have held vigils. They have memorials that they have constructed. In their churches they have pictures of every single martyred hero and heroine, with their stories. Yet no one has been held accountable for that crime against decency and humanity of killing innocent people.

They have ignored Ukrainian sovereignty, treaties, and the rule of law, all in an effort to reestablish a disgraced petty tyrant whose secret life of obscene opulence included—this is hard to say—gold-plated toilets—that is what they are saying on the Internet—along with pictures of all of his zoos and his house and all kinds of things where he wasted the money of the Ukrainian people on wasteful things.

On the other hand, the Ukrainians have already done the right thing for the world around them. In 1994, they signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances and willingly gave up the third-largest stockpile of nuclear weapons. They are a peace-loving people. With the peaceful stroke of a pen this eliminated a far greater threat to world peace than North Korea and Iran combined.

The key thing the Ukrainians were promised in return was security assurances against threats or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine. The U.S. and Russia, Congresswoman, were signatories to that statement.

President Obama has made it clear that America will stand with the Ukrainian people. We are all watching everyday on television what is happening, and what has struck me the most was the scene where the Russians were shooting in the air and shouting at the Ukrainians, and they marched peacefully towards them. One general called out: America stands with us.

That is true. America stands with peace-loving people around the world and for democracy. We so often take for granted the freedoms, the liberties, the democracy that we have that others are struggling for around the world.

Tomorrow, the Ukraine's interim prime minister is scheduled to meet President Obama at the White House here in our country. The White House has announced visa restrictions on Russians and Crimeans who are threatening the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The President is working with America's allies to craft economic sanctions that will punish and isolate the architects of this aggression.

Secretary of State John Kerry has traveled to Kiev to mourn for the fallen in Independence Square and to bring $1 billion in American loan guarantees and pledges of technical assistance. We overwhelmingly passed the $1 billion loan guarantee without a cap here in our Congress. It was an important vote. We all stood with the Ukrainians.

Now it is time for Congress to make it clear that we stand with the Ukrainian people. The resolution we passed today is a good start—condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation.

To paraphrase the Ukrainian anthem: Their persistence and toils should be rewarded. Let freedom's song resound.

We should be asking our friends in Russia, What is their word worth? What is their signature worth on any document, on any treaty, or on any contract? What is their word worth?

I would like to invite the distinguished Congresswoman to join me this Saturday with the Ukrainian community on Roosevelt Island, named after FDR, who went to Crimea for Yalta and spoke of the four freedoms: freedom of want, freedom of religion, freedom of democracy, freedom of speech. These freedoms are what the people in the Ukraine are fighting for, longing for, working for.

We are going to gather at the Four Freedoms Park in Manhattan to pray with, to be with, and to stand with the Ukrainian people who are bravely fighting as we speak for their freedoms, for their independence, for American values that they want as their values. America stands with them. The American people are standing with the Ukrainians.

I thank the gentlelady for having found the Ukrainian Caucus here in Congress, of which I am a member, and also for having crafted resolutions and so many statements in their support and helping to organize in a bipartisan way. Because this country is united. We are speaking with one voice, Republicans and Democrats, in support of the Ukrainian people.

I thank the gentlelady for her magnificent leadership.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY of New York for taking time out of a very busy day to work way over time tonight and to be here and to join our plea for the people of Ukraine. Thank you for your leadership in the Ukrainian Caucus, and thank you for wearing a peasant blouse, which has a long, deep history in Ukraine.

Ukraine breadbasket to Europe breadbasket to the world—now the

third largest exporter of grain, despite all of the hardship that the corrupt government of that country has placed on their farmers, who simply want to earn a living from the soil and share their great gifts with the world. They have faced so many roadblocks.

Thank you for appreciating the artistry and magnificent beauty of that country and for your steadfast support of liberty both here and abroad. You have just been a magnificent member. We thank you so much for coming down here this evening.

As she was speaking about New Yorkers who are going to gather in Four Freedoms Park in New York City, a home to people from throughout the world, I wanted to say that there are more Ukrainians living outside Ukraine than inside its borders because of the tragedies that have occurred there over the last century and more, particularly because of the Stalin and Soviet period.

Ukrainians live in Canada, Portugal, Italy, Argentina, and Australia. The pieces of humanity are strewn across the globe, and as I mentioned in earlier remarks this evening, millions of her own people were either starved to death or murdered. They were killed by their own government, the government of the Soviet Union, which tried to eliminate Ukrainian culture, Polish culture, the Jewish religion.

Now we are worried about the Tatars in Crimea because they don't share the majority religion. They are a minority. The history of tyrannical leaders in that part of the world has, unfortunately, been to kill those who don't agree with them rather than to create a civil society in which all views can be expressed, even though we might not agree with them.

So we worry about the people there. We are trying to be a voice for them here in our own country—a voice for freedom, not for brutality or repression. A voice for encouragement, not force alone.

I want to thank Congresswoman MALONEY and Congressman KING for joining us this evening.

May God bless America, and may God bless the people and the legitimate government of Ukraine as she seeks to build a freedom of liberty and justice for all her people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2030

HISTORICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized by you and to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I would first like to say I appreciate the gentleladies'—and that is plural—presentation and the breadth of their attention to the part of the world that has been the center of our discussion here tonight and that should be the center of our American discussion, and will be, for some time to come.

As I watch this unfold, and think of the time in 2008 when I found myself in the Nation of Georgia within a little more than a week after the Russians invaded two provinces or states of Georgia, one of them South Ossetia, and having arrived there and met with the leadership in Georgia, including President Saakashvili and his cabinet that were young people, and a minister of defense that was still awaiting his 30th birthday, I heard the narrative from inside Tbilisi on what the Russians had planned and what the Russians had done.

Now, history is little bit undecided, Mr. Speaker, about who fired the first shot in Georgia. It may have been the Russians baited the Georgians into it. It may have been that the Russians actually fired on the Georgians and the Georgians fired back.

In any case, the narrative that I received there that was part of a briefing that was synced with our State Department and with the representatives of the Nation State of Georgia brought together information that there was a single underpass, there was a two-lane underpass; that within a 24-hour period of time, some 2,200 Russian vehicles, tanks, armor and other equipment went under that underpass.

They had to have staged that invasion of Georgia. It could not have been a spontaneous response on the part of the Georgians firing on the Russians or the Russians who may well have fired the first shots at Georgia.

In any case, when the Russians went in and occupied those parts of Georgia, that began a movement, a strong movement of hegemony, and I think that it was passed off that the Georgian circumstances were somehow an anomaly, that somehow it was regional tensions that were brought up, and that the eye to the sea wasn't necessarily what Putin was thinking about.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that he was. I believe it was the first piece on the giant geopolitical chessboard, the chessboard that our President doesn't seem to think actually is in play any longer, that Cold War chessboard.

But when I look at the map of that part of the world and look at the flow of energy that goes back and forth, Ukraine and Georgia have similarities. One is, they have ports.

The second one is that they are a nexus for energy, transmitting energy through their countries with pipelines and, in the case of Georgia, rail lines. It is important that if you can control Georgia you can control a lot of the energy that comes through from the east, and if you can control Yugoslavia, you can control a lot of the energy that comes through from the east.

Those two things, plus the historical involvement of the Russians in the Crimea. I take us back to the gentlelady from Ohio who laid out the case of the 1994 treaty that the Russians signed and the interested parties signed that all would respect the territorial and sovereign borders of the Ukraine, and of course the Russians violated that.

I don't expect much of anything else to happen. I don't think they are bound by their honor in any way. I think they are only bound by the limitations of the static tension that comes from power, and that power can be economic, it can be political. It is probably not very much cultural, but it also is, in the highest degree it is military.

When there is no military deterrent in place, then Putin is going to be determined to move forward and reconstitute the old Soviet Union. He lamented years ago that the worst thing that happened in the 20th century was the implosion of the Soviet Union, or the disintegration of the Soviet union.

I would also point out that the world is not going to tolerate a lone superpower, which the United States of America is, the unchallenged greatest nation in the world, the strongest superpower there has been, with global reach everywhere.

When the United States pulls back—first, Mr. Speaker, we project power. We project power in the ways that I said, economically, culturally, militarily and strategically, and when the United States pulls back from that, when we decide that we are not going to exert influence in parts of the world, then the lust for power that comes in the embodiment of someone like Putin fills that vacuum. In fact, it is pushing constantly. It doesn't need a vacuum to push in.

Russian pushed into Georgia in 2008. They gave us a preview of what was to come.

Now, here we are, these few years later, these six or so years later, and we are watching now, as Putin finished up with his Olympics, his 50-plus billion dollar endeavor, I think a lot of it had to do with raising the spirits of the Russian people and their sense of support for him so that he could get away with this cold tactic of a military invasion and conquest of the Crimea.

I don't have any doubt that he has got his eyes on the balance of the Ukraine, that he has got his eyes on the balance of the Soviet Union in whatever order that he can pull this off.

If we show weakness, if we don't stand strong, if we don't stare him down, if we don't put the kind of equipment and resources in place to block his move, then Putin is going to march through these countries, one after another.

It is a fairly long hiatus between Georgia and the component of the Ukraine that has now been invaded and occupied that we call now the Crimea, but I think it is interesting and I think it is ironic, Mr. Speaker, that it is the Crimea that has been grabbed as part

of the Ukraine, and now they are seeking, the Russians have already annexed it, Mr. Speaker, and now they are about forcing a referendum this Sunday.

When they talk about how the Duma has to operate and what the legal structure is in Russia, it is all a matter of what does Putin command. Whatever the sequential order of the Duma is, and whatever we might think they have to jump through for hoops, I think it is just this: if Putin commands, then they will jump through the hoops at his command.

We should think about this. Georgia, and now the Crimea and the eyes of the Russians and Putin, in particular, looking into the Ukraine, and think about what happened the last time we had a dictator who had such a desire for conquest and occupation.

I would take us back to this piece of history where, as I saw this happen, when the Russians went into the Crimea, Mr. Speaker, immediately, I began to rethink the sequence of history, when Adolf Hitler demanded that they receive the Sudetenland, a component and the western perimeter of at the time Czechoslovakia. The pretense that he used was identical to the pretense that Putin has used to go into the Crimea.

It was Hitler that said there are German-speaking people and they deserve German representation, and someone has got to protect them and represent them, and I need to do that, as the leader, the Fuhrer of Germany. They are German-speaking people, they are German people, they need to be under German rule. That was the pretense that he used that forced the negotiations that took place in Munich in 1938.

Before we go to that spot, there was a peaceful march into and invasion of the Nation of Austria, and pulling us back in that history, Mr. Speaker, there was significant pressure that was put on the Austrians that began back prior to 1938, and Hitler made the arguments too.

Austria, still, to this day, is a German-speaking country. They identify very closely with the German people. They flow back and forth. The difference between an Austrian and a German isn't a particularly distinct one, although they are separate nation states today.

But Hitler put pressure on the Chancellor of Austria, and as he brought them to an agreement and got the Chancellor of Austria to make some appointments of Austrian Nazi officers, he weakened the resistance of the leadership by doing so.

On March 12 of 1938, essentially the day—March 11, the Chancellor of Austria resigned. March 12 Nazi troops flowed into Austria. By the 13th of March they had declared Austria to be a protectorate, a separate protectorate of the German empire that had begun.

Now, this is a recovery of a nation that was defeated in World War I. They had gone through tremendous economic crisis and chaos, as had Austria, and they were vulnerable, and Austria was powerless to stand in the way of the Nazi military machine, and the Wehrmacht. So March 12 was essentially the date that the flow of the Nazis marched into, went into Austria and Vienna, March 12 of 1938, Mr. Speaker.

Now, think of this. In the spring of 1938, Nazi troops flow into Austria, essentially annex the country without firing a shot. Pretty similar to the Russians going into the Crimea.

Now, they did fire some shots in Georgia, a lot of shots in Georgia, and people were killed, and a number of Russian planes were shot down by the Georgian military, but we are back in 1938. Spring of 1938, Austria taken over by the Nazis. In September of 1938, Hitler has been spending the whole summer agitating that the Sudetenland needs to also come into the German sphere of influence in a similar fashion that Austria had been brought into the German sphere of influence.

Neville Chamberlain, the now infamous failed peacekeeper, peacemaker then flew to Munich to meet with Hitler and made an agreement called the Munich Agreement with Hitler and signed off on it and got a letter that Adolf Hitler signed which said, we are going to have peace now in Europe if you just give me the Sudetenland, the German-speaking area which was the western perimeter of Czechoslovakia.

The date was September 29, 1938, when Neville Chamberlain met with Hitler in Munich. He flew back to England and landed, had a press conference on the airstrip on September 30 of 1938 and waved the letter in his hand that said, peace for our time.

We remember it as peace in our time, but he actually said peace for our time and waved the letter, did the press conference, and let all of England and the free world know that Hitler didn't have any further designs on any kind of real estate; he didn't intend to take over any other part of Europe, that he was going to be happy with what he had achieved, which was Austria and the Sudetenland, the western perimeter of Czechoslovakia. Peace for our time.

So after that press conference, I am sure that Neville Chamberlain went to bed thinking that he had accomplished something, and the very following day the Nazis then flowed into Sudetenland, and they stayed there and occupied throughout the winter.

That takes us through the winter of 1938 and the spring of 1939. By March 16, the Nazi troops had flowed throughout the balance of Czechoslovakia, occupied it.

Now, you would think that we were going to have peace for our time at that time because, after all, Hitler didn't announce his planned operations to go in and invade and occupy any other part of Europe. He had been announcing that he was peaceful. He signed the letter. He just didn't keep his word.

Sound a little curious, doesn't it, Mr. Speaker. The Russians signed the agreement with the Ukrainians in 1994 that they would respect the territorial boundaries of the Ukraine. They kept that deal as long as it was suitable to the Russians.

The Russian signature, of course, means nothing to Putin if they have territorial aspirations, if they have territorial greed. So Putin, in a very similar fashion to Adolf Hitler, went into the Crimea and took the Crimea over.

He had it planned. He had it strategized. He should have been able to see it coming. I would like to think that our intel predicted this as a strategic move, rather than just a response to a military move. I don't know that and probably will never know that, if that was ever the dialogue of the people who were watching very closely in that part of the world.

When Hitler went in and occupied the balance of Czechoslovakia, and we had the summer then of 1939 wondering, but not very intensively, we have got peace in Europe again. Land for peace. Worked out pretty well, Neville Chamberlain thought.

Yet, September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland. He had already cut a deal with the Russians that they were going to carve Poland up. It took the Russians another 12 days to get mobilized to go in and start carving up their part of Poland, but the Nazi divisions were prepared to go, and they launched a blitzkrieg invasion of Poland and invaded and occupied and penetrated to the predetermined line that he and Stalin had agreed to, and Poland was carved up.

□ 2045

Now that crossed the line for the rest of Western Europe. That did launch World War II in a formal fashion. So as the Western World began to mobilize for a war that they hoped to never see fought and were not very well prepared for, the following spring, in April of 1940, the Nazis invaded Norway. April 13, they invaded Greece and Yugoslavia.

Think how fast this took place. They had been planning for a long time. They had mobilized for a long time. They had the strategy put in place, and by April 13 of 1940, in a short 2-year period of time, they had gone through Austria, the Sudetenland, the balance of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Norway, Greece, and Yugoslavia by April 13, 1940.

Mr. Speaker, this was a dramatic takeover of real estate and property. At some point, Hitler no longer needed to put up the pretense because the war was declared then, and it was declared on September 1 of 1939, shortly after September 1 of 1939, Mr. Speaker.

These are dramatic changes that took place across Europe. They were ideological clashes, economic clashes, geographic clashes, and cultural clashes that came to a head in that part of the world. We think it can't happen

again or it won't happen again. We fought the cold war for 45 years, and, finally, the Berlin Wall went down, and MARCY KAPTUR went over and chiseled a piece out with her own hand. I learned that tonight on the floor. I am impressed, and I am proud of her for having the conviction to go and do that, knowing and understanding what that meant then and what it means today.

Mr. Speaker, we are watching a Russia push back on this. We have seen the character and the culture under Stalin; we have seen it under Brezhnev; we have seen it under Khrushchev; and we have seen it under Lenin, the territorial hegemony attitude of the Russians and a Putin who would like to reconstruct the old Soviet Union and do so by military conquest. That is what we have in the Crimea. I don't have any doubt he is looking again at Ukraine.

Now I will go through some of the rest of these countries that fell at the beginning of World War I. I have taken you through Austria, the Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia, and Poland carved up by Russia and the Nazis. They made a deal, a cold and cruel agreement to carve Poland up, and they executed a lot of Jews, and they executed a lot of Poles just for being Jews and Poles.

History marks that kind of brutality on both sides of that line that came into Poland. I recall meeting in Cologne, Germany, a few years ago with some leaders in that part of the world. The gentleman who was sitting next to me at a dinner table and I got into a conversation—about the same age—what did our parents do during the Second World War? Mr. Speaker, I listened as he told me that his father fought at Auschwitz. I said: Did he fight to liberate Auschwitz? He said that he fought in the Russian invasion of Auschwitz in September of 1939 when the Russians went in and invaded Poland from the east and invaded and occupied, and Auschwitz was part of that territory that the Russians carved out.

It is quite a thing to listen to that kind of a narrative. Clear over on the east side of the line that we didn't think about enough throughout that course of history, there were people that were invading armies that were launched in September of 1939 to go and take the free country of Poland and carve it up in a cold-blooded and greedy way to latch on to the property of Poland.

So the pattern is there. And they are on this together, and they are staring each other down across this line. But it takes us through 1939 and into 1940, when Norway and Greece, in the spring, were occupied along with Yugoslavia. And then on the 10th of May, the Nazi panzer divisions rolled through Belgium and into France. Belgium lasted about 18 days and ended about May 28, 1940, when they fully surrendered. And France lasted until about the 22nd of June. Paris capitulated and surrendered June 14, and the balance of France was handed over under Nazi control with Vichy cooperation as late as June 22 of 1940.

Then the Battle of Britain began—and that was fought over the English Channel, much of it, and over the land area of Great Britain. That essentially ended. You don't know when it ends, but looking back on the calendar, it ended in the late fall of 1940. And we are still not in this war, Mr. Speaker. This country is still sitting here watching the lot of the rest of the world engage in the conflict—not that I wanted to be in that conflict any earlier than that—but we were neutral, although we were trying to help out our Allies and help out the British. And I am thinking, what are the Russians looking at at the time? They are wondering, their ally, Hitler, was not very reliable, but they went through 1940 and through all of the spring of 1941 believing that they had made an agreement to carve up Poland, and somehow they were going to have the static border between Germany and the Russians. They probably believed that Hitler didn't have any further land aspirations either.

Now, I bring this up because we should not believe that Putin doesn't have further aspirations. Hitler did have. On June 22, 1941, he launched Operation Barbarossa and invaded Russia itself, from a treaty to carve up Poland to an all-out assault and offensive on Russia, to invade and occupy Russia, and nearly got it done.

That, Mr. Speaker, is a very long and complex history that can be read in a book entitled ''Absolute War,'' written by Chris Bellamy. It is about 750 pages. It goes through the details, in great detail, of that Operation Barbarossa and the German invasion of Russia. It was, of course, turned back at Stalingrad.

While that went on, it was easy to see that Hitler was planning the invasion of Russia for a long, long time. He was retrofitting his railcars to be able to go on the different gauge rails as they were sending men and equipment into Russia. He had an agreement with the Russians that they were going to send him the things he needed, raw materials and feed grains and the raw materials that they could use and that they needed badly in Germany in exchange for German engineers going to Russia. He had his German engineers that were helping the Russians develop and build military equipment and munitions, except the German engineers were ordered to slow-walk the Russians and do very little to help move them along in their progression of developing their military capability, all the while raw materials—food and supplies that Hitler needed from Russia—were pouring into Germany and becoming part of the resources for the war effort that was about to come.

That launched June 22. It would have been earlier by about 6 weeks if it hadn't been for an uprising revolution in Yugoslavia that took five German divisions to go down there to put the uprising down, the revolution down in Yugoslavia. That delayed the planned invasion of Russia for Hitler from May 12 up until June 22. It likely was the difference in whether the Nazi troops would have been successful in Stalingrad and in Moscow.

But if one, today, Mr. Speaker, travels to Moscow and you land at the airport and take ground travel from the airport, that long high traffic area on into Moscow, you will see just outside of Moscow a large tank barrier that is sitting there which marks the furthest most easterly advance of a German tank that was part of the invasion attempts in Moscow.

We don't think about how close that came. It came within perhaps weeks of being successful, that difference between the delay of that invasion which would have been scheduled for May 12 that turned out to be June 22, 1941. We don't study this in our history very much, Mr. Speaker, because we turn our focus to Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, and then the need and the necessity for us to launch a two-front war almost immediately.

That conflict set the borders for today, a conflict of the Second World War. I take you through this piece of history, and I will be naming some of the countries that may well be targets of Putin. But I take you through this history to get, Mr. Speaker, people that are paying attention to this discussion, to get you to Yalta on February 11, 1945. I briefly mentioned it while the gentlelady from Ohio had the floor.

I think about that meeting between Franklin Delano Roosevelt, between Josef Stalin and Winston Churchill, the three leaders that were the central players in the Second World War European theater—not the Japanese or Pacific theater, but the European theater. They met at Yalta. It is ironic to me that Yalta is in the Crimea. Putin has annexed, not only annexed the Crimea, he annexed Yalta itself, the very place where those three leaders took a map of the world, of Asia and Europe, and drew a line on that map.

West of the line—after the war was over, they planned that they would defeat this Nazi Germany that has marched through all these countries that I have described. They planned that they were going to defeat Nazi Germany, that they were going to invade and occupy all of the countries from the east on the Russian side and from the west the Allied side. By that time, it was just post the Battle of the Bulge, which ended near the end of January in 1945.

So they decided they were going to carve up Europe. If the war ended in victory for them, then the Russians were going to take a half of Germany. We know where that line was. It became the Iron Curtain wall, and in Berlin it became the Berlin Wall. And they were going to take the Eastern Bloc countries that we know of, and that was Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania,

and Bulgaria, the list goes on, Yugoslavia, those countries, parts of them.

So that agreement was made at Yalta. The agreement was agreed to by Churchill, by Roosevelt, and by Stalin. And then they collapsed in on Germany and carved that part of the world up according to the plan at Yalta.

Now, can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, sitting at Yalta in the Crimea with a map of the world and drawing on that map, this is the line east of which people will live under the Soviet influence—which hadn't technically formed yet—west of this line people will live under Western influence and, by the way, even carved up Berlin itself so that we had a U.S. sector, we had a French sector, a British sector, and a Russian sector of Berlin itself.

That set the destiny for a lot of history that was to come after that. What we saw happen over the course of, then, 45 years of cold war, Mr. Speaker, was that these countries that had been taken over by Russia, and some of them were closely within the sphere, but I will say the countries that are Eastern Bloc satellites of the Soviet Union, occupied and influenced by them, Hungary, Georgia, I mentioned the Crimea, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Baltics, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic and now the Slovak Republic, Croatia, Austria, Belarus, to name some, to leave some out, but to get most of them, these are countries that are now on Putin's list. He puts Crimea in his little pocket and says, I have got that, I am going to hold it, and not many people in this country can devise a plan to get it back. He has got parts of Georgia in his hand.

If we don't step up our resources so that there is a deterrent in place, this man, Putin, will march on down the line. I believe he will march into eastern Ukraine. I believe that some of those operations could be going on now. I think he will be looking very closely at Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, members of NATO, member countries that we are pledged to defend. But I think that Putin looks in the eyes of our Commander in Chief and wonders how much resolve is actually there, and I think he concluded that the resolve wasn't there. That is one of the contributing factors that Putin went into the Crimea.

I don't suggest that he would not have done it if we had had a different President; although, I suspect that if this had been a stronger President, I will just say, Mr. Speaker, it is less likely if we had had a stronger President.

Now, the countries that are along that perimeter, that see Russia on their border and they see what has happened with troops marching into the Crimea and they see the threats that the balance of Ukraine is under, they see what has happened in Georgia—and, by the way, the amount of Georgia that remains as sovereign is a fairly large share of their original real estate. They are the furthest, most easterly outpost of Western civilization in the nation of Georgia.

They have a strong spirit. They love freedom, they love free enterprise, and they love Americans. That is the case for a lot of countries up and down through that part of the world. We need a stronger presence in each one of them. We need to have a stronger force lined up. I would say one of the first moves that we need to make, and I recall the Poles and the Czechs, but under the Bush administration, we had negotiated the placement of missiles and radar in Poland and Czechoslovakia, respectively, and shortly after our President was elected, Mr. Speaker, he canceled the agreement to place the missiles and the radar in those two countries.

□ 2100

The headlines in the Warsaw paper—and they found out about this in the news. It wasn't the President calling them up saying, I'm not going to follow through on this; they found out about it in the news. The headlines in the Warsaw paper read: ''Betrayed.'' The United States agreement with Poles and the Czechs was a betrayal of our word, and it was because Putin influenced Barack Obama into canceling the agreement that established the missiles and the radar in Poland and Czechoslovakia. The headlines said ''Betrayed'' in Poland. They were betrayed.

I have had some conversations with Poles since the invasion of Crimea, and I am convinced that they would accept the missiles again even though we haven't been very reliable in our partnership. They are taking a lot of heat. They are right there. Russia is next door, and the Poles have stood in the middle of invasions going two directions in the memory of many of the Poles yet today. They have enjoyed a long period of peace, fairly long considering their history, but the Poles, I believe, would accept the missiles today, and we ought to place them there. The Czechs, I don't have as good a measure on, but I would be hopeful we could place a radar there and start to build up the missile defense shield.

We did operations on the ground in Poland last August. We need to ramp them up again and do more ground operations, more joint military exercises. We need to expand those exercises along that part of the world, working in conjunction with the NATO troops and the troops of the sovereign countries along that border that is now on the west side of the new Iron Curtain that Putin has essentially announced by his invasion into the Crimea. We need to put whatever kind of advisory support the Ukrainians need right into Ukraine so that their people are trained and their people are ready to step up and defend themselves. If Putin decides to move into the balance of Ukraine, how could they do anything but defend themselves. I think they must. I would like to see that they are ready.

Mr. Speaker, I am known as a fiscal conservative in this House. I supported the resolution that advanced the $1 billion in loan guarantees to the Ukrainians. I don't think that is enough. I think we should be prepared in this Congress to go down the line and match Putin dollar per dollar with loan guarantees, provided we could condition them in such a way that Putin himself doesn't get his hands on those resources. We need to demonstrate our commitment to the Ukrainians and let them know that we will be there.

We need to invite Georgia into NATO. We should have done that back in 2008. We should have brought Ukraine into NATO during that same period of time. Those kind of things could well have been a deterrent to Putin, and we didn't take advantage of the opportunity to bring them in the NATO sphere of influence.

So I would offer again to Georgia, come on into NATO. Ukraine, get stabilized a little bit so we can see what kind of government is going to emerge, but we ought to consider a stabilized government of Ukraine being an eligible candidate for NATO. We need to build our defenses up along those borders. We need to understand that, back to that static nature, that this is the renewal of the cold war launched by Putin, and we can't continue to back up thinking that he is not going to push.

I have read through and delivered the history of the Nazi regime from 1938, March of 1938 on until the invasion of Russia by the Germans, by the Nazi regime, because there is a distinct difference, on June 22, 1941, when the Second World War was launched in a large way. This is not going to happen in a way that Putin is going to put it out on the calendar and tell us that he has his eye on some of the eastern regions of the Ukraine and then maybe he thinks he is going to put a little pressure on some of the other countries, maybe back to Georgia again or Belarus, but they are so closely aligned there, it is hard to draw a distinction. Maybe it is one of the other countries along the way. Maybe it is Estonia. Maybe it is Latvia. Maybe it is Lithuania; maybe it is all of them. I have gone through this history of what happened at the beginning of World War II, and I think we understand how quickly it can happen and how little is the time to get ready and how important it is to be prepared.

Mr. Speaker, we must be a strong military Nation. We must be prepared. About the same time that Secretary Hagel announced drastic military cuts is about the same time that Putin went into the Crimea. It is possible it is a coincidence, but the military cuts information was already out. I think we should suspend those cuts now. I think we should be prepared to match Putin dollar per dollar in the Ukraine. I think we need to put the missiles up

and the radar up in Poland and Czechoslovakia. I think we need to sail a few more operational ships into the Black Sea. I think we need to have more presence in that part of the world, and we need to get our military back to ready. If they are cutting our military down to pre-World War II levels, and I look at some of the troop levels that we have for all of our arenas of operation, and I see what can be mustered by the Russians in one location, and I see how weak the military is in Western Europe, and how weak their resolve is, Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned that this second cold war has been relaunched, and you never know if it is going to turn into a shooting war, but trading land for peace has no successful precedent in history that I can think of.

Neville Chamberlain tried to trade off the Sudetenland for peace. What did it get us? That gave up the rest of Czechoslovakia and the invasion of Poland. I recall the Gaza Strip being traded off, land for peace, and what does that get? That gets tunnels, and it gets rockets shot out of the Gaza Strip into the balance of Israel. Land for peace, Mr. Speaker: if someone can show me a successful trade of land for peace, I do not know what it is throughout the course of history.

It isn't that this is something—the Second World War that happened a long, long time ago in a different place and a different time. A lot of Americans are buried in that soil in Europe, and they gave their lives so that freedom could live.

We are going to commemorate and celebrate the successful landing at Normandy this upcoming June 6. That should be enough to bring our focus to what transpired then in that period of history, and it should bring our focus into the prevention of anything like that happening again. It should bring our focus into having peace through strength, being strong militarily, being strong economically, and being strong spiritually and strong culturally. Those are the credentials of the United States of America, to live free and be strong.

Each time we have been involved in wars that were, some would say as critics, foreign interventionism, then we have decided there was a peace dividend, chopped our military down. We don't need them so much anymore; we will have a core group of our military because, after all, we are Americans. Just being Americans is a deterrent.

Obviously, it is not. Putin thumbs his nose at us. I will take us through the cycles. We were late getting into World War I. We went over there very highly mobilized, and made a significant difference to help close out the end of World War I. It was a travesty in that part of the world, and World War I did not end it. It did not end decisively and conclusively, and it set the stage for World War II.

We instead cut our troops back down going into 1940. We were weak. The Japanese knew it. That is why they had the audacity to attack us in Pearl Harbor in 1941. The Nazis didn't respect us or they would have been more hesitant in their part of the world they were invading and occupying.

A strong America has always been successful. Ronald Reagan came onto the scene, and recognized that we were weak. He recognized, Mr. Speaker, that there was a cold war and a geopolitical chess game taking place. As Jeane Kirkpatrick described it, chess and monopoly on the same board. The only question was, during the cold war—and this was in 1984 when she said this, and 5 years later, we found the answer. In 1984, Jeane Kirkpatrick, Ambassador to the United Nations, appointed under Ronald Reagan, as she stepped down, she said chess and monopoly on the same board in this cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union, and the question is whether we bankrupt the Soviet Union economically before they checkmate us militarily.

We know the answer to that. We bankrupted the Soviet Union before they checkmated us militarily. They could not keep up with our investment and America's innovativeness. They couldn't keep up with our missile defense system that we were putting place, either, the Strategic Defense Initiative that was announced by President Reagan, and should I say demagogued here on the floor of the House of Representatives by Democrats calling it Star Wars. I thought it was a tactical and a messaging error on the part of President Reagan not to embrace it and say that's right, it is Star Wars. We are going to build a missile defense system, and that seemed a long reach at the time. It doesn't seem like such a long reach today, and that defense system should have deployed in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

There is a defense system that is deployed in other places around the world, and a defense system, of course, that is deployed to protect Israel today. That is a product of SDI, that is the vision of SDI; but the vision of Putin, Vladimir Putin, is hegemony. That means if you were once a Soviet state, he wants you back as a Soviet state. If he can get it militarily, he will get it militarily. If he can get it politically, he will get it politically, but we should understand that these countries that I have named off are countries that he looks at, that he would like to have back as part of the Russia Federation, to re-create the old Soviet Union. I will name these countries again: Georgia. He invaded and occupied Crimea, that is part of it. Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Croatia, Austria on the edges, and Belarus. That is some of them, not all of them. We have a big challenge in front of us.

Mr. Speaker, I would challenge and encourage the Members of this Congress to get better informed, to get up to speed on what is taking place in foreign relations.

For about the last six months, I have been very concerned that I don't hear a foreign policy discussion or debate here on the floor of the House. I don't see much for legislation come through. I don't hear it in the dialogue among my colleagues. I hear a handful of Senators on the other side of the Rotunda that will go out and engage in foreign policy and have those kinds of discussions.

Yes, I agree, the President sets the foreign policy and he is the Commander in Chief, but he is not the sole source of knowledge and input. He needs good advisers. I think he needs to make better decisions than he has made. He needs to be strong and he needs to be bold. He needs to be able to look Putin in the eye and see the KGB that JOHN MCCAIN identified, and understand that there is an agenda there, and Putin can be deterred if the price is high, but the price has to be high enough to deter Putin.

I want to challenge and encourage the Members of the House, Members of the Senate, get engaged in foreign policy. Travel and meet the leaders of these countries and build relationships in those countries. When it is time that things must be done, it is too late to start building a relationship; then it is time to act. Build a relationship first, build an understanding first, and we need far, far more expertise on foreign policy than we have today.

We have a Presidential election that is starting to emerge, and among the Presidential candidates, I strongly encourage them, get your foreign policy credentials up. Travel now while you can. As the campaign gets closer, there is less time available to do it, and it will look more and more like you are trying to burnish your foreign policy credentials. From my standpoint, you need to go to those countries and you need to see the leaders. You need to know them face to face and eye to eye. They need to recognize you when you walk into the room.

This Congress needs to get more focused on foreign policy. This country needs more focus on foreign policy. When something like that happens, then we can have a more open discussion. I was encouraged to hear the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) talk in depth on the relationship with Ukraine, and as chair of the Ukrainian Caucus, MARCY KAPTUR has been very good on these issues. There are not enough of us engaged in a similar fashion.

Here is what I would do if I were moving the pieces around on this chess board, rather than having my voice and my vote here in the House of Representatives. I would put the missiles and the radar back up in Poland and Czechoslovakia. I would amp up our energy production here in our part of the world. I would release it so we could ship liquefied natural gas out of the United States over to Europe, to help give them, back them up in the event that Putin decides to shut their gas off.

□ 2115

Having that supply stream would be very useful. Putting more energy out on the market does go into Russia's economy and it makes it harder and harder for Putin to have the resources to be able to do the things he wants to do militarily. I think that is all delayed reaction, however, and in the short-term offer NATO membership to Georgia. Take a look at doing that as soon as the government could be established by and for the people of Ukraine by bringing them into NATO. I would encourage the EU to take a look at broadening their membership also, because I think it is easier to support a NATO membership if they are also a member of the EU, although I am only slightly thrilled about that particular proposal.

Special trainers in operations and forces to help support the Ukrainians in any place up along the border of the countries that border on Russia, and land operations up and down through that entire theater. Build then a military shield of deterrent, and start building it so that he knows that any aggressive move that he makes is going to be met by a countermove, strategic countermove. And the Ukrainians need to be prepared to fight for their land.

At this point, I haven't heard very much about what they might do if Putin decides to go forward and invade. You may not be the military that can stand up to the Russian military, but if you don't defend your own country, no one else is going to be able to step in and help. I say that, Mr. Speaker, to the Ukrainians, and encourage them: love freedom; love liberty.

Let's strengthen our relationships with the Ukrainians so that the growing economy of the West, the freedom that comes with free enterprise and liberty-loving people, strengthens the Ukrainian people and all the people up and down along that border.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to see a replay of what happened at the beginning of World War II. I don't want to see countries on the Eastern Bloc side eventually taken over, some without firing a shot, some by a brutal invasion.

But I will just go through the march that took place from Hitler again, and it started in 1938. Austria, then the Sudetenland, then the balance of Czechoslovakia, then Poland invaded by the Nazis and by the Russians in September of '39, then Norway in the spring of 1940 by the Nazis, and then Greece and Yugoslavia by the Nazis, then on into France essentially the same day. France capitulated June 22. A year later, Hitler invaded Russia in Operation Barbarossa and nearly succeeded in his invasion of Russia.

That is the march that went through by a country that essentially was fighting a two-front war—Germany. The Russians don't have that problem. They are a one-front situation. But the hegemony of Putin needs to be recognized. He will take the old Soviet bloc countries when he thinks he can get away with it. He will only be restrained by that. If he thinks he can't achieve, then he can be restrained. The ways that we make him do that are: respect economic power and respect the military deterrent.

We need to call upon our European allies to remember these lessons of the Second World War that I have described. I know that some of them announced that they have had a vote that declares them to be neutral in every conflict. I recall sitting in Vienna not that long ago with some of the leaders of their country and they announced they are a neutral country, and their policy is they will be neutral in any conflict and they will never fight another war and that nothing good comes from war. That was a discussion.

I happen to have been to the site that overlooks the Battle of Vienna that took place in September 11 and 12 of 1683 when the Polish King Jan Sobieski launched a cavalry charge down into the Turks that had Vienna surrounded, and they were a matter of days before they would have succeeded. The Turks would have succeeded in invading and occupying Vienna, and if they were successful, nothing likely would have stopped them in a march all the way across Europe.

I pointed out to the Austrians: it is a good thing that your ancestors didn't have such a resolution in September of 1683, because we would all have been occupied by the Ottoman Empire if it hadn't been for the courageous battle that took place right there in Vienna where we sat, and it was the West versus the East.

So history does turn on battles; it does turn on wars. They are enabled by or sometimes stifled by a successful or a failed economy. They are promoted by people who believe in themselves, and the overreach of brinksmanship brings about war.

I am opposed, of course, to war. I don't want to see our American troops go overseas. I don't want to deploy our military in a place like that. But we have got to provide support. We need to provide that support in a nonkinetic way now. If we do that, we might be able to deter what otherwise likely could come, which could very well be Putin deciding that in his lifetime he is going to reconstruct the entire Soviet Union.

That is what I fear, Mr. Speaker. That has to be our caution and our byword. If we act as if it is not a threat, as if it is not going to happen, if we turn our policy to let's make sure that—and this seems to be the policy that is emanating from the White House, Mr. Speaker. Give Putin an off-ramp. Don't close the gate on the off-ramp. Let's push a little bit, give him a little pressure, but give him room to pull back out of Crimea.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you it is not about an off-ramp for Putin. He pulled in there, he is not pulling out. He wants Crimea. He is going to hang on to it, and his eyes are on the balance of Ukraine right now.

The idea that we are going to coalesce our foreign policy around not pushing on Putin too hard because otherwise there isn't a way for him to get on an off-ramp, I would mark the times it was mentioned by our administration on my hand, and I have, in Sarah Palin-style, eight different marks on my hand the times that they mentioned ''off-ramp.''

It isn't about an off-ramp, Mr. Speaker. We can't be obsessing about an off-ramp. Putin doesn't want an off-ramp. If he wanted an off-ramp, he never would have gone up the in-ramp that he took to go into the Crimea.

This is about deterring him from going into the balance of the satellite states, in particular, in Eastern Europe. It is necessary that we put the deterrents in place. It is necessary that we go through these steps that I have described, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate your attention and urge all those that have listened to my words to follow them.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MCINTYRE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of travel difficulties.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1917. An act to provide for additional enhancements of the sexual assault prevention and response activities of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services; in addition, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and 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.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2019. An act to eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

4940. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0074; FV13-905-3 FR] received February 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4941. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Decreased Assessment Rate for Area No. 2 [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0072; FV13-948-2 FR] received February 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4942. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order; Changes to the Membership of the Softwood Lumber Board [Document Number: AMS-FV-13-0038] received February 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4943. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cotton Futures Classification: Optional Classification Procedure [AMS-CN-12-0043] (RIN: 0581-AD33) received February 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4944. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Paper and Paper-Based Packaging Promotion, Research and Information Order [Document Number: [AMS-FV-11-0069 FR] (RIN: 0581-AD21) received February 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4945. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Office of the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's 2014 Report to Congress on Sustainable Ranges; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4946. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Seventeenth Report on the Progress Made in Licensing and Constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16523 Public Law 109-58, section 1810; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4947. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's 2013 Annual Report on the Food and Drug Administration Advisory Committee Vacancies and Public Disclosures; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4948. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the annual report on the Medicare and Medicaid Integrity Programs for Fiscal Year 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4949. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plans Required for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) [EPA-HQ-OAR-2014-0032; FRL-9906-80-OAR] received February 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4950. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans: Alaska; Anchorage Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan and State Implementation Plan Revisions [EPA-R10-OAR-2013-0421; FRL-9902-22-Region 10] received February 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4951. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluxapyroxad; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0638; FRL-9906-70] received February 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4952. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant Emissions: Group IV Polymers and Resins; Pesticide Active Ingredient Production; and Polyether Polyols Production [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0435; FRL-9906-34-OA] (RIN: 2060-AR02) received February 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4953. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Minor Corrections to the Revisions to the Total Coliform Rule [EPA-HQ-OW-2008-0878; FRL-9906-89-OW] received February 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4954. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the March 2014 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291(b)(2); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4955. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4956. A letter from the Executive Analyst, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4957. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting three reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4958. A letter from the HR Specialist, Small Business Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4959. A letter from the HR Specialist, Small Business Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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. NUGENT: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 511. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4138) to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3973) to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code (Rept. 113–378). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 4187. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to encourage the development and use of new antimicrobial drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TURNER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. PERRY, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 4188. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust the Medicare hospital readmission reduction program to respond to patient disparities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 4189. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4000 Leap Road in Hilliard, Ohio, as the ''Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon and Master Sergeant Jeffrey J. Rieck and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 4190. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALZ (for himself, Mr. BARBER, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. ESTY, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. O'ROURKE):

H.R. 4191. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the treatment of medical evidence provided by non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical professionals in support of claims for disability compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4192. A bill to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 4193. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. WOODALL):

H.R. 4194. A bill to provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 4195. A bill to amend chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Register Act), to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 4196. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to eliminate Exchange cost-sharing subsidies, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create a Medicare Advantage Improvement Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, 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. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 4197. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the period of certain authority with respect to judicial review of Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. DENHAM:

H.R. 4198. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate the requirement for an annual report on the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for specialized treatment and rehabilitative needs of disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FLORES (for himself and Mr. O'ROURKE):

H.R. 4199. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Waco, Texas, as the ''Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4200. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to prevent duplicative regulation of advisers of small business investment companies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 4201. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require Medicare Advantage organizations to disclose certain information on the changes made to the MA plan offered by such organization pursuant to changes required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 4202. A bill to provide for cost-of-living increases for certain Federal benefits programs based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for the elderly; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 4203. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interference with communication frequencies used by emergency response providers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MAFFEI:

H.R. 4204. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against tax for job training expenses of employers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 4205. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a loan repayment program for certain architects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND):

H.R. 4206. A bill to authorize a State or a portion of a State to conduct a demonstration project designed to test methods of program integration and coordination of services with the goals of moving individuals and families towards self-sufficiency, reducing welfare dependence, and increasing work and earnings; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Financial Services, and Education and the Workforce, 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. RICHMOND:

H.R. 4207. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow the Secretary of Education to award job training Federal Pell Grants; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BARLETTA (for himself and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H. Con. Res. 92. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KINGSTON:

H. Res. 510. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the National Institutes of Health should develop a pilot program to improve medical trial participation, retention, efficiency, effectiveness, and diversity; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MULVANEY:

H. Res. 512. A resolution Recognizing linemen, the profession of linemen, the contributions of these brave men and women who protect public safety, and expressing support for the designation of March 31, 2014, as National Lineman Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER:

H. Res. 513. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the week of May 3, 2014, through May 10, 2014, as ''National Osteogenesis Imperfecta Awareness Week'' to celebrate the progress made, and recognize the work yet to be done toward educating our communities, promoting research programs and raising vital resources for doctors, nurses, and healthcare providers and everyone touched by the Osteogenesis Imperfecta community; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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. ROSKAM:

H.R. 4187.

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

(a) Article I, Section 1, to exercise the legislative powers vested in Congress as granted in the Constitution; and

(b) Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the authority ''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''; and (c) Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, which states that ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.''

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 4188.

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

Article 1, Section 8 the general welfare clause.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 4189.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to establish Post Offices and post roads, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4190.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. WALZ:

H.R. 4191.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 4192.

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

Clause 17 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 4193.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 4194.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

''To make all Law which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers . . .''

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 4195.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

''To make all Law which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers . . .''

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 4196.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 4197.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 4198.

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. FLORES:

H.R. 4199.

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

United States Constitution, Article I Section 8

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 4200.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to amend any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 4201.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 4202.

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

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

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4203.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MAFFEI:

H.R. 4204.

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

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

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 4205.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article IV, Section 1

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 4206.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 4207.

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

The Constitutional authority for this bill stems from Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

[Omitted from the Record of March 10, 2014]

[The following action occurred on March 7, 2014]

H.R. 3973: Mr. SESSIONS and Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 4138: Mr. RIGELL and Mr. SESSIONS.

[Submitted March 11, 2014]

H.R. 20: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 36: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 38: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 118: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 164: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 494: Mr. ENYART and Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 543: Mr. DENT and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 679: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 702: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 710: Ms. TITUS and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 792: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 794: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 831: Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 855: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 920: Mr. RUSH, Mr. LONG, and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 921: Mr. ELLISON and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 1020: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1078: Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 1084: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 1141: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 1148: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 1150: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1173: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1176: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 1250: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 1252: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1286: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1310: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 1312: Mr. HONDA and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 1354: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. YOHO, and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 1385: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1386: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 1429: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1518: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1573: Mr. HOLT, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1591: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 1701: Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 1710: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 1775: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1812: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 1814: Mr. KLINE, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. ENYART, Mr. HENSARLING, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 1852: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 1854: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1921: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1945: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1998: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 2005: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2020: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2027: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 2028: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 2110: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 2116: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2171: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2172: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 2288: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2315: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2328: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 2350: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2377: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 2413: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 2428: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 2429: Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 2553: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 2591: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 2652: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2672: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 2690: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 2692: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2785: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2791: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 2807: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2917: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 2969: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 2983: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2994: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3040: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 3047: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3118: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3367: Mr. ENYART, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 3377: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 3403: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 3408: Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 3461: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3463: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 3470: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 3474: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 3481: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 3485: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 3490: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3494: Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ENYART, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3548: Mr. COHEN and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 3556: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 3560: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3571: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 3579: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 3600: Mr. POSEY, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H. R. 3620: Mr. PETERS of Michigan.

H. R. 3658: Mr. GRIMM, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3660: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3665: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3673: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 3676: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 3698: Mr. VISCLOSKY and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 3708: Ms. JENKINS and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 3712: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 3717: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 3776: Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 3833: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3840: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 3854: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. HANABUSA, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 3857: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 3867: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JONES, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 3939: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 3954: Mr. ELLISON and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 3969: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 3978: Mr. DOYLE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 4008: Mr. BRIDENSTINE.
H.R. 4015: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 4016: Ms. NORTON and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 4026: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 4031: Mr. FORBES, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 4036: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4040: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 4049: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 4075: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4101: Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 4148: Ms. NORTON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. TITUS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 4156: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4157: Mr. DENHAM, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 4160: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4162: Mr. POCAN and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4165: Mr. CRAMER.
H.J. Res. 50: Mrs. LUMMIS.
H.J. Res. 104: Mr. LUCAS.
H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H. Con. Res. 86: Mrs. BUSTOS and Mr. DENHAM.
H. Con. Res. 87: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H. Res. 36: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H. Res. 94: Ms. KUSTER.
H. Res. 188: Mr. FOSTER.
H. Res. 231: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Ms. DELAURO.
H. Res. 365: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Ms. BASS.
H. Res. 422: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Res. 425: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H. Res. 440: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H. Res. 456: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H. Res. 476: Mr. POSEY.
H. Res. 479: Ms. WATERS.
H. Res. 494: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. SALMON, Mr. HANNA, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. PERRY, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H. Res. 499: Mr. SHUSTER.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. CAMP

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means in H.R. 4015, ''SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014,'' do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Judiciary in H.R. 4015 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 4015 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative CONYERS, JR., or a designee, to H.R. 4138, the Enforce Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, the center of our joy, as the Senate ends its 35th all-night session, thank You for the faithful work of the members of each Senator's staff. Remind these staff members that You see their diligence and will reward their patriotism.

Today, give our lawmakers confidence that You are in control of our world. May their trust in Your providence deliver them from hindrances that prevent them from serving You and this land we love. Empower them to be workers who need not be ashamed, striving to please You in all that they do. As the Sun sets on this day, may they be nearer to You than when this day began.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 11, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 309, S. 1086.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 309, S. 1086, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m., with the majority controlling the first hour and the Republicans controlling the next hour.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that Senator FEINSTEIN be allotted a full hour. I have taken some of her time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. At 11:30 this morning, the Senate will proceed to executive session and there will be four rollcall votes on the motions to invoke cloture on four nominees to be United States district judges.

Following the votes, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first hour and the Republicans controlling the second hour.

The Senator from California is recognized.

CIA DETENTION AND INTERROGATION REPORT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Good morning.

Mr. President, over the past week there have been numerous press articles written about the intelligence committee's oversight review of the detention and interrogation program of the CIA.

Specifically, press attention has focused on the CIA's intrusion and search of the Senate select committee's computers, as well as the committee's acquisition of a certain internal CIA document known as the Panetta review.

I rise today to set the record straight and to provide a full accounting of the facts and history.

Let me say up front that I come to the Senate floor reluctantly. Since January 15, 2014, when I was informed of the CIA's search of this committee's network, I have been trying to resolve this dispute in a discreet and respectful way. I have not commented in response to media requests for additional information on this matter. However, the increasing amount of inaccurate information circulating now cannot be allowed to stand unanswered.

The origin of this study.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Printed on recycled paper.

The CIA's detention and interrogation program began operations in 2002, though it was not until September 2006 that members of the intelligence committee, other than the chairman and the vice chairman, were briefed. In fact, we were briefed by then-CIA Director Hayden only hours before President Bush disclosed the program to the public.

A little more than a year later, on December 6, 2007, a New York Times article revealed the troubling fact that the CIA had destroyed videotapes of some of the CIA's first interrogations using so-called enhanced techniques. We learned that this destruction was over the objections of President Bush's White House counsel and the Director of National Intelligence.

After we read about the destruction of the tapes in the newspapers, Director Hayden briefed the Senate intelligence committee. He assured us that this was not destruction of evidence, as detailed records of the interrogations existed on paper—in the form of CIA operational cables describing the detention conditions and the day-to-day CIA interrogations.

The CIA Director stated that these cables were ''a more than adequate representation'' of what would have been on the destroyed tapes. Director Hayden offered at that time, during Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER's chairmanship of the committee, to allow members or staff to review these sensitive CIA operational cables, given that the videotapes had been destroyed.

Chairman ROCKEFELLER sent two of his committee staffers out to the CIA on nights and weekends to review thousands of these cables, which took many months. By the time the two staffers completed their review into the CIA's early interrogations in early 2009, I had become chairman of the committee and President Obama had been sworn into office.

The resulting staff report was chilling. The interrogations and the conditions of confinement at the CIA detention sites were far different and far more harsh than the way the CIA had described them to us. As a result of the staff's initial report, I proposed and then Vice Chairman Bond agreed, and the committee overwhelmingly approved, that the committee conduct an expansive and full review of the CIA's detention and interrogation program.

On March 5, 2009, the committee voted 14 to 1 to initiate a comprehensive review of the CIA detention and interrogation program. Immediately, we sent a request for documents to all relevant executive branch agencies, chiefly among them the CIA.

The committee's preference was for the CIA to turn over all responsive documents to the committee's office, as had been done in previous committee investigations.

Director Panetta proposed an alternative arrangement: to provide, literally, millions of pages of operational cables, internal emails, memos, and other documents, pursuant to the committee's document requests at a secure location in northern Virginia. We agreed but insisted on several conditions and protections to ensure the integrity of this congressional investigation.

Per an exchange of letters in 2009, then-Vice Chairman Bond, then-Director Panetta, and I agreed—in an exchange of letters—that the CIA was to provide a ''stand-alone computer system'' with a ''network drive . . . segregated from CIA networks'' for the committee that would only be accessed by information technology personnel at the CIA, who would ''not be permitted to'' ''share information from the system with other [CIA] personnel, except as otherwise authorized by the committee.''

It was this computer network, notwithstanding our agreement with Director Panetta, that was searched by the CIA this past January, and once before, which I will later describe.

In addition to demanding that the documents produced for the committee be reviewed at a CIA facility, the CIA also insisted on conducting a multilayered review of every responsive document before providing the document to the committee. This was to ensure the CIA did not mistakenly provide documents unrelated to the CIA's detention and interrogation program—or provide documents that the President could potentially claim to be covered by executive privilege.

While we viewed this as unnecessary, and raised concerns that it would delay our investigation, the CIA hired a team of outside contractors—who otherwise would not have had access to these sensitive documents—to read, multiple times, each of the 6.2 million pages of documents produced, before providing them to fully cleared committee staff conducting the committee's oversight work. This proved to be a slow and very expensive process.

The CIA started making documents available electronically to the committee staff at the CIA-leased facility in mid-2009. The number of pages ran quickly to the thousands, the tens of thousands, the hundreds of thousands, and then into the millions. The documents that were provided came without any index, without any organizational structure. It was a true ''document dump'' that our committee staff had to go through and make sense of.

In order to piece together the story of the CIA's detention and interrogation program, the committee staff did two things that will be important as I go on.

First, they asked the CIA to provide an electronic search tool so they could locate specific relevant documents for their search among the CIA-produced documents—just like you would use a search tool on the Internet to locate information.

Second, when the staff found a document that was particularly important or that might be referenced in our final report, they would often print it or make a copy of the file on their computer so they could easily find it again. There are thousands of such documents in the committee's secure spaces at the CIA facility.

Now, prior removal of documents by the CIA.

In early 2010, the CIA was continuing to provide documents, and the committee staff was gaining familiarity with the information it had already received.

In May of 2010, the committee staff noticed that the documents that had been provided for the committee's review were no longer accessible. Staff approached the CIA personnel at the off-site location, who initially denied the documents had been removed. CIA personnel then blamed information technology personnel, who were almost all contractors, for removing the documents themselves without direction or authority. Then the CIA stated that the removal of the documents was ordered by the White House. When the committee approached the White House, the White House denied giving the CIA any such order.

After a series of meetings, I learned that on two occasions, CIA personnel electronically removed committee access to CIA documents after providing them to the committee. This included roughly 870 documents—or pages of documents—that were removed in February 2010 and, secondly, roughly another 50 that were removed in mid-May 2010. This was done without the knowledge or approval of committee members or staff and in violation of our written agreements.

Further, this type of behavior would not have been possible had the CIA allowed the committee to conduct the review of documents here in the Senate. In short, this was the exact sort of CIA interference in our investigation that we sought to avoid at the outset.

I went to the White House to raise the issue with the then-White House counsel. In May 2010 he recognized the severity of the situation and the grave implications of executive branch personnel interfering with an official congressional investigation. The matter was resolved with a renewed commitment from the White House counsel and the CIA that there would be no further unauthorized access to the committee's network or removal of access to CIA documents already provided to the committee.

On May 17, 2010, the CIA's then-Director of Congressional Affairs apologized on behalf of the CIA for removing the documents. And that, as far as I was concerned, put the incident aside. This event was separate from the documents provided that were part of the internal Panetta review which occurred later, and which I will describe next.

At some point in 2010, committee staff searching the documents that had been made available found draft versions of what is now called the internal Panetta review. We believe

these documents were written by CIA personnel to summarize and analyze the materials that had been provided to the committee for its review. The Panetta review documents were no more highly classified than other information we had received for our investigation. In fact, the documents appeared based on the same information already provided to the committee.

What was unique and interesting about the internal documents was not their classification level but, rather, their analysis and acknowledgment of significant CIA wrongdoing. To be clear, the committee staff did not hack into CIA computers to obtain these documents, as has been suggested in the press. The documents were identified using the search tool provided by the CIA to search the documents provided to the committee. We have no way to determine who made the internal Panetta review documents available to the committee.

Further, we do not know whether the documents were provided intentionally by the CIA, unintentionally by the CIA, or intentionally by a whistleblower. In fact, we know that over the years on multiple occasions the staff have asked the CIA about documents made available for our investigation. At times the CIA has simply been unaware that these specific documents were provided to the committee. And while this is alarming, it is also important to note that more than 6.2 million pages of documents have been provided. This is simply a massive amount of records. As I described earlier, as part of its standard process for reviewing records, the committee staff printed copies of the internal Panetta review and made electronic copies of the committee's computers at the facility. The staff did not rely on these internal Panetta review documents when drafting the final 6,300-page committee study. But it was significant that the internal Panetta review had documented at least some of the very same troubling matters already uncovered by the committee staff, which is not surprising in that they were looking at the same information.

There is a claim in the press and elsewhere that the marks on these documents should have caused the staff to stop reading them and turn them over to the CIA. I reject that claim completely. As with many other documents provided to the committee at the CIA facility, some of the internal Panetta review documents—some—contained markings indicating that they were ''deliberative'' and/or ''privileged.'' This was not especially noteworthy to staff. In fact, CIA has provided thousands of internal documents to include CIA legal guidance and talking points prepared for the CIA Director, some of which were marked as being ''deliberative'' or ''privileged.''

Moreover, the CIA has officially provided such documents to the committee here in the Senate. In fact, the CIA's official June 27, 2013 response to the committee study which Director Brennan delivered to me personally is labeled ''deliberative process, privileged document.''

We have discussed this with the Senate legal counsel who has confirmed that Congress does not recognize these claims of privilege when it comes to documents provided to Congress for our oversight duties. These were documents provided by the executive branch pursuant to an authorized congressional oversight investigation, so we believe we had every right to review and keep the documents.

There are also claims in the press that the Panetta internal review documents, having been created in 2009 and 2010, were outside the date range of the committee's document request or the terms of the committee study. This, too, is inaccurate. The committee's document requests were not limited in time. In fact, as I have previously announced, the committee study includes significant information on the May 2011 Osama bin Laden operation, which obviously postdated the detention and interrogation program.

At some time after the committee staff identified and reviewed the internal Panetta review documents, access to the vast majority of them was removed by the CIA. We believe this happened in 2010, but we have no way of knowing the specifics, nor do we know why the documents were removed. The staff was focused on reviewing the tens of thousands of new documents that continue to arrive on a regular basis.

Our work continued until December 2012 when the Intelligence Committee approved a 6,300-page committee study of the CIA's detention and interrogation program and sent the executive report to the executive branch for comment. The CIA provided its response to the study on June 27, 2013.

As CIA Director Brennan has stated, the CIA officially agrees with some of our study, but, as has been reported, the CIA disagrees and disputes important parts of it. And this is important. Some of these important parts the CIA now disputes in our committee study are clearly acknowledged in the CIA's own internal Panetta review. To say the least, this is puzzling. How can the CIA's official response to our study stand factually in conflict with its own internal review?

Now after noting the disparity between the official CIA response to the committee study and the internal Panetta review, the committee staff securely transported a printed portion of the draft internal Panetta review from the committee's secure room at the CIA-leased facility to the secure committee spaces in the Hart Senate office building. And let me be clear about this. I mentioned earlier the exchange of letters that Senator Bond and I had with Director Panetta in 2009 over the handling of information for his review. The letters set out a process whereby the committee would provide specific CIA documents to CIA reviewers before bringing them back to our secure offices here on Capitol Hill.

The CIA review was designed specifically to make sure that committee documents available to all staff and members did not include certain kinds of information, most importantly the true names of nonsupervisory CIA personnel and the names of specific countries in which the CIA operated detention sites. We had agreed upfront that our report didn't need to include this information, and so we agreed to redact it from materials leaving the CIA's facility.

In keeping with the spirit of the agreements, the portion of the internal Panetta review at the Hart building in our safe has been redacted. It does not contain names of nonsupervisory CIA personnel or information identifying detention site locations. In other words, our staff did just what the CIA personnel would have done had they reviewed the documents.

There are several reasons why the draft summary of the Panetta review was brought to our secure spaces at the Hart building. Let me list them: No. 1, the significance of the internal review, given disparities between it and the June 2013 CIA response to the committee's study. The internal Panetta review summary, now at the secure committee office in Hart, is an especially significant document, as it corroborates critical information in the committee's 6,300-page study that the CIA's official response either objects to, denies, minimizes, or ignores.

Unlike the official response, these Panetta review documents were in agreement with the committee's findings. That is what makes them so significant and important to protect.

When the internal Panetta review documents disappeared from the committee's computer system, this suggested once again that the CIA had removed documents already provided to the committee in violation of CIA agreements and White House assurances that the CIA would cease such activities.

As I have detailed, the CIA has previously withheld and destroyed information about its detention and interrogation program, including its decision in 2005 to destroy interrogation videotapes over the objections of the Bush White House and the Director of National Intelligence. Based on the above, there was a need to preserve and protect the internal Panetta review in the committee's own secure spaces. The relocation of the internal Panetta review was lawful and handled in a manner consistent with its classification. No law prevents the relocation of a document in the committee's possession from a CIA facility to secure committee offices on Capitol Hill. As I mentioned before, the document was handled and transported in a manner consistent with its classification, redacted appropriately, and it remained secure with restricted access in committee spaces.

Now the January 15, 2014, meeting with Director John Brennan. In late 2013, I requested in writing that the CIA provide a final and complete version of the internal Panetta review to the committee, as opposed to the partial document the committee currently possesses.

In December, during an open committee hearing, Senator MARK UDALL echoed this request. In early January 2014, the CIA informed the committee it would not provide the internal Panetta review to the committee citing the deliberative nature of the document.

Shortly thereafter, on January 15, 2014, CIA Director Brennan requested an emergency meeting to inform me and Vice Chairman CHAMBLISS that without prior notification or approval, CIA personnel had conducted a ''search''—that was John Brennan's word—of the committee computers at the offsite facility. This search involved not only a search of documents provided by the committee to the CIA but also a search of the stand-alone and walled-off committee network drive containing the committee's own internal work product and communications.

According to Brennan, the computer search was conducted in response to indications that some members of the committee staff might already have had access to the internal Panetta review. The CIA did not ask the committee or its staff if the committee had access to the internal Panetta review or how we obtained it.

Instead, the CIA just went and searched the committee's computers. The CIA has still not asked the committee any questions about how the committee acquired the Panetta review. In place of asking any questions, the CIA's unauthorized search of the committee computers was followed by an allegation—which we have now seen repeated anonymously in the press—that the committee staff had somehow obtained the document through unauthorized or criminal means, perhaps to include hacking into the CIA's computer network.

As I have described, this is not true. The document was made available to the staff at the offsite facility and it was located using a CIA-provided search tool running a query of the information provided to the committee pursuant to its investigation.

Director Brennan stated that the CIA search had determined that the committee staff had copies of the internal Panetta review on the committee staff's shared drive and had accessed them numerous times. He indicated at the meeting that he was going to order further forensic investigation of the committee network to learn more about activities of the committee's oversight staff.

Two days after the meeting, on January 17, I wrote a letter to Director Brennan objecting to any further CIA investigation due to the separation of powers constitutional issues that the search raised. I followed this with a second letter on January 23 to the Director, asking 12 specific questions about the CIA's actions—questions that the CIA has refused to answer.

Some of the questions in my letter related to the full scope of the CIA's search of our computer network. Other questions related to who had authorized and conducted the search and what legal basis the CIA claimed gave it authority to conduct the search. Again, the CIA has not provided answers to any of my questions.

My letter also laid out my concern about the legal and constitutional implications of the CIA's actions. Based on what Director Brennan has informed us, I have grave concerns that the CIA's search may well have violated the separation of powers principles embodied in the U.S. Constitution, including the speech and debate clause. It may have undermined the constitutional framework essential to effective congressional oversight of intelligence activities or any other government function. I have asked for an apology and a recognition that this CIA search of computers used by its oversight committee was inappropriate. I have received neither. Besides the constitutional implication, the CIA's search may also have violated the Fourth Amendment, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, as well as Executive Order 12333, which prohibits the CIA from conducting domestic searches or surveillance.

Days after the meeting with Director Brennan, the CIA inspector general David Buckley learned of the CIA search and began an investigation into the CIA's activities. I have been informed that Mr. Buckley has referred the matter to the Department of Justice given the possibility of a criminal violation by CIA personnel.

Let me note, because the CIA has refused to answer the questions in my January 23 letter and the CIA inspector general is ongoing, I have limited information about exactly what the CIA did in conducting its search.

Weeks later, I was also told that after the inspector general referred the CIA's activities to the Department of Justice, the acting counsel general of the CIA filed a crimes report with the Department of Justice concerning the committee staff's actions.

I have not been provided the specifics of these allegations or been told whether the Department has initiated a criminal investigation based on the allegations of the CIA's acting general counsel.

As I mentioned before, our staff involved in this matter have the appropriate clearances, handled this sensitive material according to established procedures and practice to protect classified information, and were provided access to the Panetta review by the CIA itself. As a result there is no legitimate reason to allege to the Justice Department that the Senate staff may have committed a crime. I view the acting counsel general's referral as a potential effort to intimidate this staff, and I am not taking it lightly.

I should note that for most, if not all, of the CIA's detention and interrogation program, the now-acting general counsel was a lawyer in the CIA's Counterterrorism Center—the unit within which the CIA managed and carried out this program. From mid-2004 until the official termination of the detention and interrogation program in January of 2009, he was the unit's chief lawyer. He is mentioned by name more than 1,600 times in our study.

Now this individual is sending a crimes report to the Department of Justice on the actions of congressional staff—the same congressional staff who researched and drafted a report that details how CIA officers, including the acting general counsel himself, provided inaccurate information to the Department of Justice about the program.

Let me say this: All Senators rely on their staff to be their eyes and ears and to carry out our duties. The staff members of the intelligence committee are dedicated professionals who are motivated to do what is best for our Nation. The staff members who have been working on this study and this report have devoted years of their lives to it, wading through the horrible details of a CIA program that never, never, never should have existed.

They have worked long hours and produced a report unprecedented in its comprehensive attention to detail in the history of the Senate. They are now being threatened with legal jeopardy just as the final revisions to the report are being made so parts of it can be declassified and released to the American people.

I felt I needed to come to the floor to correct the public record and to give the American people the facts about what the dedicated committee staff have been working so hard on for the last several years as part of the committee's investigation.

I also want to reiterate to my colleagues my desire to have all updates to the committee report completed this month and approved for declassification. We are not going to stop. I intend to move to have the findings, conclusions, and the executive summary of the report sent to the President for declassification and release to the American people. The White House has indicated publicly—and to me personally—that it supports declassification and release. If the Senate can declassify this report, we will be able to ensure that an un-American, brutal program of detention and interrogation will never again be considered or permitted.

The recent actions I have just laid out make this a defining moment for the oversight of our intelligence committee. How this will be resolved will show whether the intelligence committee can be effective in monitoring

and investigating our Nation's intelligence activities or whether our work can be thwarted by those we oversee.

I believe it is critical that the committee and the Senate reaffirm our oversight role and our independence under the Constitution of the United States.

I thank the Presiding Officer for his patience, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, while the distinguished Senator from California is on the floor, I will tell her through the Chair that I have had the privilege of serving in this body for 40 years. I have heard thousands of speeches on this floor. I cannot think of any speech by any Member of either party as important as the one the Senator from California just gave.

What she is saying is that if we are going to protect the separation of powers and the concept of congressional oversight, then she has taken the right steps to do that.

The very first vote I cast in this body was for the Church Committee, which examined the excesses of the CIA and other agencies—everything from assassinations to spying on those who were protesting the war in Vietnam. There was a famous George Tames picture, where then-chairman of the Armed Services Committee John Stennis was berating Senator Frank Church for proposing this committee. He said that he, Senator Stennis, could find out what he wanted to find out but didn't really want to know everything.

I was standing behind George Tames when he took that picture in my first caucus. There is pressure on the junior Members—and I was the most junior Member of the Senate at that time—not to vote for the Church Committee.

Senator Mike Mansfield said to me—as did Senator Fritz Mondale and others—that the Senate is bigger than any one Senator. We come and go, but the Senate lasts. If we do not stand up for the protection of the separation of powers and our ability to do oversight—especially when conduct has happened that is, in all likelihood, criminal conduct on the part of a government agency—then what do we stand for? We are supposed to be the conscience of the Nation.

The Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, has spoken to our conscience—to every one of the 100 Senators, men and women, of both parties. She has spoken to our conscience. Now let's stand up for this country. Let's stand up as the Senate should and as the Senator from California has.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING SENATOR FEINSTEIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to take a minute to commend Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN. There is not a more dignified, competent Senator in this body than DIANNE FEINSTEIN. She works tireless hours leading the Intelligence Committee. It is a very difficult job, always away from the press, one that is very important to our country.

Her statement outlined I believe one of most important principles we must maintain; that is, separation of powers. The Founding Fathers were visionary in creating this great government of ours, three separate but equal branches of government: executive, judicial, and legislative.

Her statement today pronounced, in a very firm fashion, that must continue, that separation of powers. The work the committee has done over the last many years dealing with what went on in the prior administration is imperative.

I do not know much of the details as to what they are working on, but I know what they have been working on generally. I admire what she has done and the committee has done, and especially her statement today was one of courage and conviction. We know, those of us who have worked with her over the years, that no one has more courage and conviction than DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 Republican leader is recognized.

BATTLING DISABLING DISORDERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. As a survivor of polio as a child, I have always empathized with children battling life-threatening or disabling disorders. I also have a special place in my heart for those who work day in and day out to help kids who are battling childhood diseases. That is especially true when these researchers and physicians are working with children in my home State of Kentucky at places such as the University of Louisville, the University of Kentucky, and Kosair Children's Hospital. That is why I have long been a strong supporter of pediatric medical research.

I cosponsored and helped shepherd the Childhood Cancer Act of 2008 through the Senate. I also voted for the Combating Autism Act of 2006 and, as Republican leader, helped to secure its reauthorization in 2011. These were not partisan initiatives. They were areas where the two parties had generally worked together to advance the common good. Maybe that is why we don't hear that much about them, but I think we all agree there is more to be done.

Late last year the House passed bipartisan legislation, which I strongly support, to shift funding from lower priority programs to pediatric research, including childhood cancers, autism, Down syndrome, Fragile X, and countless other disorders and diseases that affect our children and don't yet have a cure. These efforts could be paid for by using taxpayer funding of the Republican and Democratic political conventions.

Frankly, it is hard to imagine that there would be any objection to moving these funds to do something we can all agree is a very high priority, and that is pediatric research.

Thanks to the leadership of House Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR, the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Savings Act, which was named in honor of a young girl from Virginia, passed the House on a wide bipartisan majority with nearly 300 votes. After it arrived in the Senate, I asked my colleagues on the Republican side to pass it and send it to the President for his signature, because I saw the positive impact these funds would have on pediatric research. All Republicans agreed to pass the bill on January 7, and today marks the 63rd day that Senate Democrats have failed to act—although I must say I understand it has now cleared and I think that is excellent. It is about time we passed this bill out of the Senate. I believe we are about to do that. This is the type of bipartisan legislation that should move easily through the Senate. We should be able to pass the measure today and it is my understanding we will be able to do that.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I am pleased today the Senate will pass legislation I support, the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act. This bipartisan legislation honors the memory of Gabriella Miller, a young girl from Leesburg, VA who was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor at age 9.

In the face of her own diagnosis, Gabriella worked to help other children with pediatric diseases. She raised money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, spoke at local and national awareness events and authored a special writing in a children's book about cancer.

Gabriella and her family started the Smashing Walnuts Foundation, dedicated to finding a cure for childhood brain cancer. The organization was named for the walnut-sized tumor in her brain. Gabriella passed away last year, but her dedication to raising awareness and funding for pediatric disease research is part of her legacy.

The Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act will require the director of the National Institutes of Health to allocate $126 million—$12.6 million each year for 10 years—of appropriated funds for pediatric research. The money would be allocated into needed research grants for pediatric autism, cancer and other diseases.

The fight for funding pediatric research is far from over but this is a step in the right direction. As Gabriella said, ''You may have a bad day today, but there's always a bright shining star to look forward to tomorrow.'' It is my hope that this legislation will help fund research that leads to future treatments and cures.

I would like to thank Senator MARK WARNER and Senator ORRIN HATCH for supporting this legislation and Congressman CANTOR for championing the bill through the House of Representatives.

This bipartisan effort is about making sure pediatric disease research is a high priority. I am proud we were able to pass legislation that honors Gabriella Miller, her family, and her inspiring work as an advocate for pediatric disease research.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST RESEARCH SAVINGS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 289, H.R. 2019.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

An act (H.R. 2019) to eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we on this side accept this measure, but I do have a few things I want to say before saying there is no objection.

Sequestration cut $1.6 billion from NIH last year—$1.6 billion. In the omnibus we passed, we gave them current level funding, but that hole for NIH is still there. NIH has lost huge amounts of money over the past few years in the way that we have struggled to get financing for our country. We in the past have been the guiding light for research on diseases and conditions. We are still there, but we are losing ground. Every country in the world looks at the NIH as a place they would like to be.

This is a small amount of money, but it will be extremely helpful to the NIH.

I would hope my Republican colleagues would join with us in increasing funding for the National Institutes of Health.

Senator DURBIN is going to introduce a bill today that will fund NIH at levels they need to be funded. It has to be paid for, but it is so very important that we not claim victory for the NIH because of this. It is a small victory and I accept that. I think it is extremely important that we understand the NIH is billions of dollars short of being able to maintain the place they have had in years past.

I repeat, they have been losing ground. The last 5 years have been extremely tough for them. We need to do better for the National Institutes of Health. We have scientists around our country who want to do good work. They want to devote their lives to medical research, but they are not applying for these grants. So many of them are turned down that they are basically—well, maybe I won't even bother trying.

I am pleased to hear the Republican leader move forward. It is something that is a small step forward to help children who badly need help in the ways of these diseases, which are so difficult for the kids, of course, for the parents and families and certainly our country.

Again, before we leave this issue, I would hope that the appropriations process we are going to go through this year will help us get money. What we have done today is only an authorization, and the public out there should understand it is only an authorization. Until we have appropriations going, there will be nothing going to pediatric research at the National Institutes of Health. We have to carry forward and not have all of these banner headlines that the kids are going to suddenly get help they deserve. That will not happen until we appropriate money for this.

I do not object.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2019) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I wish to reiterate what we have done. H.R. 2019, which will now go to the President for signature—the original author is Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR in the House—will eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the NIH.

GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. President, our friends on the other side who run the Senate spent a lot of time talking last night. I am not sure what any of it accomplished. The reviews seem to be pretty terrible. The AP dubbed the talk-athon a lot of hot air about a lot of hot air and said the speeches were little more than theatrics.

Maybe, as some speculate, Senate Democrats were just trying to please the left-coast billionaire who plans to finance so many of their campaigns.

The talking Senators didn't really introduce any new legislation. I didn't hear the talking Senators announce votes on bills already pending before the Senate. They basically just talked and talked and tossed out political attacks at a party that doesn't even control the Democratic-run Senate.

No wonder the American people have such a low opinion of Congress.

The so-called talk-athon perfectly illustrated something else too—the emptiness of today's Washington Democratic majority.

I remember a time when Democrats could say with some legitimacy that they were the party for working people. Those days seem to be receding further and further into the rearview mirror. Because whether it is addressing the opportunity gap in the ObamaCare economy or building the Keystone Pipeline or last night's whatever that was, Washington Democrats keep opting for the empty political stunt over the reasonable, substantive solutions for the middle class.

Here is the thing: We need two serious political parties in this country debating serious ideas. When we see Washington Democrats throwing seriousness out the window like this, it is bad for everybody. If Washington Democrats are actually serious about all of the talk last night, they should follow it with action. The Democrats control the Senate. Bring up, bring up the cap-and-tax bill and let's have a debate, put it on the agenda, and let's debate it.

As the AP noted, despite all of the bravado, Democratic leaders made it clear they have no plan to bring a Democratic climate bill to the floor this year. So what was all the talking about?

Our friends on the other side set up the agenda. Call up the bill. The reason they won't isn't because of obstructionism or whatever else they might want to claim. It is because too many Members of their own party would vote against it.

Remember, Washington Democrats couldn't even pass that bill when they controlled the Senate with a filibuster-proof majority back in 2009 or 2010. More importantly, the American people don't want a national energy tax that would make their utility bills even higher than they already are.

Look. Americans have widely differing opinions about how Washington should be approaching environmental policy. That much is very clear. But one thing we should all be able to agree upon is this: Imposing massive restrictions upon our own economy, devastating the lives of our own mining

families, and imposing higher energy bills on our own seniors makes about zero sense, while huge carbon emitters such as China and India continue to ramp up energy consumption.

Global carbon emissions would hardly be affected anyway, but millions of lives here certainly would be. The American middle class would be deeply and adversely affected.

Left, right, and center, we should all be able to agree this is simply nonsensical. What we should all be working for is an ''all of the above'' energy strategy that will utilize more of our domestic resources to create jobs and meet America's energy needs. It is a smart and focused approach that accommodates both our economy and our environment, and it is one that Republicans strongly support and Democrats should as well.

Democrats should also work with us to pass the legislation that would allow Congress to actually vote on environmental regulation to ensure Washington's rules strike the right balance between protecting the environment and creating jobs. That legislation is so important to my home State of Kentucky.

Case in point. I spent this past weekend with hundreds of coal miners and their families at a rally in eastern Kentucky, and I heard from them how the administration's war on coal is hurting so many who struggle every day just to get by. It is a war that is taking away hope and destroying jobs.

Let's be honest. The most immediate crisis in the Obama era is the jobs crisis—the jobs crisis. It always has been. If only our friends on the other side were willing to talk a little less and work with us a little more. There is so much we could get done on that front. There is so much we could be doing to create jobs and grow the middle class today. We could build a Keystone Pipeline that would create thousands of American jobs right away. We could increase U.S. exports and expand American jobs with trade legislation. We could reform our tax and regulatory structures to free small businesses so they can grow and hire and enrich their communities. And we could pass the dozens of House-passed jobs bills just sitting on the majority leader's desk—so many that even House Democrats are starting to complain. These are the kinds of things we could get done once Washington Democrats show they are ready to work with us.

Talk is cheap. We know that. And America's middle class is tired of all the talk. They want action. Let's provide it on jobs.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMERICAN ENERGY RENAISSANCE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, with the very unfortunate events in Ukraine in the headlines and the Ukrainian people close to our hearts, I rise today to speak to a topic that has significance not only for that European crisis and for our own well-being but also bearing a little bit on the longer term subject of climate change, which, of course, was a big discussion here last night.

This morning I am speaking to the American energy renaissance and its broader benefits to us all.

Today American technology and know-how are delivering energy abundance, keeping energy affordable, enabling energy to be cleaner than the next most likely alternative, permitting us to rely on ever more diverse energy sources, and, finally, improving energy security for our people here in this country and around the world.

America's overall production of nearly every type of energy is rising. The efficiency of just about everything—whether it is our vehicles or whether it is our buildings—is increasing. And in comparing our supply with our demand, we are rapidly approaching a self-sufficiency rate of 90 percent. The American energy revolution has generated a variety of welcome benefits. It is creating jobs. It has generated revenues. It has helped reduce both energy prices and price volatility. And as our Nation imports less, the simple fact is there is more energy available for others. That, in turn, is creating the kinds of supply conditions in the world oil market that allow all of us to deal with the bad actors from a position of relative strength.

There was a recent essay in Foreign Affairs which argued that energy has been viewed as a strategic liability in the United States since back in the 1970s. Now energy is becoming a strategic asset—a strategic asset—and one that can boost the U.S. economy and grant Washington newfound leverage around the world. It is really hard to disagree with that.

The question then becomes, What will we do with this strategic asset? How will we use our newfound position? There was a survey of responses to Russia's disregard for Ukrainian sovereignty, and of those prudent areas where the United States might go. Energy is clearly among the most major strategic assets we possess. How we use it to bring about geopolitical stability can really define our leadership in the world.

Our first real challenge as a nation is how to keep this American resurgence going. There are two specific areas where we have to make some decisions; that is, whether to grant access to new lands and new markets, and that will go a long way in determining whether we actually do that.

As I noted, America's total energy production has increased dramatically in recent years, but within those numbers there is a serious dichotomy. Nearly the entire oil and gas production resurgence here in the United States has occurred on State and private lands, not the millions of acres managed by the Federal Government. Despite the discussion of all of the above and no small amount of credit taken by the administration, combined carbon fuel production on Federal lands actually fell from 2008 to 2012. That is a disappointing trend which, in my view, needs to be reversed.

Consider, for example, the opportunity we are missing in my State of Alaska. Thirty years ago, in March 1984, Alaskan crude oil production stood at 1.6 million barrels per day. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System had been completed just a decade earlier. There were debates over opening new areas to production and even allowing exports of crude oil from the State, but the Federal Government did not act at that time. It did not seize Alaska's best and most obvious opportunities. Production peaked at 2.1 million barrels per day in March 1988. It has been on general decline ever since then. Alaska's production has dipped below the half million barrels per day marker several times since 2012. This is a fall of nearly 75 percent from its high.

Back home we keep talking about a pipeline that is less than half full. The difference is not only geography, it is also policy. Our Federal policies are not working as they should. State policies, combined with private sector inventiveness, powerful as they are, cannot overcome the Federal barriers. In North Dakota, where we see a booming energy market, only 4 percent of that State is federally held. In Texas, it is just 2 percent of Federal lands. In Alaska, 62 percent of our lands are Federal, and most of our untapped resources are within these Federal areas.

Alaska's falling production is a missed opportunity—a missed opportunity—to create jobs, to generate revenues, to stabilize world energy prices, to diversify world energy supplies. And it is not the only place in America where potential growth is going unrealized. We are passing up tremendous opportunities off of our Atlantic coast, in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and in the Rocky Mountains West. We also have increasingly burdensome regulations that slow the pace of development in the Federal lands that are open.

All of this highlights the need to reexamine our Federal energy policies and really reorient them for a new century.

That leads us to the subject of exports.

Back in January I laid out the case for why we need to renovate the architecture of U.S. energy trade. We have substantial opportunities for exports of coal, petroleum products, natural gas, natural gas liquids, renewable technology, nuclear technology, and even crude oil. I have called for the lifting of the de facto prohibition on crude oil exports as a preemptive measure. I say what we need to do is lift it to prevent

future losses of production and jobs when our trade restrictions inevitably collide with this surge of light tight oil and condensate production that comes out. The conversation I hoped to frame last year in January when I submitted my ''Energy 20/20'' report is really very well underway.

My point is that we must increase the value of energy as an American strategic asset for global security and price stability.

I wish to say a couple of words—maybe more than a couple but a few words—about climate change. Many groups have formed to go on the offensive to ''wake Congress up'' on the issue of climate. They want to force the Nation to talk about this subject no matter what the issue of the day might be. Unfortunately, they also seem to want to blame Republican Members and somehow also to adopt policies that this body has rejected year after year. So much of the climate change conversation seems to be defined by old ideas that have been rejected. It seems that if one is not supportive of yet another regulatory edifice, either through cap and trade, a carbon tax, or letting the EPA expand its authority without any checks by the people's representatives in Congress, then somehow or other one is against the environment. I reject that.

I want to see greater balance. I know we can achieve it, and I think it is important that, again, we reframe the conversation. I think finding agreement on environmental policy is hard, but it is not impossible. I think what we need to do is kind of pull back and change the conversation we are having.

What I want to remind my colleagues of is that part of the opposition I have had to some of the ideas I have heard from folks is based on what those policies would mean for our affordability of energy. Here I mean not just for Americans who are energy insecure, including residents in my State and in some of our most remote areas who already face exorbitant energy costs, but also the 1.3 billion people across the globe with no reliable access to electricity. Worldwide—worldwide—families are struggling to attain the basic necessities of life. Although many portray climate change as our most pressing moral issue, I would suggest it is but one of many. Energy poverty and energy insecurity are others, and ones that we simply cannot ignore and we should certainly not make worse.

Another part of my opposition to cap and trade or a carbon tax is based on what we have seen in Europe as compared to what has actually happened here in the United States. Without climate legislation, but with the advent of increased domestic production here through shale gas production, our greenhouse gas emissions are now 11 percent below our rate of emissions in 2005. Yet our friends across the Atlantic, who actually did pass cap and trade several years ago, haven't exactly seen the expected results. In the face of weak growth, high unemployment, and high debt, some European nations are now dialing back the extremely expensive subsidies they have offered and, at the same time, many of our NATO allies are clamoring for the cheap and the abundant natural gas that we are now producing on our State and our private lands, and they are importing our abundant and affordable coal.

The unfolding situation in Ukraine also highlights the compelling importance of energy security—something that neither a carbon tax, cap and trade or any climate bill we have seen in the Senate has properly accounted for.

Then there is the approach the President seems to want to take. Earlier this year he threatened to use his regulatory authority to regulate greenhouse gases if Congress failed to act. It is really quite a choice here. He suggests either to pass legislation that we don't like or he will enact regulations that we don't like, either way to be carried out under the Clean Air Act, just not according to the Clean Air Act.

It is difficult to consider really whether this is a serious offer. What we can say, though, is this threat and the rulemakings that will follow is contrary—contrary—to what our forefathers envisioned. Executive authority foregoes the benefits and protections of a legislative process and it curbs the debate that is needed to ensure fair and balanced policy, and particularly in this area where we need to ensure they are fair and balanced policies.

To effectively combat climate change we have to safeguard our economy. Prosperity is key to the resources that we will need to make progress. The Nation has to pursue all forms of energy and stress energy security. We cannot exclusively count on renewables to achieve a low carbon environment. Emission free nuclear energy has to be part of the solution. Technology must play a role in reaching the goals that we set for our country.

Finally, as we discuss the issues and the approaches to these issues, we have to do so with humility, keenly aware of the unintended consequences that could be worse than no action at all. Climate change is a global issue that requires global acknowledgment of the issue and global action. But through it all we must be deeply concerned and always aware about the impacts of our actions on the individual family.

I spend a lot of time in the rural parts of my State. We don't even call them rural; we use the terminology ''bush'' because it is just so remote, and these are areas where the only way to access the communities is either by air or by boat, up the river by barge. Supplies are brought in two times a year, if you live on the river system. You look around and you may be able to see the impact of climate change, and that is an awareness the people in this region have, but first and foremost, these people need to be able to live. This is where they have lived for thousands of years.

When you appreciate the costs they are paying for their energy right here and right now, I can't support anything that is going to increase the energy cost for the people in my State who are already paying—some—close to 50 percent of their income for fuel to stay warm in the wintertime.

I have one letter here that I received just last week from a village by the name of Kwigillingok. This is an area out in the coastal villages region. In this letter from the tribal council they state:

> The current cost of heating fuel is 6.02 per gallon and gasoline at 6.52.

If I were to suggest to the fine people in Kwigillingok that in order to arrest what we may be seeing with increased emissions around the globe that their energy prices are going to double, that the cost of their heating fuel is going to go from $6.02 per gallon to $12, how will these people live?

We have to be aware of the energy insecurity, the energy poverty in far too many places in this country and truly around the world.

So as we discuss these very important issues about energy and how we do right by all, again let us do so with a level of humility and a level of respect for people all throughout our Nation.

I see that my colleague from Texas is here, another fine producing State. In fact, Texas is a State that is really doing quite well right now when it comes to our energy and our energy resources. Through the efforts of States such as Texas, North Dakota, and California we are seeing a true resurgence in our energy production, and I think an opportunity for us as a Nation to again not only provide for our energy security as a Nation but to provide for security and stability on the global scene as well.

With that, I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. I thank the Senator from Alaska for her wise words. I wasn't here for all of her remarks, but I was able to hear the percentage of her State that is owned by the Federal Government, which is extraordinary. I think she cited roughly 2 percent in Texas. That was a deal we cut in 1845, and it turned out it was a pretty good deal because Texas lands are overwhelmingly private lands rather than government lands.

I think part of the point she was making as well is that while we have seen a resurgence of activity on private land, particularly when it comes to the shale gas, and on oil plays on public lands we haven't seen that same sort of productivity. If the Federal Government would simply take the same approach that the private sector is taking when it comes to developing these God-given natural resources, it could really boost our economy further and lower unemployment.

So I thank my colleague for her wise words this morning.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

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

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to talk about a number of subjects starting, of course, with the fact that millions of Americans have lost their health insurances because of the unintended consequences of the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare.

We also know that in addition to losing the coverage they had, which they were told they could keep, many have now been forced to pay higher premiums. The sticker shock from that has been something we have been reading a lot about. But whether there is sticker shock because of the higher premiums, many people have been finding that their deductibles are huge, making them effectively self-insured up to $5,000 for their health care costs, definitely not something they were promised as a result of ObamaCare.

We also know that roughly 10 million people, about 10½ million people, remain unemployed in America and that 3.8 million of them have been unemployed for more than 6 months. Since the recession has ended—and, of course, a recession is, technically speaking, two consecutive quarters of negative growth—I think, if asked, most Americans today feel as though we are still in a recession because of what is happening to them personally. We know that since the recession ended, median household income—one measure of economic health in the country—has gone down by $2,500. So at the same time people are experiencing higher costs for health care, for groceries, for gasoline, and other necessities of life, they are seeing that their median household income has declined by $2,500—a double whammy.

According to a Joint Economic Committee analysis, if the Obama economic recovery had been as strong as an average post-1960 recovery, we would currently have millions more private sector jobs.

I had the pleasure this last weekend of hearing a fascinating debate with Larry Summers, economic adviser and former president of Harvard University—a brilliant economist—and another brilliant economist, Senator Phil Gramm, who taught at Texas A&M. Senator Gramm was making the point that if we had had a typical recovery after a recession, it would have been a V-shaped recovery. We did not get that. The economy continues to grow slowly, unusually slowly, and they were both exploring the reasons for that. A lot has to do with uncertainty about the role of the Federal Government when it comes to taxes, when it comes to regulation, and when it comes to our escalating national debt—now over $17 trillion—and what that might mean in the future.

But add all this up and Americans are continuing to feel increasingly pessimistic about the state of our economy, the state of their personal health care relationships with their doctors and hospitals, and the future of the country. That is something all of us ought to be profoundly concerned about.

Yet rather than promote real health care reform that actually deals with the unaffordability of health coverage or something that will get the economy growing again, my friends across the aisle, many of them, spent last night—all night—talking about climate change. That is right, climate change.

So the message to millions of people out of work or who have lost their health coverage or to people who are living from paycheck to paycheck because median household income has actually declined is that what America really needs right now is more taxes and more regulation and the big government that goes along with it.

It is easy to see why many people think Washington is just out of touch with the concerns of average hardworking American families, and last night was an example. It is hard to square the message with the genuine concern for the middle class and middle-class prosperity. I mean, if we are really concerned about hardworking American families working from paycheck to paycheck just to make ends meet, I doubt we would have an all-night debate on climate change.

If my friends across the aisle really did believe that job creation should be our top priority, they wouldn't have wasted precious time with last night's political stunt. For that matter, they wouldn't be opposing the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would single-handedly create thousands of well-paying American jobs.

I realize that many people have good-faith concerns about the long-term implications of rising greenhouse gas emissions. Over the next three decades worldwide emissions are indeed projected to surge. But that has almost nothing to do with the United States and almost everything to do with developing countries such as China. As a matter of fact, the ranking member of the energy committee, the Senator from Alaska, and certainly the Senator from Wyoming know this very well. One of the reasons why carbon emissions in the United States are going down is because of the natural gas renaissance we have seen—because of unconventional shale gas exploration in places such as Texas and all around the country. So we are finding ways to reduce carbon emissions for those who are worried about those, as a result of taking advantage of the resources we have here in the United States, together with the innovative technology that is used to develop it.

Those of us who oppose bigger, more intrusive government in the form of cap and trade legislation or higher taxes such as carbon taxes or other job-killing greenhouse gas regulations are not denialists. I prefer to say we are realists.

We understand America's contributions to global emissions over the coming decades will be relatively minuscule. We understand the economic costs of President Obama's regulations through the Environmental Protection Agency would vastly outweigh the environmental benefit.

So why do they want to put a big wet blanket on the economy and on the aspirations and dreams of hard-working families in order to pursue policies in which the negative will vastly outweigh the positive benefit to American families?

In fact, the Obama EPA itself has admitted its proposed greenhouse gas rule would not have a notable impact on U.S. carbon dioxide emissions until the year 2022.

I would also note, despite having Members of his party talk about climate change all night—which is all it was, talk—there is no legislation they are offering, nor will the majority leader, who controls the agenda of the Senate, bring legislation to the floor to actually vote on it. So it is just talk or, perhaps I can say, it was just a lot of hot air.

Our colleagues across the aisle—including the majority leader who controls the agenda of the floor in the Senate—seem to be content letting the President use his pen and phone, skirting the legislative process, not engaging with Congress to try to do things which actually are the priorities of the American people but instead to rely on unelected EPA bureaucrats. I could be surprised, but I would be surprised to learn if the consensus in America wouldn't be that we should be focusing on policies which create jobs, rather than destroy jobs and punish families in return for meager or nonexistent benefits.

Speaking of destroying jobs and punishing families, the Congressional Budget Office—which is the official budgetary scorekeeper for Congress—recently estimated the President's proposal to raise the minimum wage to $10.10 an hour would actually destroy up to 1 million jobs.

I believe sometimes here in Washington people think those who actually create jobs can absorb regulations, taxes, and other economic burdens, together with the uncertainty many of those policies cause, and it will have no impact on their ability to continue to create jobs, grow jobs or to grow the economy. But the Congressional Budget Office has stated what should perhaps be intuitive, which is, if you raise the cost of doing business on businesses, they are going to have to find someplace to cut.

What that means is they are going to have to cut more people from their jobs. They estimated up to 1 million people would lose their job if we raised

the minimum wage 40 percent to $10.10 an hour.

Remember, in the President's State of the Union Message he said a minimum wage hike like that would help low-income families. It is certainly a mystery to me how it would help a low-income family who is relying on a wage earner to provide income when they end up losing their job as a result of the policy.

So the President's definition of ''help'' is unique, to say the least, because any policy which destroys up to 1 million jobs would be an absolute disaster for low-income families.

The President also made his pitch for a higher minimum wage in the context of his concern about income inequality. He claims to be greatly concerned about income inequality. Yet his policies actually threaten to make it worse.

But don't take my word for it. A news report from a major labor union argues that in its current form, the President's health care law will ''heighten the inequality that the administration seeks to produce.''

These are not political adversaries of our President and his party. These are supporters of the Affordable Care Act—ObamaCare—who have now said in its current form, unless changed, the Affordable Care Act—or ObamaCare—will heighten the inequality the administration seeks to reduce.

The report also notes that ObamaCare ''threatens the middle class with higher premiums, loss of hours, and a shift from part-time work and less comprehensive coverage.''

I think those would be very troubling words to the President and his allies who passed the Affordable Care Act—or ObamaCare—but so far they have fallen on deaf ears.

Again, this report just in terms of its credibility was not issued by some Republican or conservative organization which was opposed to ObamaCare from the beginning. It was issued by a labor union which supported ObamaCare which has now found that what was promised has not actually been delivered in terms of its implication.

So what union members and their families are learning the hard way is the promise of ObamaCare is very different from the reality. We were promised ObamaCare would actually expand coverage, it would reduce costs, it would help our economy, all without disrupting existing health care arrangements.

In reality, the law has forced millions to lose their coverage and forced millions to pay higher premiums or higher deductibles, effectively being self-insured. Meanwhile, the Congressional Budget Office projects it will effectively shrink America's labor force by 2.5 million full-time workers over the next decade.

Remarkably, the administration now wants us to believe it is actually a good thing so many people are reducing their work hours in order to keep their government-mandated health care. For example, chief White House economist Jason Furman has said working less to keep ObamaCare benefits ''might be a better choice and a better option than what they had before.''

Of course, they don't have a choice to keep what they had before because they have been forced into ObamaCare. If you don't buy the government-mandated insurance, then you are going to be fined by your friendly Federal Government.

But think about it: The White House chief economist is celebrating the possibility of a dramatic decline in American work hours. I would remind Mr. Furman that America's labor force participation is already at historic lows. It is as low as it has been for 30 years. In other words, the percentage of people looking for work in America is at a 30-year low already, and Mr. Furman is celebrating the further depressing impact of ObamaCare on work in America.

All else being equal, a reduction in work hours means a reduction in economic growth. It certainly means a reduction in income for the people working. We know a further reduction of economic growth will make it harder to create new jobs, improve living standards, and achieve broad-based prosperity—something I know we all hope for in America.

This is a dangerous cycle, and it is definitely not something we should be celebrating. It is something we should be fixing.

A truly compassionate agenda—not one that focuses on things which are largely irrelevant to the lives of Americans working families, but a truly compassionate agenda would seek to improve opportunity rather than encourage dependency. A truly compassionate agenda would place a much higher value on the dignity and self-reliance of American workers by making sure they have jobs.

For that matter, a truly compassionate agenda would aim to dismantle ObamaCare and replace it with patient-centered alternatives which encourage work and encourage job creation.

The type of agenda I have described is pretty much the exact opposite of what we have seen over the last 5 years, and the results speak for themselves. There is absolutely no reason we have to accept the status quo. With the right mix of economic policies, America can turn this ship around and restore the strong growth rates and robust job creation we enjoyed in the 1980s and 1990s. We will on this side of the aisle continue to promote such policies, and we look forward to working with our colleagues across the aisle when they finally come around to the realization the path we are heading on now is not one the American people are happy with or that they have to settle for.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

THE THREE ES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I congratulate my colleague from Texas for his comments, and I agree with his concerns. These are the same concerns I hear at home in Wyoming.

I was in Buffalo, WY, at a health fair this past weekend. Hundreds of people from the community turned out. They have concerns about the health care law. They have concerns about their take-home pay. They have concerns about their jobs. And Wyoming is an energy State.

I am the only Republican Senator who is both on the energy committee as well as the Environment & Public Works Committee, and so I think about the three Es: energy security, economic growth, and environmental stewardship. We need energy security for our country, economic growth for our citizens, as well as to protect the environment and be good stewards of the land. I believe in Wyoming we continue to do all of those.

The American people have made it very clear that what they want from Washington is a focus on jobs and the economy. This is not what I have heard, though, over the last 24 hours from the Democrats on the other side of the aisle. The American people I talk to want us to make it easier for them to get back to work, to provide for their families, to get the kids back to school so they can go off to work. People's jobs are linked to their identity, to their dignity, to their self-worth. I think more of these regulations make it harder for people to have a job, to keep a job, and to provide for their families.

So we had an all-night talkathon, and what did it accomplish? To me, the only accomplishment was a waste of time and more hot air. It seemed to be a dog-and-pony show to satisfy their big liberal donors.

The majority leader spent part of the weekend in California with a big liberal donor who has promised $100 million to the Democrats on the issue they decided to hold an entire night talkathon on. They had five or six Democratic Senators at this man's home in California basically saying: We want your money. We want your money. This is what the Democrats did.

So they put on an entire dog-and-pony show, showing that Democrats and their leadership—including the majority leader—is beholden to that liberal money that wants to call the tune for this Senate.

It is astonishing this would happen in the United States; that the majority leader of the Senate would take a number of Democratic Senators to California specifically to go to the home of somebody who says: I want to give $100 million to promote what he said was his agenda—his agenda—and make the majority leader dance to that tune. This is what we saw for the last 24 hours.

The majority leader could call a vote tomorrow—he could call it today—on a

national energy tax. I think everybody on this side of the aisle is ready and prepared to vote on that. But for most of these folks, they wanted to just talk all night. They don't actually want to do anything. They just want to talk.

The Democrats control the agenda. They control the majority. They have changed the rules in terms of approving nominees. They have it all lined up.

It is astonishing that the most vulnerable Democrats who are running for office this year didn't show their faces last night. They wanted nothing at all to do with this.

So we hear about regulations which are going to crush jobs and make it harder for people to go to work. As a doctor having taken care of people who are out of work for a long time—and I am sure the Presiding Officer knows people like this as well—I know that being out of work impacts their identity, the way they view themselves, and their human dignity. In fact, it affects their health as well.

As a doctor, I have put together an entire report: ''Red Tape Making Americans Sick,'' a report on the health impacts of high unemployment. Studies show EPA rules—the rules, regulations, and redtape—cost Americans not just their jobs but also their health.

For people who are chronically unemployed, we know there are higher rates of cancer, higher rates of suicide, higher rates of heart disease, higher rates of stroke, and higher rates of abuse—whether it is substance abuse, spousal abuse, child abuse. All of these add to hospital visits, premature deaths, all in communities where there is high joblessness. It is because of regulations which continue to come out of the EPA which are burdensome, which are expensive, which are time consuming. The costs are real, the benefits are theoretical, but yet this is what the Democrats on the other side of the aisle were talking about all night last night.

So I would say, instead of spending 24 hours on extreme regulations which result in a national energy tax, Democrats ought to be listening to the American people and focus on jobs and on the economy.

It is too bad Democrats would rather talk about a national energy tax for 24 hours than vote on the President's budget, a budget which never balances. Then vote on the Keystone XL Pipeline, a pipeline proposal which would bring, according to the State Department, 42,000 more individuals in our country into the workforce or even discuss and vote on other job proposals.

They don't want to talk about job creation ideas. I will continue to do so in terms of the Keystone Pipeline and in terms of exporting liquefied natural gas. We have an abundance in the United States which would be helpful to our economy, helpful to jobs, as well as helpful in our foreign policy as we work toward not just energy security but global security as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from South Dakota.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I want to compliment my colleagues from Wyoming and Texas for talking about the issues that are important to the American people. People in this country care about jobs and the economy. I think one of the reasons there were not more Democratic Senators down here last night is because a lot of them, as some pointed out, hit the snooze button, didn't want to come down here and talk about an issue which they realize ranked very low in people's assessment of what is really important in their daily lives. I think that is probably why most Americans, by and large, tuned out the all-night session we had on the floor.

We did have a number of Senate Democrats who came down and engaged in what they referred to as a talkathon on climate change. I don't know who coined the term ''talkathon'' to describe the event, but it is a perfect term. It really fits, since the event was all talk and no action.

In fact, writing ahead of the talkathon, USA Today noted, and I quote:

> The Democratic effort is cause for some confusion, because these Senators are calling for action in a chamber they control, but without any specific legislation to offer up for a vote or any timetable for action this year.

Well, that is exactly right. Last night's filibuster was not designed to advance any legislation, nor was it a protest about the lack of legislation. After all, the Democrats control the Chamber and they can bring up a bill any time they want. Although last night's event may have had all the trappings of significant Senate action, it was nothing but talk.

If the Democrats really think government action on climate change is so important, one would assume last night they would have used it to debate a bill or try to persuade their leadership to bring one up on the floor. But they didn't, because it is an election year and Democrats are already deeply worried about their election prospects, and they know very well the American people do not like the climate change legislation they have offered up. The climate change bills Democrats have proposed almost invariably involve tax hikes that would drive the cost of energy sky high for ordinary families and kill jobs, all for extremely dubious environmental gains. The last time Congress debated the cap-and-trade bill was in 2009. That bill was estimated to destroy 2.5 million jobs. Perhaps that is why several Democrats who represent energy-producing States didn't make it to last night's talkathon. They must be tired of defending more job-destroying policies.

For families who are already struggling with reduced income and high health care costs that have characterized the Obama economy for the past 5 years, increased energy prices and more job losses are the last thing they want to face. Democrats know that climate change legislation is a nonstarter in an election year, but they still have their radical environmental base to worry about, the same base that is pushing the President not to approve the Keystone Pipeline despite five separate environmental reviews that found its impact on the environment would be negligible.

Last night's talkathon, designed for maximum media exposure, allowed Democrats to assure their donors that they are focused on climate change without actually having to do anything, anything that would be difficult or politically damaging, such as going on the record and actually voting for a specific bill.

Last month Gallup released a poll on America's top concerns. Climate change didn't even make the top 10. Jobs and the economy, on the other hand, came in at the very top, not surprisingly. The American people have a very good assessment of what is important. Gallup polling shows that those two issues have been among Americans' top five concerns for most of the past 6 years. Despite this, however, Democrats have shown very little inclination to take real action on the economy. In fact, most of their policies are making our economic situation worse.

The policy that is doing the most economic damage is ObamaCare. Any way you look at it, ObamaCare means bad economic news for just about everybody. Millions of Americans have had the plans they like canceled, and far too many of them have found their ObamaCare alternative will cost more and offer them less.

Families around the country have enrolled in exchange plans that have left them wondering how they are going to be able to afford the plan's $10,000 and $12,000 deductibles. Low-income seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage are wondering how they will afford the premium hikes and the benefit reductions that will soon hit them, thanks to ObamaCare's Medicare cuts. Eleven million small business workers are not sure how a bill that promised more affordable health care is actually raising—raising—their health care costs.

Then there are the businesses that are changing their plans to hire new workers because ObamaCare's mandates and fees mean they cannot afford to expand. The workers who are having their hours cut because ObamaCare means their employer cannot afford to keep them on as full-time workers. The Congressional Budget Office recently estimated ObamaCare will mean 2.5 million fewer full-time workers and approximately $1 trillion in lower wages. That is a lot of lost economic opportunity.

But you do not have to take my word for it, because Republicans are not the only people who are worried about

ObamaCare's effects on the economy and on the middle class. A lot of the President's allies are worried too. Democrats who are running in red States are running scared and are starting to talk about the need to amend the law.

And then there are the unions. Unions are, of course, historically Democratic supporters and they were instrumental in getting ObamaCare passed in the first place and helping to get the President reelected. Now unions are rethinking their support. At the end of last week UNITE HERE, which is a huge union with over one-quarter of a million members from all over the hospitality industry, published a white paper on ObamaCare which they called ''The Irony of ObamaCare: Making Inequality Worse.''

What does the document say? Well, it says what Republicans have been saying all along, that ObamaCare is going to make things much worse for the middle class. I want to quote from the first page:

> Ironically, the administration's own signature healthcare victory poses one of the most immediate challenges to redressing inequality. . . . without smart fixes, the Affordable Care Act threatens the middle class with higher premiums, loss of hours, and a shift to part-time work and less comprehensive coverage.

That is from a white paper put out by one of the Nation's major unions. In 12 pages that document demolishes the administration's claim that the bill will help the middle class. It takes aim at the administration's ridiculous assertion that the law will not discourage business expansion or result in employers cutting hours. Worker hours, the union points out, have already been cut at nearly a third of U.S. franchise businesses.

Other businesses have chosen to replace full-time workers with part time workers, and still others have announced their intention of staying below 50 employees to avoid being hit by the worst of the law's mandates. The union also points out the likelihood of employers dumping employee health plans thanks to the law's requirements, leaving employees to obtain health care in the exchanges.

Here is what the union has to say about dropped employees, and again I quote:

> For dropped employees, being pushed onto the exchanges will mean a major loss of income for health benefits. Families moving to the exchanges may lose between 4 percent and 25 percent of income to maintain equivalent benefits.

Again, that is from the union white paper on ObamaCare. Major loss of income or health benefits, families within the exchanges may lose between 4 and 25 percent of income—between 4 percent and 25 percent of income.

We are not talking about rich families here. We are talking about families who are making $40,000 or $50,000 or $60,000 a year. Even a 4-percent income loss would make a huge dent in these families' budgets. A 25-percent income loss for a family making that amount of money would be devastating.

Finally, the union concludes by pointing out a study in the Brookings Institution—again, not exactly a bastion of conservatism—that shows that those making below $25,000 will get some benefit of the Affordable Care Act. But those right above them, families with incomes of $20,000 to $38,000, will lose income. ''Only in Washington,'' the report concludes, ''could asking the bottom of the middle class to finance health care for the poorest families be seen as reducing inequality.''

Again, that is a quote from that report by UNITE HERE labor union.

I want to remind everyone this is not a Republican document. It is a document produced by some of President Obama's biggest supporters. In fact, UNITE HERE was actually the first union to endorse then-Senator Obama in 2008. So this isn't an organization seeking to damage the President politically or to provide Republicans with talking points. But like so many Americans around the country, UNITE HERE has been forced to an inescapable conclusion, and that conclusion is that ObamaCare just isn't working. It is doing the opposite of what it was intended to do. It is making health care more expensive for families. It is discouraging employees from hiring. It is reducing Americans' health care choices.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for an additional minute.

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

Mr. THUNE. It is reducing Americans' health care choices, and it is encouraging employers to cut hours and benefits. Our health care system may have needed reform, but this was not the way to do it. Even the President's strongest supporters are having buyers' remorse, and a lot of Americans are hurting right now thanks to the President's health care law.

As we hear from more Americans, South Dakotans, people all across this country, who are struggling under the law, I hope the Democrats here who I believe privately are rethinking their vote for this law will have the courage to publicly join us in calling for its repeal.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

ENERGY

Mr. HOEVEN. Thank you, Madam President.

Last night the majority party had an all-night session talking about energy, but there is no specific proposal coming forward. We are here ready to vote to do our job representing the American people and actually craft a plan, a comprehensive energy plan for this country that works.

Since we didn't hear one last night, I thought I would come today and propose one. I would like to propose a States-first all-of-the-above energy plan. This isn't new. This is a plan I proposed along with others, my good colleague from South Dakota, my good colleague from Wyoming who was just here, and others. This is a comprehensive approach, a bipartisan approach, and actually specific legislation, a number of bills that will create a comprehensive plan to not only produce more energy for our country but to create more jobs, to grow our economy, to help expand our tax base, so we can reduce the deficit and the debt without raising taxes and, maybe most importantly of all, actually providing national security so we do not have to import oil from the Middle East—a specific action plan with legislation drafted and introduced that, instead of talking about it here on the Senate floor, let's do it. Let's start voting. Let's pass it. Let's put solutions in place for the American people.

Now this is not one big monolithic one-size-fits-all Federal plan, Federal approach. Instead, it is a series of bills sponsored, as I say, by Members on both sides of the aisle that would truly create a States-first, all-of-the-above energy approach. It includes measures such as my good colleague from South Dakota just said. Let's approve the Keystone Pipeline. The administration has been working on it for 5 years. Maybe they are going to work on it for another 5 years. I don't know. Well, let's approve it here in Congress. Let's act.

Another bill, the Dominion Energy and Jobs Act, is a bill I introduced that has already been passed by the House. It is a series of 13 different pieces of legislation that would help us produce more energy in this country both onshore and off.

The Empower States Act is another piece of legislation I put forward that would address hydraulic fracturing which is unleashing new areas of energy production in our country, or the coal ash recycling bill, that not only would help us recycle coal ash, but provide better standards to make sure that we are storing ash that is recycled in environmentally sound ways, addressing a problem that EPA is working on, and has to come up with a solution by the end of the year. We work with the EPA to come up with a commonsense solution that also encourages recycling coal ash to use on highways and buildings and other construction, and for other construction purposes. There is the Domestic Fuels Act, which is another piece of legislation that not only helps us market traditional fuels at the pump, such as traditional oil and gas products, but also renewable fuels, such as biofuels, biodiesel, ethanol, hydrogen, other types of energy that we are working to develop—renewable fuels. Let's make it easier to give consumers choice at the pump and more competition that will help reduce their costs.

This is the same kind of comprehensive plan that we developed in North

Dakota when I was Governor. I was a Governor there for 10 years. We developed a plan that we called EmPower North Dakota, and of course the whole idea was to unleash the energy resources of our State—all of our resources. I am not just talking about oil and gas—traditional sources of energy—but all traditional and renewable energy that have truly made our State an energy powerhouse for the country. We did it at the State level, and we can do it at the national level.

So how does it work? Quite simply, it empowers States to build on their relative strengths. It does so by giving them the primary role, or the primary responsibility, in terms of regulating energy development and growth in their State. That may be oil, gas, nuclear, biofuels, hydro, wind, solar, biomass or whatever else may be an area of strength or expertise for their respective State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask the Chair for 2 minutes.

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

Mr. HOEVEN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

If you think about it, it builds on the very foundation and very concept of how our country works. The United States is the laboratory of democracy. The States are the laboratories of democracy. Let's make them the laboratories of energy development in this country. Why not? Let's make them the laboratories of energy development in this country, whether it is Wisconsin, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota or Wyoming. You name it. Different places have different strengths.

When it comes to producing energy, let's empower them to produce the type of energy that works best in their respective State. It is bipartisan, it is inclusive, and it includes not only the Federal Government, but it includes the Federal Government in a way where they are working with the States and building on the very strength of our country.

I know my time is limited. I will be back later today to talk about it some more.

I want to leave with this point: It is not just about energy. It is about better environmental stewardship because we unleash the very investment that drives and deploys the new technology that produces more energy and does so with a better environmental stewardship.

It is about a growing economy that creates revenues without raising taxes to help address the deficit and debt. It creates good-paying jobs that we need in this country.

It is also about national security. Think about what is going on in Europe right now. Is the European Union going to join with us and impose sanctions on Russia? Are they? Do they have the will or are they concerned that 30 percent of all of the natural gas that goes to Europe comes from Russia and half of it goes through the Ukraine?

Are they so concerned about their energy future that they are not willing to stand with us to do the things we need to do to make sure that an aggressor like Russia doesn't invade another sovereign country?

So energy is very much about national security, and we can be energy secure in this country in very short order with the right approach.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. STABENOW. There are currently 89 judicial vacancies in Federal courts across the country, including four on the eastern court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Two of these are considered emergency vacancies because they have been vacant for over 19 months. With so many vacancies the case backlog isn't getting any smaller. It is a real problem.

The good news is that today we have the opportunity to vote to move forward on four excellent nominees to fill vacancies in the courts.

Our Michigan nominees are highly qualified and represent some of the best legal minds we have. Two of the nominees are sitting judges, one nominee is a U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Michigan, and the other nominee is currently in private practice at one of Michigan's top law firms.

Throughout the confirmation process, they have all proven to be thoughtful and prudent stewards of the law. So not only are they excellent nominees, but they are ready to go to work.

The first nominee is Judith Levy. She has served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Michigan since 2000. She was a cum laude graduate at the University of Michigan Law School. She has received numerous awards for her legal work.

Ms. Levy clerked for the Honorable Bernard Friedman, the former chief judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He was, in fact, a Reagan appointee.

She is nominated to fill a judicial emergency vacancy created more than 18 months ago.

Ms. Levy is an excellent nominee. The people of Michigan deserve to have her on the bench, and she will serve with great distinction for all of us.

Second, we have Judge Laurie Michelson. Judge Michelson has served as a U.S. magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Michigan since 2011.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, she spent nearly 18 years in private practice where she specialized in media law, intellectual property, and white collar criminal defense.

She earned her law degree from Northwestern University in 1992. She served as a law clerk for Judge Cornelia Kennedy on the U.S. court of appeals. Judge Kennedy, as you may recall, was selected by President Reagan for his short list of Supreme Court candidates to replace Justice Potter Stewart.

Judge Michelson is an excellent nominee, and again the people of Michigan deserve to have her on the bench, and she will serve with distinction.

Next we have Judge Linda Parker. Judge Linda Parker has served as a judge on the Third Judicial Circuit Court of Michigan since 2009. Judge Parker has served in State and for the Federal Government for over a decade. Before that, she worked in private practice as well.

She earned her law degree from George Washington University and began her career as a law clerk in the District of Columbia Superior Court.

She has been recognized for her commitment to the community through pro bono legal work and as a board member of an organization that provides assistance to underserved academically gifted children.

Judge Parker is also an excellent nominee, and the people of Michigan look forward to her service.

Next is Matthew Leitman. Mr. Leitman is a principal at the Law Firm of Miller Canfield in Troy, MI, where he handles complex commercial litigation, criminal defense, and appellate matters before both State and Federal courts.

Prior to joining Miller Canfield in 2004, he spent 10 years in private practice.

He earned his law degree magna cum laude in 1993 from Harvard Law School and began his career as a clerk to Justice Charles Levin on the Michigan Supreme Court.

Mr. Leitman's nomination will also fill a judicial emergency vacancy which has been open for nearly 2 years.

Mr. Leitman is also an excellent nominee, and the people of Michigan, again, deserve his service on the bench. We look forward to his service and to the service of all four of those nominees that we will be voting on today.

We have four excellent nominees for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. They are thoughtful, they are prudent, and they are ready to get to work.

I encourage and ask that all of my colleagues join together today in a strong bipartisan vote to be able to move these nominations forward and bring them to the floor tomorrow morning for the final vote.

We are very pleased with the President's nominees and with their qualifications. We are very confident of their service to the courts and to the people of Michigan.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

Under the previous order, there is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a cloture vote on the Leitman nomination.

Who yields time?

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back the time.

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

All time is yielded back.

The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Matthew Frederick Leitman, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Carl Levin, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Debbie Stabenow, Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Amy Klobuchar, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Joe Donnelly, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz, Tom Harkin.

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 Matthew Frederick Leitman, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Levin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Markey	Walsh
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Kirk	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—2

McCaskill	Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 55, the nays are 43.

The motion to invoke cloture is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a cloture vote on the Levy nomination.

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I want to assure our colleagues that these nominees from Michigan have been selected—obviously by us—following a very thorough screening committee with its broadly based recommendations. All four of these nominees are highly qualified, have judicial temperament, and Senator STABENOW and I can recommend them highly to the Senate.

I thank my colleagues who are voting for cloture and then hope that the next vote after cloture we will see them confirmed.

Again, we want to provide that assurance to our colleagues that this is a broadly based screening committee that we appoint which has recommended these nominees.

I ask that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has been yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state:

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Judith Ellen Levy, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Carl Levin, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Debbie Stabenow, Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Amy Klobuchar, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Joe Donnelly, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz, Tom Harkin.

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 Judith Ellen Levy, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rules.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin, (Mr. JOHNSON).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 64 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—42

Alexander	Enzi	McConnell
Ayotte	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Coburn	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Kirk	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Johnson (WI)	Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on the

motion to invoke cloture on the Michelson nomination.

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, and pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Laurie J. Michelson, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Carl Levin, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Debbie Stabenow, Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Amy Klobuchar, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Joe Donnelly, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz, Tom Harkin.

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 Laurie J. Michelson, of Michigan, to be United States District Court Judge, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 65 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Coats	Enzi
Ayotte	Coburn	Fischer
Barrasso	Cochran	Flake
Blunt	Corker	Graham
Boozman	Cornyn	Grassley
Burr	Crapo	Hatch
Chambliss	Cruz	Heller
Hoeven	McConnell	Sessions
Inhofe	Moran	Shelby
Isakson	Paul	Thune
Johanns	Portman	Toomey
Johnson (WI)	Risch	Vitter
Kirk	Roberts	Wicker
Lee	Rubio	
McCain	Scott	

NOT VOTING—1

Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56 and the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 today the Senate proceed to morning business until 6 p.m. tonight. Senators may speak for up to 10 minutes each.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to the cloture vote.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I yield back any time on the subsequent nomination on which we are about to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the time is yielded back.

Under the previous order and pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Linda Vivienne Parker, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Carl Levin, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Debbie Stabenow, Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Amy Klobuchar, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Joe Donnelly, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz, Tom Harkin.

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 Linda Vivienne Parker, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 66 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—42

Alexander	Enzi	McCain
Ayotte	Fischer	McConnell
Barrasso	Flake	Moran
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Rubio
Coburn	Inhofe	Scott
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Vitter
Cruz	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Rockefeller Sessions

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I request permission to speak as if in morning business.

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

FORTY-SECOND IDITAROD

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I am happy to be on the floor this afternoon to give the announcement and the update about the running of the 42nd Iditarod in my State of Alaska. It is an extraordinarily famous and fabulous sporting event where man and dog test the elements of a course of almost 1,100 miles beginning in Willow, AK, and going all the way to Nome.

This year there were 69 teams that started out, and the first team crossed the finish line at 4 a.m. Alaska standard time this morning. It was one of those races that truly came down to almost a photo finish, with the leaders trading off literally in the last several hours. This was a situation we honestly have not seen in quite some time with the Iditarod.

With that buildup, I am pleased to announce that this year Dallas Seavey has become the winner of the 42nd running of the Iditarod, beating out Aliy Zirkle by 2 minutes 22 seconds. He and Aliy Zirkle battled it out in the last hour of the race not even understanding that the frontrunner, who had been in place of Aliy and in place of Dallas, Jeff King, had to scratch because of a ground blizzard that forced him off the trail, losing his sled and effectively having to call and ask for assistance. It was a very dramatic ending to a pretty fascinating race.

The weather has been problematic throughout. We had warm weather conditions at the outset of the race, and then to have the weather really be the No. 1 opposition at the end made it something we are going to be talking about for years.

The Presiding Officer has had the opportunity to attend the ceremonial start of the Iditarod and is familiar with the excitement when there are 60 to 70 dog teams, mushers, and all their supporters around handling the dogs. There were literally 1,000 dogs in the downtown area of Anchorage. It is really quite exciting. It is a fabulous way to come to understand the history of the Iditarod but, more importantly, to understand the mindset of some of these mushers and the dedication they have to this sport and the passion they have for their dogs.

This year I was in the chute, and I like to visit with each of the mushers as they are coming down. Dallas Seavey was in the chute, and I was talking to him. He was really excited about the course because he said: This is going to be fast. This is going to be the quickest course we have seen. It is just perfect for someone like me who is young and fit and can stand up on his sled and literally be running next to his sled the whole way.

Three mushers later is Jeff King, and Jeff is telling me: This race is the perfect race for us older guys.

Jeff is my age.

He said: It is perfect because it takes the maturity and the wisdom and having been through a series of Iditarods to know exactly how to handle a course like this.

I think both of them were right. We saw the energy and determination of young Dallas Seavey 2 years ago. When he won for the first time, he was the youngest musher to win. He demonstrated a level of energy and determination that truly knocks your socks off. But what Jeff King was able to do with his methodical planning and strategy that goes into that race is certainly something to be embraced. And then, of course, Aliy Zirkle, a 44-year-old woman demonstrating once again that tough, independent female spirit—my gosh, she was in there all the way. This is the second year now that she has come in—actually, it is not the second year she has come in second. She has come in second more times than any other musher out there.

Dallas Seavey broke the Iditarod record this morning at 4 a.m. He came in at 8 days, 13 hours, 4 minutes, 19 seconds. He shaved off almost 5 hours from John Baker's previous win back in 2011.

There were a lot of firsts and a lot to be celebrated. There are still more mushers out on the trail.

When I talked to Dallas about an hour ago to congratulate him, I said: You must be pooped and ready to go to sleep after the last 8 days.

He said: Well, I am going to wait up for my dad.

His dad, Mitch Seavey, is in third place at this point in time. We expect him to come across the finish line.

I said: Isn't it nice to know that after all the years your dad waited up for you, you get to wait up for your dad before you take a break?

Alaskans are pleased with the outcome. We are happy to celebrate amazing athletes—both human and canine—doing amazing things in an amazing State. I am pleased to be able to announce today's results.

I thank the indulgence of the Chair.

RECESS

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 6 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I want to take a moment to recognize our Republican colleagues in the House of Representatives who last week cast the 50th vote in their effort to dismantle the Affordable Care Act—their 50th. I know it is a tradition to give gold in celebration of a 50th milestone. I instead would like to gift my colleagues on the other side of the aisle with a reality check.

More specifically, today I would like to talk about a certain group of people who arguably stand to lose if their antics continue. So I have come to the floor this afternoon to set the record straight on the Affordable Care Act and how it is working for women in America. It is not much of a stretch for me to say the Affordable Care Act is probably one of the most significant pieces of legislation for women in my lifetime. Not because of the battles we fought to get it to the President's desk, not necessarily because of the size or scope of the law, but because of the tangible and positive impact it has had and will continue to have on the health and well being of women in America.

Four years ago health insurance companies could deny women care due to so-called preexisting conditions such as pregnancy or being a victim of domestic violence. Four years ago women were permitted to be legally discriminated against when it came to insurance premiums and were often paying more for coverage than men. Four years ago women did not have access to the full range of recommended preventive care, such as mammograms and prenatal screenings and more. Four years ago the insurance companies had all the leverage. Four years ago too often women were the ones who were paying the price. That is why I am proud today to highlight just how far we have come for women in the past 4 years.

Since the Affordable Care Act became law, women have been treated fairly with increased access to affordable health insurance, benefits, and services. Deductibles and other expenses have been capped so a health care crisis does not cause a family to lose their home or their life savings.

Women can use the health care marketplaces to pick quality plans that work for them and their families. If they change jobs or have to move, they are able to keep their coverage. Starting in 2012, we saw these benefits for women expand even further. Additional types of maternity are now covered. Women are now armed with proper tools and resources in order to take the right steps to have a healthy pregnancy.

Women now have access to domestic partner violence screening and counseling, as well as screening for sexually transmitted infections. Now women finally have access to affordable birth control. As public servants here, it is our job to help our constituents access Federal benefits available to them, particularly when it comes to health care. Since 80 percent of women are not only making health care choices for themselves but also their families and loved ones, it is our responsibility to serve as a guide when it comes to understanding how to best access these benefits.

It might mean putting them in touch with a navigator to ensure they are getting the most affordable health insurance available or making them aware of an enrollment event where they can get information on available coverage options. But our responsibilities do not end there. It is our job to have an open, honest discussion about what the Affordable Care Act means for our constituents and to talk about ways to responsibly improve it.

Instead, as we saw in the House last week, others have spent the better part of the last 4 years trying to take away the critical benefits that I just talked about, trying to score cheap political points on an issue that can literally mean the difference between life and death. I can understand why some of our colleagues disagree with certain parts of this law or maybe how it was implemented, but what I cannot understand is why anyone elected to Congress would decide to simply ignore real life stories of their own constituents whose lives were changed the day this law took effect.

It is people like Susan Wellman. She lives in Bellingham in my home State of Washington. She is self employed. She has had to pay for individual insurance. Every year she has watched her health care costs rise higher and higher. It got to the point where she was

paying $300 monthly premiums with an $8,000 deductible, all for a plan she described as ''paying for nothing.''

So as soon as Susan could access health care through the Washington State health care exchange, she jumped at the chance. She spoke on the phone with a real live person. She was able to sign up for an affordable plan in a matter of minutes. Now Susan is on a plan that costs her $125 a month instead of $300. It is a plan that has a $2,000 deductible that actually pays for things. Guess what. She can afford to go to the doctor, not just in the case of an emergency but for a physical or a mammogram that could save her life, not to mention thousands and thousands of dollars in health care costs.

That kind of preventive care is good for women like Susan. It is good for her family, and it is good for this country because when more people have access to preventive care, it makes health care cheaper for every single one of us.

It is also good for women like Carrie Little. She is a certified organic farmer who lives in Orting, WA. A few weeks ago she was working outside when one of the rams on her farm attacked her, leaving her with bruises and a broken leg. Fortunately, because of her new health plan, her visit to the emergency room was painless. Well, as painless as it could be with a broken leg. But her hospital bills, her cast, and her visits to the orthopedic physician were paid in full.

Until last year, Carrie had been spending half of her income for a catastrophic-only health plan, forcing her to pay out of pocket for even the most basic of care. Carrie wrote an op-ed, and I want to quote from it. She said:

> What a welcome relief that my new health plan covers preventive care, like mammograms, immunizations, and yearly doctor visits. I can keep the primary care doctor I have been seeing for years. And I no longer worry about family members getting kicked around due to pre-existing conditions. Thank goodness. In agriculture, profits and losses shift like the weather, so for our community, it is crucial that health premiums stay affordable.

Or women like Ingrid Gordon. Ingrid is a small business owner from Seattle who immediately enrolled in coverage when it became available. After an hour on the Web site, she told us, with minimal technical difficulties, Ingrid was enrolled and received her insurance card in the mail a few days later. Since her coverage began on January 1, Ingrid had her first dental and physical exams in 14 years. She cured a skin disorder thanks to prescription medicine. She scheduled a colonoscopy now that she is 50, and finally had her bothersome knee x-rayed.

All of those exams, visits and prescriptions would have cost Ingrid thousands if not tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket just 1 year ago. But thanks to the Affordable Care Act, Ingrid paid a grand total of zero dollars in copays.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, women like Susan and Carrie and Ingrid are now fully in charge of their own health care, not their insurance company. That is why I feel so strongly that we cannot go back to the way things were. While we can never stop working to make improvements, of course, we owe it to the women of America to make progress and not allow the clock to be rolled back on their health care needs.

As we all know, unfortunately, there are efforts underway all across the country, including here in our Nation's capital, to severely undermine a woman's access to some of the most critical and life-saving services that are provided by the Affordable Care Act. No provision of this law has faced quite as much scrutiny as the idea of providing affordable, quality reproductive health services to the women of America.

We have seen attempt after attempt to eliminate access to abortion services and low-cost birth control all while restricting a woman's ability to make personal decisions about her own care. I guess we should not be surprised. The truth is that the tide of these politically driven, extreme efforts continues to rise.

In 2013 our Nation saw yet another record-breaking year of State legislatures passing restrictive legislation barring women's access to reproductive services. In fact, in the past 3 years the United States has enacted more of these restrictions than in the previous 10 years combined. That means that now more than ever, it is our job to protect these kinds of decisions for women, to fight for women's health, and to ensure that women's health does not become a political football.

For this reason I was very proud to lead members of my caucus in filing a brief with the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., where a secular corporation and its shareholders are trying to get in between a woman and her health.

Just like the many attempts before this case, there are those out there who would like the American public to believe that this conversation is anything but an attack on women's health care. To them it is a debate about freedom, except of course freedom for a woman to access her own care. It is no different than when we are told that a tax on abortion rights is not an infringement on a woman's right to choose; they are about religion or State's rights; or when we are told that restricting emergency contraception is not about limiting a woman's ability to make her own family planning decisions; it is about protecting pharmacists; or just like last week, when an Alaskan State Senator said he did not think there was a compelling reason for the government ''to finance other people's recreation.'' That was in reference, of course, to contraception coverage in health care. In fact, after doing some research, this State Senator concluded that since birth control costs about ''four or five lattes'' the government should really have no reason to cover this cost to women.

The truth is that this is about contraception. This is an attempt to limit a woman's ability to access her own health care. This is about women. Allowing a woman's boss to call the shots about her access to birth control should be inconceivable to all Americans in this day and age, and it would take us back to a place in history when women had no voice and no choice.

In fact, contraception was included as a required preventive service in the Affordable Care Act on the recommendation of an independent, nonprofit institute of medicine and other medical experts because it is essential to the health of women and families.

After many years of research, we know ensuring access to effective birth control has a direct impact on improving the lives of women and their families in America. We have been able to directly link it to declines in maternal and infant mortality, reduced risk of ovarian cancer, better overall health outcomes for women, and far fewer unintended pregnancies and abortions, which is a goal we all should share.

But what is at stake in this case now before the Supreme Court is whether a CEO's personal beliefs can trump a woman's right to access free or low-cost contraception under the Affordable Care Act.

Every American deserves to have access to high-quality health care coverage, regardless of where they work. Each of us should have the right to make our own medical and religious decisions without being dictated to or limited by our employers. Contraceptive coverage is supported by the vast majority of Americans who understand how important it is for women and their families.

In weighing this case, my hope is that the Court realizes women working for private companies should be afforded the same access to medical care regardless of who signs their paychecks. We can't allow for-profit secular corporations or their shareholders to deny female employees access to comprehensive women's health care under the guise of religious exemption. It is as if we are saying: Because you are a CEO or a shareholder in a corporation, your rights are more important than your employees', who happen to be women. That is a slippery slope that could lead to employers cutting off coverage for childhood immunizations if they object to that idea or prenatal care for children born to unmarried parents if they think it is wrong, or blocking an employee's ability to access HIV treatment.

I was proud to be joined in filing the brief by 18 other Senators who were here when Congress enacted the religious protections under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 and who were also here when Congress made access to women's health care available under the Affordable Care Act of 2010. They are Senators who

know Congress did not intend for a corporation or, furthermore, its shareholders to restrict a woman's access to preventive health care.

In the coming weeks, as the Supreme Court prepares to begin oral arguments in this case, these Senators and our colleagues who support these efforts will echo those sentiments, because we all know that improving access to birth control is good health policy and good economic policy. It means healthier women, healthier children, healthier families, and it will save monies for our businesses and consumers.

I know many of our colleagues here believe that repealing the Affordable Care Act and access to reproductive health services is a political winner for them. But the truth is this law and these provisions are a winner for women, for men, for our children, and our health care system overall.

I am very proud to stand with my colleagues who are committed to making sure the benefits of this law don't get taken away from the women of America, because politics and ideology should not matter when it comes to making sure women get the care they need at a cost they can afford.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I know others are waiting, so I will make some brief remarks about something that is very important to me.

I rise today to discuss S. 2087, the Medicare Protection Act.

Over the past few years one of the things we have witnessed in the Senate is, unfortunately, an irresponsible few who are trying to turn Medicare into a voucher system and raise the eligibility age for benefits. This would not only have a catastrophic effect on seniors' health but also on their financial security. It would force seniors to pay more for their doctor visits and for prescription drugs.

People in my State have figured this out. In fact, I recently got a little note from Philip of Jonesboro who said: ''Raising the Medicare eligibility age would shift thousands of dollars in costs to seniors and drive up premium costs.''

He got it exactly right. That is what it will do. That is what pretty much every study I have seen, at least, says it will do.

In Arkansas alone, we have well over 500,000 seniors who depend on Medicare. I encourage all of my colleagues to look at the numbers in their States. My guess is everyone has a large number of seniors in their State and the seniors understand how vitally important it is that we protect Medicare.

Turning Medicare into a voucher system or fundamentally changing it in any way by using some sort of voucher—they call it premium supplement, I don't know; they have a different word for it sometimes—or raising the eligibility age or cutting benefits would be very detrimental to the people in my State, and I am sure in all 50 States.

As Rebecca from Fayetteville said:

> Raising the Medicare age would simply force seniors such as my mother and me to pay more out-of-pocket. We need responsible, common-sense solutions to keep Medicare strong . . .

I agree with that. That is exactly what we need. We need these responsible commonsense solutions. Hopefully they are going to be bipartisan solutions. That is how we get things done in Washington, by working in a bipartisan way. I am hoping, over time, this Medicare Protection Act will become a great bipartisan vehicle for us to protect Medicare.

It does two things, in a nutshell. First, it amends the Congressional Budget Act to define any provision in reconciliation legislation that makes changes to Medicare to reduce or eliminate guaranteed benefits or restrict eligibility criteria as extraneous and an improper use of the reconciliation process.

I know that is technical and that is kind of getting down in the weeds, but that is a very smart way to do it, to use the Congressional Budget Act to protect Medicare.

Secondly, it expresses the sense of the Senate that the Medicare eligibility age should not increase and that the Medicare Program should not be privatized or turned into a voucher system.

Again, if we look back over the years, there have been attempts to do this, most of them originating in the House of Representatives, but we have had a few of those attempts here.

As Hubert Humphrey once said: ''The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped.''

The Medicare Protection Act is the right thing to do. I hope my colleagues from both sides of the aisle will look at this legislation, give it serious consideration, and join me in supporting this critical piece of legislation. It is a great way to protect our Medicare system.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

MCHUGH NOMINATION

Mr. HATCH. I express my strong support for the nomination of Carolyn B. McHugh to the Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit. Judge McHugh received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Utah. She is exactly the kind of outstanding nominee of varied legal experience that I set out to find to fill this vacancy.

She has both practiced and taught law. She has practiced in both State and Federal court. She has extensive experience both before and behind the bench. She has served the county and State bars, as well the State judiciary on committees and on commissions. She has been widely recognized and awarded for her distinguished legal career.

Somehow, along the way, Judge McHugh has found time to serve her community with groups such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Voices for Utah Children, and Catholic Community Services of Utah.

Judge McHugh's 22 years of litigation experience were almost evenly split between State and Federal court. In nearly a decade on the Utah Court of Appeals, currently as the presiding judge, she has heard more than 1,100 appellate civil and criminal cases that ultimately reached judgment.

When she is confirmed to the 10th Circuit, I think Judge McHugh may have one of the shortest learning curves on record of any judge in any circuit court of appeals to this country.

When we have a judicial vacancy in Utah, I spend a lot of time talking to lawyers and judges throughout our State's legal community, and so does Senator LEE. We both work together on these nominations, and I appreciate the input that he has and what a great deal of legal expertise and understanding he brings to these matters.

Judge McHugh received much praise, but perhaps the most common description was simply that she works harder than anyone else. Her former law partner said it, judges said it. Over and over the same comment came up: She works incredibly hard.

I have been doing this a long time and have participated in the nomination or confirmation of more than half of the judges who have ever served on the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. I know a first-rate nominee when I see one.

Judge McHugh's varied experience, her personal character, intelligence, and her work ethic make her one of the best. The Judiciary Committee approved her nomination without opposition, and I expect the same result in the Senate.

I do have to say that this nomination could have been confirmed months ago. Despite some controversy over a few nominees, the confirmation process was working well. In his first 5 years, President Obama appointed 24.6 percent of the Federal judiciary, compared to 25.8 percent in President George W. Bush's first 5 years.

The Congressional Research Service says the Senate confirmed a higher percentage of President Obama's appeals court nominees than it did so for President Clinton and did so faster than it did for President Bush.

In President Bush's first 5 years, Democrats conducted 20 filibusters of appeals court nominations, compared to only seven in President Obama's first 5 years. Filibusters were much

less of a factor in the confirmation process under President Obama than they had been in the past, but that was not good enough. Last November, Democrats abolished nomination filibusters altogether.

For more than 200 years the minority in the Senate, no matter what their political party, had a real role in the confirmation process. The possibility of a filibuster had two effects. First, it suggested to the President that he might want to send more moderate nominees to the Senate. Second, it prompted the minority to cooperate with the majority in confirming noncontroversial nominees.

The new confirmation process that Democrats created has no real role for the minority. As a result, neither of those positive effects exists anymore. The President has no incentive to choose more moderate nominees to consult with home State Senators or to look for a consensus, and the minority in the Senate no incentive to waive rules or to agree to shortcuts.

There used to be balance in this process. The minority could filibuster a few of the more extreme nominees and so the minority helped process the large majority of noncontroversial nominees. That balanced approach was apparently unacceptable to the current majority. Democrats took that approach away, leaving a process—it can be called that—that only the majority controls.

Democrats did not want the minority's cooperation. They did not want a process that has some give-and-take in it. Democrats wanted a process that is all take and no give, and so here we are.

Part of the process we used to have would have been confirming additional nominations before adjourning the first session of the Congress. The nomination before us would have been confirmed that way months ago—as well as a whole raft of other judges that we are now voting on ad seriatim. Instead, we are forced to do things in this new way.

Judge McHugh is the same highly qualified, noncontroversial nominee. There is no good reason why the majority will want to take months longer to confirm a nomination such as this. But this is the confirmation process the Democrats created. They got the control they wanted, and I believe this distortion of the process harms the Senate as an institution. By creating unnecessary controversy and delay, this new process also harms the other branches to which nominations have been made. It did not have to be this way. It should not have been this way.

I might add that I wrote a Law Review article a number of years ago that I did not believe we should filibuster judicial nominations at all. That is why I voted ''present'' on so many of the President's judges, but there is no reason for me to do that anymore because the Democrats have changed the rules. They have broken the rules to change the rules, and so I might as well vote no along with the rest of the Republicans on some of these nominees—just as an expression that we don't like the way the Democrats are handling this matter. I have been, in the last few days, changing from ''present'' to no or yes depending upon the person.

CLIMATE CHANGE

I will take a few minutes to talk about the Senate Democrats' latest effort to grab headlines and energize their base.

Although the business on the floor has officially been nominations, my friends on the other side of the aisle came in overnight to talk about climate change and the supposed need to change the way we produce and consume energy in this country.

We have heard a lot of talk about science and its supposed refusal on the part of Republicans to acknowledge the ''truth.'' What we haven't heard is a plan for lowering energy costs or for putting Americans back to work.

The fact is, when the Democrats talk about climate change, more often than not they are advocating policies that would do exactly the opposite. The funny thing is they have to know it by now. They have to know that is what they are doing. They are talking about proposals that would increase energy costs for American families and businesses. They have to know that, and they are pushing policies that will put even greater stress on our economy and make it more difficult for our citizens to find and even keep a job. That is why we have an underemployment rate of over 12 percent.

For example, last year, the President announced his Climate Action Plan, which directs the EPA to implement and impose new oppressive regulations on the energy industry that will have a significant impact on jobs and the pocketbooks of the American people. Increasing the cost of energy, which this plan would surely do, will not only make our struggling manufacturing sector less globally competitive, it will impose costs directly onto the American people in the form of higher prices on electricity and other costs as well.

Put simply, in order to create jobs and improve our global competitiveness, we need to find ways to help businesses reduce the amount of money they spend on energy. Unfortunately, this President is trying to do the exact opposite. At the same time, we should be exploring ways to make raising a family more affordable.

Unfortunately, the President's plan would increase the cost of living for every household in America. Talk about inequality. I was very interested that one of the leading unions—one of the first to support the President—said that he has caused more inequality than anybody. When I say ''he,'' they mean the President. Unfortunately, the President's plan would increase the cost of living for every household in America. This is the height of irresponsibility.

At a time when so many people are still feeling the impact of the great recession, the administration, not to mention its allies in Congress, wants to put in place regulations and mandates that will cripple American businesses and cause direct harm to American families trying to make ends meet.

I find it striking that throughout all the lectures we have seen on climate change science on the floor over the past 2 days, none of my colleagues appear to be willing to acknowledge the very real impact of their preferred policies. Thousands of communities across the country depend on the responsible development of our Nation's natural resources for a living. Access to abundant and affordable energy is attractive to domestic investment and provides high-paying jobs in our local economies. We can develop these resources in an environmentally friendly way. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't appear to be willing to have that conversation. Instead, they want to demagogue the use of fossil fuels and impose costly mandates and regulations on the harvesting of our resources and on the production of our energy. What is interesting is they are doing it to a lot of the people in a lot of the States that used to support them.

We need to be pushing an ''all of the above'' inclusive approach to the development of energy if we are going to improve our energy security and become a global leader in energy production. It is not the job of the government to pick winners and losers. Yet with all their talk about climate change and the need for Republicans to ''wake up,'' that is precisely what my friends in the other party want to do.

I would hope, given all the challenges facing our Nation—from sluggish economic growth to lackluster jobs creation, to jobs providing less than 30-hour work weeks and on and on and on—my colleagues would devote more of their time trying to find real solutions for the American people instead of trying to please their liberal base with alarmist rhetoric about climate change and false promises about the future of energy production in this country.

We all know that some of their preferred production of energy is not producing. We all know it never will produce enough to solve our problems. We all know people have lost jobs time and time again in this country because of the lack of energy. We all know it has made us a weaker country. Yet we have this blind faith that they are right and everybody else is wrong.

I think jobs are the conversation the American people want us to talk about. Yes, we would like to keep things clean and good and orderly. On the other hand, you can't do that without jobs. You can't do that without people being able to earn a living. You can't run our inner cities and towns without energy. We are giving in to some of the most radical theories I have ever seen in the whole time I have been here.

We ought to get rid of these false promises and we ought to do the very best we can to clean up our environment in every possible way we can without destroying the energy and the energy capacities we know we have and loosen all the jobs that would come with that. That is the conversation the American people want to hear, and I hope eventually that is a conversation we can have in the Senate.

This is an issue where my colleagues are very sincere. I don't want to disparage any of them. On the other hand, in many respects they are sincerely wrong and they are costing America its greatness.

One of the problems I have with our current President is that I don't believe he believes in American exceptionalism, and he is doing so many things that are destroying our exceptionalism. The rest of the world knows it, but our folks here in America are having a rough time grasping it. I think it is a desire to always treat everybody well, to try to support our Presidents, which certainly we ought to try to do, but there is a reason we are starting to slip.

There is a reason the average wage in this country has gone down $4,000 to $5,000. There is a reason why, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation of just a few years ago, 51 percent of the American people are not in the process of paying one dime of income taxes. I am the last one to want them to pay income taxes, those who shouldn't, but, my gosh, you can't run a country this way. We are going to have to start facing the music that the greatest country in the world is losing its nerve, it is losing its verve, and there is no excuse for it. No other country in the world can even compare with us. So why are we doing things that are making us less and less and less and less?

I yield the floor, and 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. VITTER. Madam 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—H.R. 3521

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I rise to again advocate that we move forward, we come together across the aisle as Democrats and Republicans to agree on what we do agree on and to do some things constructively—specifically, to help veterans across our country.

There are 27 community-based VA clinics that are on the books at the Veterans' Administration ready to go. The VA is ready to break ground, move forward, and build these expanded community-based clinics to serve areas around the country and veterans around the country in a much better way. I am particularly interested because 2 of those 27 clinics are in Louisiana, in Lafayette and in Lake Charles.

All of these clinics have gotten stuck in the mud through several rounds of bureaucratic delay at the VA—funding delays, authorization delays, and a dispute about whether moving forward with these clinics was kosher under the budget rules. We have solved all of those problems. We have figured out solutions to all of those problems that satisfies everyone. The House of Representatives has taken those solutions, put them together in a bill and passed it overwhelmingly out of the House with over 400 votes in support—virtually unanimous. Now we are on the Senate floor and all we have to do is take that bill, adopt a simple noncontroversial amendment and pass it through the Senate. No one in the Senate disagrees with the substance of this bill. No one disagrees with the substance of the amendment we would add to this bill. No one disagrees with the importance of moving forward with these 27 VA clinics. Yet we are still finding it difficult to move this simple noncontroversial matter through the Senate. Why? Because, quite frankly, some of our colleagues who have a much bigger, broader veterans package want to hold this hostage for their veterans package. While I applaud their sincerity, I applaud their passion, I think we should agree on what we can agree on and move forward with what we agree on. Let's not get bogged down and defeat 27 very important community-based veterans clinics because there are major and sincere disagreements about the much broader package.

I also think it will build good will to resolve some of those issues and come forward with a compromise version of a larger package if we do that. In that spirit, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3521, which was received from the House; that my amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I appreciate the interest of Senator VITTER in this very important issue. Senator LANDRIEU of Louisiana shares his concern, as do Senators from many States in this country because, as Senator VITTER indicated, this bill will authorize the VA to enter into 27 major medical facility leases in 18 States and Puerto Rico. So this is, in fact, a very big issue.

But as Senator VITTER knows very well, 2 weeks ago this very same provision was part of a comprehensive veterans bill supported by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and virtually every veterans organization in this country because the veterans community is facing a host of problems.

Senator VITTER points out one problem. He is right. But there are many other problems. I say to my friend, we could have resolved this problem 2 weeks ago if I could have had four more Republican votes, including his, to pass this legislation.

What this bill does, and the reason it is supported by millions of veterans all over this country, is that it addresses the major problems facing our veterans community. I say to my friend from Louisiana, and any other Senator, if you are not prepared to stand with veterans in their time of need, don't send them off to war. If you don't want to pay for the care veterans need, don't send them off to war and then tell us it is too expensive to take care of them.

The legislation that again is supported by virtually every major veterans organization in this country, expands the caregivers program, improves and expands dental care, provides advanced appropriations for the VA—something many of us feel is terribly important—takes a major step to end the benefits backlog, deals with the very serious problem of instate tuition assistance for post-9/11 veterans, and addresses the horrible problem that women and men in the military face when they are sexually assaulted. We address that issue as well.

This legislation also addresses the issue of reproductive health. We have 2,300 men and women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and who were wounded in the war in such ways they are unable to have babies. They want families but can't have babies, and so we help address in this bill that issue; whether through in vitro fertilization, adoption or other ways to help them have families. That is what this legislation does.

So I look forward to working with my colleague and friend from Louisiana to get that legislation passed or to sit down and work on a compromise piece of legislation.

I would say to my friend from Louisiana, today you can be a hero. Today you can get your concern passed and the concerns of veterans all over America by supporting my unanimous consent request to pass the bill that came up 2 weeks ago.

Mr. President, I object to Senator VITTER's proposal.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 297, S. 1950; that a Sanders substitute amendment, the text of S. 1982, the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act,

be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The first objection is heard to the request by the Senator from Louisiana.

Is there objection to the request by the Senator from Vermont?

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, on behalf of 43 Members of the Senate, I object based on substantive disagreements about this very broad-based bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, reclaiming the floor and my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. I think it is really regrettable. The Senator from Vermont and I can talk about the substance. I will be happy to talk about the substance of his big bill. But the bottom line is that 43 Members of the Senate disagree with him about serious substantive issues.

Because there is major disagreement—almost half of the Senate, 43 Members of the Senate—he is going to block moving forward with 27 clinics to serve veterans around the country, about which there is no disagreement. On my bill, as amended, there is zero disagreement on the substance of that bill. Because he can't get his way fully on a bigger package, he is going to take the bat and take the ball, and home plate, first base, second, and third, and go home. I don't think this is the approach and spirit in which the American people want us to work. I think the American people want us to agree when we can agree. I think we should bend over to agree in those instances where we can agree and actually accomplish substantive, concrete things. We would be doing that by moving forward separately with these 27 important community-based clinics. And by the way, I think we would be creating a much better environment to continue to work on a compromised broader package.

I commend this approach again to my friend from Vermont. I think we should come together where we agree. I think we should accomplish what we can and continue to work on a broader package. But taking these 27 clinics hostage is not doing that, is not creating an atmosphere which is conducive to progress on a broader package, and is not properly serving the American people.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I would remind my colleague from Louisiana that the vote on that bill was 56 to 41. This is a 15-vote plurality. There is another person who was not here who would have voted for us on that bill, so 57 votes. But because of a Republican request for a budget point of order, we need 60 votes. So a strong majority of the Members in the Senate support this comprehensive legislation. We are three votes shy of passing it. I intend to reach out to the Senator from Louisiana and every other Senator to see whether we get these three votes so we can pass the most comprehensive veterans legislation brought to the floor of the Senate in many decades.

This is not a complicated issue. On Veterans Day and on Memorial Day, every Member of the Senate and House goes back to his or her district and tells veterans just how much they respect them and love them and so forth and so on. That is all fine and well. Speeches are important. But at the end of the day, serving our veterans means a lot more than giving speeches. It means voting for programs that will improve their lives.

I will not disagree with anybody who says veterans programs are often expensive. They are expensive. When somebody goes off to war and comes back without any legs, without any arms, losing their eyesight or their hearing or dealing with TBI—traumatic brain injury—or PTSD—post-traumatic stress disorder—or suffering from sexual assault, it is an expensive proposition to make those folks as well as we possibly can. But, as I said earlier, if we are not prepared to support the men and women who come back from war, don't send them off to war in the first place.

So I very much hope I will be successful in working on an agreement with the Senator from Louisiana and some of my other Republican colleagues so we can do what the veterans community wants us to do.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I spoke last night in anticipation of this all-night session that was going to take place. I was not surprised at the general topics that were covered. There are probably five all together that they were stated over and over. I would like to clarify a couple of things that probably are worthwhile this afternoon.

One is my good friend from California—this is a quote, we took it down—said:

> When 97 to 98 percent of the scientists say something is real, they do not have anything pressing them to say that other than the truth. They do not have any other agenda. They don't work for oil companies. And I will tell you, as chairman of the environment committee, every time the Republicans chose a so-called expert on climate, we have tracked them down to special interest funding, those 3 percent. They know where their bread is buttered.

That is kind of an interesting and a timely statement to make because what they are not telling you—and I am talking about the Senator from California and the other Democrats—is that the hedge fund billionaire and climate activist Tom Steyer plans to spend $100 million through his NextGen PAC. The NextGen PAC is his political action committee. He has made the statement that he is going to be spending $100 million in the midterm elections of 2014 and is going to be looking very carefully to make sure that all of the Democrats go along with his activist agenda.

That was actually a statement that was made, that has been written up. It is all documented. I am going to submit for the RECORD at this point all of the newspaper articles, the Washington Post, the Washington Times, and others that talk about this climate activist Tom Steyer, who is going to be spending $100 million in the next election.

What I would like to do is cover the points that were made. As I say, they were made over and over, different people saying them, the same talking points. I am sure Tom Steyer's people had the talking points well prepared and moveon.org and George Soros and Michael Moore and the Hollywood elites and that crowd all had their talking points to sound real good. I noticed that so many of them were reading those points and were not familiar with the issues.

But last night many of my colleagues pointed to weather as the reason for manmade climate change. Yet they failed to quote meteorologists in the speeches. Let me read just what the meteorologists are saying about climate change.

A recent study by George Mason University reported—that was over 400 TV meteorologists—they reported that 63 percent of the weathercasters believe that any global warming that occurs is the result of natural variations and not human activity. That is a significant 2-to-1 majority.

Another study by the American Meteorological Society last year found that of their members, nearly half did not believe in manmade global warming. Furthermore, the survey found that scientists who professed liberal political views were more likely to proclaim manmade climate change than the rest of their colleagues.

I think we can name names here. Certainly one of the more prominent names is Heidi Cullen. She was with the Weather Channel. She spent most of her time with a background of very liberal thinking, liberal agenda, talking about this until she is no longer there anymore. She is now with one of the groups, the very liberal groups.

This is a good one, a lifelong liberal Democrat. His name is Dr. Martin

Hertzberg. He is a retired Navy meteorologist with a Ph.D. in physical chemistry who also declared his dissent of warming fears in 2008. This is a quote from Dr. Martin Hertzberg:

As a scientist and life-long liberal Democrat, I find the constant regurgitation of the anecdotal, fear mongering clap-trap about human-caused global warming to be a disservice to science. The global warming alarmists don't even bother with data! All they have are half-baked computer models that are totally out of touch with reality and have already been proven to be false.

CNN, not exactly a bastion of conservatism, had yet another of its meteorologists dissent from global warming fears. His name is Chad Myers, a meteorologist for 22 years and certified by the American Meteorological Society, spoke out against anthropogenic climate change on CNN in December of 2008.

He said, ''You know, to think that we could affect weather all that much is pretty arrogant.''

Since they are talking about the weather, here are a few facts that are not mentioned on drought and hurricanes. Several of the people came to the floor during the evening to talk about increase in drought, the increase in hurricanes and all of that. According to NOAA, hurricanes have been in decline in the United States since the beginning of records in the 19th century. The worst decade for major—category 3, 4, 5—hurricanes was in the 1940s. Severe drought in 1934 covered 80 percent of the country. The current one, the drought we went through a year and a half ago was 25 percent of the country.

Then they talked about, last night, the icecaps are melting and all of that. My colleague Senator FEINSTEIN from California pointed to melting icecaps as proof of climate change. Yet reports on what is not melting show a different story. This past December a research expedition of climate scientists got stuck in deep ice in Antarctica. We all remember that. I remember talking about that and showing pictures on the floor when that took place. That was a bunch of people who were going up there to try to solidify their case on global warming. They were stuck in ice for weeks on end. It took a couple of weeks and a couple more icebreakers getting stuck before the research vessel was finally freed.

A paper published in the October Journal of Climate examines the trend of sea ice extent along the east Antarctic coast from 2000 to 2008 and finds a significant increase, average of 1.43. That is 1.5 percent a year of increase of ice in the Antarctic.

Greenland, the IPCC—now, keep in mind, I talked yesterday about the IPCC. That is the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In a minute, I will show how it was discredited. But in Greenland they said—they admitted that in 2001, to melt Greenland the ice sheet would require temperatures to rise by 5.5 degrees Celsius and remain for 1,000 years. The ice sheet is actually growing by 2 percent a year. That is what is going on right now on this very ice sheet. Everyone is concerned about Greenland. Yet it is actually growing, not decreasing.

In January 2010, Time magazine: Himalayan Melting: How a Climate Panel Got it Wrong: ''Glaciergate'' is a black eye for the IPCC and the climate-science community as a whole.

In December of 2008, Al Gore said—this is good. Al Gore said, ''The entire—

That is a little over 5 years ago. Gore said, ''The entire North polar icecap will disappear in 5 years.'' It is now 5 years and 1 month past the deadline, December of 2013, and the Arctic ice is actually doing pretty well. Last month, BBC reported that the Arctic icecap coverage is close to 50 percent more than in the corresponding period in 2012. So contrary to what Al Gore predicted, that it would be gone by now, it did not disappear.

I had a good quote there by Richard Lindzen talking about Gore. This is Richard Lindzen, one of the foremost authorities, scientific authorities on climate anywhere in the world. He is MIT. He has been quoted extensively. He said, talking about Gore:

To treat all changes as something to fear is bad enough. To do it in order to exploit that fear is much worse.

I mentioned last night that the New York Times designated Al Gore as perhaps the first environmental billionaire in the United States. He said the entire North polar icecap would disappear in 5 years. It has actually increased substantially.

Last night they talked about the IPCC is the gold standard of climate science. Senator WHITEHOUSE defended the credibility of the IPCC despite climategate, saying last night:

So after all that, after six published reviews whose results confirmed that there was nothing wrong with the science as a result of these emails—

We are talking about climategate now.

—for people to continue to come to the floor and suggest that the email chains revealed some flaw in the data or some flaw in the science, it's untrue. It's as simple as that. It's just not true.

But we know this is not the case. The emails are very clear that the scientists were manipulating the data to generate a result they wanted. This is what some of the emails disclose: One of the scientists said, and the emails disclosed, that the IPCC was systematically distorting facts, cooking the science of global warming to either cover up data that did not tell the story they wanted everyone to hear and exaggerating the impacts of the changing climate to help drive people—out of fear—into action.

Here are two examples. We have about 12 examples. I have read them all in the past on the floor of the Senate. But here are a couple of examples of how the IPCC was cooking the science. The IPCC claimed the Himalayan glaciers would melt by 2035. Of course it is not true. Yet it was put into the IPCC's fourth assessment report.

The assessment report is a report the IPCC has that the media picks up and the public consumes. According to the Sunday Times, that is in the UK, this claim was based off of a brochure that was used by the World Wildlife Fund to promote global warming activism. They put it on a brochure after finding a paper from a little-known scientist in India.

That scientist was wrong. According to the Times, Himalayan glaciers are so thick and at such a high altitude that most glaciologists believe it would take several hundred years to melt them at the present rate. More alarming, from the East Anglia University's Climatic Research Unit, the CRU, disturbing evidence was revealed that the climatologists had been increasingly cooking the books. One leaked email from 1999—keep in mind, these are the guys who are giving the science to the IPCC.

I've just completed Mike's Nature trick of adding the real temps to each series for the last 20 years, i.e., from 1981 onwards, and from 1961 for Keith's to hide the decline.

In other words, they were falsifying the increase in the temperature. What he is saying is that he changed the numbers to show the warming is happening when it has not happened.

Another e-mail that was revealed in 2009:

The fact is that we can't account for the lack of warming at the moment, and it is a travesty that we can't. Our observing system is inadequate.

Despite this, the IPCC has continued to say global warming is continuing to happen.

The media outcry from these email leaks was surprising because we did not hear as much about it in the United States as we did in the UK and other places. It seemed to be the mainstream press organizations that have been strong partners with the global warming activists, alarmists, that began to question their confidence in the whole premise.

Here are some quotes. Keep in mind these are from legitimate organizations, publications, major publications that are credible.

Christopher Booker of the UK, the Telegraph—one of the largest papers in the United Kingdom—said that what has happened with climate change is they are talking about falsifying the information to make the public believe this is actually happening. They said it is the ''worst scientific scandal of our generation.'' That is very serious, I say to the Presiding Officer, the ''worst scientific scandal of our generation.''

Clive Crook of the Financial Times stated: ''The closed mindedness of these supposed men of science . . . is surprising, even to me. The stink of intellectual corruption is overpowering.'' That was from the Financial Times. We are all familiar with that publication.

A prominent IPCC physicist said: ''Climategate was a fraud on a scale I've never seen.''

U.N. scientist Dr. Philip Lloyd said: ''The result is NOT scientific.''

Newsweek magazine said: ''Once celebrated climate researchers feeling like the used-car salesman.''

''Some of the IPCC's most quoted data and recommendations were taken straight out of unchecked activist brochures.''

George Monbiot is a columnist for the Guardian. He was on the other side of this issue. He was upset because people were finding out the truth and said: ''It is no use pretending that this isn't a major blow. The emails extracted by a hacker from the climatic unit at the University of East Anglia could scarcely be more damaging . . . I'm dismayed and deeply shaken by them . . . I was too trusting of some of those who provided the evidence I championed. I would have been a better journalist if I had investigated their claims more closely.'' He is one of the strongest supporters of global warming.

Last night we heard more and more, and now we get to the rest of the story, and that would be what is most important. I say this is the most important because many years ago—this would have been about 2002, when almost everyone believed the world was coming to an end and it was global warming that was causing it—they all talked about how it must be true. Frankly, I thought it was true at that time until we did some checking to find out what would it cost to regulate greenhouse gases. I mean, even if it were a legitimate problem that was destroying this country, what would it cost?

The first reports we got were from Charles Rivers and from the Wharton School. Some of their economists came up with it. The range is between $300 to $400 billion a year. This is based off of a regulatory threshold of 25,000 tons. This is very tough.

I have a good friend, Senator ED MARKEY, who was in the House with me for quite some time. We disagree on this issue, but the last bill that came up, the last legislation to force us to have a type of cap-and-trade, was based on capping these people who emit 25,000 tons or more. That is based off of the regulatory threshold of 25,000 tons. Only the largest facilities, such as oil refineries and powerplants, would have been affected. But doing by regulation what they cannot do by legislation, they have to do it under the Clean Air Act.

This is kind of under the weeds, but it is very important. I thought the bill was too costly for the American people. It would regulate those who emitted 25,000 tons or more, but the Clean Air Act would regulate those at 250 tons or more. That is every church, every school, every small shop would be covered, apartment buildings in America.

So when you stop and think about it, we have never been able to calculate. No one disagrees with the fact that if we did it through regulation, it would cost between $300 to $400 billion a year. For those people who are listening right now, $300 to $400 billion a year may not mean too much. But every year I calculate, in my State of Oklahoma, how many people, families we have who file a federal tax return. Then I do the math. That would have meant $3,000 to each family in the State of Oklahoma. So it is a big deal. That is what it would cost them.

While they are extremely costly, the agency is busy doing other things that also include other types of regulations. The ozone, for example, their regulation—and it hasn't gone through yet—all 77 of my counties in Oklahoma would be out of attainment. That would be 7,000 jobs lost in my State.

Utility MACT is something that has already been implemented. That is what put coal out of business—$100 billion in cost, 1.65 million jobs.

Boiler MACT is already implemented also. Every manufacturing company has a boiler, and so they would regulate those boilers. The cost of that is $63 billion, costing 800,000 jobs that were lost. That is already implemented.

The BLM fracking regulations would be about $100,000 per well. On fracking, I can remember when hydraulic fracturing was something not many people knew much about. I did because the first hydraulic fracturing took place in my State of Oklahoma. It was 1948.

I remember when the last Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa Jackson, made the statement when I asked her the question live on TV—I said: Is it causing groundwater contamination? She is the one who said there has never been a documented case of groundwater contamination by using hydraulic fracturing.

President Obama, in his effort and his war on fossil fuels, is trying to stop them. We have heard him say several times: Well, we have good, cheap, abundant, plentiful natural gas to take care of our energy needs in America. That part was true, but then the next thing he said was: We have to stop hydraulic fracturing. Without hydraulic fracturing, we can't get 1 cubic foot of gas.

What I have tried to do is let the public know the cumulative impact of all of these regulations. A lot of people think of regulations as only affecting large corporations. If someone talks to Tom Buchanan of the State of Oklahoma—he was recently elected president of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. If we ask him what the most critical thing is for the farmers in the State of Oklahoma, he will say the overregulation by the EPA. He said: Overregulation by the EPA is much more significant to the ag community in Oklahoma and across the country than anything in the farm bill.

So the cumulative impact of all of these regulations so far is about $630 billion annually and about 9 million jobs lost.

I would only say that last night they had a good time talking about these things, and the same story was told over and over using a slightly different slant on it.

But in terms of the cost, this is the reason that they have tried ever since the Kyoto Convention. The first bill was introduced in 2002 and several of them since then. They were never able to pass a bill through the House and the Senate on regulating greenhouse gases because cap and trade is so costly.

But what people have to realize—I know right now as I speak that there are a lot of people out there who really believe global warming is happening, really believe the world is going to come to an end, really believe we are going to have to do something about it, and so we start in the United States. So knowing that these people are out there—and there are even people in my State of Oklahoma who have bought into this—when Lisa Jackson, who at that time—she is not there anymore. She was Obama's pick and was the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. I asked her the question on the record, live on TV in one of our committee hearings—I said: Let's assume that we pass legislation and that we impose the cost of $300 to $400 billion on the American taxpayer. If that is the case and if they did that, would that have the effect of reducing greenhouse gases worldwide? Her answer: No, it wouldn't, because the problem isn't in the United States; the problem is in China and India and Mexico and other places.

Now, you could carry out that argument even further and say that those people who want to do away with emissions and have cap and trade in the United States—that could cause it to have actually more, not less, emissions of CO_2 because we would be chasing our manufacturing base to countries that didn't have any requirements. So if you really believe it, then still it isn't true.

I would end with one more quote. Dr. Richard Lindzen of MIT, whom we talked about 1 minute ago, was asked this question: Why is it that so many of the bureaucrats, the very liberals who want government to be controlled from Washington, want our lives to be controlled from Washington, why is it that they are so concerned with carbon regulations? Richard Lindzen's answer was this: ''Controlling carbon is a bureaucrat's dream. If you control carbon, you control life.''

It is unfortunate. There are a lot of people even in this body who believe we should have much more power in the Senate. I can assure you that the problems we are facing now are problems because of too much power being concentrated in Washington, DC.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CHESAPEAKE BAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I have taken to the floor many times to talk about the Chesapeake Bay—the largest estuary in the Northern Hemisphere, and declared a national treasure by not only President Obama but by several U.S. Presidents.

For the 17 million people who live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, it is part of their life. From the residents of Smith Island, which is the last inhabitable island in the Maryland part of the Chesapeake Bay, to those who enjoy fishing for rockfish in the bay, to its oysters, its crabs, the over 11,000 miles of shoreline created by the Chesapeake Bay, the 150 major rivers that feed into the Chesapeake Bay, and the $1 trillion to the economy, the Chesapeake Bay is truly part of the life of those of us who are privileged to live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

I have spoken about this bay many times because it is being threatened. Over 30 years ago, Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware, along with the EPA and other partners, entered into a Chesapeake Bay agreement.

This has grown to six States, including the Presiding Officer's State of West Virginia, and other governmental entities in the private sector. The Chesapeake Bay agreement has been revisited over time, and the most recent effort to update this agreement was the draft submitted by the Obama administration on January 29 of this year. This draft agreement is what I wish to speak about with my colleagues.

The development of sound policies to restore the Chesapeake Bay has been a top priority of mine over the course of my career in Congress. I have been fortunate to have great partners in Congress representing the Bay States. Together we have worked to develop effective conservation and ecosystem restoration programs in the farm bill, the Water Resources Development Act, the Clean Water Act, and elsewhere in law supporting a variety of conservation and ecosystem approaches across different sectors.

The Army Corps, USDA, and EPA are not the only Federal agencies doing important Chesapeake Bay work. NOAA, USGS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service are also important Federal partners in the broader effort to restore the Bay.

President Obama's May 2009 Chesapeake Bay Executive order recognized both the national interest in restoring the Chesapeake Bay and improving Federal coordination of restoration efforts because of a wide-ranging involvement of different departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The coordination of seven jurisdictions, hundreds of local communities, seven cabinet-level Federal departments, and stakeholders of all stripes have necessitated the development of the Chesapeake Bay agreement to affirm the conservation goals of everyone involved in this effort.

I wish to stress the importance of broad involvement of all stakeholders in the effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay. The populations living and working in the bay watershed must realize we are all in this together. The major stakeholders in regard to our conservation action include farmers. Farming is not only a way of life in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, it is a desirable activity within the Chesapeake Bay watershed for the future of the Chesapeake Bay. But there are certain challenges as a result of farming as it relates to nitrogen in the bay and in the sediments.

Developers. We are proud of the fact people want to live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We have seen a major increase in population. But with that comes the challenge of storm runoff, and we have to do a better job of preventing storm runoff dumping pollution into the bay, and the municipalities which are responsible for the growth of populations have to deal with how they treat wastewater, and the wastewater treatment plants need to be updated so we can have the maximum results in removing the pollution which otherwise would end up threatening the future of the bay.

The Chesapeake Bay agreement outlines a fairly comprehensive approach to continuing efforts to restore the bay which is dependent upon all stakeholders doing their part. The draft agreement is a good outline, but there is room for improvement in the draft agreement as well. I hope that while the agreement is in this period of public comment, the final will be approved.

The Chesapeake Bay program partnership was formed in 1983, when the Governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the EPA signed the first Chesapeake Bay agreement. For more than 30 years these entities have remained committed to the goal of restoring the Chesapeake Bay. As the science has determined and the interest in Bay stewardship has broadened, this partnership has since expanded to become a basin-wide effort where all six States of the basin are now party to the agreement.

Working together to achieve the various goals of the agreement is what will help ensure the Chesapeake Bay we will leave for our children is healthier tomorrow than it is today. The agreement does acknowledge the partnership cannot address every goal in the agreement instantaneously. Certainly some goals may take longer to realize than others, but all the goals are achievable, and some I think should be even more ambitious. They are based upon best science. We think science needs to judge what we can do as far as cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay.

The agreement wisely suggests action be taken in a strategic and cost-effective manner. We want to make sure this is doable. We understand the burdens which can be caused. We want to make sure this is layered in a way which achieves best science results but does it in the most cost-effective manner.

Of the principles laid out in the agreement, I wish to acknowledge the partnership's commitment to transparency and consensus building. We want all stakeholders involved in the process, and we want local involvement. We think local governments know how we can best achieve our results. The goals of the agreement deal with very sensitive issues such as natural land preservation, nutrient pollution reduction, and others.

The process must be fair and open. The strategic development process and achieving the agreement's conservation goals must be devised in an all-inclusive manner which is open to the public so that all are included in the process.

There is a great deal of skepticism in certain communities about the government's role and its actions to protect and restore the bay. I have heard that skepticism from certain constituencies. I have learned that having an open dialog with stakeholders, carefully explaining intentions, listening to concerns, and answering questions goes a long way toward building consensus and acceptance.

The agreement acknowledges the role the bay TMDL plays in achieving the water quality goals of the bay. A majority of the waters of the Chesapeake Bay are within the boundaries of the State of Maryland. Thousands of Maryland watermen make their living on the bay. The property value and tourism draw of communities up and down the Eastern and Western Shores of Maryland, not to mention the Marylanders who swim and fish in the bay, all depend upon a healthy bay.

But there is no degree of action Maryland can take on its own, no matter how drastic, which will improve the bay quality—not without the other five States and the District of Columbia in the watershed doing their part as well. The TMDL assures that all Bay States are coordinated in their efforts to improve bay water quality. The agreement acknowledges the importance of the TMDL.

The TMDL gives us a level playing field so we can make sure all stakeholders in all geographical areas are treated fairly in achieving the goals of reducing pollution in the bay. I support the fisheries goal of the agreement. Restoring the iconic Maryland blue crab in the bay is important for so many reasons. The agreement sets the goal of maintaining a population of 215 female adult crabs through 2025. Blue crabs are a vital part of the food chain throughout the bay's ecosystem and

they are at the heart of the Mid-Atlantic's multibillion dollar seafood industry.

Restoration of native oyster habitat and replenishing the bay's oyster population is critical from both an economic and water quality standpoint. The agreement sets the goals of restoring native oyster habitat and populations to the ten tributaries of the bay by 2025.

As I am sure the Presiding Officer is aware, our oyster population is a fraction of historic levels. The oyster is not only an important cash crop in the bay; it also acts as a filter to the pollution in the bay, restoring bay water quality. Bay oysters are another important seafood commodity for watermen making their living on the bay. Oysters are also important to improving water quality. Oysters are bivalve mollusks which play an important role in reducing nitrogen pollution in the bay.

Oyster populations had been in sharp decline due to the destruction of oyster beds along the seafloor of the bay. Habitat restoration efforts led by the Army Corps, the growth of oyster farming operations, and Virginia and Maryland's efforts are helping oysters rebound across the bay, which is good for the economy and water quality of the bay.

The agreement's wildlife habitat and wetlands restoration goals are, in my opinion, too low. I would encourage the partnership to consider setting more ambitious goals. Wetland restoration is critical to flood protection and water quality improvement as well as providing important duck habitat and fish spawning habitat.

Reauthorizing the North American Wetland Conservation Act, which I am a cosponsor of and was happy to see the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee recently report with unanimous support, will provide additional financial and technical assistance to help achieve improved wetlands conservation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Programs such as the North American Wetland Conservation Act, the Corps' Chesapeake Bay Ecosystem Restoration Program, and the farm bill's Regional Conservation Partnership Program, along with numerous State efforts to restore wetlands and habitats across the six-State region, are why I believe the agreement can do better.

I also believe the agreement's goals to improve fish passage along the bay's rivers and tributaries could be more ambitious. The agreement aims to open an additional 1,000 stream miles to fish passage. The revisions to the Continuing Authorities Program in WRDA will help fund critical dam removal projects around the watershed which will improve fish passage. If the decisions to remove dams and other barriers to fish passage are strategically made, this goal could be far exceeded, which is why I think the goal should be revised and be based upon the execution of strategic fish passage projects. This would include improving eel passage on the Conowingo Dam. I am pleased to know that the dam's operators are aware of and interested in helping us devise practical solutions.

With respect to the agreement's goals on forest buffer and tree canopy, I believe there is room for improvement in the goals the draft agreement sets. The agreement sets the goal of restoring 900 miles of riparian forest per year and expands the urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025. This seems to be low given the opportunity which exists to grow more trees in urban areas because of how desirable trees are to improving the quality of life and character of urban communities and importance of trees to reducing storm water runoff in urban areas.

The agreement sets the goal of protecting an additional 2 million acres of land throughout the watershed. This is critically important to stem poor land-use planning and sprawl while also establishing lands which serve as critical water quality improvement mechanisms.

One omission from this land conservation goal I think is important is to ensure public access to lands conserved by the State, local, and Federal Government. Public-preserved for the purpose of protecting habitat and improving the ecosystem within the watershed is important, but so is providing outdoor recreational access to the public. After all, ensuring public access to conservation lands and encouraging people to experience these lands is critical to building the public's understanding of the environment and developing an appreciation for all conservation efforts happening around the watershed.

In Maryland, my colleague in the House, Congressman SARBANES, has been very instrumental in the leadership of No Child Left Inside. By this we mean the education of our children including getting outdoors to understand the importance of the Chesapeake Bay and understanding what they can do to help the bay. Access to these restoration projects—by the public, by our students, by all—helps build the support base we need to get these programs moving forward and also understanding what we do here in the watershed and the importance it has on the future of the Chesapeake Bay.

Lastly, I wish to speak about a couple issues the agreement does not address. Reducing the presence or improving the secure storage of toxic chemicals in use around the watershed is a growing problem. As the Presiding Officer knows, while the recent chemical spill in West Virginia was not in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the incident does highlight the risk facilities such as the one which failed in Charleston pose to our great water bodies. In the Chesapeake Bay watershed there are dozens of chemical storage facilities and industrial activities which use toxic chemicals on a regular basis. Improving the security and reducing the contamination risks from these facilities should be a part of the Chesapeake Bay agreement.

The agreement also makes no mention of the single greatest threat to the bay and the world over. Adapting to the effects of climate change should also be part of the bay restoration plan. I talked about this earlier today, as many of the Senators who came to the floor to talk about climate change: Rising sea levels pose threats to the hundreds of Chesapeake Bay communities and millions of people who live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Aquatic acidification poses a long-term threat to all aquatic species, including blue crabs, oysters, rockfish, sturgeon, menhaden, and other hallmark species of the bay. If the fish and shellfish go, so does a way of life for many thousands of families around the bay.

Let's deal with these problems. We have a chance in the Chesapeake Bay agreement to be more ambitious in dealing with acidification in our ocean and in the bay. And we must adapt our water infrastructure to handle the effects of more intense weather events in the bay region to reduce the water quality impacts of these events and to protect individuals' property.

The agreement is an important step toward the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Billions have been spent and progress has been made. And I wish to stress that we have made progress. We have done a lot of good things in the Chesapeake Bay. But our resources are large and fragile and face unprecedented pressure, and it is going to continue to take increased resources to restore and protect for future generations. So the good news is we have made progress.

We can do much more. We can preserve the iconic Chesapeake Bay for future generations, so people, our children and grandchildren, can enjoy the fishing, crabbing, swimming, and the sheer beauty of the Chesapeake Bay, and can benefit from its economic importance to our region. We can do this for future generations.

Let's be more ambitious in the Chesapeake Bay agreement. Let's work together, use best science, and be practical. But let's be on a constant path of improving the Chesapeake Bay.

Mr. President, I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DOMESTIC FUEL TAX

Mr. HOEVEN. This morning I spoke on the floor and I talked about energy. I talked about the need for a States

first, all-of-the-above approach to a comprehensive energy plan that will not only produce more energy for our country but will get us to energy independence or energy security within a very short period of time and will also help with environmental stewardship and will help us deploy the technology that will not only produce more energy—and do it in a dependable, cost effective way—but at the same time the same technology as we deploy it will help us produce that energy with better environmental stewardship.

That is the right kind of plan for America. We have legislation that I introduced along with my colleagues both on the Republican side of the aisle and the Democratic side of the aisle to accomplish that plan, including a good friend of mine, a Senator from West Virginia, a Democrat. I am a Republican, but we have been able to work together on legislation that will empower hundreds of billions in private investment into the energy sector to produce more energy more cost-effectively, more independently, more efficiently, more reliably, and with better environmental stewardship because it deploys the new technologies that not only will make a difference in this country, but will be adopted by other countries around the globe.

That means lower-cost energy. That means more energy, and at the same time better environmental stewardship. That is the right approach. That is the right approach to a comprehensive energy policy.

The fact is, we do not just have one bill to do what I am talking about—not just one big, monolithic Federal approach—but rather we have a whole series of bills that would create a step-by-step approach to a comprehensive energy plan for this Nation that would truly create a States first, all-of-the-above approach. That would create more jobs and economic growth. It would create tax revenue to help address our deficit and our debt without raising taxes through economic growth.

It would create more domestic energy, and more domestic energy means national security, not being dependent on oil from the Middle East. This country does not want to be dependent on oil from the Middle East and there is no reason that we should be. Together with our closest friend and ally Canada, we can produce more than enough energy for our needs. That means national security, and as I said, with the new technologies and better environmental stewardship.

As I said, I put forward legislation with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to accomplish just that. Again, this isn't one big, comprehensive 1,000-page bill that you have to pass to understand what is in it. These are individual bills that are very understandable, that are common sense—legislation that includes approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline. As I said this morning, the administration has been reviewing the Keystone XL Pipeline for more than 5 years. This Congress can approve it, and it should.

It includes items such as the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act, which has already been passed by the House. It includes a whole series of bills that would help us to develop a strategic, comprehensive plan and goals to make sure we are producing more energy in this country on public lands both onshore and off.

The Empower States Act makes sure that States have a primary responsibility for regulating hydraulic fracture. Hydraulic fracturing is enabling us to tap new areas of energy that we never thought we would be able to develop.

Coal ash recycling legislation. Together with my good friend from the great State of West Virginia, we have a coal ash recycling bill. This bill not only will help us recycle coal ash for building materials, for building roads, but it will also help make sure that when we landfill coal ash, it is done with good environmental stewardship. That is a win-win.

This is something the EPA is working on. They have to have a solution in place by the end of the year, and we have worked with the EPA to actually come up with something that is clear and understandable and works, not only to make the landfill safer but to make sure we can recycle coal ash in a way that reduces the cost of our roads and our buildings. Again, just another commonsense example of what is in the Domestic Fuels Act.

The Domestic Fuels Act allows marketers, gas stations, to not only sell oil and gas products but actually makes it easier for them to sell renewable fuel as well—ethanol, biofuels, hopefully hydrogen and other fuels of the future. It makes it easier for them to get permitted and to use the same equipment to sell a whole variety of different types of fuels. What does that mean? That means consumer choice. That means more competition to help bring down the price at the pump. Now this is the same kind of comprehensive plan that we developed in my State of North Dakota. We called our energy plan EmPower ND—EmPower North Dakota.

The idea was to unleash all of our energy resources, both traditional and renewable. Our State is now an energy powerhouse for the Nation. The only State that produces more oil for this country now is Texas. We are closing in on a million barrels a day of oil, and producing it in new ways with new techniques that people thought were not possible a few years ago, and with a smaller footprint and better stewardship. That is what the technology does.

When you create an environment where you empower the investment, that technology unleashes the energy and does it with better environmental stewardship. We did that as a State, and we can do it as a country. It builds on the very foundation of how our government works.

The States in our great country are the laboratories of democracy. What I am proposing is that we also make the States the laboratories of energy development. We do that by giving them the primary role in how they develop energy, how they develop their energy resources and how those energy resources are regulated.

So whether it is oil or gas or nuclear or biofuels, hydro, wind, solar, biomass or whatever else may be an area of strength for that State, they decide and they figure out how to develop it. Who will be more concerned about good environmental stewardship than the people who live right there and deal with it every single day?

It is a States first, all-of-the-above comprehensive plan for energy development for this country instead of the current approach, an approach where there is too much regulation, taxation, and restriction by big Federal policies. This one-size-fits-all approach is, in fact, preventing investment in energy development in this country.

I will give you the Keystone XL Pipeline as a great case in point. There is $5.3 billion in investment and not one penny of Federal spending, but $5.3 billion that has been held on the sideline now for more than 5 years. In 2011 the Chamber of Commerce put forward a study. They cited hundreds of projects across the country totaling hundreds of billions of dollars that were being held up that would create energy and jobs and economic activity for our country. If you think about it, you cannot regulate it. The Federal Government cannot regulate our way to a solution—think about it—even if you put out regulations. If the Obama administration could say, OK, only these kind of energies can be produced and they have to be produced this way—even if that worked in this country, what about the rest of the globe?

This is a global issue. So instead of holding up the development and deployment of these new technologies with regulatory barriers, we need to empower that investment. As you empower investment and you produce energy and you deploy new technologies, you get better environmental stewardship.

It doesn't happen in just this country. It will happen in other countries too. Why? Because they will adopt the technology we develop. That is how it works. When somebody develops a better technology, then other companies, other countries adopt it.

So let me contrast what is going on right now. One of the things I worked on both as a Governor and now here in the Senate is getting the Keystone XL Pipeline approved. It has been more than 5 years—more than 5 years—and the administration still refuses to make a decision. That is defeat by delay, sidelining $5.3 billion of private investment that the administration's own studies show will create jobs. The final environmental impact study produced by the Department of State said

that the Keystone XL Pipeline project will create 42,000 jobs without spending a penny of Federal money. The $5.3 billion in private investment would create 42,000 jobs at a time when we need to get the economy growing and creating jobs. It also will create hundreds of millions in revenue that will address the deficit and the debt at the local, State, and Federal level. It will also create hundreds of millions in revenue over many years at a time when we have deficit and debt without raising taxes. It also strengthens national security.

There is no question when you go to the public and say: Do we want to get our oil from the Middle East or would we rather get our oil from right here in the United States and Canada, if we can produce it ourselves and get it from Canada, is that what we want or do we want to continue to rely on the Middle East, obviously that is a pretty easy answer, isn't it?

In a recent public poll performed last week, March 7, by the Washington Post and ABC, two-thirds of Americans support building the Keystone XL Pipeline and 22 percent oppose. After 5 years and study after study, the administration still can't make a decision. Yet two-thirds of Americans know what we need to do. Two-thirds of the American people say: Build the pipeline. What are you waiting for? Only 22 percent oppose it.

The final environmental impact—I believe it is either the fourth or fifth environmental impact study—done by the Obama administration came out and again it showed there was no significant environmental impact. That was released at the end of January.

The inspector general's report that was released at the end of February said there was no conflict of interest by the company hired to do the environmental impact statement. Yet still we wait. There is still no decision. So you wonder why. You look at our economy and you say: Why isn't our economy growing faster? Why isn't our economy stronger? Why isn't unemployment going down? Why is there so much investment capital sidelined? Why aren't businesses growing? Why aren't small businesses growing? Why aren't small businesses across the country hiring people? Then we see regulations which are holding up approvals for more than 5 years. Maybe that is the answer.

America has always been the place where everybody came to do business because it was easier to do business. As a result our economy has always been the greatest economy in the world. When we have a government that can't even make a decision on a regulatory approval to approve a project billions of dollars after its own agency has come out time and time and time again and said there is no reason not to go forward, maybe that is the problem.

Obviously the people of this country know that. That is why when you go out and ask them a commonsense question, they give you a commonsense answer: Build the pipeline. We listened to the arguments about how we can't build the pipeline because of CO_2 emissions because using oil from the oil sands in Alberta, Canada, will create CO_2.

The reality is—and as the environmental impact study done by the State Department clearly shows—you have more CO_2 emissions without the pipeline than you do building it. How does that make sense? How does it make sense to hold it up on the basis of CO_2 emissions when you have more CO_2 emissions without the pipeline than with it?

Of course the net result is instead of having the energy come to the United States, it goes to China. And what do we do? We keep importing oil from the Middle East.

What I am talking about is commonsense legislation. That was just one example. I can give you others.

Earlier this year we passed a bill I put forward with other Members. It is the BLM bill, Bureau of Land Management streamlining bill. It is a simple, commonsense bill. It simply says BLM offices can work across State lines. For example, the BLM office in Miles City, MT, can work across the State line in North Dakota. That just makes sense because we have so much oil activity in our State. Not only can they work in our State, they can also work on the reservation.

We have the three affiliated tribes reservations: Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara. It is a very large reservation in our State with incredible oil activity, but they have to get all these regulatory permits to drill wells too, and the Bureau of Land Management could not keep up in our State or on the reservation. Now they can bring their people from other offices in to help.

When we look at this, it is not just about producing more energy, is it? That is a simple, commonsense act which we passed in both this Chamber and the House. It is now law. It not only helps us produce more energy in our States, such as North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and other places, but it also helps our reservations.

We now have activity on the three affiliated tribes' reservations. They have tremendous employment and tremendous growth. They are getting revenue from their oil wells that they can use for social programs to help needy families, to pay for education, and to use for roads and vital infrastructure.

Tomorrow—along with Senator BARRASSO and Senator ENZI of Wyoming—we will introduce another similar bill that makes it easier to build gas-gathering systems both on reservations and off. Instead of flaring off gas at the wellhead site, you are able to build gathering systems and get that gas to pipelines and get it to market and use it. Again, that is not just about producing more energy; that is an example of better environmental stewardship.

By putting these commonsense measures into place, we create economic activity and more energy, but as I said from the outset, we get better environmental stewardship. I mentioned that the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act is part of that comprehensive plan to have the States first all-of-the-above energy approach for our country; that legislation will help us produce more energy both onshore and offshore on our public lands.

Again, that is good for all the reasons I have identified but think about it in this context too: By producing more energy on public lands, we will also create more revenue for the Federal Government. Without raising taxes, we create more revenue for the Federal Government. That is important to address our deficit and our debt.

We have something else coming up that we are going to have to find a revenue source for; that is, a highway bill. In September the highway bill expires, and we are going to have to have a highway bill. We want a 5-year highway bill that is a very strong, well-funded highway bill to address the infrastructure needs in this country. Whether you talk to Republicans or Democrats in this Chamber, they will tell you we need to address infrastructure across this country.

In order to address infrastructure, we have to have a way to pay for it. How are we going to pay for it? How are we going to pay for that next highway bill? Right now the trust fund doesn't have the money to do it, so we are going to have to find a source. How about we tap into more energy on our Federal lands onshore and offshore? Without raising taxes, we have a revenue source so we can actually pass a 5-year highway bill. That is a long-term revenue source that we can actually use to fund the highway bill and address the infrastructure in this country.

It is about more than energy. This commonsense approach to building an energy plan for our country—and again it is not that big 1,000-page, one-size-fits-all Federal approach where everybody has to do the same thing. It is a step-by-step process to build a comprehensive plan that empowers the States to build on their strengths and make things happen. We can do it. It has all of those benefits. As I mentioned earlier, it even comes down to our national security.

I will close on this point: Think about what is happening in Western Europe. We have a situation where Russia—President Putin has decided he is going to invade Ukraine and he is going to take Crimea and put it under Russian rule and maybe more. We will see. So what do we do? What does the European Union do?

One of the decisions the European Union has to address is the energy situation. They are asking: What is the energy situation in Europe? Right now 30 percent of the natural gas the European Union utilizes comes from Russia and half of that goes through Ukraine.

It is a particularly acute issue for West Germany.

What do they do? Are they going to be willing to get tough with Putin when they are dependent on Russia for their natural gas for their energy? What decision do they make?

The same thing for our country: What decisions do we make when we continue to get our oil from places such as the Middle East and Venezuela? We say no to getting oil from Canada and force our closest friend and ally to turn to exporting that oil to China.

How do we deal with China? How are we dealing in that situation with our allies, such as Canada, that want to work with us, and how are we dealing with countries that have different interests than we do?

All of these things tie together to a good energy plan and a good energy policy. We all want better environmental stewardship, but we want solutions. The American people want solutions. They want commonsense, real solutions to address these problems. We put forward an approach that can make a big difference for our country, and I call on my colleagues to join with me and to work to put that in place for the good of our country today and for future generations.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

TRIBUTE TO SHAUN CAREY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to honor and thank Shaun Carey, who is retiring from his position as Sparks city manager on April 4, 2014.

After serving the city of Sparks for over 20 years, Sparks native Shaun Carey leaves behind an impressive legacy of accomplishments. He played a major role in streamlining city services, in building Golden Eagle Regional Park—one of the largest artificial turf sports complexes in the United States—and in turning an abandoned hole in the ground into the Sparks Marina, a community gathering point and anchor for further development. Mr. Carey has also helped lead city staff in rebranding Sparks as a premier event destination, hosting events in ''downtown'' Victorian Square and throughout the city.

Shaun Carey grew up in Nevada, graduating from Sparks High School in 1975 and receiving his civil engineering degree from the University of Nevada, Reno shortly thereafter. Mr. Carey began his career in public service in 1982 and worked as a civil engineer, traffic engineer, and city engineer throughout the West before he returned to Sparks in 1992 to assume the position of public works director. He held this position for 7 years, becoming assistant city manager in 1999. Just 1 year later, in 2000, he was named City Manager.

Mr. Carey's training as an engineer reflected his desire to create systems designed to improve citizens' lives. This background also explains his longevity and success as a public servant; as he told the Sparks Tribune, ''I got to do things I enjoyed. I got to be a part of building communities and producing things that I found very rewarding.''

Geno Martini, the mayor of Sparks, spoke eloquently of Mr. Carey's contributions to the Silver State, saying, ''I can't find a big-enough word to tell you how I feel about Shaun and the professionalism, dedication, and commitment he has shown for more than two decades . . . [He] has gotten things done, and is largely why so many residents are proud to call Sparks home.''

We thank Mr. Carey for proudly serving his hometown of Sparks and wish him, his wife Jane, and his sons Scott and Pat all the best.

VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, had I been here yesterday, I would have voted for S. 1917, the Victims Protection Act of 2014. This important bill would increase protections for victims of sexual assault in the Armed Forces, while retaining commanders' authority to convene courts martial.

Every allegation, every anecdote, and every instance of sexual assault in our military is unacceptable. An important debate has been taking place in Congress and among our Armed Forces, and I am grateful that we aren't sitting idly by while this problem claims more victims and threatens the integrity and effectiveness of our Nation's military.

We have heard from the victims, and we have recognized that change was needed to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable. With that knowledge, Congress included over 30 reforms in last year's national defense authorization Act, NDAA, including removing the ability of commanders to overturn jury convictions; requiring review of decisions not to refer charges; criminalizing retaliation against victims; and providing special victims' counsel to victims of sexual assault to support and assist them through all proceedings.

The Armed Forces have also instituted major reforms and worked hard to improve the reporting climate for victims. As a result, the Marine Corps, for example, has seen a large increase in sexual assault reporting since initiating a sexual assault prevention and response campaign last year.

I supported the NDAA reforms as well as the measure the Senate passed yesterday. We should give these reforms the opportunity to work before enacting any change that would take the matter out of the chain of command. Some very strong voices agree.

First, according to a congressionally mandated independent panel that examined the role of the commander reported definitively that it would be a mistake to remove the chain of command's authority to convene courts martial. That panel, called the Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel, also found that removing courts-martial authority would not reduce the incidence of sexual assault, increase reporting of sexual assaults, improve the quality of prosecutions, increase the conviction rate, increase confidence among victims about the fairness of the military justice system, or reduce concerns about potential retaliation.

The independent panel also examined our allies' military justice systems in Israel, the UK, Australia, and Canada for comparison and concluded that none of the improvements they witnessed in the reporting of sexual assault in their militaries were connected to the role of the commander. The panel also found that there was no evidence that removing the commander from the decisionmaking process increased reporting of incidences of sexual assault.

Second, Vice Admiral DeRenzi, Judge Advocate General in the U.S. Navy, has spoken eloquently about the issue and underscored the essential role of the commander in solving the problem in testimony before SASC and before the Response Systems Panel. I encourage everyone to read her full testimony before these panels. In addition to urging Congress to retain commanders' authority, it details major reforms implemented in the Navy in the past 3 years and demonstrates the Navy's commitment to eradicating sexual assault from their ranks. I would like to highlight some of her statements for the record.

In her testimony, Admiral DeRenzi said:

''Beyond the immeasurable toll on individual victims, sexual assault is an existential threat to our core values and directly impacts operational readiness and unit cohesion. This is rightfully recognized as a leadership issue, not merely a legal issue. Exemplifying this commitment, the Navy implemented a multi-faceted, commander driven approach to address awareness and training, prevention, victim response, and accountability.''

''Permanent, effective change must be implemented through our commanders.''

''Additionally, any legislation must retain the commander's authority over

his or her Sailors. Commanders are responsible and accountable for the safety, health and welfare of their people; commanders must have authority commensurate with this responsibility, and that includes the authority to maintain good order and discipline.''

My commitment to taking decisive action when necessary to ensure the security and success of our men and women in uniform had me support the reforms in the most recent NDAA and support Senator MCCASKILL's bill. Taken together, these reforms meaningfully will change how our Armed Forces address the scourge of military sexual assaults, but they do so in a way that recognizes the unique purpose of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and ensures that our commanders have the tools they need to facilitate that much needed, long-overdue change.

REMEMBERING THOMAS EDWARD

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas Edward ''Ed'' Braswell, Jr., and I offer my sincerest condolences to his family. Two former chairmen of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sam Nunn and John Warner, joined in expressing their gratitude for Mr. Braswell's exemplary service at a recent committee hearing.

Mr. Braswell joined the Armed Services Committee staff in 1953 and served as staff director and chief counsel to the committee under the leadership of two of the titans of the Senate—Richard Russell and John Stennis—for 23 years. Mr. Braswell served the committee from the beginning of the Eisenhower Presidency to the end of Gerald Ford's, helping see the committee through most of the Cold War and all of the Vietnam war and its aftermath. As chief counsel to the committee, Mr. Braswell helped to write the first of our annual National Defense Authorization Acts in 1962, and stayed on long enough to play a key role in the next 14 NDAAs, helping start a tradition of legislative accomplishment that continues to this day.

The Armed Services Committee has been blessed over the years with a number of staff members who have served the committee for a period of decades, dedicating their careers to the committee, the Congress, our national security, and our men and women in uniform and their families. Our staffers work behind the scenes, providing us with the informed advice that we need as we consider the myriad of national security issues facing the Department of Defense and the Congress. The long hours and large workloads required for such a career often require significant sacrifices by both our staffers and their families. Without the advice and assistance of these committed public servants, the business of the Senate could not be carried out.

Ed Braswell began his career by serving in the old Army Air Corps during World War II. He went on to go to Harvard Law School and worked briefly for the Department of Justice before joining the committee staff. In addition to his hefty commitments in the U.S. Senate, Mr. Braswell also made time to give back to his community. He served as the chairman of the Alexandria Planning Commission for more than 30 years and was instrumental in many of the commission's historic preservation efforts.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in recognizing the mighty contributions of our staff members, both past and present. It is the hard work and dedication of individuals like Ed Braswell who make our work possible, and for that we are very grateful.

2014 PARALYMPIANS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I wish to recognize the impressive accomplishments of the New Hampshire athletes who will be representing the United States this month in the 2014 Winter Paralympics in Sochi, Russia.

These athletes are an inspiration to all of New Hampshire and athletes around the country. They have exhibited incredible dedication to their respective sports and have proven their remarkable abilities in competitions nationally and internationally. A selection to the U.S. Paralympic team is a great honor and a fitting reward for their years of hard work and training.

With access to the unparalleled beauty and terrain of the White Mountains, thousands of miles of trails, and nearly 1,000 lakes, Granite Staters are at home on the snow, on the ice and in the air.

New Hampshire is proud to acknowledge our State's Paralympians and is excited to show the world their talents during the Sochi games.

Taylor Chace of Hampton Falls, NH will be competing in sled hockey. A 3-time Paralympian, a member of the defending Paralympic gold medal sled hockey team and reigning top defenseman from the 2010 Paralympic Games, Taylor will hopefully help Team USA win the gold medal again.

Chris Devlin-Young of Bethlehem, NH will be competing in alpine skiing. As a five-time member of Team USA and 4-time Paralympic medalist, we are excited to see Chris compete again on the Paralympic stage and hope that he can regain the podium in Sochi.

Tyler Walker of Franconia, NH will be competing in alpine skiing. We are rooting for Tyler who is representing Team USA for the third time, and are hopeful that his previous Paralympic experience and recent successes at the World Cup and U.S. Paralympics Alpine Skiing National Championships will translate into victory this year in Sochi.

Each member of the U.S. Paralympics team has overcome incredible challenges and with their resolve, hard work and courage, they represent the best of our Nation.

It is my honor to congratulate these New Hampshire athletes. I wish each of them, and all of Team USA, the best of luck as they seek to bring home the gold at the 2014 Sochi Winter Paralympics.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE DAVIS, JR.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished public servant and deacon, Mayor Willie Davis, Jr. Mayor Davis began his tenure as Mayor in 1992, though evidence of his service begins much sooner. During the Korean Conflict, Mayor Davis served the country he loved as a member of the United States Army. He also happily served Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church as a diligent and hard-working deacon, treasurer, and Sunday school teacher for over 20 years.

Mayor Willie Davis, Jr. devoted his career to building up his city of Farmerville and continuing to expedite its economic development. During his four terms as Mayor of Farmerville, Mayor Davis was instrumental in constructing the Farmerville Recreation Center which now bears his name. He also helped to build new police and fire complexes and led the expansion of ConAgra Poultry facilities into Farmerville.

Perhaps Mayor Davis' most memorable impression came from his relationships with the constituents that he served, and even those that he did not. Mayor Davis met no strangers; he was a mentor to many, an example to others, and a friend to all. Mayor Davis' motto and the words that he lived by, ''May the work I've done, speak for me,'' became more than just his campaign slogan. Let us remember his words as we reflect on his life, the great works that filled it, and his impact on Farmerville and the entire State of Louisiana.

Mayor Davis has been and continues to be an inspiration to all those who have benefitted from his 16 year career as Mayor of Farmerville and his decades of service to his church and community. It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me along with Mayor Willie Davis Jr.'s family in recognizing the life and many accomplishments of this incredible Mayor, mentor, and deacon, as well as his lasting impact throughout the Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

KCAM RADIO

• Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, 50 years ago KCAM AM Radio 790 in Glennallen, AK, began airing its signal. Today I commend this remarkable achievement.

KCAM signed on the air March 27, 1964, the day of the magnitude 9.2 Good Friday Earthquake that devastated Anchorage and caused a tsunami that wiped out Valdez and other coastal communities. The community of

Glennallen also felt the effects of the quake.

KCAM had not yet received Federal Communications Commission permission to broadcast, but since their tower was undamaged, the Civil Defense Authority asked the station to go live under Emergency Orders. They signed on and kept residents, emergency workers, and those fleeing the damaged areas up-to-date.

It was quite a beginning for a shoestring station that was founded five decades ago by the late Vince Joy. In 2014, the station is still going strong with a state-of-the-art studio, reaching listeners throughout the Copper River Valley via the airwaves and online streaming.

Along the way, KCAM has earned awards from the Associated Press and was named Inspirational Station of the Year by Skylight Network and Small Market Station of the Year by Focus on the Family.

I want to extend my congratulations to the current crew at the station, including president and manager Scott Yahr, program director Michelle Eastty, special projects manager Roger Bovee, and countless other staff and interns over the years who helped keep it going.

As part of their celebration, a newly released book commemorates 50 years of uninterrupted operation by chronicling stories from listeners who have been affected by the broadcasting and reprinting their photos. Anyone who has lived in a small town knows that a radio station is often at the center of the fabric of the community. Such is the case with KCAM, which not only provides music, news, weather, sports, talk shows, and entertainment, but also sends personal messages and makes community announcements.

I send my best wishes to my friends at KCAM Radio, the ''Voice of the Copper River Valley,'' as they observe their anniversary in April 2014.●

REMEMBERING JEFF BAYLESS

● Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Jeff Bayless. Jeff was a senior captain in the Anchorage Fire Department. He was born and raised Alaskan, and lived his entire life bettering our great State. Jeff began his road to serve in 1986 when he became a certified State of Alaska EMT. He then went on to complete paramedic training, and began serving with the Mat-Su Borough EMS and the Central Mat-Su Fire Department.

In 1991, Jeff was hired by the Anchorage Fire Department. And in 1995 when the Fire Department Emergency Medical Services and Fire Operations merged, Jeff made the move from paramedic to firefighter. In May of 2005, Jeff's steadfast dedication was recognized when he was promoted to senior fire captain. He served at Fire Station 9 in South Anchorage and Fire Station 11 in Eagle River.

Although a hero in is chosen occupation, Jeff was also a champion in his community. As a North Star Bible Camp board member, a youth instructor, and with his involvement in the Alaska Fallen Firefighters Memorial Committee, he was a pillar of leadership and a stalwart example of selfless service.

Jeff died after participating in a training activity on Friday March 7, 2014. He will be sorely missed. His commitment to God, family, and community will be felt for generations to come. Jeff Bayless is truly an Alaskan hero, and we mourn with his wife, Gail, his entire family, and his brothers and sisters in the Fire Department.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:43 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2019. An act to eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 4152. An act to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

S. 2110. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, 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–4860. A communication from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4861. A communication from the Acting Chairman, Consumer Product and Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4862. A communication from the Director, Mississippi River Commission, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Report for calendar year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4863. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the requirements of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4864. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's annual report concerning its compliance with the Sunshine Act for calendar year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4865. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administrator's Semiannual Management Report to Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4866. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to financial integrity for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4867. A communication from the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4868. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–281, ''Annie's Way Designation Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4869. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–280, ''Closing of a Public Alley in Square 150, S.O. 13–10218, Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4870. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–279, ''Expedited Partner Therapy Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4871. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report from the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013 and a report entitled ''Compendium of Unimplemented Recommendations''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4872. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4873. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law,

the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4874. A communication from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2013 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4875. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, 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 during adjournment in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4876. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4877. A communication from the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of three recommendations and one statement adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 59th Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4878. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pay for Senior-Level and Scientific or Professional Positions'' (RIN3206–AL88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4879. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–288, ''LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4880. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–289, ''Public Service Commission and People's Counsel Terms of Service Harmonization Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4881. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–290, ''Electric Company Infrastructure Improvement Financing Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4882. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''United States and Area Median Gross Income Figures'' (Rev. Proc. 2014–23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4883. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Method Changes for Tangible Property Disposition'' (Rev. Proc. 2014–17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4884. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Withholding of Tax on Certain U.S. Source Income Paid to Foreign Persons and Revision of Information Reporting and Backup Withholding Regulations'' ((TD 9658) (RIN1545–BL18)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 361. A resolution recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression in the People's Republic of China and urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to take meaningful steps to improve freedom of expression as fitting of a responsible international stakeholder.

S. Res. 365. A resolution deploring the violent repression of peaceful demonstrators in Venezuela, calling for full accountability for human rights violations taking place in Venezuela, and supporting the right of the Venezuelan people to the free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 375. A resolution concerning the crisis in the Central African Republic and supporting United States and international efforts to end the violence, protect civilians, and address root causes of the conflict.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 376. A resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

S. Res. 377. A resolution recognizing the 193rd anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1410. A bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1675. A bill to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Nominee: Joseph W. Westphal.

Post: Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the Pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: None.
3. Children and Spouses: James Westphal: None; Candice Westphal: None; Heather Miele: None; Anthony Miele: None; Amy Stewart: None; Tavis Stewart: None; Lindsay Westphal: None; Xavier Keutgen.
4. Parents: James W. Westphal: Deceased: Margaret Westphal: Deceased.
5. Grandparents: Guillermo Westphal: Deceased; Lidia Westphal: Deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Arthur Westphal; $560.00, 2012, Act Blue; $1120.00, 2013, Act Blue; Laura Westphal: N/A.
7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

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*Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait.

Nominee: Douglas Alan Silliman.

Post: Kuwait:

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: Catherine Raia Silliman, none.
3. Children and Spouses: Benjamin Douglas Silliman unmarried; none; Zachary John Silliman unmarried, none.
4. Parents: Robert Harvey Silliman, none; Elsie Pearl Silliman, deceased.
5. Grandparents: Chauncy Henry Silliman—deceased; Mildred Silliman—deceased; Roy Homer Skidmore—deceased; Pearl Bieneman Skidmore—deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Gregory Scott Silliman, none; Mary Adelsberger, none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: none.

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*Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica.

Nominee: Luis G Moreno.

Post: Jamaica.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: $200/$100, 2008/2012, Obama.
2. Spouse: N/A.
3. Children and Spouses: N/A.
4. Parents: N/A.
5. Grandparents: N/A.
6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A.
7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

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*Mark Gilbert, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Independent State of Samoa.

Nominee: Mark D. Gilbert.

Post: New Zealand and the Independent State of Samoa.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report if complete and accurate.)

Contributions, donee, date, and amount:

Mark Gilbert: DWS PAC, 04/22/09, $2500; ACTBLUE, 04/26/09, $4800; Evan Bayh Committee, 04/26/09, $2400; Evan Bayh Committee, 04/26/09, $2400; Evan Bayh Committee, 3/10/

2010, −$2400; Paul Hodes for Senate, 12/29/09, $2400; Robert Wexler for Congress Cmte, 03/21/09, $2400; Kendrick Meek for Florida INC, 12/31/09, $1000; DNC 03/31/09, $7600; DNC, 06/23/09, $7600; DNC, 10/01/09, $15200; Ted Deutch for Congress, 12/29/09, $2400; Klein for Congress, 03/21/09, $2400; Michael Bennet, 09/30/10, $500; Allen Boyd for Congress, 04/22/10, $2400; Jack Conway for Senate, 09/30/10, $1000; DCCC, 03/31/10, $2500; DNC, 02/25/10, $7600; DNC, 03/24/10, $7600; DNC, 04/01/10, $15200; Lori Edwards Campaign Cmte, 08/11/10, $500; Joe Garcia for Congress, 10/13/10, $1000; Paul Hodes for Senate, 09/21/10, $2400; Patrick J Murphy for Congress, 03/30/10, $1000; Patrick J Murphy for Congress, 09/23/10, $1000; Friends of Schumer, 03/31/10, $1000; Kendrick Meek for Florida INC, 03/31/10, $500; Kendrick Meek for Florida INC, 06/24/10, $541; Kendrick Meek for Florida INC, 09/21/10, $2400; Kosmas for Congress, 03/30/10, $1000; Suzanne Kosmas, 04/14/10, $1400; Martha Coakley for Senate, 01/15/10, $1000; Friends of Harry Reid, 10/15/10, $2400; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, 02/08/10, $2400; Klein for Congress, 06/23/2010, $2400; Berkley for Senate, 12/30/11, $2500; McCaskill for Missouri, 04/26/11, $2500; McCaskill for Missouri, 11/25/11, $2500; Bill Nelson for U.S. Senate, 06/21/11, $2500; Bill Nelson for U.S. Senate, 06/21/11, $2500; Ben Cardin for Senate, 03/29/11, $1000; Obama Victory Fund, 04/04/11, $5000; Kaine for Virginia, 04/05/11, $2500; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, 06/21/11, $2500; DNC, 02/03/11, $30800; Swing State Victory Fund, 12/21/11, $9200; Berkley for Senate, 05/23/12, $2500; Keith Fitzgerald for Congress, 09/25/12, $250; Joe Garcia for Congress, 09/25/12, $250; Joe Kennedy for Congress, 03/19/12, $1000; Klobuchar for Minnesota 2018, 02/21/12, $1000; Elizabeth for MA inc, 02/09/12, $2500; Hillary Clinton for President, 06/07/12, $1050; Gillibrand for Senate, 02/29/12, $500; Friends of Sherrod Brown, 09/25/12, $250; Montanans for Tester, 09/25/12, $250; Obama Victory Fund, 09/12/12, $1000; Tammy Baldwin for Senate, 03/28/12, $1000; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, 09/30/12, $1848; Lois Frankel for Congress, 05/29/12, $2500; Friends of Patrick Murphy, 05/29/12, $2500; Ted Deutch for Congress, 03/28/12, $500; Swing State Victory Fund, 01/23/12, $6600; Swing State Victory Fund, 02/18/12, $10000; Swing State Victory Fund, 02/29/12, $14200.

Nancy Gilbert: Kosmas for Congress, 05/23/09, $500; Patrick Murphy for Congress, 05/23/09, $2400; DNC, 10/28/09, $5000; Ted Deutch for Congress Cmte, 12/29/09, $2400; Kosmas for Congress, 08/06/10, $1900; FL Victory Fund, 09/26/10, $2400; Ron Klein, 08/04/10, $2400; Kendrick Meek for Florida INC, 08/14/10, $1800; DNC, 04/30/10, $15200; DNC, 11/21/10, $15200; DNC, 12/6/10, −$25; Ron Klein for Congress, 09/26/10, $2400; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, 11/25/11, $2500; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, 12/13/11, $2500; Friends of Patrick Murphy, 12/30/11, $2500; Kaine for Virginia, 11/08/11, $2500; Nelson for U.S. Senate, 10/21/11, $2500; Nelson for U.S. Senate, 10/21/11, $2500; Obama for America, 05/10/11, $5000; Obama Victory Fund, 05/10/11, $30800; Swing State Victory Fund, 12/21/11, $9200; Shelly Berkley for Senate, 08/13/12, $1000; McCaskill for Missouri, 05/23/12, $2500; Lois Frankel for Congress, 09/21/12, $2500; Swing State Victory Fund, 03/21/12, $30800; Dollars for Democrats, 06/04/12, $250; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, 09/30/12, $1848.

Danielle Gilbert (daughter): Barack Obama, 05/15/11, $250.

Karen Gilbert (sister): Barack Obama, 10/10/12, $200; Barack Obama, 10/28/12, $200; DNC, 5/23/13, $500.

Jeffrey Gilbert (brother): Debbie Wasserman Schultz, 09/26/11, $200; Barack Obama, 07/25/11, $250.

Doris Brooks (mother-in-law): DNC, 04/21/10, $1500; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, 11/29/11, $250; Barack Obama, 05/06/11, $2000; Barack Obama, 09/13/12, $2200.

*John L. Estrada, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Nominee: John Learie Estrada.

Post: Trinidad & Tobago.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: $250.00, 5/12/2012, John L. Estrada; $400.00, 10/16/208, John L. Estrada; $400.00, 01/29/2013, John L. Estrada.
2. Spouse: None.
3. Children and Spouses: None.
4. Parents: None.
5. Grandparents: None.
6. Brothers and Spouses: None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

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*Maureen Elizabeth Cormack, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Nominee: Maureen E. Cormack.

Post: Bosnia and Herzogovina.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: William E. Cormack (None).
3. Children and Spouses: Elizabeth J. Cormack (None); Margaret K. Cormack (None); William G. Cormack (None).
4. Parents: Girard Lynch (deceased); Elizabeth Lynch (deceased).
5. Grandparents: Robert and Elizabeth DiVall (deceased); Jerald and Molly Lynch (deceased).
6. Brothers and Spouses (none).
7. Sisters and Spouses (none).

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*Matthew H. Tueller, of Utah, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Yemen.

Nominee: Matthew H. Tueller.

Post: Sanaa.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: DeNeece G. Tueller: none.
3. Children and Spouses: Marie Amara Tueller: none. Kyle Newkirk: none. Margaret Tueller Proffitt: none. Clark Proffitt: none. David G. Tueller: none. Ayae T. Tueller: none. Daniel B. Tueller: none. Christian M. Tueller: none.
4. Parents: Blaine C. Tueller: $100, 8/4/2010, Democratic Party of Utah County; Jean Marie Tueller: none.
5. Grandparents: Lamont Tueller—deceased, none; Elva C. Tueller—deceased, none; Leland Heywood—deceased, none; Marie E. Heywood—deceased, none.
6. Brothers and Spouses: James B. Tueller, none. Beth D. Tueller, none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Jan T. Lowman, none. Winfield N. Lowman, none. Anna T. Stone, $185, 10/2008, Barack Obama. Bernell Stone, $200, 8/2008, Claralyn Hill, UT; $200, 06/2008, Common Dream. Marie T. Emmett: none. Chad Emmett: none. Diane T. Pritchett: $1000, 10/2008, Barack Obama. Lant H. Pritchett: $4514, 2008, Barack Obama; $1000, 2008, Obama Victory; $1000, 2008, DNC. Martha T. Barrett: none. Jeff Barrett: none. Elisabeth T. Dearden: none. Kirk Dearden: $100, 2008, Barack Obama. Rachel Tueller: none. Jeanne T. Krumperman: none. Paul Krumperman: none.

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*Suzan G. LeVine, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Nominee: Suzan Gail LeVine.

Post: Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Nominated: January 30, 2014.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions (timeframe): January 2010–February 2014).

Self & Spouse

Donor, recipient, date, amount:

Suzan LeVine: Patty Murray, 7/17/2010, $1,875; Murray Victory 2010, 10/15/2010, $500; Obama Victory Fund 2012, 4/27/2011, $1,000; Gabrielle Giffords, 6/22/2011, $250; Obama Victory Fund 2012, 9/13/2011, $35,800; Obama Victory Fund 2012, 9/17/2011, $(1,000); Cantwell-Warren 2012, 11/28/2011, $1,250; Swing State Victory Fund, 12/15/2011, $9,200; Obama Victory Fund 2012, 1/20/2012, $30,800; Maria Cantwell, 1/28/2012, $2,500; Maria Cantwell, 1/28/2012, $875; Tim Kaine, 3/23/2012, $500; Tim Kaine, 3/23/2012, $3,000; Tammy Baldwin, 5/29/2012, $125; Suzan DelBene, 6/13/2012, $1,000; Obama Victory Fund 2012, 7/27/2012, $500; Jon Tester, 8/21/2012, $2,500; Dennis Heck, 9/11/2012, $1,000; Derek Kilmer, 9/17/2012, $2,500; Tim Kaine, 9/30/2012, $2,000; Americans United for Change, 10/18/2012, $3,200; Lon Johnson, 11/4/2012, $500; Jeanne Shaheen, 2/12/2013, $2,000; Mark Begich, 2/20/2013, $2,000; Ed Markey, 3/6/2013, $2,000; Patty Murray, 3/5/2013, $1,000; Democratic National Committee, 3/29/2013, $32,400; Patty Murray, 4/12/2013, $500; Patty Murray, 4/12/2013, $500; Suzan DelBene, 6/1/2013, $2,000; Mark Warner, 6/18/2013, $1,500; Bruce Braley, 5/31/2013, $2,000; Maria Cantwell, 5/31/2013, $1,000.

Eric LeVine: Obama Victory Fund, 11/29/2011, $35,800; Swing State Victory Fund, 12/17/2011, $9,200; Obama Victory Fund, 1/24/2012, $30,800; Jay Inslee, 1/25/2012, $3,600; Maria Cantwell, 1/30/2012, $2,500; Maria Cantwell, 1/30/2012, $2,500; Derek Kilmer, 7/28/2012, $500; Derek Kilmer, 9/24/2012, $2,000; Tim Kaine, 10/1/2012, $1,500; Suzan DelBene, 10/1/2012, $2,500; Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, 11/1/2013, $32,400.

Remainder of the family:

Name, amount, date, donee:

Children—Sidney LeVine: None (he's 11 yrs old).

Children—Talia LeVine: None (she's 8 yrs old).

Parent—Phyllis Davidson: $200, 8/27/2012, Obama Victory Fund; $150, 10/17/2012, Obama Victory Fund.

Parent—Maurice Davidson: Deceased.

Grandparent—Louis Davidson: Deceased.

Grandparent—Tillye Davidson: Deceased.

Grandparent—Phillip Fox: Deceased.

Grandparent—Helen Fox: Deceased.

Brother—Phillip Davidson: None.

Sister-in-Law—Ruth Davidson: $1,000, 7/22/2011, Obama Victory Fund.

Sister—Hanna Fox: None.

Brother-in-Law—Edward Gormley: None.

Brother—Samuel Davidson: None.

Sister-in-Law—Margaret Klopf Garet White: None.

*Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs).

*Peter A. Selfridge, of Minnesota, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service.

*Robert A. Wood, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament.

*Deborah L. Birx, of Maryland, to be Ambassador at Large and Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally.

*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.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2103. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. LEE, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. CORKER):

S. 2104. A bill to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BURR, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. JOHANNS):

S. 2105. A bill to prohibit the Federal funding of a State firearms ownership database; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin):

S. 2106. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the individual health insurance mandate not apply until the employer health insurance mandate is enforced without exceptions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2107. A bill to increase students' and borrowers' access to student loan information within the National Student Loan Data System, and to encourage improved outreach to and communication with borrowers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2108. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage teachers to pursue teaching science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects at elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 2109. A bill to eliminate duplicative, outdated, or unnecessary Congressionally mandated Federal agency reporting; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2110. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 378. A resolution condemning illegal Russian aggression in Ukraine; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 379. A resolution congratulating the Pennsylvania State University IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (" THON") on its continued success in support of the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Res. 380. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 381. A resolution congratulating the athletes from the United States who participated in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games as members of the United States Olympic Team; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 192

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 192, a bill to enhance the energy security of United States allies, and for other purposes.

S. 257

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 257, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require courses of education provided by public institutions of higher education that are approved for purposes of the educational assistance programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to charge veterans tuition and fees at the in-State tuition rate, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to add Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and national observance.

S. 452

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 452, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the incidence of diabetes among Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 775

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive for the installation and maintenance of mechanical insulation property.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate.

S. 907

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 907, a bill to provide grants to better understand and reduce gestational diabetes, and for other purposes.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2018.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 1091

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1091, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 1156

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1156, a bill to amend the Higher Education Opportunity Act to add disclosure requirements to the institution financial aid offer form and to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make such form mandatory.

S. 1318

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care, to amend title XVIII of such Act to modify the requirements for diabetic shoes to be included under Medicare, and for other purposes.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers.

S. 1694

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1694, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1704

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1704, a bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. 1803

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1803, a bill to require certain protections for student loan borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 1808

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1808, a bill to prevent adverse treatment of any person on the basis of views held with respect to marriage.

S. 1811

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1811, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit voice communications through mobile communication devices on commercial passenger flights.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 1893

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1893, a bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1908

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 2024

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2024, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of ''marriage'' and ''spouse'' for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2024, supra.

S. 2046

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2046, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiaries coordinated care and greater choice with regard to accessing hearing health services and benefits.

S. 2062

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2062, a bill to authorize Members of Congress to bring an action for declaratory and injunctive relief in response to a written statement by the President or any other official in the executive branch directing officials of the executive branch to not enforce a provision of law.

S. 2069

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2069, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and modify the credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers.

S. RES. 348

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 348, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 365

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 365, a resolution deploring the violent repression of peaceful demonstrators in Venezuela, calling for full accountability for human rights violations taking place in Venezuela, and supporting the right of the Venezuelan people to the free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 378—CONDEMNING ILLEGAL RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 378

Whereas the recent unprovoked Russian military occupation of the Crimea region of Ukraine, and further military threats against additional Ukrainian territory, are an affront to international norms and agreements and a threat to global peace and security;

Whereas, under President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Federation has a history of bullying neighboring countries in an attempt to rebuild Russian dominance on its borders—often under the guise of protecting Russian

citizens—including forcibly seizing the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of the independent Republic of Georgia in 2008;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to illegally occupy South Ossetia and Abkhazia and has erected fences along administrative boundary lines and permanent military bases in violation of the cease fire agreement negotiated with the European Union;

Whereas, during 2013, then-President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych faced similar Russian coercion to not sign a long-negotiated Association Agreement with the European Union, including threats to gas contracts, the supply of which the Russian Federation turned off in 2006 and 2009;

Whereas, in November 2013, President Yanukovych abruptly canceled plans to sign the Association Agreement, saying Ukraine could not afford to sacrifice trade with the Russian Federation as a result;

Whereas, for three ensuing months, hundreds of thousands of protesters in Ukraine endured cold and government harassment and violence to protest the decision and demand closer ties to the West;

Whereas, on February 20, 2014, Ukrainian security forces, including heavily armed snipers, fired on demonstrators in Kyiv, leaving dozens dead and the people of Ukraine reeling from the most lethal day of violence since the Soviet era, and many of Yanukovych's political allies, including the mayor of the Kyiv, resigned from his governing Party of Regions to protest the bloodshed;

Whereas, on February 22, 2014, the Ukrainian parliament found then-President Yanukovych unable to fulfill his duties, exercised its constitutional powers to remove him from office, and set an election for May 25, 2014, to select his replacement;

Whereas, amid Ukraine's economic hardships, President Yanukovych amassed a lavish secret estate that included a private zoo, exotic gardens, numerous automobiles, and a tall ship;

Whereas, on February 27, 2014, heavily armed soldiers without identification or insignia began securing key facilities in the Crimea, including its regional parliament and two airports, and in the ensuing days encircled Ukrainian military facilities and gained effective control of the region;

Whereas the military forces are clearly Russian troops, and on March 1, 2014, President Putin sought and received rubber stamp parliamentary approval to use military force against greater Ukraine, having argued that the Government of the Russian Federation acted because of the ''threat of violence from ultranationalists'';

Whereas there has been no credible evidence of serious threats to Russian citizens in Crimea or elsewhere in Ukraine, and the Russian Federation's military invasion has been widely condemned internationally;

Whereas the Russian Federation, as a signatory to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, reaffirmed its commitment to Ukraine, to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine, to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, to refrain from economic coercion to subordinate Ukraine to Russia's interests, and to consult in the event a situation arises that raises a question concerning these commitments;

Whereas, in 1997, the Russian Federation and Ukraine signed a friendship treaty, during which time Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in Kyiv, ''We respect and honor the territorial integrity of Ukraine.'';

Whereas the Russian Federation, as a participating state in the Final Act of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1975 (Helsinki Final Act), committed to respect the sovereign equality and individuality of other participating states, including the right of every state to territorial integrity and to freedom and political independence, to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, to regard as inviolable all one another's frontiers as well as the frontiers of all states in Europe, and to refrain from making each other's territory the object of military occupation;

Whereas, under United Nations Charter Article 2, all members shall settle international disputes by peaceful means in a manner that international peace and security are not endangered and refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state;

Whereas President Putin himself wrote in 2013, ''Under current international law, force is permitted only in self-defense or by the decision of the Security Council. Anything else is unacceptable under the United Nations Charter and would constitute an act of aggression.'';

Whereas the North Atlantic Council stated that Russian military action against Ukraine is a breach of international law and contravenes the principles of the NATO-Russia Council and the Partnership for Peace and that Russia must respect its obligations under the United Nations Charter and principles of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), on which peace and stability in Europe rest;

Whereas leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States and the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission condemned the Russian Federation's clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, in contravention of the Russian Federation's obligations under the United Nations Charter and its 1997 basing agreement with Ukraine;

Whereas, on February 28, 2014, President Barack Obama stated that the United States is ''deeply concerned by reports of military movements taken by the Russian Federation inside of Ukraine'' and that it ''would be a clear violation of Russia's commitment to respect the independence and sovereignty and borders of Ukraine, and of international law''; and

Whereas President Obama pledged that ''the United States will stand with the international community in affirming that there will be costs for any military intervention in Ukraine'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the unprovoked and illegal Russian military seizure of the Ukrainian Crimea and demands the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces except as specifically allowed for by treaty;

(2) demands the immediate release of besieged Ukrainian security forces in Crimea, who have shown remarkable restraint under threat;

(3) warns that failure to do so or any additional military action against other areas of Ukraine will lead to swift and significant consequences in the Russian Federation's relations with the United States and those nations who share our views;

(4) urges the President to use all appropriate economic elements of United States national power, in coordination with United States allies, including loan guarantees matched with requirements of international financial institutions regarding Ukrainian economic reforms and transparency, to strengthen the Ukrainian economy and protect the independence, sovereignty, and territorial and economic integrity of Ukraine;

(5) urges the President to use appropriate economic and diplomatic measures, including calibrated sanctions, against those responsible for the illegal seizure of Crimea;

(6) urges the President to propose to G–8 nations to suspend the Russian Federation, and to propose to our NATO allies to suspend operation of the NATO-Russia Council and suspend the Russian Federation's military and diplomatic representation at NATO;

(7) condemns the economic coercion pursued by the Russian Federation beginning in July 2013 against Ukraine, Moldova, Lithuania, and other countries in the region in order to obstruct closer ties between the European Union and the countries of the Eastern Partnership and supports the people of Ukraine in their desire to forge closer ties with Europe;

(8) supports assisting Ukraine and United States allies in the region in gaining energy security in order to alleviate their vulnerability to the Russian Federation's threats and manipulations;

(9) expresses its continuing support for democratic allies who regularly face aggression on their borders from the Government of the Russian Federation and supports enhanced security cooperation with, and security assistance to, states in Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine;

(10) encourages governments in Europe to take similar and coordinated actions to make it clear to the Government of the Russian Federation that violating the territorial integrity of sovereign nations will have swift and significant consequences;

(11) calls for the immediate acceptance of a credible international observer mission in Crimea and other parts of the Ukraine;

(12) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to seriously engage with the Government of Ukraine in a political dialogue on a political and diplomatic path that respects Ukrainian sovereignty and the Crimea's complex historic and ethnic makeup;

(13) supports the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to bring to justice those responsible for the acts of violence related to the anti-government protests that began on November 21, 2013;

(14) supports the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to recover and return to the Ukrainian state funds stolen by former President Yanukovych, his family, and other current and former members of the Government of Ukraine and elites; and

(15) calls upon the leadership of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) to reconsider its decision to place World Cup 2018 matches in Russia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 379—CONGRATULATING THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY IFC/PANHELLENIC DANCE MARATHON (''THON'') ON ITS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE FOUR DIAMONDS FUND AT PENN STATE HERSHEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 379

Whereas the Pennsylvania State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (referred to in this preamble as ''THON'') is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, with 711 dancers, more than 375 supporting organizations, and more than 15,000 volunteers involved in the annual event;

Whereas student volunteers at the Pennsylvania State University annually collect

money and dance for 46 hours straight at the Bryce Jordan Center as part of THON, bringing energy and excitement to the campus for THON's mission to conquer cancer and raise awareness about the disease;

Whereas all THON activities support the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, which funds cancer research and provides financial and emotional support to pediatric cancer patients and their families;

Whereas in each year since 1977, when the 2 organizations first became affiliated, THON has been the single largest donor to the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital;

Whereas THON has raised more than $113,000,000 in total for the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital;

Whereas in 2014, THON set a new fundraising record of $13,343,517.33, besting the previous record of $12,374,034.46, which was set in 2013;

Whereas THON has helped more than 3,300 families through the Four Diamonds Fund, is helping to build a new Pediatric Cancer Pavilion at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, and has supported life-saving pediatric cancer research that has increased the survival rates for some pediatric cancers to nearly 90 percent; and

Whereas THON has inspired similar events and organizations across the United States, including at high schools and institutions of higher education, and continues to encourage students across the United States to volunteer and stay involved in great charitable causes in their community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Pennsylvania State University IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (''THON'') on its continued success in support of the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital; and

(2) commends the Pennsylvania State University students, volunteers, and supporting organizations for their hard work in putting together another record-breaking THON.

SENATE RESOLUTION 380—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Mr. BURR (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 380

Whereas the Take Our Daughters To Work program was created in New York City as a response to research that showed that, by the 8th grade, many girls were dropping out of school, had low self-esteem, and lacked confidence;

Whereas in 2003, the name of the program was changed to ''Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work'' so that boys who face many of the same challenges as girls could also be involved in the program;

Whereas the mission of the program, to develop ''innovative strategies that empower girls and boys to overcome societal barriers to reach their full potential'', now fully reflects the addition of boys;

Whereas the Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has grown to be one of the largest public awareness campaigns, with more than 37,400,000 participants annually in more than 3,000,000 organizations and workplaces in every State;

Whereas in 2007, the Take Our Daughters To Work program transitioned to Elizabeth City, North Carolina, became known as the Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Foundation, and received national recognition for the dedication of the Foundation to future generations;

Whereas every year, mayors, governors, and other private and public officials sign proclamations and lend their support to Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day;

Whereas the fame of the Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work program has spread overseas, with requests and inquiries being made from around the world on how to operate the program;

Whereas 2014 marks the 21st anniversary of the Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work program;

Whereas Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day will be observed on Thursday, April 24, 2014; and

Whereas Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day is intended to continue helping millions of girls and boys on an annual basis through experienced activities and events to examine their opportunities and strive to reach their fullest potential: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of introducing our daughters and sons to the workplace; and

(2) commends all participants of Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role the participants play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 381—CONGRATULATING THE ATHLETES FROM THE UNITED STATES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 2014 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES AS MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC TEAM

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 381

Whereas the 2014 Olympic Winter Games were held in Sochi, Russia from February 7, 2014, to February 23, 2014;

Whereas 230 Olympians competed on behalf of Team USA in Sochi, Russia;

Whereas members of Team USA earned 28 medals in total for the United States, including 9 gold medals, 7 silver medals, and 12 bronze medals;

Whereas Mikaela Shiffrin became the youngest woman ever to win the gold medal in the Women's Slalom;

Whereas Joss Christensen, Gus Kenworthy, and Nicholas Goepper swept the podium in the Men's Ski Slopestyle;

Whereas Erin Hamlin won the United States' first-ever medal in the Women's Singles Luge;

Whereas Lindsey Van, Jessica Jerome, and Sarah Hendrickson became the first American women to compete in ski jumping in an Olympic Winter Games;

Whereas Ted Ligety became the first American man to win the gold medal in the Giant Slalom, and became the first American man to win 2 gold medals in Alpine Skiing;

Whereas Meryl Davis and Charlie White won the United States' first-ever gold medal in Ice Dancing;

Whereas the people of the United States stand united in respect and admiration for Olympians, and the athletic accomplishments, sportsmanship, and dedication of those athletes to excellence in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games;

Whereas the many accomplishments of Team USA Olympians would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many others, including the United States Olympic Committee, the relevant United States national governing bodies, and the many administrators, coaches, and family members who provided critical support for the athletes:

Whereas David Wise and Maddie Bowman both won the United States' first-ever gold medals in the events of Men and Women's Freestyle Skiing Halfpipe;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate extends sincere congratulations for the accomplishments and gratitude for the sacrifices of all athletes throughout the United States on the United States Olympic Team and to everyone who supported the efforts of those athletes at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2809. Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2810. Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2811. Mr. HARKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2812. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2813. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2814. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2815. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2816. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2817. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2818. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2819. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2809. Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the

Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. SAFE CHILD CARE ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Safe Child Care Act of 2014''.

(b) BACKGROUND CHECKS.—Section 231 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13041) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''subsection (b)(3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)''; and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4);

(2) by moving paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b) to subsection (a), and inserting them after paragraph (1) of that subsection;

(3) in subsection (a)(3), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking ''subsection (a)(1)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1)'';

(4) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) A background check required by subsection (a) shall be initiated through the personnel programs of the applicable Federal agencies.

''(2) A background check for a child care staff member under subsection (a) shall include—

''(A) a search, including a fingerprint check, of the State criminal registry or repository in—

''(i) the State where the child care staff member resides; and

''(ii) each State where the child care staff member previously resided during the longer of—

''(I) the 10-year period ending on the date on which the background check is initiated; or

''(II) the period beginning on the date on which the child care staff member attained 18 years of age and ending on the date on which the background check is initiated;

''(B) a search of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases in—

''(i) the State where the child care staff member resides; and

''(ii) each State where the child care staff member previously resided during the longer of—

''(I) the 10-year period ending on the date on which the background check is initiated; or

''(II) the period beginning on the date on which the child care staff member attained 18 years of age and ending on the date on which the background check is initiated;

''(C) a search of the National Crime Information Center database;

''(D) a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System;

''(E) a search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.); and

''(F) a search of the State sex offender registry established under that Act in—

''(i) the State where the child care staff member resides; and

''(ii) each State where the child care staff member previously resided during the longer of—

''(I) the 10-year period ending on the date on which the background check is initiated; or

''(II) the period beginning on the date on which the child care staff member attained 18 years of age and ending on the date on which the background check is initiated.

''(3) A child care staff member shall be ineligible for employment by a child care provider if such individual—

''(A) refuses to consent to the background check described in subsection (a);

''(B) makes a false statement in connection with such background check;

''(C) is registered, or is required to be registered, on a State sex offender registry or the National Sex Offender Registry established under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006; or

''(D) has been convicted of a felony consisting of—

''(i) murder, as described in section 1111 of title 18, United States Code;

''(ii) child abuse or neglect;

''(iii) a crime against children, including child pornography;

''(iv) spousal abuse;

''(v) a crime involving rape or sexual assault;

''(vi) kidnapping;

''(vii) arson;

''(viii) physical assault or battery; or

''(ix) subject to paragraph (5)(D), a drug-related offense committed during the preceding 5 years.

''(4)(A) A child care provider covered by paragraph (3) shall submit a request, to the appropriate State agency designated by a State, for a background check described in subsection (a), for each child care staff member (including prospective child care staff members) of the provider.

''(B) In the case of an individual who is hired as a child care staff member before the date of enactment of the Safe Child Care Act of 2014, the provider shall submit such a request—

''(i) prior to the last day of the second full fiscal year after that date of enactment; and

''(ii) not less often than once during each 5-year period following the first submission date under this subparagraph for that staff member.

''(C) In the case of an individual who is a prospective child care staff member on or after that date of enactment, the provider shall submit such a request—

''(i) prior to the date the individual becomes a child care staff member of the provider; and

''(ii) not less often than once during each 5-year period following the first submission date under this subparagraph for that staff member.

''(5)(A) The State shall—

''(i) carry out the request of a child care provider for a background check described in subsection (a) as expeditiously as possible; and

''(ii) in accordance with subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, provide the results of the background check to—

''(I) the child care provider; and

''(II) the current or prospective child care staff member for whom the background check is conducted.

''(B)(i) The State shall provide the results of a background check to a child care provider as required under subparagraph (A)(ii)(I) in a statement that—

''(I) indicates whether the current or prospective child care staff member for whom the background check is conducted is eligible or ineligible for employment by a child care provider; and

''(II) does not reveal any disqualifying crime or other related information regarding the current or prospective child care staff member.

''(ii) If a current or prospective child care staff member is ineligible for employment by a child care provider due to a background check described in subsection (a), the State shall provide the results of the background check to the current or prospective child care staff member as required under subparagraph (A)(ii)(II) in a criminal background report that includes information relating to each disqualifying crime.

''(iii) A State—

''(I) may not publicly release or share the results of an individual background check described in subsection (a); and

''(II) may include the results of background checks described in subsection (a) in the development or dissemination of local or statewide data relating to background checks if the results are not individually identifiable.

''(C)(i) The State shall provide for a process by which a child care staff member (including a prospective child care staff member) may appeal the results of a background check required under subsection (a) to challenge the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in the criminal background report of the staff member.

''(ii) The State shall ensure that—

''(I) the appeals process is completed in a timely manner for each child care staff member;

''(II) each child care staff member is given notice of the opportunity to appeal; and

''(III) each child care staff member who wishes to challenge the accuracy or completeness of the information in the criminal background report of the child care staff member is given instructions about how to complete the appeals process.

''(D)(i) The State may allow for a review process through which the State may determine that a child care staff member (including a prospective child care staff member) disqualified for a crime specified in paragraph (3)(D)(ix) is eligible for employment by a child care provider, notwithstanding paragraph (3).

''(ii) The review process under this subparagraph shall be consistent with title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.).

''(E) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a private right of action against a child care provider if the child care provider is in compliance with this section.

''(F) This section shall apply to each State that receives funding under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.).

''(6) Fees that the State may charge for the costs of conducting a background check as required by subsection (a) shall not exceed the actual costs to the State for the administration of such background checks.

''(7) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent a Federal agency from disqualifying an individual as a child care staff member based on a conviction of the individual for a crime not specifically listed in this subsection that bears upon the fitness of an individual to provide care for and have responsibility for the safety and well-being of children.

''(8) In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'child care provider' means an agency of the Federal Government, or a unit of or contractor with the Federal Government that is operating a facility, described in subsection (a); and

''(B) the term 'child care staff member' means an individual who is hired, or seeks to be hired, by a child care provider to be involved with the provision of child care services, as described in subsection (a).''; and

(5) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) SUSPENSION PENDING DISPOSITION OF CRIMINAL CASE.—In the case of an incident in which an individual has been charged with an offense described in subsection (b)(3)(D) and the charge has not yet been disposed of, an employer may suspend an employee from having any contact with children while on the job until the case is resolved.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1 of the second full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2810. Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. RIGHT START CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2014.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Right Start Child Care and Education Act of 2014''.

(b) INCREASE IN EMPLOYER-PROVIDED CHILD CARE CREDIT.—

(1) INCREASE IN CREDITABLE PERCENTAGE OF CHILD CARE EXPENDITURES.—Paragraph (1) of section 45F(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''25 percent'' and inserting ''35 percent''.

(2) INCREASE IN CREDITABLE PERCENTAGE OF RESOURCE AND REFERRAL EXPENDITURES.—Paragraph (2) of section 45F(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''10 percent'' and inserting ''20 percent''.

(3) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM CREDIT.—Subsection (b) of section 45F of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''$150,000'' and inserting ''$225,000''.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

(c) INCREASE IN DEPENDENT CARE CREDIT.—

(1) INCREASE IN INCOMES ELIGIBLE FOR FULL CREDIT.—Paragraph (2) of section 21(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''$15,000'' and inserting ''$30,000''.

(2) INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE OF EXPENSES ALLOWABLE.—Paragraph (2) of section 21(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking ''35 percent'' and inserting ''50 percent'', and

(B) by striking ''20 percent'' and inserting ''35 percent''.

(3) INCREASE IN DOLLAR LIMIT ON AMOUNT CREDITABLE.—Subsection (c) of section 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking ''$3,000'' in paragraph (1) and inserting ''$6,000'', and

(B) by striking ''$6,000'' in paragraph (2) and inserting ''$12,000''.

(4) CREDIT TO BE REFUNDABLE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(i) by redesignating section 21 as section 36D, and

(ii) by moving section 36D, as so redesignated, from subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 to the location immediately before section 37 in subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1.

(B) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(i) Paragraph (1) of section 36D(a) of such Code (as redesignated by subparagraph (A)) is amended by striking ''this chapter'' and inserting ''this subtitle''.

(ii) Paragraph (6) of section 35(g) of such Code is amended by striking ''21(e)'' and inserting ''36D(e)''.

(iii) Paragraph (1) of section 36C(f) of such Code is amended by striking ''21(e)'' and inserting ''36D(e)''.

(iv) Subparagraph (C) of section 129(a)(2) of such Code is amended by striking ''section 21(e)'' and inserting ''section 36D(e)''.

(v) Paragraph (2) of section 129(b) of such Code is amended by striking ''section 21(d)(2)'' and inserting ''section 36D(d)(2)''.

(vi) Paragraph (1) of section 129(e) of such Code is amended by striking ''section 21(b)(2)'' and inserting ''section 36D(b)(2)''.

(vii) Subsection (e) of section 213 of such Code is amended by striking ''section 21'' and inserting ''section 36D''.

(viii) Subparagraph (H) of section 6213(g)(2) of such Code is amended by striking ''section 21'' and inserting ''section 36D''.

(ix) Subparagraph (L) of section 6213(g)(2) of such Code is amended by striking ''section 21, 24, 32,'' and inserting ''section 24, 32, 36D,''.

(x) Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''36D,'' after ''36C,''.

(xi) The table of sections for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 36C and inserting the following:

''Sec. 36D. Expenses for household and dependent care services necessary for gainful employment.''.

(xii) The table of sections for subpart A of such part IV is amended by striking the item relating to section 21.

(5) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

(d) 3-YEAR CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS HOLDING CHILD CARE-RELATED DEGREES WHO WORK IN LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 25D the following new section:

''SEC. 25E. RIGHT START CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION CREDIT.

''(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an individual who is an eligible child care provider for the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year the amount of $2,000.

''(b) 3-YEAR CREDIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The credit allowable by subsection (a) for any taxable year to an individual shall be allowed for such year only if the individual elects the application of this section for such year.

''(2) ELECTION.—An election to have this section apply may not be made by an individual for any taxable year if such an election by such individual is in effect for any 3 prior taxable years.

''(c) ELIGIBLE CHILD CARE PROVIDER.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible child care provider' means, for any taxable year, any individual if—

''(A) as of the close of such taxable year, such individual holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, child care, or a related degree and such degree was awarded by an eligible educational institution (as defined in section 25A(f)(2)), and

''(B) during such taxable year, such individual performs at least 1,200 hours of child care services at a facility if—

''(i) the principal use of the facility is to provide child care services,

''(ii) no more than 25 percent of the children receiving child care services at the facility are children (as defined in section 152(f)) of the individual or such individual's spouse, and

''(iii) the facility meets the requirements of all applicable laws and regulations of the State or local government in which it is located, including the licensing of the facility as a child care facility.

Subparagraph (B)(i) shall not apply to a facility which is the principal residence (within the meaning of section 121) of the operator of the facility.

''(2) CHILD CARE SERVICES.—The term 'child care services' means child care and early childhood education.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such subpart A is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 25D the following new item:

''Sec. 25E. Right Start Child Care and Education Credit.''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

(e) INCREASE IN EXCLUSION FOR EMPLOYER-PROVIDED DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 129(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''$5,000 ($2,500'' and inserting ''$7,500 ($3,750''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SA 2811. Mr. HARKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 88, line 8, insert '', such as rural and remote areas'' after ''underserved areas''.

SA 2812. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REVIEW OF FEDERAL EARLY LEARNING AND CARE PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Secretary of Education, shall conduct an interdepartmental review of all early learning and care programs in order to—

(1) develop a plan for the elimination of duplicative and overlapping programs, as identified by the Government Accountability Office's 2012 annual report (GAO-12-342SP); and

(2) make recommendations to Congress for streamlining all such programs.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the heads of all Federal agencies that administer Federal early learning and care programs, shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, a detailed report that outlines the efficiencies that can be achieved by, as well as specific recommendations for, eliminating duplication, overlap, and fragmentation among all Federal early learning and care programs.

SA 2813. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 82, lines 9 and 10, strike ''to receive services under this subchapter while

their families'' and insert ''and children in foster care to receive services under this subchapter while their families (including foster families)''.

SA 2814. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 93, strike lines 3 and 4 and insert the following:

11432(g)(1)(J)(ii));

''(VII) State agencies and programs serving children in foster care and the foster families of such children; and

''(VIII) other Federal programs

SA 2815. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 98, strike line 15 and insert the following:

view.

''(U) CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.—The plan shall include an assurance that and describe how the State will develop and implement strategies to increase the supply and improve the quality of child care provided under this subchapter for children in foster care with foster families who, notwithstanding section 658P, may or may not have a family income that exceeds 85 percent of the State median income for a family of the same size.'';

SA 2816. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 79, strike lines 18 through 22 and insert the following:

''(I) which may include the acquisition of course credit in postsecondary education or of a credential, aligned with the framework;

''(II) which, notwithstanding clause (v), shall require each child care provider described in clause (i) to ensure that, not later than September 30, 2021—

''(aa) each child care staff member providing direct services to children who was hired before that date has earned a degree, which may be an associate's degree or a baccalaureate degree, in early childhood education or a closely related field; and

''(bb) on and after that date, the child care provider will hire only individuals who have earned that degree as staff members described in item (aa); and

''(III) which shall be accessible

SA 2817. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 136, strike line 15 and insert the following:

658L(b).

''(4) EVALUATION.—

''(A) RESERVATION.—The Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 percent of the amount appropriated under this subchapter for each fiscal year, to conduct the evaluation described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall evaluate the quality and effectiveness of activities carried out under this subchapter, using scientifically valid research methodologies, in order to increase the understanding of State and local program administrators concerning the practices and strategies most likely to produce positive outcomes. The Secretary shall disseminate the key findings of the evaluation widely and promptly.''; and

SA 2818. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 98, strike line 15 and insert the following:

view.

''(U) DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The plan shall demonstrate the manner in which the State will address the needs of children in child care services provided through programs authorized under this subchapter, including the need for safe child care, during the period before, during, and after a state of emergency declared by the Governor or a major disaster or emergency (as such terms are defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)).

''(ii) STATEWIDE CHILD CARE DISASTER PLAN.—Such plan shall include a statewide child care disaster plan for coordination of activities and collaboration, in the event of an emergency or disaster described in clause (i), among the State agency with jurisdiction over human services, the agency with jurisdiction over State emergency planning, the State lead agency, the State agency with jurisdiction over licensing of child care providers, the local resource and referral organizations, the State resource and referral system, and the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care as provided for under section 642B(b) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9837b(b)).

''(iii) DISASTER PLAN COMPONENTS.—The components of the disaster plan, for such an emergency or disaster, shall include—

''(I) guidelines for the continuation of child care services in the period following the emergency or disaster, including the provision of emergency and temporary child care services, and temporary operating standards for child care providers during that period;

''(II) evacuation, relocation, shelter-in-place, and lock-down procedures, and procedures for communication and reunification with families, continuity of operations, and accommodation of infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children with chronic medical conditions; and

''(III) procedures for staff and volunteer training and practice drills.''.

SA 2819. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 140, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 10A. PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 658Q of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858o) is amended—

(1) by inserting before ''Nothing'' the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) PARENTAL RIGHTS TO USE CHILD CARE CERTIFICATES.—Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed or applied in any manner—

''(1) that would favor or promote the use of grants and contracts over the use of child care certificates; or

''(2) that would disfavor or discourage the use of such certificates for the purchase of child care services, including those services provided by private or nonprofit entities, such as faith-based providers.''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 11, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 11, 2014, at 2:15 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 11, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Access and Cost: What the U.S. Health Care System Can Learn from Other Countries.''

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 11, 2014, at 10:15 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Open Government and Freedom of Information: Reinvigorating the Freedom of Information Act for the Digital Age.''

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 11, 2014, at 2:00 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee

on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 11, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''A More Efficient and Effective Government: Improving the Regulatory Framework.''

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 11, 2014, at 2:15 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL AND CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Financial and Contracting Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 11, 2014, at 11 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Whistleblower Retaliation at the Hanford Nuclear Site.''

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 11, 2014, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Finding the Right Capital Regulations for Insurers.''

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Capt. James Holt, a Marine Corps fellow in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of this legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 670, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be made in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Travis D. Balch

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade of indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Brig. Gen. Michael E. Williamson

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of the Dental Corps and Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Services, United States Army, and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 3036 and 3039(b):

To be major general

Col. Thomas R. Tempel, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicted while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. William T. Collins
Brig. Gen. James S. Hartsell

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps 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. Robert E. Schmidle, Jr.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Jan E. Tighe

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1327 AIR FORCE nominations (13) beginning KATHRYN L. AASEN, and ending JOHN K. WALTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2014.

PN1329 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning DAVID M. BERTHE, and ending PAUL A. WILLINGHAM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2014.

PN1330 AIR FORCE nominations (34) beginning AMY R. ASTONLASSITER, and ending AIMEE N. ZAKALUZNY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2014.

PN1332 AIR FORCE nominations (60) beginning ELIZABETH R. ANDERSONDOZE, and ending AARON T. YU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2014.

PN1335 AIR FORCE nominations (158) beginning WESLEY M. ABADIE, and ending SCOTT A. ZAKALUZNY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2014.

PN1387 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning WILLIAM E. DICKENS, JR., and ending RICHARD R. GIVENS, II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1388 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning KYLE WILLIAM BLASCH, and ending ANDREW T. MACCABE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1389 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning LUAN TRAN LE, and ending DAVID C. SCHAEFER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1390 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning CYNTHIA B. CAMP, and ending BRYAN M. WINTER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1391 AIR FORCE nominations (9) beginning LAURA I. FERNANDEZ, and ending ALBERT C. REES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1392 AIR FORCE nominations (10) beginning DIANE M. DOTY, and ending EDWARD D. RONNEBAUM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1393 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning RICHARD L. ALLEN, and ending SANDRA R. VOLDEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1394 AIR FORCE nominations (180) beginning CONNIE L. ALGE, and ending KENNETH E. YEE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

PN1395 ARMY nomination of Sun Y. Kim, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1406 ARMY nomination of William T. Monacci, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2014.

PN1407 ARMY nomination of Glennie Z. Kertes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2014.

PN1408 ARMY nomination of Charles A. Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2014.

PN1409 ARMY nominations (3) beginning ROGER J. BELBEL, and ending YVES P. LEBLANC, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2014.

PN1423 ARMY nomination of Michael E. Cannon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1424 ARMY nomination of Aizenhawar J. Marrogi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1425 ARMY nominations (2) beginning THOMAS E. BYRNE, and ending JAMES H.

CHANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1426 ARMY nominations (6) beginning CHRISTOPHER D. COULSON, and ending MICHAEL WOODRUFF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1429 ARMY nominations (80) beginning EDWARD AHN, and ending D012017, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1310 MARINE CORPS nominations (404) beginning ERNEST P. ABELSON, II, and ending DAVID D. ZYGA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 7, 2014.

PN1430 MARINE CORPS nomination of Ryan M. Oleksy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1431 MARINE CORPS nomination of Sean T. Hays, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1432 MARINE CORPS nomination of Lakendrick D. Wright, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1433 MARINE CORPS nomination of John E. Simpson, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1434 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning BILL W. BROOKS, JR., and ending MICHAEL W. COSTA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1435 MARINE CORPS nomination of James R. Keller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1436 MARINE CORPS nomination of Clennon Roe, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1438 MARINE CORPS nomination of Anthony Redman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1439 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jeffrey P. Wooldridge, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1441 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning BILLY A. DUBOSE, and ending JOHN P. MULLERY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1442 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning CHRISTOPHER S. EICHNER, and ending JAMES SMILEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1443 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning RANDALL E. DAVIS, and ending WADE E. WALLACE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1444 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning DAMON L. ANDERSEN, and ending RICHARDO A. SPANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1445 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning PAULO T. ALVES, and ending PATRICK J. TOAL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1446 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning CHRISTIAN D. GALBRAITH, and ending MARK J. LEHMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1447 MARINE CORPS nominations (6) beginning TIMOTHY J. ALDRICH, and ending CHRIS A. STOREY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1448 MARINE CORPS nominations (6) beginning KENNETH L. AIKEY, and ending SCOTT B. ROLAND, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1449 MARINE CORPS nominations (8) beginning TERRY H. CHOI, and ending FREDDIE D. TAYLOR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

IN THE NAVY

PN1396 NAVY nomination of Leon M. Leflore, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1410 NAVY nomination of Gregory D. Sutton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2014.

PN1411 NAVY nomination of Chad C. Schumacher, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2014.

PN1412 NAVY nominations (2) beginning JACK D. HAGAN, and ending RICHARD S. MONTGOMERY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2014.

PN1413 NAVY nominations (4) beginning REINEL CASTRO, and ending DUSTIN R. WARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2014.

PN1450 NAVY nomination of Megan M. Donnelly, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1451 NAVY nomination of Danielle L. Leiby, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1452 NAVY nominations (16) beginning MICHAEL R. CATHEY, and ending ANDREW J. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN W. McCARTER AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 32 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 32) providing for the reappointment of John W. McCARTER as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the joint resolution be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 32) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 32

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of John W. McCarter of Illinois on March 14, 2014, is filled by the reappointment of the incumbent. The reappointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on March 15, 2014, or the date of enactment of this joint resolution, whichever occurs later.

CONDEMNING ILLEGAL RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 378, submitted earlier today by Senator COATS and myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 378) condemning illegal Russian aggression in Ukraine.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 378) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions submitted earlier today: Senate Resolutions 379, 380, and 381.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the

motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2110 AND H.R. 4152

Mr. DURBIN. I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2110) to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4152) to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

Mr. DURBIN. I now ask for a second reading en bloc and object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 12, 2014; 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; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and the time be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that at 10:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session, as provided under the previous order.

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

THANKING STAFF

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, before the final statement, I wish to give a special thanks to those clerks, pages, Capitol Police, doorkeepers, and so many others for the extra work they put in during the early morning hours as the Senate went virtually all night. I know it was a sacrifice personally to them and to their families. We appreciate their continued service to the Senate. They have our gratitude for sticking through this long ordeal and being part of the history of this Senate, an institution of which we are all proud to be a part.

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, at 10:30 a.m. there will be a series of up to six rollcall votes on the confirmation of the McHugh, Leitman, Levy, Michelson, Parker, and Raskin nominations. Upon disposition of the Raskin nomination, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1086, the childcare and development block grant reauthorization bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:13 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

LESLIE JOYCE ABRAMS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE W. LOUIS SANDS, RETIRING.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 11, 2014:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TRAVIS D. BALCH

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

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL E. WILLIAMSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF THE DENTAL CORPS AND ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL FOR DENTAL SERVICES, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 3036 AND 3039(B):

To be major general

COL. THOMAS R. TEMPEL, JR.

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

MAJ. GEN. KEVIN W. MANGUM

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM T. COLLINS
BRIG. GEN. JAMES S. HARTSELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 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. ROBERT E. SCHMIDLE, JR.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. JAN E. TIGHE

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATHRYN L. AASEN AND ENDING WITH JOHN K. WALTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 9, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID M. BERTHE AND ENDING WITH PAUL A. WILLINGHAM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 9, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AMY R. ASTONLASSITER AND ENDING WITH AIMEE N. ZAKALUZNY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 9, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ELIZABETH R. ANDERSONDOZE AND ENDING WITH AARON T. YU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 9, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WESLEY M. ABADIE AND ENDING WITH SCOTT A. ZAKALUZNY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 9, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM E. DICKENS, JR. AND ENDING WITH RICHARD R. GIVENS II, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KYLE WILLIAM BLASCH AND ENDING WITH ANDREW T. MACCABE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LUAN TRAN LE AND ENDING WITH DAVID C. SCHAEFER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CYNTHIA B. CAMP AND ENDING WITH BRYAN M. WINTER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LAURA I. FERNANDEZ AND ENDING WITH ALBERT C. REES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DIANE M. DOTY AND ENDING WITH EDWARD D. RONNEBAUM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD L. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH SANDRA R. VOLDEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CONNIE L. ALGE AND ENDING WITH KENNETH E. YEE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 30, 2014.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF SUN Y. KIM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM T. MONACCI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GLENNIE Z. KERTES, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHARLES A. WILLIAMS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROGER J. BELBEL AND ENDING WITH YVES P. LEBLANC, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL E. CANNON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF AIZENHAWAR J. MARROGI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS E. BYRNE AND ENDING WITH JAMES H. CHANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER D. COULSON AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL WOODRUFF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDWARD AHN AND ENDING WITH D012017, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERNEST P. ABELSON II AND ENDING WITH DAVID D. ZYGA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 7, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF RYAN M. OLEKSY, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF SEAN T. HAYS, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF LAKENDRICK D. WRIGHT, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOHN E. SIMPSON III, TO BE MAJOR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BILL W. BROOKS, JR. AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL W. COSTA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JAMES R. KELLER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CLENNON ROE III, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF ANTHONY REDMAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JEFFREY P. WOOLDRIDGE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BILLY A. DUBOSE AND ENDING WITH JOHN P. MULLERY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER S. EICHNER AND ENDING WITH JAMES SMILEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RANDALL E. DAVIS AND ENDING WITH WADE E. WALLACE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAMON L. ANDERSEN AND ENDING WITH RICHARDO A. SPANN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAULO T. ALVES AND ENDING WITH PATRICK J. TOAL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTIAN D. GALBRAITH AND ENDING WITH MARK J. LEHMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY J. ALDRICH AND ENDING WITH CHRIS A. STOREY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KENNETH L. AIKEY AND ENDING WITH SCOTT B. ROLAND, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TERRY H. CHOI AND ENDING WITH FREDDIE D. TAYLOR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF LEON M. LEFLORE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF GREGORY D. SUTTON, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHAD C. SCHUMACHER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JACK D. HAGAN AND ENDING WITH RICHARD S. MONTGOMERY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH REINEL CASTRO AND ENDING WITH DUSTIN R. WARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 6, 2014.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MEGAN M. DONNELLY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DANIELLE L. LEIBY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL R. CATHEY AND ENDING WITH ANDREW J. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2014.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JAMI MARQUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jami Marquez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jami Marquez is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jami Marquez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jami Marquez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING CLEON KIMBERLING

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Cleon Kimberling. He was recently inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame because of 50 years of leadership in the agricultural industry as a veterinarian and member of the Colorado State University Department of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Kimberling received his Bachelor's Degree and DVM at Colorado State University and then earned a Masters of Public Health from the University of Minnesota. Since then, he has devoted his time to Colorado State University students and those in the agriculture industry in Colorado. His vocation has allowed him to focus on herd health management of dairy livestock, range beef cattle and range sheep. His expertise in range sheep management is unrivaled and has benefitted many, many producers. Dr. Kimberling's work has taken him from the high mountains and plains in Colorado, to the Navajo Nation and to over 15 countries around the world.

Dr. Kimberling's work has resulted in the development of surgical instruments for animals, and tests for several diseases in various animals. His inventions have earned him a U.S. patent and brought efficiencies to the agricultural industry. He has written two books, authored five chapters, fourteen auto-tutorials, fifty-four referenced journal articles, as well as a host of other educational resources.

Because of his teaching and his expertise in Veterinary Medicine, he has received many awards and recognition over the last fifty years. However, many of his contemporaries note that even though he is a recognized veterinarian, his true impact in this world has been in his role as a passionate teacher. The number of veterinarians he has trained, both at CSU and around the world is countless. His caring, sharing and teaching are only a part of who he is. His contributions to the health and productivity of Colorado's livestock industry, along with his dedication to Colorado State University students and his overall improvement to mankind are examples for all to follow. I am honored to recognize him today.

RECOGNIZING MARCH AS NATIONAL FROZEN FOOD MONTH

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of one of Georgia's great schools and my alma mater, the University of Georgia, UGA, for its recent groundbreaking research on the nutritional value of frozen fruits and vegetables. March is frozen food month, and this study by UGA conclusively demonstrates the nutritional value of frozen fruits and vegetables and will help families make smart, informed decisions on how to eat in an affordable, healthy way.

The University of Georgia, in partnership with the Frozen Food Foundation, conducted a unique study comparing the nutrient content of commonly purchased frozen and fresh fruits and vegetables. This study mimicked consumer purchasing and storage habits for a variety of fruits and vegetables and the results revealed that frozen fruits and vegetables are nutritionally equal to, and in many cases superior to their fresh counterparts.

Research such as this provides insight into the value of frozen fruits and vegetables. UGA found that at-home storage of fresh fruits and vegetables can lead to significant nutrient loss but with frozen fruits and vegetables, consumers receive the nutritional benefit of produce that is harvested and then frozen at peak ripeness. Freezing is a natural pause button that locks-in nutrition.

As families look for easy-to-prepare, affordable ways to improve their diet, they can reach for frozen fruits and vegetables and, reaffirmed by this UGA research, they can know they are receiving the same nutritional benefits as fresh products.

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of National Frozen Food Month, I wish to applaud UGA and frozen food makers for their role in providing American families with important facts about increasing nutrients to support good health. I am proud to acknowledge research done in Georgia that allows families to make informed decisions about the nutritional benefits of the fruits and vegetables they consume.

JACQUELINE DELGADO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jacqueline Delgado for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jacqueline Delgado is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jacqueline Delgado is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jacqueline Delgado for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SFC DOUG LESH

HON. JEFF DUNCAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sergeant First Class Douglas Lesh, in honor of his retirement from the United States Army and his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Sergeant First Class Lesh and his wife Amanda will be moving on from his current assignment as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison's Travel section.

Army Congressional Liaisons provide an invaluable service to both the military and Congress. They assist Members and staff in understanding the Army's policies, actions, operations, and requirements. Their first hand knowledge of military needs, culture, and tradition is a tremendous benefit to Congressional offices.

A native of Grass Valley, California, Sergeant First Class Lesh enlisted in the Army on August 5, 1993, and entered infantry basic training at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Sergeant First Class Lesh's assignments have taken him to Tong Du Su Shon, Korea; Fort Stewart, Georgia; Fort Carson, Colorado; Sacramento, California; Fort Benning, Georgia; Ramadi and Baquba, Iraq; The Joint Staff at The Pentagon, and the 1st Battalion 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard).

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues in recognizing and commending Sergeant First Class Lesh for his dedicated service to this country. For all he

and his family have given and continue to give to our country; we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Amanda, his son Logan, and daughters Chloe and Hattie, all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AND REPRESENTATIVE KING PU-TSUNG

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor of the House of Representatives to recognize the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act which this Congress passed thirty-five years ago. The Taiwan Relations Act passed this Congress and was signed into law on April 10, 1979. For the last three and a half decades this legislation has been a cornerstone of our defense relationship with Taiwan and the result has been peace and prosperity for our important ally.

Peace in the Taiwan straits remains among the highest national interests of our country, indeed the entire Asia-Pacific region. Congress and the U.S. people remain steadfast in their support for Taiwan and maintaining strong defense and economic relations.

Since the Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law, the U.S.-Taiwan relationship has been fostered by a series of thirteen representatives from Taiwan. For the last year and a half that representative has been King Pu-tsung who will soon be returning to Taiwan to serve as Secretary-General of Taiwan's National Security Council. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work closely with Representative King and applaud his efforts to continue the strong relationship our two countries enjoy.

As we look ahead to the 4th decade of the Taiwan Relations Act we should continue our work to advance our relationship, particularly as it relates to trade and bilateral investment.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on these issues of mutual concern for both nations as our relationship with Taiwan continues to develop and evolve.

HAYLEE VANNOY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Haylee Vannoy for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Haylee Vannoy is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Haylee Vannoy is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Haylee Vannoy for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO WINNER'S CIRCLE AWARD WINNER, RICHARD PETTY

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend sincere congratulations to Randolph County's very own Richard Petty, as he was one of five people selected statewide to receive the Winner's Circle award. The annual Winner's Circle award is given to individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to North Carolina's tourism industry. Without a doubt, Richard Petty has been instrumental in enticing visitors from near and far to visit our great state.

There is a reason that NASCAR is North Carolina's official state sport, and Richard Petty has played a significant role in contributing to the sport's popularity. As one of the founding families in stock car racing, and one of the most decorated drivers in NASCAR history, Richard Petty has remained committed to establishing both his race shop and race museum in Randolph County, North Carolina. Tourism is a powerful force to our state's economic well-being, and Richard Petty has been influential in bringing racing fans from across America to the Tar Heel state. We are fortunate to have a North Carolinian who remains so steadfast in promoting the uniqueness of our state and the sport at large.

RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES SYVERTSEN

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Dr. James Syvertsen, on his selection as a Fulbright award recipient. Dr. Syvertsen, a professor in biology at the University of Florida, taught in Uruguay as a Fulbright scholar from September through November 2013.

The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is supported by the United States, participating foreign governments and the private sector. Established by Congress in 1946, the Program's purpose is to "build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world." Fulbright awardees are selected for academic excellence, professional achievements or demonstrated leadership in their fields.

I thank Dr. Syvertsen for his commitment to education and for representing the United States through the Fulbright Program in Uruguay.

HOLLY ANDERSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Holly Anderson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Holly Anderson is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge 5–8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Holly Anderson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Holly Anderson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF U.S. PARK POLICE OFFICER CARL HIOTT

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Park Police Officer Carl Hiott and thank him for his heroic actions during the tragic Navy Yard shooting.

Officer Hiott grew up in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District. He attended Southwestern Randolph High School where he excelled in football and wrestling. After graduating from North Carolina State University with a degree in criminal justice, Officer Hiott followed the call of duty and currently serves as a U.S. Park Police officer in Washington, D.C.

On September 16, 2013, a lone gunman entered the headquarters of the Naval Sea Systems Command with malicious intentions. Within minutes, law enforcement officials responded and took immediate action to quell the gunman. On this morning, Officer Hiott responded to the Navy Yard and, without hesitation, entered into building 197.

While on the third floor, Officer Hiott, Park Police Officer Andrew Wong, and Metropolitan Police Department Officer Dorian DeSantis encountered the gunman and engaged in a gunfight. Officer Hiott provided cover and engaged the shooter in the final gun battle, for which he received a Medal of Honor and a Combat Medal from the U.S. Park Service, and a Medal of Merit from the Metropolitan Police Department. Though all of the details of that morning are yet to be uncovered, one thing is certain: Officer Hiott and his colleagues are true American heroes.

That fateful morning, 170 law enforcement officers responded to the call. The swift actions of these brave men and women and the courageousness they displayed saved many lives. Despite the imminent danger, Officer Hiott remained committed to his duty to protect the national parks, monuments and the White House and keep our citizens safe.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Hiott is an outstanding citizen and a proven leader in our community. We are fortunate to have brave men and women like Officer Hiott who dedicate and risk their lives as police officers for our well-being and security. I applaud Officer Hiott for his bravery, and I thank him for his heroic and selfless actions.

HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress the time sensitive need for FEMA to quickly act on the provision reauthorizing home buyers to assume the existing premium rate of sellers. Section 3(b) expressly states: ''Such rates shall continue with respect to the property until the implementation of subsection (a).'' Our explicit intent in including this provision is to allow a home buyer to assume the policy and rate of the current home owner upon enactment of this act. We expect FEMA to issue appropriate direction to the Write-Your-Own companies in short order to allow this process to move ahead smoothly. The purpose of this provision is to shield home buyers from excessive rates by letting them assume current rates during the period while FEMA is finalizing the guidance and rate tables to implement the other provisions of this act.

JADE GOMEZ-CHAVARRIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jade Gomez-Chavarria for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jade Gomez-Chavarria is a 12th grader at Everitt Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jade Gomez-Chavarria is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jade Gomez-Chavarria for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PASTOR JAMES FAVORITE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an inspirational leader in the Tampa Bay community, Pastor James Favorite. I am pleased to recognize his remarkable career and years of distinguished public service. Pastor Favorite was born in Vacherie, Louisiana. He obtained a Bachelor's and Master's of Science Degree in Health, Physical Education, and Social Studies from Southern University in Baton Rouge. Pastor Favorite also holds a Doctor of Ministry Degree and an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from the Maryland Theological Seminary College.

Throughout his career, Pastor Favorite has been a prominent spiritual leader in the Tampa Bay community. He became an ordained minister in 1985 at Morning Star Baptist Church in Catonsville, Maryland. He then moved to Tampa where he has been a guiding force in interfaith dialogue. He is President of Pastors on Patrol, a group of ministers in the Tampa Bay area committed to bring revival to the city. He is the Chairman of both the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS Tampa Affiliate and the Board of Directors of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. He is the former President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention's Southern Region and also served as National Chair of the Progressive National Baptist Convention's HIV/AIDS Initiative.

Pastor Favorite has been a dedicated community volunteer across Tampa Bay. He is a member of the Children's Board committee looking into strategies to increase state and local funding support to vital children and family support programs. He serves as a member of the Hillsborough County Chamber of Commerce Urban Enterprise Initiative Committee for East Tampa. He previously chaired the African-American Family Support Initiative program that studies and develops ways to strengthen families in the African American community.

Since 1995, Pastor Favorite has led Beulah Baptist Institutional Church where he is now celebrating 19 years of dedicated service. Under Pastor Favorite's extraordinary leadership Beulah has received substantial growth in membership and revenue. It has become deeply integrated in the life of the Tampa Bay community. Under his leadership, Hillsborough County funded Beulah as one of only two satellite library sites in the county. He spearheaded an Outreach Ministry to Jamaica with a team of doctors and nurses which delivered more than $100,000 in medical supplies and equipment to more than 5,000 individuals in ten years. He has developed renowned programs ranging from teaching young parents to develop parenting skills to programs on repairing credit and making sound financial investments. He has also ensured that the Beulah summer program for children has received over $2 million dollars in funding from the Children's Board for the past five years.

Pastor Favorite's tireless, selfless service has helped to create a better and spiritually strengthened Tampa Bay community. Mr. Speaker, I join Beulah in congratulating Pastor Favorite for 19 years of outstanding service as a pastor, mentor, and tremendous community leader.

HONORING DR. NORMAN DALSTED

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Norman Dalsted, who was recently inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Dr. Dalsted was born and raised in North Dakota, and was active in FFA. He attended North Dakota State University. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served in the Panama Canal Zone and Vietnam. Dr. Dalstead's military career has always been a large part of his life, and he has shared his experiences with his students every year. His glimpses into the past have made tremendous impacts on his students. He received his Ph.D. from Colorado State University, and was immediately hired as an extension farm management specialist. He was promoted to Professor in 1992.

Dr. Dalsted is known throughout Colorado for his enterprise budgets for agriculture commodities grown in Colorado. These budgets have been updated regularly and are still in use some thirty years after first being published. During the tumultuous years of the early 1980s, Dr. Dalsted organized a series of training programs for agriculture lenders across the state. The programs provided basic training in financial statements, ratio analysis, enterprise budget and whole farm analysis, and business organizational form. Lenders used this knowledge and educated others by holding private seminars for local agriculture producers.

In the late 1980s, Dr. Dalsted spent a significant portion of his time researching new Chapter 12 Bankruptcy protection options for farming operations. He wrote several scholarly papers on the subject. He used his expertise to help local producers reorganize their struggling operations. He eventually found himself involved in many Chapter 12 cases across the state and continues to be an expert in cases today.

Dr. Dalsted was also part of the Integrated Ranch Management program at Colorado State University. He helped develop several classes that covered basic economic concepts and tolls in the context of ranch management. From this, several software programs were developed that could be used by producers to assist in making management decisions. Dr. Dalsted's research at CSU has resulted in an impressive list of publications in journals, articles, chapters in books, proceedings, software programs and university publications. He has also been recognized by students as an outstanding teacher and educator. Dr. Dalsted has had a long and distinguished career at Colorado State University and in Colorado agriculture and it is my honor to recognize him today.

ERIKA LOPEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Erika Lopez

for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Erika Lopez is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Erika Lopez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Erika Lopez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise as I do every year in recognition of the anniversary of the pogroms aqainst the people of Armenian descent in Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On February 27, 1988, anti-Armenian forces began killing Armenians and driving them from their homes. Scores of Armenians were killed, hundreds were wounded, and thousands were left as refugees without their homes or livelihoods. The violence went on for three days as Armenian women and girls were viciously raped.

Days before this massacre, the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh began peacefully protesting against the Soviet Azerbaijani oppression and discrimination. From this peaceful protest and the fires of the pogroms arose the spark that started the democracy movement that ultimately brought down the Soviet Empire.

Sadly, anti-Armenian rhetoric and cross-border attacks continue at the hands of the Azerbaijani government. Azerbaijan has consistently obstructed the peace process, walked away from its own agreements, and continued to threaten war. This is unacceptable, and the violence and harmful words must come to an end.

Today, I ask my colleagues to stand with me in remembrance of the Sumgait pogroms, in support of a true and lasting peace in the region, and in recognition of the contributions of Armenian Americans to the San Joaquin Valley I call home and the entire Nation.

REMEMBERING MAYOR M. JANE SEEMAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember a dear friend, Mayor M. Jane Seeman, who selflessly served the Vienna, Virginia, community for more than a decade and passed away on February 23, 2014, at the age of 76.

Jane was born on June 1, 1937, in Hays, Kansas. She graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in economics and business. While in college, she met her husband, Rodger, whom she married in 1959, and in 1968 the couple moved to Vienna so that Rodger could pursue a job with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Seemans shared a passion for public service, with Rodger serving on the Vienna Town Council for nearly two decades. When he passed away in 1996, his wife completed his unfinished term, going on to win two terms of her own before successfully running for Mayor in 2000. Jane was well-respected and much-admired by the Vienna community, winning reelection six times.

While greatly involved in the community, Jane understood well the importance of enjoying life to its fullest. She was passionately devoted to her children and grandchildren and, as a travel enthusiast, made a point to include her family on her many ventures. Jane was a longtime sports fan, cheering on the Washington Nationals for many years. Of Jane's many commitments, perhaps her greatest was to her Christian faith, which motivated and sustained her throughout her life. She was a beloved member of the Vienna Presbyterian Church, which she attended for more than forty years.

Jane's son, Bill, perhaps said it best when he declared that 76 years was hardly enough time for his mother. She will be sincerely missed by her family, friends, and the Vienna community, but her legacy will long-endure. While we mourn her loss, we also importantly celebrate the exemplary life of love, faith, and humble service by which we will always remember her.

I submit the following article from the McLean Sun Gazette, which pays tribute to Jane's admirable life.

[Mar. 3, 2014]

VIENNA MAYOR EULOGIZED FOR DEVOTION TO FAMILY, TOWN

(By Brian Trompeter)

Vienna bade farewell to its longtime Mayor M. Jane Seeman in a Feb. 28 funeral service that drew hundreds of people and featured remembrances from her children and grandchildren.

Seeman, 76, who had served on the Vienna Town Council since late 1996 and as mayor since 2000, died of lung cancer Feb. 23.

Mourners filled the lower sanctuary level and some of the balcony area at Vienna Presbyterian Church, which Seeman had attended since fall 1968.

A broad swath of the Vienna community came to the service, including Seeman's Vienna Town Council colleagues, some Board of Supervisors members and at least one member of Congress.

''I think we shut down Vienna with all of us being here,'' said Pastor Peter James.

The mayor's daughter, Linda Colbert, said the family had been inundated with messages from friends following her mother's death and that those outpourings of support helped the family cope with their loss.

''My mother was my best friend. She was also my first friend,'' Colbert said. ''We always loved to talk to each other.''

The late mayor volunteered more than 3,000 hours of her time at Patrick Henry Library and loved chatting with patrons, asking them about the books they were turning in or checking out.

The mayor was keenly interested in people's lives and dedicated to serving others and the town, Colbert said.

''She served because she wanted to, not for a pat on the back or to be recognized,'' she said.

Madena Jane Seeman was born June 1, 1937, in Hays, Kan., to parents Madena and Herbert Seeman.

The future mayor wrote for a newspaper in that town of about 10,000 people, then attended Fort Hays State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in economics and business. She met her future husband, Rodger, at the university and married him on June 1, 1959.

Seeman became a rabid fan of the University of Kansas Jayhawks while the couple lived in Lawrence, Kan. The Seemans later lived in Kansas City, then moved to Vienna in 1968 after Rodger Seeman took a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Seemans bought a house on Blackstone Terrace, N.W., for $25,000 and lived there until their deaths. They had two sons and one daughter.

Rodger Seeman served on the Town Council from the early 1980s until his death in November 1996. His wife was appointed to fill his unexpired term and after being elected to full terms in 1997 and 1999, she ran for mayor in 2000, following the death of Mayor Charles Robinson Jr. The mayor won re-election six times, but had decided not to seek re-election this May.

One of her sons, Bill Seeman of Fairfax Station, said his parents were determined to give their kids ''fantastic childhoods.''

Seeman recalled his days of playing baseball on crude schoolyard fields and then getting to pitch at Yeonas Field, which had dugouts and other ''big-league'' amenities. He pitched disastrously there, though, and blamed his performance on the new experience of throwing from a raised mound.

That night, the boy's parents worked in their back yard to build him a raised pitching mound.

The mayor was a big sports fan, loved the Washington Nationals and had a crush on player Bryce Harper, Bill Seeman said.

She also enjoyed traveling and ventured to such places as France, Belgium, Russia and Greece. The mayor took her family on a cruise in Alaska a couple years ago and took Bill Seeman and his sons on jaunts to sports hall of fame facilities in Springfield, Mass., and Cooperstown, N.Y., as well as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, he said.

''Seventy-six years really was not enough for my mom,'' Bill Seeman said. ''She lived about 10 normal people's lives. She was a rare gift to all of us.''

Music played a central role in the memorial service. Pat Talamantes played the organ and those in attendance sang the hymns ''Great Is Thy Faithfulness'' and ''Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.''

One of Seeman's granddaughters, Hannah Colbert, sang ''Amazing Grace'' while her father, Michael Colbert, accompanied her on guitar.

Colbert choked up on the final stanza and had to be comforted. Pastor James later told her she never needed to apologize for being emotionally moved by that song.

After the service, a funeral procession led by Fairfax County and Vienna police motorcycle officers went from the church down Maple Avenue to Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton, where Seeman was buried near her late husband. Following the burial, mourners attended a reception back at the church.

Vienna Town Hall closed early that afternoon so town employees could attend the 2 p.m. funeral. Flag were flown at half-mast at the Vienna Town Green, the creation of which Seeman considered to be the Town Council's biggest accomplishment during her tenure.

EMMA EAKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emma Eaker for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emma Eaker is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emma Eaker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emma Eaker for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 114, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

HONORING LES HARDESTY

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Les Hardesty. Mr. Hardesty, a native of Colorado and leader in the dairy industry, has been a true visionary and unrivaled advocate for the local, Colorado, and national dairy industry.

After Mr. Hardesty graduated from Colorado State University, he and his wife started Painted Prairie Dairy. He and his family were involved in that undertaking for thirty years. It was during that time that he and his family saw the need to educate people about the dairy industry. He built an education facility, the Cozy Cow Dairy in Windsor, Colorado, and used it as a showcase farm. The Cozy Cow dairy featured a visible milking parlor and provided an up-close experience for tens of thousands of visitors. Many families have been able to see the true face of the dairy industry because of Mr. Hardesty's efforts. Even though he was busy running the dairies, Mr. Hardesty still found time to become involved in dairy organizations and became a respected leader in many of them.

His expertise in global dairy marketing and his understanding of the national dairy pricing system earned him a solid reputation among producers. His specialized experiences in dairy farm business, exports, global dairy issues, dairy production, dairy processing, as well as pricing issues and marketing techniques, made him a tremendous asset to our nation's dairy farms.

Mr. Hardesty has been described as an open-minded man of great integrity with superior family values. He has given himself selflessly for the betterment of the dairy industry and agriculture in general. I am honored to recognize him today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. ''RICK'' CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 6, 2014 I was inadvertently detained on rollcall votes 101, 106, 109, and 113. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted ''yes'' on each. In addition, I was inadvertently detained on rollcall votes 102, 103, 104, 105, 110, 111, and 114. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted ''no'' on each.

GAVIN DAWSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gavin Dawson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Gavin Dawson is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gavin Dawson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gavin Dawson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN ANNUAL CELEBRATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the hard-working women leaders who, throughout the years, have made instrumental contributions to the district I so humbly represent and to our entire South Florida community, in fact.

On March 13th, the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women, the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, and the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department will be hosting the ''In the Company of Women Awards'' in celebration of Women's History Month. This annual ceremony honors some of the exceptional women in our community in fields like arts, communications, government, and athletics.

The honorees during this year's event will be: Valerie Riles, Wendy Kallergis, Jacqueline Menendez, Judy Brown, Honorable Migna Sanchez-Llorens, Alyce Robertson, Nilda Peragallo Montano, Marie-Elsie Dowell, and Angela Smith.

In addition, Linda Robinson, the former Vice-Mayor of Palmetto Bay, a village I represent, will receive the Mayor's Pioneer Award.

Constable Thelma Hardison will be bestowed with the Posthumous Award, and Marcia Fernandez-Morin will be presented with the Community Spirit Award.

These 12 honorees will join the ranks of many outstanding women, including my late mother, Amanda Ros who was honored during the third annual ''In the Company of Women'' celebration.

As a fellow recipient of this award also, I am pleased that the great passion and dedication of these women leaders will be recognized, and it will inspire them to do even better work.

Their many accomplishments are an example of what women everywhere can strive to attain.

Congratulations to each award winner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, on March 6, 2014, I missed the following votes due to previously-scheduled commitments in my congressional district. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 107—''yea''; rollcall No.108—''nay''; rollcall No.109—''yea''; rollcall No.110—''nay''; rollcall No.111—''nay''; rollcall No.112—''nay''; rollcall No.113—''yea''; rollcall No.114—''yea.''

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN HENRY DAYTON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life of John Henry Dayton who passed away on February 9, 2014 surrounded by family.

John Henry Dayton was born in Turlock, California to Charles and Florence Dayton. He lived the epitome of a rural life, being raised on a 10-acre ranch in the Hughson, California with his siblings, Cheryl, Lonn, and Paul.

Mr. Dayton attended grammar and high school in Hughson. At Hughson High School, John enjoyed track, basketball, football, and playing the trombone in band. Mr. Dayton was well known for his kindness, humor and intelligence, earning him the ''Wittiest Student Award'' during his junior year and the ''Biggest Cut-Up Award'' his senior year.

John attended Oregon State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree at the School of Pharmacy in 1966. While at Oregon State, he married Beverly Jean (Wyatt) Tack from Portland, Oregon. Together, John and Beverly raised two children, Kristin and Mike.

After college, Mr. Dayton moved back to California and worked as a pharmacist in the Modesto area. In 1971, John and his business partner, Harold Copp opened Oakdale Village Pharmacy in the city's first shopping center. The independently owned and operated drug store thrived and competed with the larger retail chains. Eventually, John and Harold opened additional pharmacies in Escalon and Modesto.

Mr. Dayton was later remarried to Susan Thorpe in 1985. Together they raised two children, Kevin Cooper and Tasha Poslaniec of Modesto.

Throughout more than four decades of business in the Oakdale area, he earned a reputation as a knowledgeable, personable, easygoing, dependable, helpful and trustworthy pharmacist. John enjoyed every aspect of business and working with people.

In November 2012, John was diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer. At the time, he was in the midst of starting a new compounding pharmacy in Sonora and building a home on Horseshoe Road outside of Oakdale. He told his family that the new compounding pharmacy would provide him with the means to eventually re-open a pharmacy in downtown Oakdale, where he would once again enjoy the camaraderie of long-time patrons and employees.

Despite the grim prognosis and a marital separation, John remained optimistic, kind-hearted, and faithful. In sickness, his family rallied around him. His grace, courage and faith left an indelible mark on his loving family.

Mr. John Henry Dayton is survived by his mother, Mrs. Charles Dayton; daughter, Kristin (Debra Bringham) Dayton; son, Mike (Alanna) Dayton; sister, Cheryl (Jim) Harlan; and brothers, Lonn (Pam) Dayton, and Paul Dayton. John was grandfather to six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Dayton; and stepson, Kevin Cooper.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the life of Mr. John Henry Dayton and all of his excellent contributions to his family and community.

HELINA THOMA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Helina Thoma for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Helina Thoma is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Helina Thoma is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Helina Thoma for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURAL CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the inaugural celebration of National Catholic Sisters Week. National Catholic Sisters Week is a worthy addition to National Women's History Month and will be recognized each year during the second week of March.

National Catholic Sisters Week is being launched by the Sisters of Saint Joseph at Saint Catherine University in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The week is intended to recognize the many contributions made by Catholic sisters around the world, past and present, to support and advance children, education, health care and anti-poverty efforts.

In the 1800s, many Catholic nuns moved to the American West with the frontier, settling into dangerous territories to build hospitals and schools for immigrant communities. They provided aid during the Chicago fire, cared for orphans during the California Gold Rush and brought professional nursing skills to field hospitals during the Civil War.

In the 1900s, American nuns opened thousands more hospitals, built the Nation's largest private school system, and brought the Catholic Church into the Civil Rights movement with courage and vision.

The good works of our Catholic sisters continue to be a saving grace. Today they press the frontlines of social change, gathering in chapels, at kitchen tables and at the steps of cathedrals and capitols. They shelter homeless families, aid immigrants, tutor students, guide pregnant teens, launch nonprofits, care for the environment and fight human trafficking. Their blood, sweat and prayers are a powerful force providing peace, comfort and justice to so many throughout our Nation, and indeed the world.

I am grateful that the Sisters of Saint Joseph were part of my own education and mentorship as I pursued my higher education at Saint Catherine's. Their great generosity of spirit and wise leadership continue to help to guide my own commitment in Congress to excellence in education, protecting the environment and expanding health care access for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the very first of many National Catholic Sisters Weeks. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Catholic sisters who sustain our great Nation day in and day out.

HONORING MR. JOHN ADENT

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Adent who was recently inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. Mr. Adent was awarded the Rising Star in Agriculture award for 2014. He grew up on a fruit orchard and hog farm in southwestern Michigan. There, he developed a love for agriculture. He graduated from DePaul University with a double major in Economics and Chinese.

After graduation, Mr. Adent joined Ralston Purina management training program and was given the opportunity to spend time in Canada, Korea, and Taiwan. That training eventually paid off, as he was named Director of Business Development of several international markets, including China and the Philippines. He was promoted to vice president of operations for Europe in 1998. He eventually became the Managing Director for Agribrands Europe Hungary, the number one executive position in the company's fastest growing region.

John then made a change and joined the team at Lextron, Inc., a Colorado-based company. Lextron, now Animal Health International, has grown under his leadership by leaps and bounds. His vision and direction along with his strategic planning has grown the company to over 150 employees in Colorado and over 1400 across the United States and Canada. In 2012, Mr. Adent served as the chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors Board. He is currently working with a team to expand the number of secondary agriculture education programs in Larimer County, Colorado.

His leadership of one of North America's premier companies based in Colorado, his strong support for youth, and his passion for agriculture make Mr. Adent a rising star in Colorado agriculture. I am honored to recognize him today.

HONORING WILLIAM RICHARD (DICK) COOLEY

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last month, Portland lost an extraordinary citizen with the passing of William Richard (Dick) Cooley. It was my honor to know and work with Dick Cooley for most of our professional lives. My friend was first and foremost a planner. It ran in his blood, he came by it honestly.

His father, Bill Cooley, was a big picture guy, a successful developer who served on the Multnomah County planning commission and was someone who was extraordinarily helpful to me when I was a new county commissioner. He had great depth of understanding about what was then Oregon's second largest city: unincorporated mid-Multnomah County. Bill Cooley played a significant role as a developer in an area where homes spring up rapidly, but he didn't just help build

the community, he located his family in the middle of it, and then helped lead it.

Dick Cooley grew up in the midst of this dramatic change in the region. I had a connection being in an adjacent high school district, Centennial, next door to him. His high school alma mater was David Douglas, which was then the largest high school in the state of Oregon. It was then a symbol of excellence and Dick Cooley fit right in. It's where he developed the characteristics and skills that would serve him so well later in life. He was far more than a planner; he was a successful developer and builder who also had a career in banking and later, was in key business positions in the real estate arm of Pacific Power and Light, Pacific Development. This company took the audacious step of buying a huge tract of urban central city property known as the Lloyd district, well over 100 acres of opportunity that has continued to be a source of developmental activity, to be a key new district now blossoming within the central city. Dick Cooley was an investor who made strategic property purchases not just on the highest rate of return or the fastest rate of return, but working to put the pieces together to create long-term value.

It was this combination of the instincts of planner and an investor that made him a natural choice to follow in his father's footsteps to become a member of the Multnomah county planning commission.

I was pleased to appoint him to the Portland Planning Commission where he was an extraordinarily valuable leader in the important activities of the late 1980s and 1990s. He provided leadership not just as the chair of the planning commission, but understanding how to help people come together to create value. He played a vital role in helping shape and guide my Albina community plan, which was perhaps the high water mark in Portland's planning for people. This lead to the revitalization of some of Portland's most troubled neighborhoods. Streets you wouldn't feel comfortable driving down then, you can now stroll with visitors to show Portland at its best. Dick was essential in bringing fellow planning commissioners, citizens and the city council together to make it happen.

Yet his planning, patience and investment strategies were most compelling when it came to people. It started with his circle of family and friends, especially his loving 20 year relationship with his wife Leslie. It was a joy to be around them both. No one worked harder at being a parent then my friend Dick, and his children, Sarah and Alex were never far from his thoughts.

Whether Dick was planning, being a father, husband, friend, he was always giving of himself. He never forgot that he was a kid from mid-Multnomah County, David Douglas High School, and he would return to his community roots time and time again. Most notably and recently, the countless hours he spent trying to assist his former neighbors contend with a community that is now fighting decline. He worked with them helping realize their vision for the gateway area, long after he left the planning commission.

He could not keep himself from providing leadership. He provided leadership until last year for the Portland street car, another Dick Cooley contribution to revitalizing our community and inspiring cities across America. Dick's values blended seamlessly. Friendship, family, business, community; they were all part of a broader sense for the greater good. It is trite to say, but he was truly a unique human being. I've never seen anyone tie together those pieces the same way in such shy, quiet, unassuming fashion. He was smart as a whip and credentialed, but he didn't care about status and credentials, for himself or anyone else. He was still the kid from David Douglas, who just happened to be student body president, an athlete, an actor, a successful scholar who went off to Harvard. He didn't just wear this well, he disguised it. What he cared about was the human connection. If you knew Dick well, that was what you expected; you almost took it for granted. If you went on an early morning walk, he was the guy with the flashlight for you, maybe an extra bottle of water wondering if you're going to be late for your next appointment. He was always asking how you were. It was a detailed sort of checking in, about how you were really doing, your family, what you were thinking, who you were connected with.

His men's group was a critical part of who Dick was for two decades, but he wanted to share and understand that type of experience. He encouraged others to stake out their own circles to have the same connection. Dick will always be connected to us. Truly an extraordinary human being, who left us too soon, but who lived an amazingly rich and full life. We're all richer for that connection with him today, which continues every evening at 6:30 as his friends pause to remember Dick and what he meant to us all.

JACOB BACK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jacob Back for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jacob Back is a 9th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jacob Back is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jacob Back for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MOLLY K. MORRISON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Molly K. Morrison on the occasion of being honored with the Eighth Annual Rebecca Lukens Award by The Greystone Society of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania. As an outstanding candidate for this recognition, Molly was chosen for this honor for the same love of community she has as the award's namesake, Rebecca Lukens.

A Chester County native, Molly Morrison learned to appreciate the importance of land preservation by spending time on her grandparents' farm in northern Chester County, a place where her German immigrant ancestors had been farming since the early 1700s.

After pursuing an English degree at Ursinus College and Masters in Communications at Syracuse University, Molly worked at the Brandywine Valley Association and then for Chester County, where she served in a variety of positions over a 21-year period, most recently as Director of Policy and Planning. In that role, she oversaw the development and implementation of the County's nationally recognized open space program, as well as the policy development of and program implementation for planning, parks, water resources, and community development.

As President of Natural Lands Trust, she has been instrumental in creating conservation strategies for complex land transactions, including the acquisition of the 1,263-acre ChesLen Preserve in Newlin Township. In addition to providing strategic leadership and fundraising for a staff of 60, Molly oversees a network of 42 nature preserves and 361 conservation easements, totaling more than 44,000 acres. Molly has also served on a variety of boards, including the YMCA of Greater West Chester, the Chester County Art Association, and the Chester County United Way, among others.

Mr. Speaker, in light of her years of immeasurable contributions to the community and litany of outstanding accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Molly K. Morrison on the occasion of her being honored with The Greystone Society's Rebecca Lukens Award.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE KAREN CASTOR DENTEL

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize State Representative Karen Castor Dentel. Karen is a third-generation Floridian raised in Tampa. She earned a degree in Elementary Education from Vanderbilt University, a Masters from UNC Chapel Hill, and a PhD from the University of Florida.

Karen taught in a number of local elementary schools before her passion for teaching led her to become a voice for education in Tallahassee. When state policies regarding teacher evaluations and an increasing emphasis on testing began affecting her students, children, and colleagues, Karen sought election to the Florida House of Representatives in order to make an impact on education policies. In 2012 she was elected as State Representative for District 30 covering parts of Orange and Seminole counties.

Karen comes from a long line of public servants. Her mother, Betty Castor served in the Florida Senate and as Florida's Commissioner of Education. Her stepfather, Sam Bell also served in Florida's House of Representatives. Her father, Don Castor was a judge and her brother Frank is currently a judge in south Florida. Finally, her sister U.S. Representative KATHY CASTOR currently serves Hillsborough County in the United States Congress.

Karen is married to Eric Dentel and has two children, Wyatt and Caroline. An active member of her community, Karen is involved with the Maitland, Winter Park, and Greater Seminole Chambers of Commerce, and the League of Women Voters. She is a former member of the Junior League of Greater Orlando and a former Board member of the Orange County Regional History Center, where she chaired the Education Committee. Karen and her family are members of the First Congregational Church of Winter Park. In her spare time, Karen enjoys learning about Florida history, birding, reading, and spending time with her family and friends.

Karen is delighted to continue her family's legacy of service and is grateful for the honor of representing the Central Floridians of District 30.

I am happy to honor State Representative Karen Castor Dentel, during Women's History Month, for her leadership and service to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMY RITTER

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Amy Ritter. Amy, a 27-year-old communications and activist powerhouse, has made her mark on Florida politics through her innovative messaging and organizing skills. Her ''Pink Slip Rick'' campaign was one of the most dynamic branding campaigns in Florida's recent political history.

Born in Chicago, Amy's family moved to Coral Springs, Florida, in 1992. She attended public school and graduated from Broward College in 2006 with High Honors and an Associate's Degree in Political Science. Amy became part of the Gator Nation in 2007 and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a minor in International Development and Humanitarian Assistance.

While at the University of Florida, Amy interned on a local campaign that successfully fought for maintaining LGBT civil rights in Gainesville. The campaign helped Amy realize that universal change can start in one small town, or with just one person.

In 2009, Amy moved to Orlando and continued her work on local and congressional races until she was hired as Director of Research for Florida Watch Action in 2011. Amy helped propel Florida Watch Action to the national spotlight with the cutting-edge ''Pink Slip Rick'' campaign, a branding campaign on Governor Rick Scott. Through the campaign, Amy helped galvanize middle class Floridians statewide. ''Pink Slip Rick,'' which quickly became a movement, would go on to serve as a model for progressive groups throughout the country. Amy also launched Florida's first legislative tracking program, for which she received the Florida Netroots Nation ''Rookie Activist of the Year'' award in 2011.

During the 2012 presidential election, Amy served as Field Director for the Orange County democratic campaign and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

Saint Petersblog named Amy one of ''30 under 30'' rising stars in Florida politics in 2013. She noted that her inspiration came from her father and a lifelong sense of urgency to stand up against injustice. Also in 2013, Amy became Director of Communications for the Orange County Tax Collector, Office of Scott Randolph, where she has transformed the office's communications, online, and social media presence.

Amy has served on the boards of the Orange County Democratic Executive Committee and the Democratic Women's Club of Greater Orlando. In 2014, she founded the Orlando chapter of the New Leader's Council, a progressive fellowship program for young professionals. A firm believer in equality and equal access, Amy remains committed to advocacy and supporting social justice organizations such as Planned Parenthood, Organize Now, and Equality Florida.

I am happy to honor Amy Ritter, during Women's History Month, for her passion and service to the Central Florida Community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DARYL FLYNN

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Daryl Flynn. Ms. Flynn was first elected to the Orange County School Board in 2006. She is a native of Florida and was educated in the Sarasota County public school system. She received an AA from Manatee Jr. College and a BA in political science from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida. She holds an MPA from Florida Atlantic University with an emphasis on environmental growth management.

Prior to joining the school board, Flynn was an active member of the PTA at the local, county, and state levels for more than 15 years and served as chair of her son's middle school SAC. She was president of the Orange County Council of PTA from 2001–2002. Flynn also served on both the Orange County Public School (OCPS) Reapportionment Committee and the Superintendent's Accountability Committee in 2001. She was also a member of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Education. In December 2009, Ms. Flynn became a Certified Board Member through the Florida School Boards Association.

Flynn's community involvement, both past and present, includes the East Orlando Chamber of Commerce, the East Orange County Relay for Life, and the East Orange County Kiwanis Club. She is also a member of the Orange County League of Women Voters and serves on the Board of Directors for Magic Curtain Productions.

Flynn's professional career includes environmental and emergency response planning, as well as meeting planning. She has been a franchised Jazzercise Instructor with active status since 1983 and now teaches at the Waterford Lakes Jazzercise Center.

Ms. Flynn lives with her husband, Jim, in the Waterford Lakes area. They have one son, Jimmy, who is a graduate of University High School and the University of Central Florida.

I am happy to honor Daryl Flynn, during Women's History Month, for her service to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SHERI MORTON

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize the service of Sheri Morton. For over 45 years, Sheri Morton has been an active and dedicated volunteer for progressive causes. From the peace, civil rights, and women's movements in the 1960s to voting and equal rights in the 2010s, Sheri has volunteered tens of thousands of hours to making our community, and our country, a better place to live. Sheri has been a longtime supporter of quality, affordable health care for all Americans a goal which has been the major impetus and inspiration for her extensive volunteer efforts.

Mrs. Morton began volunteering as a teenager and continued doing so throughout her time at Harvard College. She earned a Masters Degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she was later employed. Sheri went on to become an attorney after receiving her J.D. Now retired, she continues actively volunteering and advocating for important issues, often donating more than 50 hours of service a week.

Over the years, Sheri has volunteered for over a hundred political candidates. Currently, she serves as Secretary of the Democrats of Celebration, as well as Campaign Committee Chair. She is a Precinct Committeewoman on the Osceola Democratic Executive Committee and a member of the Executive Committee of the Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Florida. She is also a member of the Osceola County Library Advisory Board.

Sheri has traveled extensively. She has spent significant time in Mexico, Spain and Israel and visited Morocco, Egypt, Japan, Taiwan, China, Canada, and various European countries. These journeys have contributed to her progressive global perspective on issues.

Her volunteer work has ranged from teaching English to immigrants and tutoring a blind student in high school math to collecting food for Appalachia's needy and warm clothes for the homeless.

When her husband was asked what his biggest success has been, he did not hesitate before responding, ''My wife!''

Some of Sheri's numerous current volunteer efforts include encouraging Floridians to enroll in health insurance under the Affordable Care Act and urging the state of Florida to expand Medicaid.

For Sheri, volunteering is serious business. Through good times and bad, triumphs and setbacks, Sheri has continued to volunteer, working to improve the quality of life for people in Florida, our country and the world.

I am happy to honor Sheri Morton, during Women's History Month, for her dedication to volunteering and advocacy.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF BARBARA M. JENKINS, ED.D.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize the service of Dr. Barbara Jenkins, an educator who has been serving the needs of students for more than 25 years. Dr. Jenkins was named Superintendent for Orange County Public Schools in 2012.

As the former Deputy Superintendent for Orange County, she served as the superintendent's designee, overseeing five area superintendents and the division of Teaching and Learning. In her prior tenure as Chief of Staff, she also oversaw Human Resources, Public Relations, Labor Relations, and Strategic Planning and served as the chief negotiator for the district. She also coordinated executive functions for the district and provided support to the school board.

From 1998 through 2005, she was the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school district in North Carolina. As Assistant Superintendent, she was responsible for Employee Relations, Licensure, Benefits, Information Systems, Compensation and Employment. During her time in Charlotte, she was recognized for her innovative strategies which increased equity among schools, including accelerated staffing strategies, teacher incentives, and the use of a balanced scorecard.

Dr. Jenkins received her undergraduate and doctor of education degrees from the University of Central Florida. She previously served as Senior Director for Elementary Education in Orange County, where she supervised principals and schools. She has also been a classroom teacher, staff developer, and principal.

Dr. Jenkins is a fellow of the nationally recognized Broad Urban Superintendents Academy. She was named the 2013 District Data Leader of the Year by the Florida Department of Education. In addition, she was honored with a Professional Achievement Award from the University of Central Florida College of Education and Human Performance in November 2013.

Deeply engaged in the community, Dr. Jenkins serves on the board of the United Arts of Central Florida, the Winter Park Health Foundation, the YMCA of Central Florida, the Central Florida Regional Commission on Homelessness, and the Orange County Youth Mental Health Commission. Recognizing her commitment and influence, an Orlando Sentinel-hosted survey of ''informed'' Central Floridians voted Dr. Jenkins the ninth most powerful person in Central Florida in December 2013. Orlando Magazine also recognized her as one of the ''50 Most Powerful People in Orlando'' in July 2013.

I am happy to honor Barbara Jenkins, during Women's History Month, for her dedication and commitment to education.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROSEMARY DUROCHER

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Rosemary DuRocher. A retired Guidance Counselor, Rosemary graduated from Immaculata College, and has a Master's Degree from Rollins College and a Doctorate from the University of Florida.

During her career, Rosemary worked as a teacher in the Executive Internship Program in the Orange County Public School system and as a Counselor and Director of the Winter Park High School Guidance Department. Prior to retiring, she set up the Guidance Department at the Florida Virtual School.

While working full-time Rosemary was always active in the community. She served as President of the League of Women Voters, was appointed to serve on Governor Bob Graham's Task Force on the Criminal Justice System, and chaired a task force on Women in the County Jail.

Politics has been a lifelong interest of Rosemary. Every election season you will find her active in campaigns.

Rosemary is active in her church. She has served as Chair of the Committee on Ministry, co-chaired the Canvass Committee, and served on the interim search committee. Currently, Rosemary facilitates a discussion group at Orlando Lutheran Towers and serves on the activities committee.

Rosemary was married to Joe DuRocher for almost 51 years. She is the mother of three children, Beth Little, John DuRocher, and Mike DuRocher, and the grandmother of two.

I am happy to honor Rosemary DuRocher, during Women's History Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF DR. ALEJANDRO ZAFFARONI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of an extraordinary American, Dr. Alejandro Zaffaroni, who passed away peacefully at his home in Atherton, California, at the age of 91.

Dr. Zaffaroni was born on February 27, 1923, in Montevideo, Uruguay. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Montevideo in 1941, and came to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of Rochester, where he earned his Ph.D.

In 1951, after finishing an NIH Fellowship, Dr. Zaffaroni joined a privately held Mexican chemical company, Syntex. He was a major force in its transformation and brought it to the U.S., shaping it into a global pharmaceutical company located near Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. It became most known for pioneering the development of therapeutic corticosteroids and the birth control pill. Dr. Zaffaroni eventually became President of Syntex Laboratories and Director of Reasearch.

Dr. Zaffaroni was widely hailed as not only a pioneer in the field of biotechnology, he was often referred to as the father of biotechnology in the United States and a Silicon Valley legend. His extraordinary accomplishments include the founding of the DNAX Institute, Alza Corporation, Affymax Inc., Affymetrix, Alexa Pharmaceuticals, Symyx Technologies and Maxygen.

He was the recipient of many prestigious awards and honors, including the National Medal of Technology and Innovation in 1995. He was also honored by the creation of a $10 million financial aid program for Latin American students at Stanford University, the Alejandro and Lida Zaffaroni Scholarship and Fellowship Program, funded by colleagues who were inspired by Dr. Zaffaroni and his work. Dr. and Mrs. Zaffaroni are widely hailed for their extraordinary generosities to many humanitarian causes.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Zaffaroni and his family for many years. Always the consummate gentleman, he was a mentor and an inspiration to me. He was a man of great integrity, and his wise counsel and warm friendship will remain with me for a lifetime.

Dr. Zaffaroni leaves his devoted wife Lida who was always his source of inspiration and support over a lifetime, his son, Dr. Alejandro Zaffaroni, his daughter-in-law Leah, his daughter Elisa, and his two beloved grandsons, Peter and Charles.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to Dr. Zaffaroni's wife, Lida, and his family. We honor this singularly brilliant man through whom unparalleled achievements were made to treat disease and prevent suffering. These are his lasting legacies. Dr. Zaffaroni was a national treasure and his contributions to science and medicine are and always will be heralded around the world as extraordinary gifts to the betterment of humankind.

HONORING MR. DONALD SVEDMAN

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Donald L. Svedman, who has recently been inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. Mr. Svedman was born and raised in Windsor, Colorado on his grandfather's homestead. His family had both irrigated and dry-land farm ground in addition to cattle, sheep, hogs and dairy. He was active in 4–H and was named Outstanding Male 4–H member for the state of Colorado.

He entered Colorado State University, and then almost immediately joined the United States Navy for four years. Upon returning, he finished his CSU career with a degree in Animal Science. Mr. Svedman was extremely active in various clubs and organizations while at CSU. After attending CSU, he received a Master's Degree from Kansas State University. He then returned to Colorado and began a career as a County Extension Agent in Boulder, Fremont, and Custer counties for multiple years.

He was elected to Executive Secretary of the Colorado Hereford Association in 1965, and named the Manager of the Colorado State Fair in 1966 by Governor John Love. He was and is an unwavering advocate for the betterment of the Colorado State Fair and worked tirelessly to improve the fair and its facilities. Because of his efforts, he was named Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Colorado in January of 1970. He served 12 years as Deputy Commissioner and became well-known and highly respected as an asset to Colorado Agriculture. Mr. Svedman exemplifies the spirit of continued learning, service to profession, and commitment to community. I am honored to recognize him today.

HONORING THE LA VEGA ISD LADY PIRATES BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the La Vega High School girls' basketball team for winning the Texas 3A state championship title.

On February 29, 2014, the La Vega Lady Pirates played in the 3A state championship game against the Argyle Lady Eagles. The Lady Pirates won with a score of 47–42.

The opposing team had taken the lead going into halftime and carried it through a majority of the second half. The Lady Pirates never gave up hope and continued playing tough. They persevered and came through with success at the end.

There is no better way to cap off such an incredible season, in which the Lady Pirates went undefeated, than with their first ever state championship title.

La Vega's Calveion Landrum, named MVP of the game, scored her team 23 points for her team as they defeated Argyle.

The Lady Pirates' coach, Amy Gillum, was finally able to achieve the goal she started pursuing as a player at La Vega 19 years ago.

The championship was won as a result of both the players' and coach's hard work and dedication to their basketball program.

I congratulate Coach Gillum on the victory that would not have been possible without her guidance and the devotion from her players and fans.

Mr. Speaker, before I close I just want to say congratulations to an outstanding Texas District 17 high school girls' basketball team, coaching staff, fans, and community.

Go Lady Pirates.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OMEGA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Omega Christian Church in Arcadia, Indiana. It is a pleasure to congratulate the church in celebration of this special occasion.

Omega Christian Church was founded during some of our Nation's darkest days, in 1863 during the midst of the Civil War. At the time of the church's founding, the area was known as Bethany, but later became called Omega and is now Arcadia. Exemplifying the best of the hardworking and enterprising Hoosier spirit, the residents built the church themselves using local timber. Joseph Lacy oversaw the construction, and Dr. Silas Blount gave the dedication sermon in November of 1863. It was in this humble wooden structure that Knowles Shaw (1834–1878), an early minister of the church who was a prominent evangelist and composer of religious music, wrote the hymnal "Bringing in the Sheaves."

In the years following the war, the community around Omega Christian Church began to grow and prosper. After construction was finished on the church, a sawmill, general store, resident doctor, blacksmith, and post office were also established. In 1926, sixty-three years after the completion of the original structure, the church was moved and enlarged to make room for the growing congregation. The framework and sanctuary of the church are original and are still in use today, making the Omega Christian Church the oldest building in White River Township.

The church continued to grow and expand throughout the following years, including major structural improvements. While the physical building may have changed and evolved, Omega Christian Church's mission remains the same from its founding in 1863: to serve God, to serve his people, and to be a light in the community where stability, comfort, strength, and family can be found, all in the name of Jesus Christ. Today I am proud to recognize this small country church and thank them for their contributions to the spiritual well-being of their community. May the next 150 years be equally blessed.

DON'T SINK THE SHIP—A TALE OF TWO WWII BUDDIES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, throughout life, people come and go. Some stay for a lifetime. Some you might wonder how, out of the billions of people in the world, you end up next to them again after 90 years with everything from a war and life's triumphs in between. It's a rare occurrence, but the life story of two World War II veterans right here in Houston, Texas.

Hymie Abramson and Milton "Mittie" Tartakov celebrated birthdays together for years. They were both born on June 6th, 1924, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston. The coincidence of their birth date and place are only the beginning of their life story. Twelve years later, Mittie and Hymie found each other again on the San Jacinto High School baseball field. And that's where their true story began.

Mittie was a talented middle infielder and Hymie a utility outfielder. They stuck together through all the games, practices, and championships. Whatever event it was, they stuck by each other. Little did they know, that was only preparing them for what was to come. Shortly after graduating high school, Mittie and Hymie received their draft cards. Though it wasn't quite a surprise given the demand in WWII, going off to war is never easy to process. Questions and doubts, rightfully so, arose, and they had each other to help answer them. The first question became Army versus Navy, with many to follow. Mittie's older brother served in the Navy and Hymie's older brothers served in the Army. But they decided the U.S. Navy was for them. When Hymie questioned Mittie about how happy he was with his decision to join the Navy over the Army, he grinned and said, "We're still alive, aren't we?" That became their life motto.

During a conversation with Mittie, he smirked and said, "We were two green-faced kids fresh out of high-school, who thought we were going to San Diego for boot camp where there would be beaches, sun and girls. So we gathered what little money we had and, with the shirts on our back, planned for our travels. But the Navy had other plans, in fact, we were sent to Chicago, in the dead of winter, to train on Lake Michigan." The two battled the brutal winter on Lake Michigan while preparing for War, having never been further from Houston than Lubbock. This was the first of many realities they would face during their service.

After training together, both Hymie and Mittie were commissioned as Aviation Machinist Mates for the same ship the USS *Savo Island*—an escort carrier departing from the Kaiser Shipyard in Astoria, Oregon, heading for the South Pacific. During this time, both men learned a lot. The USS *Savo Island* was nicknamed a "jeep carrier" because of the relatively small size of the aircraft carrier. It held 40 planes, 15 bombers called TBM Avengers, and 25 fighter planes. The Avengers were torpedo bombers targeting enemy surface ships. They had internal fuel tanks in the wings for additional fuel storage that would allow them to travel farther distances. Additionally, they had Yehudi lights which were used to match the brightness of the sky creating counter-illumination camouflage. The camouflage would allow them to get closer to the enemy without being seen until they were within the 3,000 yard range. Quite a different life from the baseball field where they first "officially" met.

The journey was unpredictable for both of the men who, at this point, were basically brothers. Every day was different. One day, about 6-months into deployment, Mittie and Hymie were playing football. Given their love for sports, it was their way of unwinding but maybe not on this day. During a casual game of football, Hymie went for a pass and fell off the flight deck, causing him to break his leg. No break is a good break but the outcome for him wasn't exactly what he had hoped for. There was no other option but for him to be taken to the hospital on Tulagi Island,The two men were separated at this moment for several years.

The days weren't easy. Nights were warm and days registered around 120 degrees with the sun beaming down on the men. On those kinds of nights, Mittie would seek refuge from what felt like an inferno by sleeping on the flight deck instead of down below in the bunks. Most of the nights anyway, men would rarely sleep through the night as they always had to be on-guard: submarine attacks and bombers were a frequent occurrence. There was a critical shortage of tail-gunners during this time. The tail-gunner position was the most dangerous on the bombers. Enemy aircrafts targeted this position often, as it was the most vulnerable on the plane. But Mittie volunteered for the position as a tail gunner. Courtesy of the TBM's camouflage, it was the most forward plane of the squadron, closest to the enemy and furthest from the ship. While Mittie was working as a tail-gunner down range, Hymie regained his health and was sent stateside to continue work as an aviation machinist for the remainder of the War.

The USS *Savo Island* made a remarkable journey, fighting in seven invasions. The last combat mission they fought was in Okinawa, where the ship's radar tower was hit by a kamikaze. From there, the ship sailed to Guam, and there it was repaired before traveling to Alaska for refuge. It was off the shores of Alaska when Mittie was finally told the great news: Victory over Japan. The USS *Savo Island* continued its voyage for port at Pearl Harbor. While in Hawaii, the Navy treated the men to a 6-month R and R before heading back home. But as far as Mittie was concerned, Houston, Texas, sounded more like paradise than Hawaii. Before he finally returned home, the USS *Savo Island* earned the Presidential Unit Citation—the highest honor a ship can earn. That marked the day Millie was permitted to wear the ribbon with "the star" on his uniform.

I. 1946, Mittie and Hymie were both discharged at Camp Wallace in Galveston, Texas. Shortly after being discharged, the two veterans joined A-Jayes, a young mens social club. Millie went on to attend college at the University of Houston. Upon graduation, he began working for a lumber yard, of which he eventually took ownership. He renamed it Milton's Lumber and Building Co. It was a success for 53 years.

Hymie owned Metropolitan Furniture with his brothers, where he worked on developing advertisements, design and even helped with the construction of the building. Despite everything Hymie and Mittie had in common throughout life, they chose different career paths. But that didn't come between them in any way. Both businesses were down the street from each other on Jensen Drive, and the best friends managed to eat lunch together almost every day.

The year 1953 would change both Hymie and Mittie's lives. It was the year they both met their wives, Blanch and Sally. These two women not only brought the two men closer but the two couples became best of friends. They did everything together from bowling leagues every week to traveling the country.

Five years ago, Hymie and his wife, Blanch, moved to the Hampton Post Oak. Sure enough, 2 years later, Blanch convinced Mittie to move there as well. Up until yesterday, Mittie and Hymie spent their days playing Texas Hold'em with their friends at The Hampton on Post Oak.

On March 10, 2014, Mittie went to be with the Lord. We are forever indebted to men like Mittie and Hymie for their service to America. They are the rare, special breed that has shaped our country into the great Nation we are today. They are the Greatest Generation.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF CHARLES D. McCRARY AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ALABAMA POWER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, with my Alabama delegation colleagues ROBERT ADERHOLT, SPENCER BACHUS, MO BROOKS, BRADLEY BYRNE, MARTHA ROBY, and TERRI SEWELL, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Charles D. McCrary. Mr. McCrary is retiring March 2014 from Alabama Power as the president and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. McCrary has served since October 25, 2001, as the 10th president and CEO of Alabama Power, which provides electricity to 1.4 million customers in Alabama. He joined Alabama Power during the summer of 1970 following his freshman year at Auburn University and has held various positions of increasing responsibility within Southern Company, including vice president for Southern Nuclear Operating Company, and later held the positions of president of Southern Company Generation, chief production officer of Southern Company and president of Southern Power Company.

Mr. McCrary was born in Birmingham in 1951. He graduated from Shades Valley High School and earned his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Auburn University, followed by a Juris Doctor from Birmingham School of Law and was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1979.

Mr. McCrary is married to the former Phyllis Brantley of Birmingham and the father of two sons, Doug and Alex.

Mr. McCrary has been an active leader in the community and state of Alabama while serving as chairman of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama and on the boards of Regions Financial Corporation, Mercedes-Benz U.S. International Inc., Protective Life Corporation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Southern Research Institute and the Auburn University Board of Trustees.

Mr. McCrary has been a coalition builder and a leader in economic development for the region and state through his vision and commitment calling for greater cooperation between cities, counties and business leaders. He was instrumental in bringing several large industries,, to Alabama, including automotive, aerospace and steel manufacturers.

He implemented Target Zero, a safety program to ensure employees are properly trained and equipped to do their jobs safely, and the program has become a model for the utility industry. Mr. McCrary led the company and its customers through some of its greatest natural-disaster challenges, including Hurricane Ivan in 2004, which caused the largest number of outages in company history (825,701); Hurricane Katrina in 2005 with 636,891 outages; and the tornado disaster on April 27, 2011 with 412,000 outages. He made the decision to publicly announce restoration commitments after storms, a move that allowed the company to communicate to customers when they could expect to have power restored, making that practice standard today.

Mr. McCrary worked closely with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and managers to strengthen the relationship between the IBEW and management. He helped change the culture so management and labor have a mutual respect, creating a united front on behalf of all employees for various initiatives, including safety, employee morale and customer satisfaction and providing a business model throughout the industry.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and the entire Alabama Delegation in thanking Charles McCrary for his tireless dedication to Alabama Power. His service to our state is an inspiration. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be in Washington on March 4 through March 6, 2014 for votes because of the inclement weather and meetings in the district with the Secretary of Energy and EPA Administration.

If I had been here, I would have voted as follows:

On passage of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, as amended, I would have voted "yes."

On passage of the resolution supporting the people of Venezuela as they protest peacefully for democratic change and calling to end the violence, I would have voted "yes."

On the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 3826, the Electricity Security and Affordability Act, and H.R. 4118, the SIMPLE Fairness Act, I would have voted "no."

On H. Res. 497, the resolution providing the rule for H.R. 3826 and H.R. 4118, I would have voted "no."

On the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, as Amended, I would have voted "yes."

On the Motion to Recommit H.R. 4118, I would have voted "yes."

On passage of H.R. 4118, I would have vote "no."

On passage of the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act, I would have voted "yes."

On the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 2824, the Preventing Government Waste and Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act, and H.R. 2641, the RAPID Act, I would have voted "no."

On H. Res. 501, the resolution providing the rule for H.R. 2824 and H.R. 2641, I would have voted "no."

On the Smith of Texas and Schweikert Amendment, I would have voted "no."

On the Capps/McNerney Amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On the Schakowsky/Lowenthal Amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On the Waxman Amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On the Motion to Recommit H.R. 3826, I would have voted "yes."

On final passage of H.R. 3826, I would have voted "no."

On the Motion to Table H. Res. 504, I would have voted "no."

On the Jackson-Lee Amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On the McKinley Amendment, I would have voted "no."

On the Nadler Amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On the Johnson of Georgia Amendment, I would have voted "yes."

On the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2641, I would have voted "yes."

On final passage of H.R. 2641, I would have voted "no."

On passage to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine, I would have voted "yes."

BROWN'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Brown University's 250th birthday.

Since 1764, the crown jewel of Rhode Island's higher education has been turning out scholars, thinkers, researchers, and leaders. Few of the sixty original signatories to the Brown charter could have conceived of where the university would stand today. Brunonians today lead the world in particle physics, neurology, renewable energy, and many other disciplines that two and a half centuries ago seemed beyond human comprehension.

As a lifelong citizen of Rhode Island, I am especially proud that our values of intellectual freedom and religious tolerance are reflected in Brown University. The mission of the university remains as relevant as ever: "To serve the community, the nation and the world by discovering, communicating and preserving knowledge in a spirit of free inquiry, and by educating and preparing students to discharge the offices of life with usefulness and reputation."

Perhaps inspired by these heady words, many graduates have chosen a life of public service. This includes Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen; Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez; Governors Maggie Hassan, Jack Markell, Bobby Jindal, and Rhode Island's own Lincoln Chafee; as well my colleague, Congressman CICILLINE.

In addition to the many individual contributions Brunonians have made to the civic community, Brown has been, itself, a leader among institutions of higher education. The New Curriculum is a model for academic exploration that encourages students to take intellectual risks and reflect deeply about their scholarly choices. These values can be seen in the exemplary Program in Liberal Medical Education, an innovative synthesis of traditional and professional courses of study, and in the University Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice, which examined the connections between the school's namesake family and the slave trade.

For the past 250 years, Brown has stood as a shining example of the success of free inquiry and the powers of creative discovery. Under President Christina Paxson's leadership, Brown is continuing to build on her past successes and remains a global leader in education. Just as her founders could not have envisioned the breadth of research being done today, I am excited to see what new fields Brown will lead in the future.

I join all of my Rhode Island colleagues in wishing Brown well on her 250th Birthday, as we all look forward to even greater things to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BEURT R. SERVAAS, M.D.

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rife today to pay tribute to Dr. Beurt R. SerVaas of Indianapolis, Indiana. He passed away on February 2, 2014, at the age of 94. Beurt was an exceptional civil servant, businessman and philanthropist who was devoted to bettering the city he loved. He served both Indianapolis and his country with integrity and honor.

A lifelong Hoosier and resident of Indianapolis, Beurt graduated from Shortridge High School and later from Indiana University. After completing his degree, he bravely served in the United States Navy during the Second World War as a member of the American Intelligence Command's Office of Strategic Services in China. He later continued his service to our nation as a member of the newly formed Central Intelligence Agency.

Returning to Indianapolis, Beurt began his storied career as a businessman in 1949 when he purchased his first company. Over the following decades, he would buy and sell nearly fifty businesses in Indiana and around the world, including the venerable Saturday Evening Post. An avid learner, he obtained his M.D. in his forties from the university he helped create, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Beurt SerVaas exemplified the best of the Hoosier spirit: hard work, determination and entrepreneurship.

Beurt was not only a business leader, but also a civic leader whose work fundamentally shaped the city of Indianapolis Along with then-Mayor Richard Lugar, he was instrumental in the creation of Unigov, the government consolidation that expanded the boundaries of Indianapolis to include all of Marion County. After the transition, Beurt served on the City County Council for forty years, including twenty-seven as the president, and served under four different mayors. I was immensely proud to work with Beurt during my time as Deputy Mayor of Indianapolis. He was always kind and generous, and he provided invaluable guidance on how to keep the residents of Indianapolis safe and secure.

Dr. Beurt SerVaas is an irreplaceable pillar of the Indianapolis community whose legacy will continue to inspire Hoosiers for generations to come. Without his tireless devotion and visionary leadership, Indianapolis would not be the world-class city it is today. He brought the world's attention to his beloved hometown and helped Indianapolis compete on the global stage. My condolences and well wishes go out to his wife, Cory Jane SerVaas, his five children, his nineteen grandchildren, and his two great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

SUSPENDING THE INDIVIDUAL MANDATE PENALTY LAW EQUALS FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, the more we learn about the President's healthcare law, the more the facts show it's hurting more than it's helping.

The President said premiums would go down by two thousand dollars, but instead his chief actuary finally admitted that premiums will go up for two-thirds of Americans working for small businesses.

While the administration continues to provide delay after delay, admitting that the law is unworkable, they continue to let the individual mandate take effect. Millions of people will be hit with a mandate and new financial penalties, while losing the coverage they like, not being able to see the doctors they want, and facing higher premiums and out of pocket costs. Why is the administration willing to give big businesses a delay but not do anything to help hardworking Americans? Today, we have an opportunity to also delay the individual mandate in order to protect all Americans.

Minnesotans needed genuine healthcare reform before President Obama signed his healthcare law—and they still do now. It's time to act and spare the American people of Obamacare's costly and burdensome mandates and enact true, bipartisan healthcare reform that improves quality, increases choice, and reduces costs.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rockford Rescue Mission in Rockford, Illinois, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Rockford Rescue Mission first opened in 1964 with a sign on the door reading ''All are welcome here. The alcoholic, the addict, the stranger, the sojourner, the pilgrim, the poor. There is hope for all who enter here.'' Over the last 50 years, Rockford Rescue Mission has continued to open its doors to those in our community who need help, operating 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. The Mission offers meals, short term housing, and prevention and recovery services for addictions, abuse and destructive relations.

In one year, Rockford Rescue Mission provides almost 60,000 nights of lodging and over 160,000 meals, as well as more than 10,000 counseling sessions to people all across northern Illinois. The Mission relies on private donations and support from over 500 volunteers annually providing almost 45,000 hours of service.

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate Rockford Rescue Mission for reaching this impressive milestone. I want to thank them for their incredible efforts over the past 50 years and their continued dedication to providing services to those in need in our community.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1487–S1529

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2103–2110, and S. Res. 378–381. **Page S1519**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 361, recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression in the People's Republic of China and urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to take meaningful steps to improve freedom of expression as fitting of a responsible international stakeholder.

S. Res. 365, deploring the violent repression of peaceful demonstrators in Venezuela, calling for full accountability for human rights violations taking place in Venezuela, and supporting the right of the Venezuelan people to the free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy.

S. Res. 375, concerning the crisis in the Central African Republic and supporting United States and international efforts to end the violence, protect civilians, and address root causes of the conflict, with an amendment and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 376, supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

S. Res. 377, recognizing the 193rd anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

S. 1410, to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1517**

Measures Passed:

Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act: Senate passed H.R. 2019, to eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health. **Page S1492**

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 32, providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and the resolution was then passed. **Page S1527**

Aggression in Ukraine: Senate agreed to S. Res. 378, condemning illegal Russian aggression in Ukraine. **Page S1527**

Congratulating Pennsylvania State University IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon: Senate agreed to S. Res. 379, congratulating the Pennsylvania State University IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (''THON'') on its continued success in support of the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. **Pages S1527–28**

Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 380, supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters and Sons To Work Day. **Pages S1527–28**

Congratulating U.S. Athletes in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games: Senate agreed to S. Res. 381, congratulating the athletes from the United States who participated in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games as members of the United States Olympic Team. **Pages S1527–28**

Measures Considered:

Child Care and Development Block Grant Act: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990. **Page S1487**

Leitman Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Matthew Frederick Leitman, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Page S1500**

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

By 55 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 63), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1500**

Levy Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Judith Ellen Levy, of Michigan,

to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Page S1500**

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

By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 64), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1500**

Michelson Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Laurie J. Michelson, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Pages S1500–01**

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

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 65), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1501**

Parker Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Linda Vivienne Parker, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Page S1501**

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

By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 66), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1501**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

3 Army nominations in the rank of general.

3 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S1526–29**

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Leslie Joyce Abrams, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia. **Page S1528**

Messages from the House: **Page S1516**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S1516, S1528**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1516–17**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S1517–19**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1519–20**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1520–22**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1515–16**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1522–25**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1525–26**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S1526**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—66) **Pages S1500–01**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 6:13 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1528.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; and Douglas Elmendorf, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of General Paul J. Selva, USAF, for reappointment to the grade of general, and to be Commander, United States Transportation Command, and Vice Admiral Michael S. Rogers, USN, to be admiral and Director, National Security Agency, Chief, Central Security Services, and Commander, United States Cyber Command, who was introduced by Senator Kirk, both of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments, effective March 28, 2014:

Subcommittee on AirLand: Senators Blumenthal (Chair), Nelson, McCaskill, Manchin, Gillibrand, Donnelly, Wicker, McCain, Sessions, Chambliss, and Blunt.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities: Senators Hagan (Chair), Reed, Nelson, Udall (CO), Manchin, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Fischer, McCain, Wicker, Graham, Vitter, and Cruz.

Subcommittee on Personnel: Senators Gillibrand (Chair), Hagan, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King, Graham, Chambliss, Ayotte, Blunt, and Lee.

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support: Senators Shaheen (Chair), McCaskill, Udall (CO),

Manchin, Donnelly, Hirono, Kaine, Ayotte, Chambliss, Fischer, Blunt, Lee, and Cruz.

Subcommittee on Seapower: Senators Reed (Chair), Nelson, Hagan, Shaheen, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King, McCain, Sessions, Wicker, Ayotte, Graham, Vitter, and Cruz.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces: Senators Udall (CO) (Chair), Reed, McCaskill, Donnelly, King, Sessions, Fischer, Vitter, and Lee.

Senators Levin and Inhofe are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded open and closed hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Admiral William H. McRaven, USN, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, and Michael D. Lumpkin, Assistant Secretary for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict, both of the Department of Defense.

CAPITAL REGULATIONS FOR INSURERS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection concluded a hearing to examine finding the right capital regulations for insurers, including S. 1369, to provide additional flexibility to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to establish capital standards that are properly tailored to the unique characteristics of the business of insurance, and S. 2102, to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, after receiving testimony from Senator Collins; Michael W. Mahaffey, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; Gina Wilson, TIAA–CREF, Short Hills, New Jersey; H. Rodgin Cohen, Sullivan and Cromwell LLP, Irvington, New York; Aaron Klein, Bipartisan Policy Center, Silver Spring, Maryland; and Daniel Schwarcz, University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing, done at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in Rome, Italy, on November 22, 2009 (the ''Agreement'') (Treaty Doc. 112–04);

Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, done at Auckland, New Zealand, November 14, 2009 (Treaty Doc. 113–01);

Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, done at Tokyo on February 24, 2012, and signed by the United States on May 2, 2012 (Treaty Doc. 113–02);

Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, adopted on September 28, 2007, at the twenty-ninth Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) (Treaty Doc. 113–03);

S. Res. 361, recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression in the People's Republic of China and urging the Government of the People's Republic of China to take meaningful steps to improve freedom of expression as fitting of a responsible international stakeholder;

S. Res. 365, deploring the violent repression of peaceful demonstrators in Venezuela, calling for full accountability for human rights violations taking place in Venezuela, and supporting the right of the Venezuelan people to the free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy;

S. Res. 375, the crisis in the Central African Republic and supporting United States and international efforts to end the violence, protect civilians, and address root causes of the conflict, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 376, supporting the goals of International Women's Day;

S. Res. 377, recognizing the 193rd anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States; and

The nominations of Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs, Robert A. Wood, of New York, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, Luis G. Moreno, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Jamaica, John L. Estrada, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Joseph William Westphal, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Mark Gilbert, of Florida, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa, Matthew H. Tueller, of Utah, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen, Deborah L. Birx, of Maryland, to be Ambassador at Large and Coordinator of United States Government

Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally, Suzan G. LeVine, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein, Maureen Elizabeth Cormack, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Peter A. Selfridge, of Minnesota, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, all of the Department of State.

HANFORD NUCLEAR SITE

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight concluded a hearing to examine whistleblower retaliation at the Hanford nuclear site, after receiving testimony from William A. Eckroade, Principal Deputy Chief for Mission Support Operations, Office of Health, Safety and Security, and Matt Moury, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Programs for Environmental Management, both of the Department of Energy; James N. Taylor, URS Energy and Construction, Inc., San Francisco, California; and Michael Graham, Bechtel National, Inc., Washington, D.C.

MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce concluded a hearing to examine more efficient and effective government, focusing on improving the regulatory framework, including S. 1397, to improve the efficiency, management, and interagency coordination of the Federal permitting process through reforms overseen by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, S. 1390, to establish an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations, and S. 1029, to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, after receiving testimony from Senator King; Howard Shelanski, Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget; Michelle Sager, Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Katherine McFate, Center for Effective Government, and C. Boyden Gray, Boyden Gray and Associates, PLLC, both of Washington, D.C.

U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging concluded a hearing to examine what the United States health care system can learn from other countries, after receiving testimony from Tsung-Mei Cheng, Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton, New Jersey; Ching-chuan Yeh, Tzu-chi University College of Medicine School of Public Health, Hualien City, Taiwan; Jakob Kjellberg, KORA Danish Institute for Local and Regional Government Research, Copenhagen, Denmark; Sally C. Pipes, Pacific Research Institute, San Francisco, California; Danielle Martin, Women's College Hospital, Toronto, Canada; Victor G. Rodwin, New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York, New York; and David Hogberg, National Center for Public Policy Research, Washington, D.C.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine open government and freedom of information, focusing on reinvigorating the Freedom of Information Act for the digital age, after receiving testimony from Melanie Ann Pustay, Director, Office of Information Policy, Department of Justice; Miriam Nisbet, Director, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration; Amy Bennett, OpenTheGovernment.org, and Daniel J. Metcalfe, American University Washington College of Law, both of Washington, D.C.; and David Cuillier, The University of Arizona School of Journalism, Tucson, on behalf of The Sunshine in Government Initiative.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 4187–4207; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 92; and H. Res. 510, 512–513 were introduced. **Pages H2300–02**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2302–03**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 511, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4138) to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3973) to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code (H. Rept. 113–378). **Page H2300**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Denham to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2261**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:12 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2262**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:14 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m. **Page H2264**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Farmers Undertake Environmental Land Stewardship Act: H.R. 311, to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to change the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rule with respect to certain farms; **Pages H2264–66**

Honoring the life and legacy of Václav Havel by directing the House of Representatives Fine Arts Board to provide for the display of a bust of Václav Havel in the United States Capitol: H. Res. 506, to honor the life and legacy of Václav Havel by directing the House of Representatives Fine Arts Board to provide for the display of a bust of Václav Havel in the United States Capitol; **Pages H2266–68**

Condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation: H. Res. 499, amended, to condemn the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 402 yeas to 7 nays with 1 answering "present", Roll No. 117; **Pages H2268–73, H2286**

Equitable Access to Care and Health Act: H.R. 1814, to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate; **Pages H2273–76**

Hire More Heroes Act: H.R. 3474, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 115; **Pages H2276–78, H2284–85**

Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act of 2014: H.R. 3979, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, by a yea-and-nay vote of 410 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 116; and **Pages H2278–80, H2285–86**

Federal Communications Commission Process Reform Act: H.R. 3675, amended, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission. **Pages H2280–84**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.". **Page H2284**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:47 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2284**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted hard copy volumes of the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget: Appendix, Analytical Perspectives, and Historical Tables—referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 113–84). **Page H2264**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H2264.

Senate Referral: S. 1917 was referred to the Committees on Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary. **Page H2299**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2284–85, H2285 and H2286. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Department of Homeland Security FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Jeh Johnson, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS TODAY: ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH THE PAST

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations; and Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a joint subcommittee hearing entitled ''The Northern Ireland Peace Process Today: Attempting to Deal With the Past''. Testimony was heard from Richard N. Haass, Chair, Panel of Parties in the Northern Ireland Executive; and public witnesses.

FAITHFUL EXECUTION OF THE LAW ACT OF 2014; AND THE ENFORCE THE LAW ACT OF 2014

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3973, the ''Faithful Execution of the Law Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4138, the ''ENFORCE the Law Act of 2014''. The Committee granted, by voice vote, a structured rule for H.R. 4138. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–43 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part A of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides a structured rule for H.R. 3973. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–42 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only the further amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, if offered by Representative Ellison of Minnesota or his designee. The amendment shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Goodlatte and Representatives Cohen, Jackson Lee, and Gibson.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Homeland Security, 2 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan, 9 a.m., SH–216.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine military space programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development, to hold hearings to examine Superstorm Sandy recovery, focusing on ensuring strong coordination among Federal, state, and local stakeholders, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine the state of United States retirement security, focusing on the middle class, 2:30 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request and revenue proposals for fiscal year 2015, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 1:30 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine national security and foreign policy priorities in the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for International Affairs, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine how a fair minimum wage will help working families succeed, 9 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine management, focusing on creating a 21st century government, 9 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Cheryl Ann Krause, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Richard Franklin Boulware II, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, Salvador Mendoza, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Staci Michelle Yandle, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois, and Leon Rodriguez, of Maryland, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold hearings to examine election administration, focusing on innovation, administrative improvements and cost savings, 9:45 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for Veterans' Programs, 2 p.m., SR–418.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on United States Coast Guard FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing on Department of State FY 2015 Budget, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies, hearing on Installations, Environment, Energy and BRAC Budget and Oversight FY 2015 Budget, 1:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, hearing on Department of Transportation FY 2015 Budget, 2 p.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing on Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of the Navy, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing on Independent Assessments of the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled "Information Technology and Cyber Operations: Modernization and Policy Issues in a Changing National Security Environment", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Raising the Bar: The Role of Charter Schools in K–12 Education", 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, hearing entitled "Examining the Mismanagement of the Student Loan Rehabilitation Process", 2:30 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, hearing entitled "Chemicals in Commerce Act", 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled "Reauthorization of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act", 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled "Federal Reserve Oversight: Examining the Central Bank's Role in Credit Allocation", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled "The Arizona Border Surveillance Technology Plan and Its Impact on Border Security", 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Exploring Alternative Solutions on the Internet Sales Tax Issue", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4174, the "Alaska Bypass Modernization Act of 2014"; H.R. 3635, the "Safe and Secure Federal Websites Act of 2013"; H.R. 4193, the "Smart Savings Act"; H.R. 4192, to amend the 1910 Heights of Buildings Act; legislation regarding the District of Columbia Courts, Public Defender Service, and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency; legislation regarding the All Circuit Review Extension Act; H.R. 4194, the "Government Reports Elimination Act"; H.R. 4195, the "Federal Register Modernization Act"; H.R. 1036, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office"; H.R. 1228, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Packerland Drive in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building"; H.R. 1376, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building"; H.R. 1391, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Joshua B. McDaniels and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building"; H.R. 1451, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building"; H.R. 1458, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building"; H.R. 1813, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as

the ''Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin Post Office Building''; H.R. 2062, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Front Street in Marietta, Ohio, as the ''Lance Corporal Joshua C. Taylor Memorial Post Office Building''; H.R. 2391, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the ''Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office''; H.R. 3060, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the ''Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building''; H.R. 3472, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the ''Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office''; H.R. 3609, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3260 Broad Street in Port Henry, New York, as the ''Dain Taylor Venne Post Office Building''; H.R. 3765, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the ''Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building''; H.R. 4189, to designate the facilities of the United States Postal Service located at 4000 Leap Road, Hilliard, Ohio as the ''Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon and Master Sergeant Jeffery J. Rieck and Veterans Memorial Post Office''; 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 3189, the ''Water Rights Protection Act''; and H.R. 4015, the ''SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Environment; and Subcommittee on Energy, joint subcommittee hearing entitled ''Science of Capture and Storage: Understanding EPA's Carbon Rules'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Rise of 3D Printing: Opportunities for Entrepreneurs'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Tansportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Implementation of MAP–21 and Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request for Surface Transportation'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal with Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Air Force Sergeants Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Fleet Reserve Association, Gold Star Wives, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Non Commissioned Officers Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Wounded Warrior Project, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 10:30 a.m.), Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Carolyn B. McHugh, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Matthew Frederick Leitman, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Judith Ellen Levy, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Laurie J. Michelson, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Linda Vivienne Parker, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, and Sarah Bloom Raskin, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

Upon disposition of the nomination of Sarah Bloom Raskin, Senate will begin consideration of S. 1086, Child Care and Development Block Grant Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 12

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 4138—ENFORCE the Law Act of 2014 (Subject to a Rule). Begin consideration of H.R. 3973—Faithful Execution of the Law Act of 2014 (Subject to a Rule).

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