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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 7, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF 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.

HONORING RETIRED STATE SENATORS ALLEN PAUL AND JOHNNY NUGENT

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of two extraordinary Indiana State legislators: Senators Allen Paul and Johnny Nugent. These two close friends have served the State of Indiana for decades.

I want to personally thank them for all of their hard work and recognize them for their many accomplishments.

First, let me tell you a little bit about Senator Allen Paul. Allen volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1967 and is a decorated Vietnam veteran. He was awarded the Bronze Star for saving a man's life and also earned a Combat Infantry Badge and four Air Medals.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Allen was elected to the State senate in 1986, where he was a tireless advocate for military members and their families. He passed important legislation to help veterans receive a college degree and supported legislation to offer in-state tuition for veterans.

Senator Paul has the distinction of being the first legislator from eastern Indiana to serve in a leadership position within his caucus. During his 28-year tenure in the senate, he served as majority whip, chairman of the Insurance Committee and chair of the Financial Institutions Committee. His political savvy and institutional knowledge will certainly be missed by his colleagues in the State legislature.

Senator Paul's dear friend Senator Johnny Nugent has also decided to retire after more than 30 years in office. He too is a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Reserve.

At the age of 26, Johnny was elected Dearborn County commissioner, the youngest commissioner ever elected in Indiana. As a State senator, Johnny Nugent held numerous leadership positions, including majority floor leader, chair of the Agricultural and Small Business Committee and ranking member of the Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee.

Senator Nugent has been a tireless defender of the Second Amendment and served two terms on the NRA's board of directors. During his tenure in the senate, he successfully sponsored Indiana's ''Castle Doctrine,'' as well as the Nation's first lifetime concealed-carry permit.

Senator Nugent is also known for his involvement in his local community. He is a member of the Dearborn County Chamber of Commerce and the southeastern Indiana Shrine Club. He also served on the Dearborn County Hospital board of trustees.

Both Allen Paul and Johnny Nugent serve as shining examples of what it means to be a public servant. I ask the entire Sixth Congressional District to join me in recognizing these two outstanding Hoosier legislators.

I have no doubt these great men will bring the same commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm that they have had during their service to their constituents and their communities, and apply that in the next chapter of their lives.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MESSER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, our Nation was founded on two core principles: freedom of speech and freedom of religion, both of which are contained in the First Amendment of the Constitution. No one in America is arrested for criticizing elected officials, including the President. No one in America is imprisoned for going to a mosque on a Friday, a synagogue on a Saturday, or a church on a Sunday.

The fact that we as Americans can express ourselves so freely and choose to worship whenever and wherever we want are at the heart of America's greatness. That is why I am so troubled by the recent events surrounding the high-tech entrepreneur and Mozilla cofounder, Brendan Eich, who, despite his unquestioned professional credentials, was forced to resign because of a $1,000 personal donation he made in 2008 in support of Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative in support of traditional marriage.

Regardless of your views on marriage, any American who values the

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First Amendment should be deeply troubled that this man was essentially driven from his job because of his personal beliefs. I want to stress his personal beliefs, not his company's, but his own.

Nowhere have I read that Mr. Eich ever discriminated against coworkers. In fact, by all accounts, he is a fair and honorable employer. Yet, because of his private beliefs about traditional marriage, which I share, he has been demonized and his livelihood has been compromised.

As troubling as this particular incident is, the chilling effect it will have on the broader issues of free speech cannot be overstated.

I find it notable that Andrew Sullivan, a leading activist in the gay community, has come to Mr. Eich's defense. Mr. Sullivan has been widely quoted as writing:

> The whole episode disgusts me, as it should anyone interested in a tolerant and diverse society. If this is the gay rights movement today, hounding our opponents with a fanaticism more like the religious right than anyone else, then count me out.

Yes, public opinion on gay marriage has shifted since 2008, when both then-Presidential candidates Barack Obama and JOHN MCCAIN supported defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman. But America has never been defined by mob rule.

Even if just 1 percent of the country supported defining marriage as between a man and a woman, which is hardly the case, that 1 percent still has a right to hold that view, particularly when it is a view based, in many cases, on one's most deeply held faith convictions.

I understand that reasonable people can disagree on issues. In fact, robust debate in the public square is itself an American hallmark. What happened last week was not debate. It was stifling of the debate. It was the silencing of dissent. It was compromising of our Nation's most cherished principles: freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

The implications are vast and deeply troubling. We should all be concerned. I know I am.

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 9 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 (Ms. FOXX) 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 new workweek, we use this moment to be reminded of Your presence, and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

We ask that You send Your spirit upon them, giving them the gifts of patience and diligence. With all the pressures for action that cry out each day, and with all the concern and worry that accompanies any responsibility, we pray that they might know Your peace, which surpasses all human understanding.

May Your voice speak to them in the depths of their hearts, illuminating their minds and spirts, thus enabling them to view the tasks of this day with confidence and hope. All this day, and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to the pressing issues facing our Nation.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

OBAMACARE IS HURTING SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, when Mary West purchased insurance through the government health care Web site, she didn't expect to lose access to her doctor.

Ms. West struggles with diabetes and high blood pressure. Because of these health concerns, she has developed a relationship with the doctors she trusted at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System.

She was devastated when she realized that her policy was not accepted by her local hospital. Trying to obtain an alternative policy that would be taken at Spartanburg Regional has been even more difficult due to the lack of communication between the provider and the hospital.

This story, highlighted over the weekend in the Spartanburg Herald Journal, reveals the nightmares South Carolinians and millions of Americans are experiencing as a direct result of ObamaCare's failures.

This unworkable law is tragically flawed. It is not fair that the President's broken promises have created barriers when making a trip to the doctor.

ObamaCare will continue to hammer down on our families if it is not repealed and replaced with a commonsense solution that maintains the doctor-patient relationship, instead of Big Government's dictates destroying jobs.

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

THE FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, today marks the 100th day that unemployed Americans have been cut off the Federal unemployment insurance program.

Let me give voice to how they have spent the last 100 days. A woman from Pennsylvania wrote:

> It's scary, Mr. Levin, not knowing what will happen from day to day. My landlord has tried to be as patient as he could, and now, he had no choice but to serve me an eviction notice. It is scary to think that my America is this cruel.

Carol from New York:

> I have been in the medical field for over 25 years and unable to find work. I can't pay my rent, electric bill, phone bill, no money for gas, no money for food. I can't even print out my resume for a job because I can't afford to buy ink for my printer.
>
> This is the first time in my life I had to go to a food pantry. I was ashamed. Never in a million years would I imagine this is where I would be. I am not looking for a handout. I just need a little help to get back on my feet until I find a job.

Tonight, the Senate will pass a bipartisan UI extension. This House must not ignore these stories. We must act.

ABILITYONE PROGRAM

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the outstanding work of the AbilityOne Program and Bosma Enterprises in my district, in Indiana.

AbilityOne is an outstanding program committed to providing employment opportunities for people suffering from vision loss. Since 1915, Indiana's very own Bosma Enterprises has been a

partner of the program, with the goal of changing lives.

In fact, Bosma is Indiana's largest employer of people with vision loss, helping acclimate over 700 people last year alone and helping over 50,000 people find employment since it started.

It is about more than the numbers, though. Take Chris McKirahan. She was born with glaucoma, meaning she had the eyes of an 80-year-old at the time she was born. At the age of 43, she lost all of her vision and began orientation and mobility training at Bosma Enterprises.

Following that training, she began volunteering as a Braille and keyboarding instructor. In November of 2010, she was hired on full time as a production employee; but she continues to volunteer in her free time, teaching Braille and keyboarding in the very center she graduated from 4 years ago.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to extend my support to the AbilityOne Program and Bosma Enterprises. They are differencemakers; they are changing lives.

COMMUNICATION FROM DISTRICT CHIEF OF STAFF, THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. PITTS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Thomas Tillett, District Chief of Staff, the Honorable JOSEPH R. PITTS, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2014.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I, as custodian of records for Congressman Joe Pitts, have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, requesting documents in a third-party civil case.

As I have determined that there are no documents responsive to the subpoena, it is not necessary for me to determine whether compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

THOMAS TILLETT,
District Chief of Staff,
Congressman Joe Pitts.

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, April 7, 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 April 7, 2014 at 10:19 a.m.:

That the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 88.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–103)

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 Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2014.

On January 17, 2013, the United States Government announced its recognition of the Government of Somalia. The United States had not recognized a government in Somalia for the previous 22 years. Although the U.S. recognition underscores a strong commitment to Somalia's stabilization, it does not remove the importance of U.S. sanctions, especially against persons undermining the stability of Somalia. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Somalia and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 7, 2014.*

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1602

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MESSER) at 4 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this bill, which is H.R. 1872, which is the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 539, I call up the bill (H.R. 1872) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Budget, printed in the bill is adopted. The bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 1872

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 ''Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014''.

TITLE I—FAIR VALUE ESTIMATES

SEC. 101. CREDIT REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended to read as follows:

''TITLE V—FAIR VALUE

''SEC. 500. SHORT TITLE.

''This title may be cited as the 'Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014'.

''SEC. 501. PURPOSES.

''The purposes of this title are to—

''(1) measure more accurately the costs of Federal credit programs by accounting for them on a fair value basis;

''(2) place the cost of credit programs on a budgetary basis equivalent to other Federal spending;

''(3) encourage the delivery of benefits in the form most appropriate to the needs of beneficiaries; and

''(4) improve the allocation of resources among Federal programs.

''SEC. 502. DEFINITIONS.

''For purposes of this title:

''(1) The term 'direct loan' means a disbursement of funds by the Government to a non-Federal borrower under a contract that requires the repayment of such funds with or without interest. The term includes the purchase of, or participation in, a loan made by another lender and financing arrangements that defer payment for more than 90 days, including the sale of a Government asset on credit terms. The term does not include the acquisition of a federally guaranteed loan in satisfaction of default claims or the price support loans of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

''(2) The term 'direct loan obligation' means a binding agreement by a Federal agency to make a direct loan when specified conditions are fulfilled by the borrower.

''(3) The term 'loan guarantee' means any guarantee, insurance, or other pledge with respect to the payment of all or a part of the principal or interest on any debt obligation of a

non-Federal borrower to a non-Federal lender, but does not include the insurance of deposits, shares, or other withdrawable accounts in financial institutions.

''(4) The term 'loan guarantee commitment' means a binding agreement by a Federal agency to make a loan guarantee when specified conditions are fulfilled by the borrower, the lender, or any other party to the guarantee agreement.

''(5)(A) The term 'cost' means the sum of the Treasury discounting component and the risk component of a direct loan or loan guarantee, or a modification thereof.

''(B) The Treasury discounting component shall be the estimated long-term cost to the Government of a direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof, calculated on a net present value basis, excluding administrative costs and any incidental effects on governmental receipts or outlays.

''(C) The risk component shall be an amount equal to the difference between—

''(i) the estimated long-term cost to the Government of a direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof, estimated on a fair value basis, applying the guidelines set forth by the Financial Accounting Standards Board in Financial Accounting Standards #157, or a successor thereto, excluding administrative costs and any incidental effects on governmental receipts or outlays; and

''(ii) the Treasury discounting component of such direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof.

''(D) The Treasury discounting component of a direct loan shall be the net present value, at the time when the direct loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

''(i) Loan disbursements.

''(ii) Repayments of principal.

''(iii) Essential preservation expenses, payments of interest and other payments by or to the Government over the life of the loan after adjusting for estimated defaults, prepayments, fees, penalties, and other recoveries, including the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the borrower of an option included in the loan contract.

''(E) The Treasury discounting component of a loan guarantee shall be the net present value, at the time when the guaranteed loan is disbursed, of the following estimated cash flows:

''(i) Payments by the Government to cover defaults and delinquencies, interest subsidies, essential preservation expenses, or other payments.

''(ii) Payments to the Government including origination and other fees, penalties, and recoveries, including the effects of changes in loan terms resulting from the exercise by the guaranteed lender of an option included in the loan guarantee contract, or by the borrower of an option included in the guaranteed loan contract.

''(F) The cost of a modification is the sum of—

''(i) the difference between the current estimate of the Treasury discounting component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of a direct loan or loan guarantee and the current estimate of the Treasury discounting component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of the contract, as modified; and

''(ii) the difference between the current estimate of the risk component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of a direct loan or loan guarantee and the current estimate of the risk component of the remaining cash flows under the terms of the contract as modified.

''(G) In estimating Treasury discounting components, the discount rate shall be the average interest rate on marketable Treasury securities of similar duration to the cash flows of the direct loan or loan guarantee for which the estimate is being made.

''(H) When funds are obligated for a direct loan or loan guarantee, the estimated cost shall be based on the current assumptions, adjusted to incorporate the terms of the loan contract, for the fiscal year in which the funds are obligated.

''(6) The term 'program account' means the budget account into which an appropriation to cover the cost of a direct loan or loan guarantee program is made and from which such cost is disbursed to the financing account.

''(7) The term 'financing account' means the nonbudget account or accounts associated with each program account which holds balances, receives the cost payment from the program account, and also includes all other cash flows to and from the Government resulting from direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made on or after October 1, 1991.

''(8) The term 'liquidating account' means the budget account that includes all cash flows to and from the Government resulting from direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made prior to October 1, 1991. These accounts shall be shown in the budget on a cash basis.

''(9) The term 'modification' means any Government action that alters the estimated cost of an outstanding direct loan (or direct loan obligation) or an outstanding loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commitment) from the current estimate of cash flows. This includes the sale of loan assets, with or without recourse, and the purchase of guaranteed loans (or direct loan obligations) or loan guarantees (or loan guarantee commitments) such as a change in collection procedures.

''(10) The term 'current' has the same meaning as in section 250(c)(9) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

''(11) The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

''(12) The term 'administrative costs' means costs related to program management activities, but does not include essential preservation expenses.

''(13) The term 'essential preservation expenses' means servicing and other costs that are essential to preserve the value of loan assets or collateral.

"SEC. 503. OMB AND CBO ANALYSIS, COORDINATION, AND REVIEW.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For the executive branch, the Director shall be responsible for coordinating the estimates required by this title. The Director shall consult with the agencies that administer direct loan or loan guarantee programs.

''(b) DELEGATION.—The Director may delegate to agencies authority to make estimates of costs. The delegation of authority shall be based upon written guidelines, regulations, or criteria consistent with the definitions in this title.

''(c) COORDINATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.—In developing estimation guidelines, regulations, or criteria to be used by Federal agencies, the Director shall consult with the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

''(d) IMPROVING COST ESTIMATES.—The Director and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall coordinate the development of more accurate data on historical performance and prospective risk of direct loan and loan guarantee programs. They shall annually review the performance of outstanding direct loans and loan guarantees to improve estimates of costs. The Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office shall have access to all agency data that may facilitate the development and improvement of estimates of costs.

''(e) HISTORICAL CREDIT PROGRAMS COSTS.—The Director shall review, to the extent possible, historical data and develop the best possible estimates of adjustments that would convert aggregate historical budget data to credit reform accounting.

"SEC. 504. BUDGETARY TREATMENT.

''(a) PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—Beginning with fiscal year 2017, the President's budget shall reflect the costs of direct loan and loan guarantee programs. The budget shall also include the planned level of new direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments associated with each appropriations request. For each fiscal year within the five-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year 2017, such budget shall include, on an agency-by-agency basis, subsidy estimates and costs of direct loan and loan guarantee programs with and without the risk component.

''(b) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, new direct loan obligations may be incurred and new loan guarantee commitments may be made for fiscal year 2017 and thereafter only to the extent that—

''(1) new budget authority to cover their costs is provided in advance in an appropriation Act;

''(2) a limitation on the use of funds otherwise available for the cost of a direct loan or loan guarantee program has been provided in advance in an appropriation Act; or

''(3) authority is otherwise provided in appropriation Acts.

''(c) EXEMPTION FOR DIRECT SPENDING PROGRAMS.—Subsections (b) and (e) shall not apply to—

''(1) any direct loan or loan guarantee program that constitutes an entitlement (such as the guaranteed student loan program or the veteran's home loan guaranty program);

''(2) the credit programs of the Commodity Credit Corporation existing on the date of enactment of this title; or

''(3) any direct loan (or direct loan obligation) or loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commitment) made by the Federal National Mortgage Association or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

''(d) BUDGET ACCOUNTING.—

''(1) The authority to incur new direct loan obligations, make new loan guarantee commitments, or modify outstanding direct loans (or direct loan obligations) or loan guarantees (or loan guarantee commitments) shall constitute new budget authority in an amount equal to the cost of the direct loan or loan guarantee in the fiscal year in which definite authority becomes available or indefinite authority is used. Such budget authority shall constitute an obligation of the program account to pay to the financing account.

''(2) The outlays resulting from new budget authority for the cost of direct loans or loan guarantees described in paragraph (1) shall be paid from the program account into the financing account and recorded in the fiscal year in which the direct loan or the guaranteed loan is disbursed or its costs altered.

''(3) All collections and payments of the financing accounts shall be a means of financing.

''(e) MODIFICATIONS.—An outstanding direct loan (or direct loan obligation) or loan guarantee (or loan guarantee commitment) shall not be modified in a manner that increases its costs unless budget authority for the additional cost has been provided in advance in an appropriation Act.

''(f) REESTIMATES.—When the estimated cost for a group of direct loans or loan guarantees for a given program made in a single fiscal year is re-estimated in a subsequent year, the difference between the reestimated cost and the previous cost estimate shall be displayed as a distinct and separately identified subaccount in the program account as a change in program costs and a change in net interest. There is hereby provided permanent indefinite authority for these re-estimates.

''(g) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—All funding for an agency's administrative costs associated with a direct loan or loan guarantee program shall be displayed as distinct and separately identified subaccounts within the same budget account as the program's cost.

"SEC. 505. AUTHORIZATIONS.

''(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR FINANCING ACCOUNTS.—In order to implement the accounting required by this title, the President is authorized to establish such non-budgetary accounts as may be appropriate.

''(b) TREASURY TRANSACTIONS WITH THE FINANCING ACCOUNTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall borrow from, receive from, lend to, or pay to the financing accounts such amounts as may be appropriate. The Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe forms and denominations, maturities, and terms and conditions for the transactions described in the preceding sentence, except that the rate of interest charged by the Secretary on lending to financing accounts (including amounts treated as lending to financing accounts by the Federal Financing Bank (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as the 'Bank') pursuant to section 405(b)) and the rate of interest paid to financing accounts on uninvested balances in financing accounts shall be the same as the rate determined pursuant to section 502(5)(G).

''(2) LOANS.—For guaranteed loans financed by the Bank and treated as direct loans by a Federal agency pursuant to section 406(b)(1), any fee or interest surcharge (the amount by which the interest rate charged exceeds the rate determined pursuant to section 502(5)(G) that the Bank charges to a private borrower pursuant to section 6(c) of the Federal Financing Bank Act of 1973 shall be considered a cash flow to the Government for the purposes of determining the cost of the direct loan pursuant to section 502(5). All such amounts shall be credited to the appropriate financing account.

''(3) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Bank is authorized to require reimbursement from a Federal agency to cover the administrative expenses of the Bank that are attributable to the direct loans financed for that agency. All such payments by an agency shall be considered administrative expenses subject to section 504(g). This subsection shall apply to transactions related to direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made on or after October 1, 1991.

''(4) AUTHORITY.—The authorities provided in this subsection shall not be construed to supersede or override the authority of the head of a Federal agency to administer and operate a direct loan or loan guarantee program.

''(5) TITLE 31.—All of the transactions provided in the subsection shall be subject to the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 15 of title 31, United States Code.

''(6) TREATMENT OF CASH BALANCES.—Cash balances of the financing accounts in excess of current requirements shall be maintained in a form of uninvested funds and the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay interest on these funds. The Secretary of the Treasury shall charge (or pay if the amount is negative) financing accounts an amount equal to the risk component for a direct loan or loan guarantee, or modification thereof. Such amount received by the Secretary of the Treasury shall be a means of financing and shall not be considered a cash flow of the Government for the purposes of section 502(5).

''(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR LIQUIDATING ACCOUNTS.—(1) Amounts in liquidating accounts shall be available only for payments resulting from direct loan obligations or loan guarantee commitments made prior to October 1, 1991, for—

''(A) interest payments and principal repayments to the Treasury or the Federal Financing Bank for amounts borrowed;

''(B) disbursements of loans;

''(C) default and other guarantee claim payments;

''(D) interest supplement payments;

''(E) payments for the costs of foreclosing, managing, and selling collateral that are capitalized or routinely deducted from the proceeds of sales;

''(F) payments to financing accounts when required for modifications;

''(G) administrative costs and essential preservation expenses, if—

''(i) amounts credited to the liquidating account would have been available for administrative costs and essential preservation expenses under a provision of law in effect prior to October 1, 1991; and

''(ii) no direct loan obligation or loan guarantee commitment has been made, or any modification of a direct loan or loan guarantee has been made, since September 30, 1991; or

''(H) such other payments as are necessary for the liquidation of such direct loan obligations and loan guarantee commitments.

''(2) Amounts credited to liquidating accounts in any year shall be available only for payments required in that year. Any unobligated balances in liquidating accounts at the end of a fiscal year shall be transferred to miscellaneous receipts as soon as practicable after the end of the fiscal year.

''(3) If funds in liquidating accounts are insufficient to satisfy obligations and commitments of such accounts, there is hereby provided permanent, indefinite authority to make any payments required to be made on such obligations and commitments.

''(d) REINSURANCE.—Nothing in this title shall be construed as authorizing or requiring the purchase of insurance or reinsurance on a direct loan or loan guarantee from private insurers. If any such reinsurance for a direct loan or loan guarantee is authorized, the cost of such insurance and any recoveries to the Government shall be included in the calculation of the cost.

''(e) ELIGIBILITY AND ASSISTANCE.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to change the authority or the responsibility of a Federal agency to determine the terms and conditions of eligibility for, or the amount of assistance provided by a direct loan or a loan guarantee.

''SEC. 506. TREATMENT OF DEPOSIT INSURANCE AND AGENCIES AND OTHER INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

''This title shall not apply to the credit or insurance activities of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, National Credit Union Administration, Resolution Trust Corporation, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, National Flood Insurance, National Insurance Development Fund, Crop Insurance, or Tennessee Valley Authority.

''SEC. 507. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

''(a) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—This title shall supersede, modify, or repeal any provision of law enacted prior to the date of enactment of this title to the extent such provision is inconsistent with this title. Nothing in this title shall be construed to establish a credit limitation on any Federal loan or loan guarantee program.

''(b) CREDITING OF COLLECTIONS.—Collections resulting from direct loans obligated or loan guarantees committed prior to October 1, 1991, shall be credited to the liquidating accounts of Federal agencies. Amounts so credited shall be available, to the same extent that they were available prior to the date of enactment of this title, to liquidate obligations arising from such direct loans obligated or loan guarantees committed prior to October 1, 1991, including repayment of any obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Federal Financing Bank. The unobligated balances of such accounts that are in excess of current needs shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury. Such transfers shall be made from time to time but, at least once each year.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by striking the items relating to title V and inserting the following:

''TITLE V—FAIR VALUE

''Sec. 500. Short title.
''Sec. 501. Purposes.
''Sec. 502. Definitions.
''Sec. 503. OMB and CBO analysis, coordination, and review.
''Sec. 504. Budgetary treatment.
''Sec. 505. Authorizations.
''Sec. 506. Treatment of deposit insurance and agencies and other insurance programs.
''Sec. 507. Effect on other laws.''.

SEC. 102. BUDGETARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''A change in discretionary spending solely as a result of the amendment to title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 made by the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014 shall be treated as a change of concept under this paragraph.''.

(b) REPORT.—Before adjusting the discretionary caps pursuant to the authority provided in subsection (a), the Office of Management and Budget shall report to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the amount of that adjustment, the methodology used in determining the size of that adjustment, and a program-by-program itemization of the components of that adjustment.

(c) SCHEDULE.—The Office of Management and Budget shall not make an adjustment pursuant to the authority provided in subsection (a) sooner than 60 days after providing the report required in subsection (b).

SEC. 103. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 101 shall take effect beginning with fiscal year 2017.

TITLE II—BUDGETARY TREATMENT

SEC. 201. CBO AND OMB STUDIES RESPECTING BUDGETING FOR COSTS OF FEDERAL INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Directors of the Congressional Budget Office and of the Office of Management and Budget shall each prepare a study and make recommendations to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate as to the feasability of applying fair value concepts to budgeting for the costs of Federal insurance programs.

SEC. 202. ON-BUDGET STATUS OF FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the receipts and disbursements, including the administrative expenses, of the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation shall be counted as new budget authority, outlays, receipts, or deficit or surplus for purposes of—

(1) the budget of the United States Government as submitted by the President;

(2) the congressional budget; and

(3) the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 203. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 202 shall not apply with respect to an enterprise (as such term is defined in section 1303 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4502)) after the date that all of the following have occurred:

(1) The conservatorship for such enterprise under section 1367 of such Act (12 U.S.C. 4617) has been terminated.

(2) The Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency has certified in writing that such enterprise has repaid to the Federal Government the maximum amount consistent with minimizing total cost to the Federal Government of the financial assistance provided to the enterprise by the Federal Government pursuant to the amendments made by section 1117 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–289; 122 Stat. 2683) or otherwise.

(3) The charter for the enterprise has been revoked, annulled, or terminated and the authorizing statute (as such term is defined in such section 1303) with respect to the enterprise has been repealed.

TITLE III—BUDGET REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

SEC. 301. CBO AND OMB REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS RESPECTING RECEIPTS AND COLLECTIONS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall prepare a study of the history of offsetting collections against expenditures and the amount of receipts collected annually, the historical application of the budgetary terms ''revenue'', ''offsetting collections'', and ''offsetting receipts'', and review the application of those terms and make recommendations to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate of whether such usage should be continued or modified. The Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall review the history and recommendations prepared by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and shall submit comments and recommendations to such Committees.

SEC. 302. AGENCY BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.

Section 1108 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following new subsections:

''(h)(1) Whenever any agency prepares and submits written budget justification materials for any committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate, such agency shall post such budget justification on the same day of such submission on the 'open' page of the public website of the agency, and the Office of Management and Budget shall post such budget justification in a centralized location on its website, in the format developed under paragraph (2). Each agency shall include with its written budget justification the process and methodology the agency is using to comply with the Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014.

''(2) The Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office, shall develop and notify each agency of the format in which to post a budget justification under paragraph (1). Such format shall be designed to ensure that posted budget justifications for all agencies—

''(A) are searchable, sortable, and downloadable by the public;

''(B) are consistent with generally accepted standards and practices for machine-discoverability;

''(C) are organized uniformly, in a logical manner that makes clear the contents of a budget justification and relationships between data elements within the budget justification and among similar documents; and

''(D) use uniform identifiers, including for agencies, bureaus, programs, and projects.

''(i)(1) Not later than the day that the Office of Management and Budget issues guidelines, regulations, or criteria to agencies on how to calculate the risk component under the Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014, it shall submit a written report to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate containing all such guidelines, regulations, or criteria.

''(2) For fiscal year 2017 and each of the next four fiscal years thereafter, the Comptroller General shall submit an annual report to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate reviewing and evaluating the progress of agencies in the implementation of the Fair Value Accounting Act of 2014.

''(3) Such guidelines, regulations, or criteria shall be deemed to be a rule for purposes of section 553 of title 5 and shall be issued after notice and opportunity for public comment in accordance with the procedures under such section.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the chairman of the Budget Committee, Chairman PAUL RYAN, and the Budget Committee staff as well for their hard work on H.R. 1872, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act.

As many have talked about before, our budget process in this country is broken. Simply put, we need to make the budget process more transparent. So the bill before the House today, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act, is, as we like to say, a commonsense attempt to introduce more sunshine and common sense into our budget process. So what would this legislation do?

Most importantly, the bill will require that the Federal Government apply something called fair value accounting. Now, that is the same credit accounting standards as the private sector uses when making or guaranteeing loans. So fair value accounting provides a more robust or more complete picture of the cost to the taxpayer of government loan programs or government lending programs. So fair value accounting accomplishes this how? By accounting for an additional market-risk premium.

Also, the bill recognizes the budgetary impact of government-sponsored enterprises of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. So this bill would then bring these wards of the taxpayer from out of the shadows and onto the budget.

So why exactly do we need this specific piece of legislation here today? Well, without getting into the weeds too much, the simplest explanation is that there is no such thing in this country or in the world as a free lunch when it comes to a government program. The costs are always borne by someone, and in this case, it is borne by the American people.

The facts indicate that not only is government costly, but also government costs more than we all initially expected. So the burden of government rarely comes in under budget. Nowhere does this ring truer than the Federal Housing Administration program, also called FHA, and their mortgage insurance. See, it defies common sense FHA, according to administration's Federal accounting rules, that they actually make money, they say, for the government.

How do they do so? Well, it is only through the alchemy of government accounting can you transform a mortgage portfolio of figurative lead into gold and still remain true to the law.

So this free money comes courtesy of what? It comes courtesy of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990. This is the Federal accounting program and the standard that we operate today.

Under FCRA's cooked accounting rules, the cost of Federal mortgage insurance is determined on the basis of a subsidy cost, including the risk that the borrowers default on a mortgage; and by using the Treasury rate, it does not account for market risk or overall systemic risk.

So, what does that mean? Unlike fair value accounting, which appropriately incorporates a premium for market risk, the current law fails to reflect the true cost to the American taxpayer of these FHA mortgage-backed insurance.

Let me give you an example. In the 2011 report, the nonpartisan CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, compared the cost of the current system of FHA of a single-family mortgage insurance on both the current law and what we have here, which is fair value basis.

What did CBO find? Well, CBO estimated that, under the current accounting, FHA would actually raise—raise—$4.4 billion for the government in 2012. Sounds pretty good. But if you actually dug into the numbers and use fair value basis—which, as I said before, is what the private sector would be forced to do—with an appropriate accounting of market risk—and of course, market risk is there—then what did CBO find? CBO then estimated that FHA would not gain $4.4 billion, but that FHA would actually lose $3.5 billion over the exact same period.

Why is this? Because CBO believes that fair value provides a fuller picture of a program's budgetary impact. So it now employs fair value basis accounting as a standard procedure for Federal loan programs and Federal loan guarantee programs such as FHA.

However, where is the problem? The problem is the Obama administration has strongly resisted the move to fair value accounting, and instead, they cling to the current program instead.

Let me give you another example. In 2010, President Obama effectively nationalized the Federal student lending program. The President then immediately spent the savings, if you will—remember, I talked about some of these before—on his signature health care law.

What is the problem? The problem is that there is a growing gap now between how much money was borrowed and backed by the U.S. taxpayer—that means you and I—and how much money is actually being repaid by the graduates.

Let me give you some numbers. Based on the Department of Education data, there is a $99 billion gap between what has been borrowed and what has been paid back since only 2010. Remember, the President said these loans would actually make money for the Federal Government. Instead, the actual numbers are coming in that it is costing a $99 billion gap.

So, the bill before us today, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act, fixes these shortcomings by requiring that market risk to be explicitly included in estimates of Federal credit programs. What will that do? That will bring Federal budget practice in line with what has long been standard practice in the private sector.

Specifically, it requires the executive branch and Congress to use fair value accounting in calculating the cost of Federal credit programs that consider not only the borrowing cost of the Federal Government, but also the cost of the market risk of the Federal Government in incurring or issuing any of these loans or loan guarantee programs.

And so, with mounting debt and a lackluster job growth, it is time to force the government to play by the same economic rules as every single American family and business has to. It is not fair to keep putting the American taxpayer on the hook.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Let me say at the outset that we welcome any proposals to improve the budget process, but it is a mistake to suggest that simply tinkering with the budget process will somehow solve our problems.

The bigger issue in the Congress has been an unwillingness of many people to compromise, and at the end of the day, in order to make budgets work, you have to have give-and-take. So, for example, the reason we saw our government shut down last October had nothing to do with the budget process. It had to do with the fact that our Republican colleagues said they were going to shut down the government as a means to try and shut down the Affordable Care Act, to shut down ObamaCare.

It was clear that that was not going to work. We are not about to strip millions of Americans from the new insurance protections they have. Despite that, our colleagues pursued that strategy, and we saw 16 days of unnecessary and unproductive government shutdown. That was not a problem of process; it was a problem of politics.

Now, with respect to this bill, I would say to the gentleman from New Jersey that, if your bill were limited to bringing Fannie and Freddie on budget, we would join you. We would welcome you in that. But, as you know, this bill does much more than that. In fact, it fundamentally changes the way we account for credit programs, Federal credit programs, including things like the student loan programs.

Now, the gentleman from New Jersey mentioned the impact on the FHA. A couple years ago—I think it was 3 years ago—on the Budget Committee we actually had a hearing on this subject. This bill was then on the floor in 2012. At that time, many of us said that, before we consider the other changes that this bill proposes, at least we should have a hearing in the Budget Committee to determine what the impact will be on student loan programs, Small Business Administration programs, veterans loan programs, at least we should have that information. Yet 3 years have gone by. We are now back with the same bill on the floor with no hearings to try and judge what impact it would have on student loan programs.

I want to mention the student loan programs in particular.

The gentleman said that the President had ''nationalized'' the student loan program. Let me just translate what that means. It had been that the big banks were essentially a conduit for all of our student loan programs. They were taking very little risk, but they were pocketing big profits just as a middle man, a middle man without risks but taking the profits. So Democrats proposed that we go to a direct loan program to try and make sure the taxpayer dollar actually did what we hoped it would do, which was provide more students with loans to help more of them afford college. So, yes, we got rid of the middle man and we used the savings to try to increase—and in fact, did increase—the amount of funds available so more students could afford to go to college.

Now, this bill comes along, and it would actually change the way we account for student loans, to artificially make those student loans look more expensive on the budget than they would otherwise be from a budget perspective.

Now, maybe this isn't surprising. After all, just last week in the House Budget Committee, we debated the House Republican budget. In fact, that Republican budget is going to be here and debated on the floor of the House tomorrow. We will start debate on that budget. That budget significantly cuts the student loan program. So one of the things it does is it charges students interest on their loans while they are still in college.

□ 1615

That is about $41 billion of additional interest costs they put onto students. At the same time, in their budget, they protect special interest tax breaks for hedge fund owners, big oil companies and the like. So that is what their budget does.

Now, this piece of legislation would address that from a different direction. It actually would artificially increase the cost on the budget books of student loans going forward.

Let me just read from a letter from a Dr. Reischauer, who was the former head of the Congressional Budget Office. He writes:

> The accounting convention used since enactment of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 already reflects the risks that borrowers will default on their loans or loan guarantees. Under Credit Reform, costs are already based on the expected actual cash flow from the direct loans and guarantees. This bill proposes to place an additional budgetary cost on top of the actual cash flows.

Then he goes on to point out that that may be something that Members want to consider during debate, but to actually put that artificial inflation in the budget actually is potentially misleading to people who are looking at the budget.

So, like so many bills around here that are misnamed, this one, named the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act, actually reduces budget transparency by putting in the budget a cost for student loans that is actually artificially increased.

I would suggest to my colleagues that we reject this particular proposal.

Again, if the gentleman had brought to the floor a bill that simply put Freddie and Fannie on budget that would be fine. But this bill actually is a vehicle to inflate the actual costs of things like student loans, at the same time where we have a Republican budget coming to the floor that actually cuts those student loans.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the balance of my time be controlled by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and if I can catch him before he leaves, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, I appreciate all of your comments. I won't touch on all of them, but I will touch on one or two.

In a sign of bipartisanship, I would like to extend to you, not knowing where this bill may end up in the future of things here in the House and the Senate, but extend to you an invitation to cosponsor with me what you said twice during your remarks that you seemed to be on the same page as I am and as I have been for a long time with regard to the GSEs and have fair value accounting applied to them and on budget.

I would extend that invitation to you.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARRETT. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. GARRETT, what I said was I support the part of your amendment that puts them on budget.

Mr. GARRETT. Right.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. So, to the extent that that is your question on the budget, I am happy to join with you on that. I wish you would join with us now in reconsidering your proposals to change the student loan calculations, but we may be asking too much at this point.

Mr. GARRETT. So, as I say, my staff will talk to your staff on that, and thank you for your other comments.

Mr. Speaker, I will insert into the RECORD a letter dated January 30 from the American Action Forum, which is an organization run by former CBO Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin—and I won't go into detail—but he basically wrote to express his complete support of H.R. 3581, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014, for the

very reasons that we have set forth here already.

Mr. Speaker, I am not seeing any other speakers at this time. I do see there are several other speakers on the other side, so I reserve the balance of my time.

AMERICAN ACTION FORUM,
January 30, 2012.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RYAN: I am writing to express my support for H.R. 3581, ''The Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2011,'' in particular those provisions that would incorporate fair value accounting (FVA) into the federal budget process. As you are well aware, a core objective in federal budgeting is to accurately display the scale and timing of the expenditure of taxpayer resources. Since sovereign tax and borrowing powers should always be used judiciously, there is a premium on doing so as accurately as possible.

In some cases this is straightforward. Consider, for example, a discretionary appropriation. The scale of the overall commitment is clear and in some cases it is straightforward to budget the timing of the ultimate outlays as well. Federal credit programs, however, present particular difficulties. The timing of budgetary cash flows differs dramatically between direct loans and federal loan guarantees—even in cases when the ultimate economic impact is identical. The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (FCRA) took an important step forward by equalizing the timing of their budgetary treatment. Direct loans and loan guarantees are both recorded in the budget during the year in which the commitment is incurred, regardless of the duration and timing of the federal assistance.

This was an important step in the right direction. However, estimating the scale of required taxpayer resources remains problematic. In particular, the ability of loan recipients to make timely and complete repayments will be influenced by future individual, household, and economy-wide economic conditions. In the same way, the obligation of the federal government to undertake guarantee payments will be driven by similar forces.

While such future individual and economic conditions are uncertain, reliable techniques exist to estimate the likely size of the taxpayer obligation. Unfortunately, FCRA needlessly restricts the analyses to credit risk—the probability of failure to fully repay—while ignoring the fact that the timing of those failures matters enormously. As the past few years have starkly reminded every American, the need to tax, borrow and otherwise deprive the private sector of another dollar has far greater implications during the depths of economic distress than during periods of robust economic growth. Adoption of FVA would rectify this oversight

I recognize that significant reform to budget procedures should not be undertaken lightly. However, my views are informed by the fact that during my tenure as director, the Congressional Budget Office undertook a number of studies of the implications of accounting fully for economic risks in the budgetary treatment of financial commitments like credit programs. In example after example (pension guarantees; deposit insurance; flood insurance; student loans; and assistance for Chrysler and America West Airlines), it becomes clear that an incomplete assessment of risks leads to misleading budget presentations and may engender poor policy decisions. FVA would be a significant step toward improving this informational deficit.

My views are echoed by a wide array of budget experts. In March 2010, CBO issued a new report recommending the use of FVA for federal student loan programs on the grounds that budget rules do ''not include the costs to taxpayers that stem from certain risks involved in lending.'' In addition, the Pew-Peterson Commission on Budget Reform proposed ''fair-value accounting'' for credit programs and the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform advocated for reform of budget concepts that would more accurately reflect costs.

In addition to these research views, there is a track record of success. FVA has already been used successfully for the budgetary treatment of the Temporary Asset Relief Program of 2008 (TARP) and the federal assistance to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Last but not least, H.R. 3581 would also fix another shortcoming of FCRA; namely that the administrative costs associated with federal operations are not included in the budget cost and must be provided for elsewhere. H.R. 3581 would require that administrative costs (called ''essential preservation services'') to be accounted for up-front, thereby balancing the playing field.

In sum, I believe that the Congress should adopt fair value accounting and, in particular, pass H.R. 3581 in a timely fashion. I would be happy to discuss any aspect of this issue in greater detail.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation. This is an illusion, another one.

The NCAA Men's Basketball National Championship game is tonight. I know that many of my colleagues are looking forward to watching some high-level competition from these two great squads. However, at some point, you can be assured, you will see one team's coach yelling at the referees. Guaranteed. They will be screaming in their faces, convinced that they are calling too many fouls and that they are being biased against their team. You can be assured that the coach yelling at the refs the most will be the one whose team is losing.

This is basically the same thing that is happening here on the floor today, Mr. Speaker, on this bill, and all the other so-called budget process. You can't get away from process. You don't want to talk about results. You are always talking about process, process, and process, trying to work the refs because you are losing this argument.

The ref in this case is the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. You referred to that many, many times, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The bill before us today, offered by my colleague from New Jersey, would require the Congressional Budget Office to score Federal loan guarantee programs in a way that makes them appear more expensive than they actually are. That is what you are all about.

I have served on this Budget Committee for the last 4 years. We can't do our job right if we don't have accurate estimates of what Federal programs really cost.

This bill will absolutely make our job harder by making us work with inaccurate data. In fact, all in all, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill, your bill, would have increased the estimated cost of Federal credit programs in 2014, would have increased them by $50 million, all by waving your magic wand.

Now, this isn't really about finding the best technical way to measure the costs of each program. That is what you say. It is working the refs in a way that would make even Coach K proud.

It is nothing but a dishonest attempt to make worthy government programs appear more costly, so that those who are ideologically opposed to government and government spending can more easily undermine those very programs. That is what this is all about.

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

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

Mr. PASCRELL. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't like the Federal loan guarantee programs that help first-time homebuyers, that help less fortunate Americans pay for their education. They are willing to cook the books in order to make a better case for their elimination.

Mr. Speaker, we could do better than this. We can argue about these programs on their merits instead of resorting to budgeting sleight-of-hand, process.

I am strongly opposed to the bill. We could be voting to raise the minimum wage and give a raise to 27.8 million Americans to $10.10 per hour. That is what we should be debating on this floor.

We could finally consider the immigration reform legislation that the Senate passed nearly a year ago. We should be debating the UI—unemployment insurance—rates to restore unemployment benefits to more than 2 million Americans, including 125,000 in our own State of New Jersey.

But, instead, we are here today considering a bill that does nothing except enable the majority's fringe ideology, pave the way for even more cuts to the most vulnerable in the future.

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

Just two couple of points. Process is important. I guess you could be opposed to process—the gentleman from New Jersey referenced the NCAA. If there were no rules and all the players could just go out and do anything they wanted to, I guess we could say we could rack up a lot of points and scores and do very well.

But there is a reason and there is a method to the game, and that is why you do have rules. And that is actually why you do have the refs. Yeah, the coaches on both sides will complain, but the refs, at the end of the day, are the ones that say, hey, these are what the rules are, and let's play within the confines of them.

Now the second point I was going to make is, I understand this issue is pretty difficult and pretty complicated. The bill is not that long. But the gentleman from New Jersey has it completely backwards when he says, look, Mr. GARRETT, you want to go by the CBO, don't you? You want to apply this to the CBO, and that is what your bill is going to do.

No, that is not what I said. I do agree with the CBO. The CBO already does this. It is the CBO that is calling for this. It was the past chairman, the past director of the CBO who says what I just entered into the RECORD—that we should be doing this. This is already done that way, I inform my colleague from New Jersey.

What we are saying is, if he and I agree that the CBO is, as he just said, this nonpartisan entity which has the right way of handling it, they are handling it the right way.

We are now simply saying, administration, you should be doing what the gentleman from New Jersey and I both say should be done here, what the CBO is saying should be done here, and apply it to OMB and how the administration does it.

So the gentleman has it completely reversed as to what the bill actually says.

Mr. PASCRELL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARRETT. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. Thank you very much to my colleague from New Jersey.

First of all, no one on this side of the aisle ever suggested that we need no rules.

See, what you are trying to do is put everyone at extremes, and that is where we are many times because you are the majority and we are the minority. And I respect that.

But don't say we don't want the rules. We fought for rules.

Mr. GARRETT. Reclaiming my time, what I was just pointing out is you are saying that both sides' coaches were going to be yelling at the refs and they wanted their side, win or lose.

If you want to use your analogy, in a game there has to be rules, and we are saying that the rules that should apply are the rules that—you indicated the CBO is a nonpartisan entity, that they are doing it the right way, and we are saying, exactly.

The CBO is nonpartisan. They are calling for this type of application of the rules. And if we agree on that point, and if you dig into the bill and realize that we are saying it is not to make sure that CBO does it, but that the administration does it.

So reread the bill. You will understand what we are trying to do. And I think, at the end of the day, you and I may actually agree.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, may inquire how much time we have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 19½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 18½ minutes remaining.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't as complicated as one would pretend it to be. First of all, the CBO says, if this was the law of the land, in other words, if this bill would have been passed by both the House and the Senate when it first came up, it would have cost us $50 billion more in the 2014 budget.

Now, I find that hard to believe that you would accept that, when you practically, the gentleman that I am speaking to right now, through the Chair, has voted ''no'' on everything under the Sun. So I find that difficult to believe.

There need to be rules, particularly in all financial matters. Those rules have a purpose.

I am telling you, this is a process question and this does not, in any manner, shape, or form enhance the passage of a budget that we can live with, we Americans.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

One of the interesting elements of this debate is, and I think it is pretty clear that we have not a total disagreement of opinion on the two sides, we both want the same objective, which is a fair and honest accounting of what programs cost the taxpayer or how they may benefit the taxpayer.

We do know that it is pretty generally agreed that by moving toward the fair accounting method, the fair value method, that we would be creating a higher cost, or at least the budget would indicate a higher cost for many of the loan programs that we have been talking about. But we don't know exactly what the ultimate impact would be and which method would be more accurate.

□ 1630

But we don't know exactly what the ultimate impact would be and which method would be more accurate.

OMB does not support this proposal. OMB says it has a hard time figuring out how it could assess market-based value, so we don't have total disagreement here.

We are in search of the same objective; but there is another element of this that I think we have to consider, in that, when we compare loan programs in the private sector to loan programs from the government, we are not always comparing apples and apples. We are comparing two very different motivations.

In the private sector, when a financial institution makes a loan, its entire objective is to create return for its investors and stockholders. The loan is essentially isolated in purpose. You advance funds, you expect a return, and that is the ultimate objective.

When the government creates a loan program, it is not just to make money for the government. In fact, that is often not even considered. What we are trying to do in many cases is to create an additional outcome—an ancillary outcome that is the primary objective of the program.

For instance, with student loans, we are trying to create more college graduates throughout this country. Understanding that the more college graduates we have, from a strictly financial standpoint, the Treasury will benefit because people will be earning higher incomes and paying higher tax rates.

When we are talking about housing programs, we are looking at things like the VA—the VA housing program. We are trying to find a way to help veterans, many of whom come back from deployments disoriented, dislocated, and without any way to find housing. We are trying to create programs that will help repay our obligations to our veterans.

There are many other areas. We have an advanced vehicle manufacturing loan program. I know about this program very well because it was part of that loan program that resulted in a $600 million investment in the Louisville assembly plant in my district in Kentucky and now has added more than 3,000 new employees in my district.

So the objective there was not necessarily—as a matter of fact, it wasn't at all to make money for the government. It was to help stimulate the production of energy-efficient appliances and to promote advanced technologies throughout our vehicle sector.

So, again, just to say because there is an associated risk that is recognized in the private sector by financial institutions does not imply that we should necessarily say that that same risk is equally important in the Federal budgeting process because, again, we have essentially ulterior motives in virtually every loan program that we have.

So we understand, again, as the ranking member Mr. VAN HOLLEN of Maryland said: We do want transparency; we want to make sure that the American people know exactly what the programs cost.

Probably, more importantly, internally, we need to know what these programs cost because we have to make policy decisions as to whether they are benefiting the country as a whole, benefiting the taxpayers, and benefiting the Treasury.

The question is, without the kind of analysis that the ranking member suggested, what we actually determined through hearings and discussions, what the cost of the student loan program would be, how many students we potentially are cutting out of the student loan program, what we might be doing

in the energy sector by imposing higher costs through the budgeting process and, therefore, a lower participation rate through the actual program, whether we are actually damaging the economy and the budget in different ways, not just on the direct costs versus benefits of the actual loan program; so these are some of the considerations.

This is why we say this is a bill that is not ready for prime time, and we think that we could be spending a better time in this body on more important measures to help the American people.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield to the chairman of the full committee, I want to go back to the gentleman from New Jersey who made the point as to which side of this issue is OMB and CBO on, and it is a process issue.

But it is important that, during an appearance before the House Budget Committee, where we considered this legislation, the director of the—and I will stress this point again—the nonpartisan CBO, Congressional Budget Office, stated, ''We believe that the fair value method of accounting''—which is what is in this bill—''for Federal credit transaction programs provides a more comprehensive measure of a program's true cost.''

This is exactly why we bring this bill to the floor. I know the gentleman indicated that a partisan OMB takes a different view, but the nonpartisan CBO takes the view of this legislation, that we should make sure that there is complete transparency.

Then all the points that the gentleman makes, as far as making the decision as to how many students we should be able to have in these programs, how large is the housing program, and so on and so forth, then we can more accurately make those final determinations once we have the actual numbers accurately before us, and that is all this legislation really does.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), who was able to get a budget out of the Budget Committee in record time the other night, the chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) for yielding, and I also want to thank him for his hard work on this issue and for bringing this to our attention.

Look, it is really simple, Mr. Speaker. When Washington makes or guarantees a loan, it is putting taxpayers at risk. Our budget rules don't account for all of that risk.

We understate the cost of Federal credit programs by about $50 billion a year. That is what the current accounting rules do. Current accounting rules make it look like the government is making all this money from all these loans when, in reality, we are consistently overstating their profitability.

Let me give you one example. Our current rules led to the projections that the FHA—those loans made between 1992 and 2012 would save us $45 billion. It sounded like a great deal, a $45 billion boon to the Federal Government.

In reality, those loans cost us $15 billion of hard-working taxpayer dollars. That is a swing of $60 billion. It is not about imposing costs. This bill is about recognizing the actual costs of what this government does. That is really what this is all about.

CBO has reviewed this time and again. The gentleman from New Jersey just mentioned this, and they have very much concluded, like the private sector, that budgeting Federal credit programs should use fair value accounting as the most accurate method for these programs.

Washington needs to be up front with taxpayers about the true cost of its decisions because the taxpayers themselves are the ones who are on the hook, but that is what the Garrett bill would do.

We can't also forget that the Office of Management and Budget—which is a more political office under the service of the President—they are ignoring the cost of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. In fact, OMB shows them as saving money when they are huge liabilities.

Since 2008, Fannie and Freddie have been wards of the State. They are wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Federal Government, and in 2013, the GSEs accounted for 60 percent of first lien mortgage originations. Taxpayers are exposed to over $5 trillion of outstanding liabilities. OMB keeps it off budget.

Despite the fact that, if they ever go under, if anything happens again, like it did recently, guess who gets stuck with the tab—the taxpayers. We cannot look at our budget through rose-colored glasses. We have to be as clear-eyed as possible. We need transparency. We need real accounting. We owe it to our taxpayers.

So this bill would require the government to use fair value accounting. It would require OMB to be more honest about Fannie and Freddie's true costs, and it would build on the best practices in the private sector, so that we, in Congress, can make better-informed decisions about the hard-working taxpayers and what we are committing for them on their behalf.

That is all this is. It doesn't impose a cost on anybody. It simply recognizes the actual costs that are occurring.

Mr. YARMUTH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate Chairman RYAN's comments and agree with many of them.

I think one of the points that is important to consider here though is, while he mentions one case involving FHA, there are a number of loan programs throughout the government which don't necessarily fall into that same category; and many of them are very, very critical to our Nation.

If you talk about water supply loans, water system loans, there are many loan programs that affect rural America. In addition to the student loans, we have, again, the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program.

There are many across the board, and what this legislation would do would essentially treat them all as exactly the same, and we know that that is not necessarily necessary.

Under the TARP program—TARP was actually accounted for in the budget using the fair value standard that is proposed in this legislation, so we actually have a history of treating some loan programs differently than others.

What we would say is: Why don't we take the time to have hearings on this proposal to actually consider the impact of an across-the-board standard on a variety of different kinds of loan programs? This is why we keep saying this is a bill that is not ready for prime time.

There may be a considerable amount of merit in applying this accounting standard to some of the loan programs in the Federal portfolio, but that doesn't mean it is appropriate or helpful in assessing the impact on every loan program.

Furthermore, what we do know about virtually every analysis is that using the market-based risk analysis that Mr. GARRETT's bill proposes would, under our budgeting rules, do two things.

One, it would add to the cost of virtually every loan program. There certainly is no instance in which his analysis would say a loan program would cost any less, and what that would also do is create a misleading picture of how much that loan program actually ends up costing the taxpayers on a cash basis.

Just because there is an intangible risk factor attached to a loan program in the budget does not mean that that will ultimately be realized, and, in fact, we may never understand if it is realized by the taxpayers.

So for all of these reasons, again, we would oppose the legislation and not because we think it is a horrible idea. We just think it is an idea that has not been vetted nearly sufficiently enough and could have a serious detrimental impact on many very, very important loan programs that benefit the American people.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. I yield myself such time as I may consume

Just one point to that. I have sat through that committee now for a number of years, and since this is an issue that I have been somewhat following for that period of time, I knew that your statement saying that we haven't had the time and haven't spent

the time on hearings and what have you just did not ring true.

So I dug through it, and the fact of the matter is that we have actually had two hearings and two related markups on this legislation, and I think that gives us the information we need now to go forward.

Secondly, to the point that you make that the various programs are unique in their nature, absolutely, and that is why this legislation allows fair value accounting to be applied individually and evaluate each program accordingly.

We do all that in this legislation. It comes about through the multiple hearings and markups that we have had, and I think now is the time to go forward and give the American public the transparency that they are asking for.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YARMUTH. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct, but not in a totally accurate way. We have had a hearing about budget processes in which this was discussed. We have not had a hearing dedicated solely to this legislation in which we could actually flesh out the impact on these various loan programs that I mentioned.

So in conclusion, I think, to kind of summarize where we are, this proposal may be a perfectly appropriate proposal. We wish that we could have more time and more analysis to determine whether we do more damage than good.

We both seek to have the most accurate budgeting process and the most accurate process for assessing the value of important government loan programs. That is a shared goal of both Republicans and Democrats.

We think that this bill is not effectively and sufficiently fleshed out to make that kind of determination at this point. We think there are far more important things that this body ought to be dealing with, including raising the minimum wage, extending unemployment benefits, working on developing infrastructure for this country, as we all know is critically needed, all of those things that would help stimulate the economy and create jobs.

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For all of these reasons that I have mentioned and my ranking member, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, mentioned, we oppose this legislation and urge a vote ''no.''

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I will be brief, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just to set the record straight, actually, we did have hearings on this, and we did have markup hearings on this back in June of 2011. We dug into it at that period of time. The legislation, essentially the same, just in a different cycle, is, in essence, what we have before us today, so we have had that opportunity.

But I will say this. If we see this legislation continue on the floor today and if we see this bill actually pass today, I extend to the gentleman and the members of the committee—or anyone on the other side of the aisle—that my door is open to try to make changes to it that you see appropriate, to make it have the flexibility that you think is not in the bill, which I think is in this bill, and so on and so forth. So I stand ready to continue to work with you on it. But I think that after the hearings we have had and the importance of this legislation, now is the time to move forward.

One last point on this, and I think the chairman of the committee made the point, but let me just reiterate this. At the end of the day, it does not add any additional costs to the American taxpayer. What this bill does is just make transparent the cost that is already there. I am trying to come up with a simple analogy, but fair value accounting is not necessarily one of the simplest things you can find an analogy for, but I guess it might be like this:

You would not go to the store and just go through with your credit card swiping it along, buying the things that you need or think that you need not knowing what they actually cost as you leave the store, just putting them on your bill, knowing that at the end of the day, at the end of the month, you may get a statement. Knowing that you are going to have to pay for that bill, you wouldn't go to the store and do that any more than you should right now with the American public, put them, by using the taxpayers' credit card for all these programs, worthwhile as they may, necessary as they may be, you shouldn't just be swiping that credit card not knowing exactly what the bottom line is, not knowing what the actual cost to the American taxpayer is.

That is all this bill does is just give us that information. And with that information in hand, then we can come together, Republican and Democrat alike, on those areas that we all agree on are necessary for this country and necessary that we expend funds on, with that information in hand, and do it in a more prudent, efficient, and effective manner than we have been in the past where we have done without the information.

With that, then, I urge a ''yes'' vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 539, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1872 is postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AFFIRMATION AND NAVAL VESSEL TRANSFER ACT OF 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3470) to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3470

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

TITLE I—AFFIRMATION OF IMPORTANCE OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AND TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO TAIWAN

Sec. 101. Statement of policy relating to Taiwan Relations Act.

Sec. 102. Transfer of naval vessels to Taiwan.

TITLE II—TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN OTHER FOREIGN RECIPIENTS

Sec. 201. Findings.

Sec. 202. Transfer of naval vessels to certain other foreign recipients.

TITLE III—ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS

Sec. 301. Increase in congressional notification thresholds.

Sec. 302. Licensing of certain commerce-controlled items.

Sec. 303. Amendments relating to removal of major defense equipment from United States Munitions List.

Sec. 304. Amendment to definition of ''security assistance'' under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Sec. 305. Amendments to definitions of ''defense article'' and ''defense service'' under the Arms Export Control Act.

Sec. 306. Technical amendments.

TITLE IV—APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 401. Application of certain provisions of Export Administration Act of 1979.

TITLE I—AFFIRMATION OF IMPORTANCE OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AND TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO TAIWAN

SEC. 101. STATEMENT OF POLICY RELATING TO TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Taiwan Relations Act has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific since its enactment in 1979, and it is in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States.

(2) The Taiwan Relations Act affirmed that the United States' decision to establish a diplomatic relationship with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means.

(3) The Taiwan Relations Act also states that ''it is the policy of the United States to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character and to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan''.

(4) The Taiwan Relations Act also states that ''it is the policy of the United States to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan, as well as the people on the China mainland and all other peoples of the Western Pacific area''.

(5) The relationship between the United States and Taiwan has been strengthened with—

(A) Taiwan's evolution into a free society and a full-fledged, multi-party democracy;

(B) the development of Taiwan's robust market economy;

(C) Taiwan's collaboration with the United States to combat terrorism, as demonstrated in part by its participation in the Container Security Initiative; and

(D) the role Taiwan has played in addressing transnational and global challenges, including its active engagement in humanitarian relief measures, public health endeavors, environmental protection initiatives, and financial market stabilization efforts.

(6) The United States is the third largest trading partner and the largest investor in Taiwan, while Taiwan is the twelfth largest trading partner of the United States and the eighth largest United States agricultural market.

(7) Taiwan's democracy has deepened with the second peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another after the presidential election in March 2008.

(8) The United States and Taiwan are united in our shared values in free elections, personal liberty, and free enterprise.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—Congress—

(1) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act as the cornerstone of relations between the United States and Taiwan;

(2) reaffirms its support for Taiwan's democratic institutions;

(3) reaffirms that peace in the Taiwan Strait should be maintained to the benefit of the Asia-Pacific region;

(4) supports the United States commitment to Taiwan's security in accord with the Taiwan Relations Act, including Taiwan's procurement of sophisticated weapons of a defensive character, such as F–16 C/Ds aircraft and diesel electric submarines;

(5) reaffirms its commitment to deepen United States-Taiwan trade and investment relations as well as support for Taiwan's inclusion in bilateral and regional trade agreements at the appropriate time and under the right conditions in which outstanding issues affecting United States exports are being addressed; and

(6) supports the strong and deepening relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

SEC. 102. TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO TAIWAN.

(a) TRANSFER BY SALE.—The President is authorized to transfer the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS TAYLOR (FFG–50), USS GARY (FFG–51), USS CARR (FFG–52), and USS ELROD (FFG–55) to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office of the United States (which is the Taiwan instrumentality designated pursuant to section 10(a) of the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3309(a))) on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761).

(b) COSTS OF TRANSFERS.—Any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized by this section shall be charged to the recipient notwithstanding section 516(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)).

(c) REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the recipient to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed, before the vessel joins the naval forces of that recipient, performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

(d) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this section.

TITLE II—TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN OTHER FOREIGN RECIPIENTS

SEC. 201. FINDINGS.

(a) RELATING TO MEXICO.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The partnership between the United States and Mexico helps the economic and national security of both countries, including in the area of energy.

(2) The United States and Mexico share a common goal of reducing the flow of narcotics and the influence of transnational gangs in the Hemisphere.

(3) The partnership between the United States and Mexico helps the economic competitiveness and national security of both countries.

(4) The economies of the United States and Mexico are increasingly interdependent, with bilateral foreign direct investment increasing more than six-fold over the past two decades.

(5) In 2012 alone, bilateral trade in goods and services between the United States and Mexico exceeded $500,000,000,000.

(6) The transfer of naval vessels to Mexico authorized under section 202 supports the modernization efforts of the Mexican Navy.

(7) Such naval vessels are suitable to support Mexico's offshore maritime surveillance, counter trafficking, interdiction, and oil platform security.

(8) The transfer of such naval vessels will contribute to United States interests in promoting increased maritime awareness to support security and protection of the people of the United States and the people of Mexico.

(b) RELATING TO THAILAND.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Thailand was the first treaty ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and remains a steadfast friend of the United States.

(2) In December 2003, the United States designated Thailand as a major non-NATO ally, which improved the security of both countries, particularly by facilitating joint counterterrorism efforts.

(3) For more than 30 years, Thailand has been the host country of Cobra Gold, the United States Pacific Command's annual multinational military training exercise, which is designed to ensure regional peace and promote regional security cooperation.

(4) The Royal Thai Navy has commanded Combined Task Force 151 (CTF 151) of the Combined Maritime Forces, a multi-national naval partnership consisting of 30 nations operating in and around the Gulf of Aden and off the eastern coast of Somalia.

(5) With the assistance of the Royal Thai Navy's Counter Piracy Task Group, CTF 151 is helping to expressly disrupt and suppress piracy, protect all vessels in the region and secure their free navigation.

(6) The Royal Thai Navy is also participating in the multilateral Malacca Straits patrols with other regional partners to promote maritime safety and security.

(7) The transfer of naval vessels to Thailand authorized under section 202 will support enhanced interoperability between the Royal Thai Navy and United States Navy forces.

(8) The transfer of such naval vessels underscores the United States commitment to United States-Thai relations and to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

SEC. 202. TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN OTHER FOREIGN RECIPIENTS.

(a) TRANSFERS BY GRANT.—The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign countries on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), as follows:

(1) MEXICO.—To the Government of Mexico, the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS CURTS (FFG–38) and USS MCCLUSKY (FFG–41).

(2) THAILAND.—To the Government of Thailand, the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS RENTZ (FFG–46) and USS VANDEGRIFT (FFG–48).

(b) ALTERNATIVE TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding the authority provided in subsection (a) to transfer specific vessels to specific countries, the President is authorized, subject to the same conditions that would apply for such country under this section, to transfer any vessel named in this section to any country named in this section such that the total number of vessels transferred to such country does not exceed the total number of vessels authorized for transfer to such country by this section.

(c) GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.—The value of a vessel transferred to another country on a grant basis pursuant to authority provided by subsection (a) or (b) shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess defense articles transferred in any fiscal year under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

(d) COSTS OF TRANSFERS.—Any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized by this section shall be charged to the recipient notwithstanding section 516(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)).

(e) REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the recipient to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed, before the vessel joins the naval forces of that recipient, performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

(f) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS

SEC. 301. INCREASE IN CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION THRESHOLDS.

(a) FOREIGN MILITARY SALES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''$50,000,000'' and inserting ''$100,000,000'';

(II) by striking ''$200,000,000'' and inserting ''$300,000,000''; and

(III) by striking ''$14,000,000'' and inserting ''$25,000,000''; and

(ii) in the matter following subparagraph (P)—

(I) by inserting ''of any defense articles or defense services under this Act for $200,000,000 or more, any design and construction services for $300,000,000 or more, or any major defense equipment for $75,000,000 or more,'' after ''The letter of offer shall not be issued, with respect to a proposed sale''; and

(II) by inserting ''of any defense articles or services under this Act for $100,000,000 or more, any design and construction services for $200,000,000 or more, or any major defense equipment for $50,000,000 or more,'' after ''or with respect to a proposed sale''; and

(B) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''$25,000,000'' and inserting ''$75,000,000''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$100,000,000'' and inserting ''$200,000,000''.

(b) COMMERCIAL SALES.—Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''$14,000,000'' and inserting ''$25,000,000''; and

(B) by striking ''$50,000,000'' and inserting ''$100,000,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''$25,000,000'' and inserting ''$75,000,000''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$100,000,000'' and inserting ''$200,000,000''.

SEC. 302. LICENSING OF CERTAIN COMMERCE-CONTROLLED ITEMS.

Section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(k) LICENSING OF CERTAIN COMMERCE-CONTROLLED ITEMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A license or other approval from the Department of State granted in accordance with this section may also authorize the export of items subject to the Export Administration Regulations if such items are to be used in or with defense articles controlled on the United States Munitions List.

''(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The following requirements shall apply with respect to a license or other approval to authorize the export of items subject to the Export Administration Regulations under paragraph (1):

''(A) Separate approval from the Department of Commerce shall not be required for such items if such items are approved for export under a Department of State license or other approval.

''(B) Such items subject to the Export Administration Regulations that are exported pursuant to a Department of State license or other approval would remain under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce with respect to any subsequent transactions.

''(C) The inclusion of the term 'subject to the EAR' or any similar term on a Department of State license or approval shall not affect the jurisdiction with respect to such items.

''(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'Export Administration Regulations' means—

''(A) the Export Administration Regulations as maintained and amended under the authority of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

''(B) any successor regulations.''.

SEC. 303. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO REMOVAL OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the President shall take such actions as may be necessary to require that, at the time of export or reexport of any major defense equipment listed on the 600 series of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, the major defense equipment will not be subsequently modified so as to transform such major defense equipment into a defense article.

''(B) The President may authorize the transformation of any major defense equipment described in subparagraph (A) into a defense article if the President—

''(i) determines that such transformation is appropriate and in the national interests of the United States; and

''(ii) provides notice of such transformation to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate consistent with the notification requirements of section 36(b)(5)(A) of this Act.

''(C) In this paragraph, the term 'defense article' means an item designated by the President pursuant to subsection (a)(1).''.

(b) NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT REMOVED FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(f)), as amended by this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) The President shall ensure that any major defense equipment that is listed on the 600 series of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, shall continue to be subject to the notification and reporting requirements of the following provisions of law:

''(A) Section 516(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(f)).

''(B) Section 655 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2415).

''(C) Section 3(d)(3)(A) of this Act.

''(D) Section 25 of this Act.

''(E) Section 36(b), (c), and (d) of this Act.''.

SEC. 304. AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF ''SECURITY ASSISTANCE'' UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

Section 502B(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(C) to read as follows:

''(C) any license in effect with respect to the export to or for the armed forces, police, intelligence, or other internal security forces of a foreign country of—

''(i) defense articles or defense services under section 38 of the Armed Export Control Act; or

''(ii) items listed under the 600 series of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subtitle B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations;''.

SEC. 305. AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS OF ''DEFENSE ARTICLE'' AND ''DEFENSE SERVICE'' UNDER THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

Section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3), by striking ''includes'' and inserting ''means, with respect to a sale or transfer by the United States under the authority of this Act or any other foreign assistance or sales program of the United States''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''includes'' and inserting ''means, with respect to a sale or transfer by the United States under the authority of this Act or any other foreign assistance or sales program of the United States,''.

SEC. 306. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in sections 3(a), 3(d)(1), 3(d)(3)(A), 3(e), 5(c), 6, 21(g), 36(a), 36(b)(1), 36(b)(5)(C), 36(c)(1), 36(f), 38(f)(1), 40(f)(1), 40(g)(2)(B), 101(b), and 102(a)(2), by striking ''the Speaker of the House of Representatives and'' each place it appears and inserting ''the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and'';

(2) in section 21(i)(1) by inserting after ''the Speaker of the House of Representatives'' the following '', the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services of the House of Representatives,'';

(3) in sections 25(e), 38(f)(2), 38(j)(3), and 38(j)(4)(B), by striking ''International Relations'' each place it appears and inserting ''Foreign Affairs'';

(4) in sections 27(f) and 62(a), by inserting after ''the Speaker of the House of Representatives,'' each place it appears the following: ''the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives,''; and

(5) in section 73(e)(2), by striking ''the Committee on National Security and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives'' and inserting ''the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives''.

(b) OTHER TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.—The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(A) in section 38—

(i) in subsection (b)(1), by redesignating the second subparagraph (B) (as added by section 1255(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (Public Law 100-204; 101 Stat. 1431)) as subparagraph (C);

(ii) in subsection (g)(1)(A)—

(I) in clause (xi), by striking ''; or'' and inserting '', or''; and

(II) in clause (xii)—

(aa) by striking ''section'' and inserting ''sections''; and

(bb) by striking ''(18 U.S.C. 175b)'' and inserting ''(18 U.S.C. 175c)''; and

(iii) in subsection (j)(2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''in'' after ''to''; and

(B) in section 47(2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''sec. 21(a),,'' and inserting ''section 21(a),''.

(2) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking ''Wherever applicable, a description'' and inserting ''Wherever applicable, such report shall include a description''; and

(B) in subsection (d)(2)(B), by striking ''credits'' and inserting ''credits)''.

TITLE IV—APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 401. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 1979.

(a) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Section 12(c) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2411(c)) has been in effect from August 20, 2001, and continues in effect on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and notwithstanding section 20 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2419). Section 12(c)(1) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 is a statute covered by section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

(b) TERMINATION DATE.—Subsection (a) terminates at the end of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) 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 to put any extraneous material on this measure into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. I yield myself such time as I my consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3470. This legislation that I authored reaffirms the United States' steadfast support for Taiwan and provides the legal authority to sell naval vessels to Taiwan.

I very much appreciate the bipartisan support that we have received from Mr. ENGEL and other members of the committee across the aisle. This legislation passed unanimously out of our committee, and the bill makes several changes also to improve U.S. security assistance to friends and allies.

On April 10, 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act was enacted to govern America's relationship with the Republic of China-Taiwan. For 35 years, the act has helped maintain peace and security across the Taiwan Strait and the Asia-Pacific region.

During this time, Taiwan has undergone a monumental transformation from grinding poverty and from dictatorship to, today, a vibrant multiparty democracy. Taiwan's economy has evolved, too, to where it is today, out 10th top trading partner. This week, we recognize this 35-year transformation. Few other pieces of foreign policy legislation have been as consequential as the Taiwan Relations Act.

America's support for Taiwan has allowed this island nation to realize its full potential. It is now more important than ever that we reaffirm our strong commitment to Taiwan and to the Taiwan Relations Act. And as chairman, I led two bipartisan delegations to Taipei, to Kaohsiung, and to Tainan to examine Taiwan's economy and to look at its defense capabilities. Today's legislation is the product of the committee's bipartisan effort to prioritize the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. By incorporating two pieces of legislation, both which passed the committee unanimously, the House of Representatives is now in a position to fulfill both the spirit and the letter of the Taiwan Relations Act.

This legislation allows the President to transfer for sale four Perry-class guided missile frigates to Taiwan, which are greatly needed to augment Taiwan's defense capabilities. I have seen firsthand the World War II-era submarines and the 50-year-old fighter jets that form the core of Taiwan's military. Congress has made it clear to the administration that it wants more defense sales to Taiwan. These four ships would bolster Taiwan's defense to ensure that peace in the Taiwan Strait continues to benefit the entire region.

In addition to supporting Taiwan, this legislation also authorizes the transfer of excess decommissioned naval vessels to Thailand and Mexico. These transfers help support the priorities of the U.S. Navy while strengthening the capability of allies and other close partners to meet our shared maritime security objectives.

The bill also makes long overdue improvements to the timeliness of U.S. arms sales to friends and allies while maintaining appropriate congressional oversight. It also makes technical amendments to update certain notification and reporting requirements under the Arms Export Control Act. Finally, the bill also clarifies that certain business confidentiality protections of the Export Administration Act continue to protect information related to export licensing.

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 4, 2014.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 3470, ''Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014,'' Title I of which was favorably reported out of your Committee on March 25, 2014 as H. Res. 494.

As you know, H. Res. 494, which has been incorporated into Section 101 of H.R. 3470, has been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. I appreciate that, in response to the concerns raised by the Committee on Ways and Means concerning aspects of Title I within our Committee's jurisdiction, you have agreed to modify H.R. 3470 prior to its consideration in the House. As a result, in order to expedite floor consideration of the bill, the Committee on Ways and Means will forgo action on H.R. 3470. Further, the Committee will not oppose the bill's consideration on the suspension calendar, based on our understanding that you will work with us as the legislative process moves forward to ensure that the Committee's concerns continue to be addressed. This is also 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.R. 3470, 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.

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 4, 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. 494, ''Affirming the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act,'' and forgoing a request for a sequential referral of the suspension text for H.R. 3470, ''Naval Vessel Transfer and Arms Export Control Amendments Act,'' in which the text of H. Res. 494 has been inserted as a new section 101. The suspension text contains agreed revisions, made at your request, to content that is within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

I will seek to place our letters into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 3470. 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.

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

I thank my colleague, Mr. ROYCE, the distinguished chairman of our committee, once again for his bipartisan collegiality in the workings of our committee, especially on this important piece of legislation.

I want to also rise in strong support of the Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act.

I am proud to serve, Mr. Speaker, as the cochair of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, which has worked to ensure the Taiwan Relations Act remains the linchpin in U.S.-Taiwan relations. I am also proud of the fact, I would say to my friend, the chairman of our committee, that, since 1988, I have actually been to Taiwan 23 times and have seen extraordinary change over those three decades.

Since the signing of the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979, the U.S. and Taiwan have forged a closer partnership to improve cultural and economic relations between our nations. Our partnership has been instrumental in maintaining

peace and security across the Taiwan Strait and throughout East Asia.

While it is important to mark this historic anniversary, we also should take this opportunity to affirm our—that is to say the American—commitment. As a reflection of that, today's bill authorizes the President to transfer up to four surplus U.S. naval vessels to Taiwan. Taiwan has been a valued partner in combating global terrorism and delivering humanitarian relief when needed.

China's recent declaration of an Air Defense Identification Zone and subsequent provocation toward other ships in the region has raised concerns about the possibility of escalation and provocation. That makes the security posture of friends like Taiwan even more precarious and more important and underscores the need for us to continue this defense partnership.

The bill also, as the chairman indicated, authorizes the transfer of surplus naval vessels, two each to Mexico and Thailand, both critical defense partners of this Nation. These transfers will enhance the ability of those countries to collaborate with the U.S. Navy on joint or support operations. The bill also provides an overdue modernization of the congressional review process for the licensing of U.S. defense exports. Under the new criteria, congressional review will focus on major defense exports.

The bill also will help advance the President's Export Control Reform initiative, which has long been a priority for the high-tech community which I am proud to represent in northern Virginia. I have been working with the House Foreign Affairs Committee for years to reform Federal export controls, which have stifled innovation in the American commercial defense industry and put U.S. exports at a disadvantage.

Today's bill updates the process for congressional review of exports to reflect regulatory changes now being implemented by the Departments of State, Commerce, and Defense.

As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the Taiwan Relations Act, I look forward to working with other friends of Taiwan to reaffirm America's unwavering commitment to this partnership, including trade and investment activities that will benefit both of our nations moving forward.

Over the past 60 years, the United States-Taiwan relationship has undergone dramatic changes, but Taiwan's development into a robust, lively democracy underpins the strong U.S.-Taiwan friendship we enjoy today. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join the chairman and me in supporting this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Chairman ROYCE for his steadfast leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee on this legislation that we have before us today.

□ 1700

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3470 strengthens the bilateral relationship between the United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan in two very important ways. First, it reaffirms Congress' commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act that for 35 years has served as the foundation of our relationship with the Republic of China on Taiwan. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, it authorizes the transfer of additional Perry-class guided missile frigates to Taiwan. And I should point out that I have seen firsthand in Taiwan the threat that the People's Republic of China constantly presents to Taiwan. They are there, right across a very short distance body of water, ready to strike at any time, so reaffirming our military commitment to Taiwan is critical.

As we have seen the Chinese Government continue to escalate tensions in the region, Mr. Speaker, making certain that we enhance this security cooperation is important. As Chairman ROYCE pointed out, Taiwan is a superior trading partner with the United States. They are in the top 10 trading partners, and I point out that the trade with Taiwan represents about 500,000 jobs here in the United States.

I would like to thank the chairman for his work to further the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and certainly look forward to working with him to determine what else we can and should be doing to support an unwavering ally in an increasingly important part of the world.

My view of successful foreign policy is that your friends trust you and your enemies fear you, and this legislation today is a good step in the direction of our enemies fearing us and our friends trusting us.

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

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

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation. Just as important as arms sales to Taiwan, the U.S. must support efforts to maintain and expand Taiwan's diplomatic presence. I am pleased to report to the House that legislation signed into law last year, another bipartisan product of this committee, helped Taiwan participate in the International Civil Aviation Organization for the first time since 1976.

Taiwan's participation in regional trade agreements could greatly benefit American consumers and exporters as well.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should be proud of the role that the Taiwan Relations Act has had in helping Taiwan become what it is today. Taiwan is a beacon of hope and democracy in a part of the world that still yearns for the basic freedoms that Americans and Taiwanese enjoy on a daily basis. As we commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, let us speak with one voice and offer our strong support of Taiwan.

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 California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3470, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to affirm the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act, to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT HERITAGE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 404) to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 404

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 ''Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF LEGAL AUTHORITY OF GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT.

(a) LEGAL AUTHORITY OF LOOKOUT.—Section 4(b) of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–339; 98 Stat. 300; 16 U.S.C. 1131 note) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', and except that with respect to the lands described in section 3(5), the designation of such lands as a wilderness area shall not preclude the operation and maintenance of Green Mountain Lookout.''

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984.

SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF GREEN MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT LOCATION.

The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, may not move Green Mountain Lookout from its current location on Green Mountain in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest unless the Secretary determines that moving Green Mountain Lookout is necessary to preserve the Lookout or to ensure the safety of individuals on or around Green Mountain. If the Secretary makes such a determination, the Secretary shall move the Green Mountain Lookout to a location outside of the lands described in section 3(5) of the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984 and designated as a wilderness area in section 4(b) of such Act.

SEC. 4. ALASKA NATIVE VETERAN ALLOTMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICATION.—The term ''application'' means the Alaska Native Veteran Allotment application numbered AA-084021-B.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means the 80 acres of Federal land that is—

(A) described in the application; and

(B) depicted as Lot 2 in U.S. Survey No. 13957, Alaska, that was officially filed on October 9, 2009.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) ISSUANCE OF PATENT.—Notwithstanding section 41 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1629g) and subject to subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

(1) approve the application; and

(2) issue a patent for the Federal land to the person that submitted the application.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The patent issued under subsection (b) shall—

(A) only be for the surface rights to the Federal land; and

(B) be subject to the terms and conditions of any certificate issued under section 41 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1629g), including terms and conditions providing that—

(i) the patent is subject to valid existing rights, including any right of the United States to income derived, directly or indirectly, from a lease, license, permit, right-of-way, or easement on the Federal land; and

(ii) the United States shall reserve an interest in deposits of oil, gas, and coal on the Federal land, including the right to explore, mine, and remove the minerals on portions of the Federal land that the Secretary determines to be prospectively valuable for development.

(2) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require any additional terms and conditions for the issuance of the patent under subsection (a) that the Secretary determines to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 404 would preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness area of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in my home State of Washington.

The Green Mountain Lookout was constructed in 1933 on the summit of Green Mountain for the purpose of fire detection. It was also used to look for enemy aircraft during World War II. While the lookout is no longer used for fire detection, it has, however, become a favorite destination for hikers.

Several years ago, after the lookout was damaged in a snowstorm, the Forest Service disassembled and removed the lookout by helicopter with the intent of replacing the foundation and reassembling the lookout. In 2009, the lookout was reassembled, again using helicopter.

But in 2010, Mr. Speaker, an environmental group from out of State, from the State of Montana, filed and won a lawsuit claiming that the repairs violated both the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. As a result, a Federal judge in Seattle ordered the Forest Service to remove the historic lookout. Elimination of this popular hiking destination by this order would have begun this summer. This bill puts a stop to that nonsense and it protects the lookout.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately this is not an isolated incident. Too often, lawsuits from extreme groups seek to close off public access to public lands, and too often bureaucracies are happy to comply with eliminating existing recreation from public lands. At times they even take the lead in pushing such restrictions. Credit, however, is due to the Forest Service for using common sense in this case. In other cases, such as the subsistence cabin of the Alaska Native veteran addressed also in this bill, or the halting of stocking fish in the North Cascades, which is the subject of another bill, common sense hasn't always prevailed, so it falls to Congress to fix the problem.

The House has already acted once on this piece of legislation regarding the Green Mountain Lookout, in February, by protecting this lookout. By voting on this Senate bill today, the House will send the measure to the President to be signed and to become law.

The Senate approved the measure by unanimous consent last week at the request of our Senator from Washington, Senator PATTY MURRAY. This action was prompted by a visit from Senator MURRAY to the Washington State communities affected by the tragic mudslide that claimed the lives of over two-dozen citizens. The Senator called me a week ago last Saturday morning. When she asked what she and her congressional colleagues could do to help, the mayor of Darrington, one of the communities that is affected, asked for enactment of this bill to save the lookout. It is a small action that cannot undo the tragedy, but it will help protect a recreation and economic asset in this corner of Washington State.

It goes without saying to all affected by the mudslide that our hearts go out to those of you who lost loved ones, and our sincere thanks is owed to all who have assisted in the rescue, search, recovery, and rebuilding of that area.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my optimism that this is just the first of other bills affecting public lands that will become law this year. There has been bipartisan communication between the House and the Senate on finding agreement on a number of bills of local importance to communities across the country—bills to solve problems, foster economic development, and to protect historic and special places. Had not the special circumstances prompted action on this bill today, I am confident it would have become law soon enough. Senator MURRAY and I, along with Senator CANTWELL, also from Washington State, have been discussing a number of bills of interest to our particular State. I hope and believe these will be among those that can be accomplished later on this year. It takes one step at a time, so I urge my colleagues to support this bill and send it to the President for his signature.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Green Mountain Lookout tower is perched on a bluff overlooking Washington State's Cascade Mountains in what is now the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the tower is a popular destination for hikers and a testament to our long tradition of public lands-based service and training programs.

A lawsuit challenged the tower's presence in the wilderness area, and a judge ruled it be removed. Passage today of S. 404 will ensure the tower remains where it is, which we feel is important and appropriate. I want to thank Senator MURRAY of Washington and Representative DELBENE, the sponsor of the House companion. It is thanks to their hard work that we are considering this legislation today.

□ 1715

While it will not take away from the tragedy of the recent mudslide, passing this bill today will be a big win for the local community and the State of Washington as a whole.

We support the legislation and thank the majority and the chairman for bringing it up under suspension of the rules.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), who is the author of the House version of the Alaska provisions in this Senate bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

The Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act includes a provision that I offered as an amendment on the House floor in February. The amendment to the omnibus Public Access and Lands Improvement Act passed the House by voice vote, and I am pleased it has come before the House again as part of the Senate-passed legislation.

During the debate on that measure, I told a story that led to this provision, and how the Federal Government failed one of my constituents, Mr. William Alstrom, endangering his Alaska native veterans allotment and the cabin

he and his family built on their own effort on his land the Federal Government conveyed to him and then took back due to a bureaucratic error.

At its core, fixing issues like this is one we are all sent here to Washington to accomplish, and the way in which this has been fixed, merely months after I was first made aware of this issue, is an example of how Congress should function as we work together.

Today, after the House sends S. 404 to the President, I am pleased that William and his family can put this headache behind them, and William can put his time to better use by continuing to serve St. Mary's, Alaska, as mayor and president of his village corporation.

May I, again, thank the chairman, the ranking member, the two Senators, and the total Larsen delegation for this legislation, especially recognizing the mudslide.

But I hope we all recognize that the Federal Government is not a good manager of land. There are too many times that logic does not prevail and too many times they are being sued by interest groups that understand logic. I am suggesting respectfully, as the chairman has said, we ought to work together, both parties together, on solving land issues that are really created by our own government—both sides. I have been under eight Presidents, and I have watched these Presidents all not take into consideration individuals, their rights, their prerogatives, as free Americans.

So I, again, thank you for the efforts put forth in this legislation. I commend the chairman and ranking member for the work they put forth, and God bless you.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Washington (Ms. DELBENE), the sponsor of the legislation.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their help in considering the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act today, a bill close to the hearts of many of my constituents who have been struck by a terrible tragedy.

As many in this Chamber know, on Saturday, March 22, on a mountainside in my district near the towns of Oso and Darrington, an enormous landslide occurred, almost unthinkable in size and scope, wiping out an entire neighborhood and destroying an important stretch of State Route 530, the primary transportation artery between Arlington and Darrington, and other communities to the east.

At least 33 people have lost their lives, and more are still missing. The damage and loss caused by this disaster are heartbreaking, but the community response has been equally inspiring. People throughout the region have come together to support each other and do their part to aid in the search and recovery.

In the days after the tragedy occurred, members of the community and the mayor of Darrington asked for support on issues important to the region. One of their requests to our congressional delegation, to Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL and Congressman LARSEN and myself, was for our help to pass this bill.

Last year, I introduced the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act in the House, and, with unanimous Senate passage last week, we are one step closer to providing this community with a piece of good news about a treasured local landmark. The Green Mountain Lookout, located in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, was built in 1933 as a Civilian Conservation Corps project to detect fires and spot enemy aircraft during World War II. The lookout is a popular destination for hikers near and far, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is also an important, historic, and unique part of community of Darrington.

Unfortunately, severe weather caused the Green Mountain Lookout to fall into disrepair in 2001, and the U.S. Forest Service began taking steps to preserve the historic structure for future generations. However, an out-of-state group filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service for using machinery to conduct repairs and, unfortunately, a U.S. District Court ordered the Forest Service to remove the lookout. If Congress does not act soon, the lookout will be removed for good.

This lookout is a local landmark for the Darrington community and the Pacific Northwest, and is also a critical tourist attraction and economic driver in the region. At a time when this community is faced with a long, difficult road to recovery, we must do everything we can to help, including supporting the region's economy, and, in this case, protecting the Green Mountain Lookout saves a cherished landmark and supports outdoor recreation and tourism, both critically important to the local economy.

This bill is simple. It would allow routine maintenance while keeping this iconic structure where it is meant to be, and always has been, on Green Mountain near Darrington. Local governments in the area, my constituents, as well as a number of environmental and historic preservation groups, support saving the lookout. This bill also saves money because it would cost more money to remove the lookout than to keep it where it is.

The Green Mountain Lookout represents a significant piece of the Pacific Northwest's history. It deserves to be protected for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy for many years to come.

This bill can't undo what has been done. But, as the mayor of Darrington told me, it can be a piece of good news and a victory for an inspiring community that has gone through so much.

Today, I ask all Members of the House to vote for this bill and do their part to support this remarkable community and this historic landmark.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 15½ minutes.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the full committee, the ranking member of the full committee, and the ranking member of the subcommittee for helping to bring S. 404 to the floor, the Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act.

The lookout symbolizes a unique and vanishing part of the Pacific Northwest's heritage, and this bill symbolizes Congress' solidarity with a hard-hit part of our State.

The Green Mountain Lookout is one of few surviving fire lookouts in the West. It is one of only six such lookouts within a wilderness area. It was an early warning station during World War II to alert citizens to possible aerial invasion.

The communities in nearby Darrington and Oso are recovering from last month's tragic landslide that has taken the lives of dozens of people and shut the communities off from much of the outside world. First responders, FEMA, and other Federal agencies have been extraordinary in their efforts to help with recovery.

Passing this bill invests in a longer-term economic recovery of the region. Many of the people in these communities rely on outdoor recreation and the tourism that it brings for their livelihoods. Part of that economy is based on access to its historic and beautiful location, like Green Mountain Lookout.

Keeping the lookout in place means Darrington has one more reason to tell people from across this country that Darrington is open for business. With the summer recreation season coming up, protecting Green Mountain Lookout sends a message from Congress to these communities as well that we are with you.

For 12 years, I represented these communities in Congress and for 3 years before that on the local county council. I introduced legislation identical to this bill in June 2012 right after an ill-advised court decision suggested that Green Mountain Lookout should be taken down.

I was pleased that Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL followed that with the introduction of companion legislation in December of 2012.

In February 2013, Congresswoman DELBENE reintroduced this bill, along with our Senate colleagues.

I appreciate my colleagues' willingness to protect the lookout, and I appreciate the support of Chairman HASTINGS, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and

others to put this bill on the President's desk.

By protecting the lookout, we will protect the economic livelihoods of many of those who have struggled after last month's tragic landslide.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to vote for S. 404.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I advise my friend from Arizona I am prepared to close if he is prepared to close.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I think the Representatives from Washington stated the case for the legislation. All of us concur with that.

I urge all Members to vote for this piece of legislation. It is thoughtful, it is pragmatic, and it is necessary to do it with some urgency so that that historic site is not lost.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a good piece of legislation. I want to congratulate my colleagues from the western part of the State for introducing it and persevering on it.

It is just one of those issues, as I mentioned in my opening statement, where we many times in the West get influenced by somebody out of State. This is just one of those classic examples. There is no reason why the lookout should not be there for the people that surround the community of Darrington, and for the people that hike in that area.

But so many times I have come to the floor, and colleagues on my side, arguing about lawsuits, especially from the environmental emphasis. This is just one more example that we are correcting. In fact, I hope we can have more of those in the future.

This is a good piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. I urge adoption of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 404.

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.

DEBBIE SMITH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4323) to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4323

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 ''Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. GENERAL REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''2010 through 2018'' and inserting ''2014 through 2019''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''2018'' and inserting ''2019''; and

(2) in subsection (j), by striking ''2009 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 through 2019''.

SEC. 3. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

Section 303(b) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136(b)) is amended by striking ''2009 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 through 2019''.

SEC. 4. SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM GRANTS.

Section 304(c) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136a(c)) is amended by striking ''2009 through 2014'' and inserting ''2015 through 2019''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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. 4323, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

In 1989, Debbie Smith was kidnapped from her Williamsburg, Virginia, home while her husband, a police officer, was sleeping upstairs. Her assailant dragged her into the woods behind her home and raped her.

Despite being threatened with further harm, she bravely came forward, reported the assault, and consented to a forensic exam with hopes that her attacker would be quickly identified and apprehended. Unfortunately, this did not happen.

In the years following the sexual assault, Debbie Smith, stricken with thoughts of suicide, struggled with the paralyzing fear that her unknown attacker would return to inflict harm on her and her family. The traumatic effect remained with Debbie and her family for over 6 years until an offender was identified and convicted using DNA analysis.

I am pleased to sponsor H.R. 4323, the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014, to ensure victims of rape, sexual assault, and other violent crimes do not have to endure similar experiences to Debbie Smith in the future. I would like to acknowledge the bipartisan support received from the numerous cosponsors of this important legislation, including lead cosponsor Congresswoman BASS of California and original cosponsors Ranking Member CONYERS, Crime Subcommittee Chairman SENSENBRENNER, and Ranking Member SCOTT. I also would like to recognize the efforts of my colleague from New York, CAROLYN MALONEY, in cosponsoring this bill reauthorizing the program she helped create in 2004. Finally, the gentleman from Texas, Judge TED POE, has also been a strong leader in this area for many years, and we are all very appreciative of his efforts.

With the goal of eliminating the backlog of untested DNA samples, the Debbie Smith program awards grants to State and local governments to fund the collection of samples from offenders and crime scenes, including rape kits, increased laboratory capacity, and the analysis of DNA samples in a timely and appropriate manner.

□ 1730

Additionally, grants are authorized to provide training, technical assistance, and education to law enforcement officials, court officers, corrections personnel, and forensic science and medical professionals.

The effectiveness of DNA evidence in criminal investigations and prosecutions is unquestioned. As of January 2014, the use of the FBI's National DNA Index has provided important assistance in more than 224,000 investigations. In my home State of Virginia, the database contains more than 366,000 offender profiles and has aided in nearly 8,500 criminal investigations.

Due to a number of factors, including the expansion in recent years of the number of States requiring arrestees to submit DNA samples, the demand for the testing of these samples continues to outpace the capacity of State and local government laboratories.

In 2011, laboratories processed 10 percent more DNA cases than in 2009. However, backlogs persisted as demand grew by 16 percent during the same period, illustrating the need for the continued support of this vital program.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, reauthorizing the Debbie Smith program, to continue the reduction of DNA backlogs nationwide.

I thank Debbie Smith for her contribution to this effort and for her courage in standing up for millions of others.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4323, the Debbie Smith Act, which was originally enacted in 2004. During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we have the opportunity to take an important step in continuing a program that helps address the problem of sexual assault.

The Debbie Smith Act has helped State and local law enforcement reduce the Nation's large backlog of untested DNA samples. Grants are used to hire personnel and to purchase supplies for processing samples and for including them in the Combined DNA Index System.

Grants have also been directed to DNA training and technical assistance for law enforcement and courts and to sexual assault nurse examiner programs. Crime laboratories have almost unanimously reported that the DNA Backlog Grant Program is essential to their capacity to process samples, but the backlog still remains.

Hundreds of thousands of DNA samples, each representing an unsolved crime, remains untested. Regrettably, over 200 untested samples remain in Los Angeles alone that have outlasted the statute of limitations for prosecuting cases, so we have to do everything we can to process these samples.

We must also do everything we can to strengthen the nationwide database and reduce the DNA backlog, so that cases of sexual assault can be solved and prosecuted without delay. Reauthorizing the Debbie Smith Act will bring perpetrators of sexual assault to justice before they can attack more victims.

I am proud to acknowledge that Debbie Smith is a constituent of mine. She lives in Charles City County, Virginia. She waited more than 6 years for the DNA from her rape kit to be processed and checked against the national database in order to identify her attacker.

Her attacker was identified, but unfortunately, during those 6 years, he attacked at least two other women—crimes that would not have happened if his DNA had been tested in a more timely manner.

Debbie has spent her time and effort over the last few years with her organization, HEART, which stands for Hope Exists After Rape Trauma. She has been advocating for a reduction in the DNA backlog and has been offering assistance to victims of sexual assault.

I commend my colleague from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS, for working together to expedite the consideration of this bill.

I also want to acknowledge the original author of the Debbie Smith Act, the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), for her hard work and continued advocacy on behalf of sexual assault victims.

I urge my colleagues to join me in further honoring the work of Debbie Smith's by voting for this bill—to reauthorize the bill that bears her name.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member of the full committee.

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that demonstrates that members of different parties with different philosophies can come together when the cause is so clear and straightforward, and we come here today, supporting the 4-year reauthorization of three programs established under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

These programs facilitate a holistic approach to the use of DNA in sexual assault cases by providing Federal grants to address the huge DNA backlogs and to provide DNA training and technical assistance to States and local law enforcement agencies.

The Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program is named for Debbie Smith who, as my dear friend Mr. SCOTT has indicated, was kidnapped from her home and was raped in nearby woods.

The attacker remained unidentified for more than 6 years until a DNA sample, collected from a convicted person who was serving time in a Virginia State prison for other crimes, revealed his identity as her attacker. The delay in identifying her attacker caused Debbie Smith untold psychological and emotional torture.

I am very pleased by the fact that, along with Chairman BOB GOODLATTE and Mr. SCOTT and Judge POE, we were able to meet with Mrs. Smith and her husband, who honor us by witnessing this proceeding that is now going on.

I want to commend not only the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, and the ranking member of the Crime Subcommittee, BOBBY SCOTT, but also JIM SENSENBRENNER of Wisconsin and Judge POE, who all have worked so hard to make this law work.

We are reducing the backlog, but the person who championed this issue the most was CAROLYN MALONEY, and I am happy to recommend her for the commendation that she deserves.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), who has been working hard on this issue for a number of years.

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4323, the Debbie Smith Act.

Every 2 minutes in this country, someone is sexually assaulted. That means, by the time I finish my remarks today, at least one man, woman, or child will have been brutally attacked.

By the end of this year, more than 200,000 people—nearly all of them women and girls—will have been victimized in the most inhuman way. Only 60 percent of victims will ever report their attacks, and barely 3 percent of attackers will ever serve a day in prison.

These statistics are staggering, and we are not doing all we can to ensure that every victim has access to the justice he deserves. Too often, victims who are willing to report their attacks face invasive examinations, which leave them feeling victimized all over again.

They then wait, often living in fear and with no information from law enforcement, while their rape kits collect dust in evidence lockers or sit on lab shelves. Every untested rape kit is a lost opportunity to provide justice and to catch dangerous criminals.

To see the importance of rape kit testing, look no further than New York City. In 1999, the city enacted a policy to test every rape kit and to eliminate its backlog of over 17,000 kits, and 15 years later, that policy has made a world of difference.

Every kit collected in New York is tested within 30 to 60 days, and the arrest rate for rape has skyrocketed from 40 percent to 70 percent. Compare that to the national rate of 24 percent. Clearly, the more rape kits we test, the more rapists we get off the streets.

Imagine what would happen if we tested all of the 400,000 rape kits that are still sitting on the shelves today around the country.

I have fought to end the rape kit backlog for nearly 15 years. In 2000, I supported the passage of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act, which provided $40 million to help States analyze DNA evidence.

When the rape kit backlog failed to decrease by 2002, I introduced the Rape Kit DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act, which would have authorized $250 million to help police departments finance rape kit testing.

In 2004, I cosponsored and worked closely with Mr. SENSENBRENNER and others to enact the Justice for All Act that created the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, which authorized hundreds of millions of dollars for DNA testing and strengthened the ability of State and local law enforcement to test rape kits.

While I am pleased that we will reauthorize the Debbie Smith Grant Program today, I am disappointed that we are not considering a complete reauthorization of the Justice for All Act, including the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant programs.

DNA evidence is vital to providing justice for all people by putting violent criminals behind bars and by exonerating wrongfully convicted individuals. We should not allow a vital program to lapse because it is less politically expedient.

It is my hope that we can work together to pass a complete reauthorization of the Justice for All Act as our colleagues in the Senate claim to do shortly. In the 10 years since the creation of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, we have seen much progress, but the backlog continues to be a major problem, and prosecuting is uneven across the country.

I commend the chairman of the committee and the ranking member and all

of the other Members who have worked on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support the bill and to work towards a day when no rape kit goes untested and every victim of sexual assault sees justice.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the author of the original legislation.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Thank you, and I thank all of my colleagues for this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, there is no more important thing a government can do than protect its citizens from violent crime, and today's reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act, until 2019, does just that. It will protect women, and it will save lives.

The Debbie Smith Act has been called the most important antirape legislation ever to have passed this Congress. During Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April, we are presented with the grim statistics that every 2 minutes, someone is sexually assaulted in our country.

This bill was first introduced in 2001, after a hearing Steve Horn and I organized on the use of DNA to convict and exonerate. Since first being signed into law in 2004, the Debbie Smith Act funds have provided State and local governments with the tools to eliminate the backlog that exists around this country.

It is estimated the backlog is of roughly 400,000 kits that are sitting in warehouses and police departments, and each one of these kits is representing a life of a woman who has been raped.

It not only represents a peace of mind for her to know that her rapist will be convicted and put behind bars, but it will prevent future rapes because the FBI tells us that most rapists will attack another seven times; so, if we can convict, we can save seven other lives.

□ 1745

I want to recognize two extremely brave women who are speaking out on this issue and have testified before Congress. It is very difficult to do. I have tried to get people to testify. The only person I could get to testify was my good friend, Debbie Smith, who inspired me and others after her wonderful testimony in 2001. She is also joined by Natasha Alexenko, founder of Natasha's Justice Project, working to completely eliminate the backlog. Natasha's and Debbie's stories tell the need of this legislation.

My friend, Congressman SCOTT, spoke about his constituent, Debbie. Natasha was raped, and it took 15 years for them to process her kit. During that 15 years, her rapist raped other women, was involved in sex trafficking, selling drugs, and a slew of other crimes across this country. When her kit was processed, he was put behind bars. If they had processed it earlier, it would have prevented all of this other damage to women and to society as a whole.

One of the tragic costs of this type of crime is that those who survive a sexual assault carry wounds that are not readily visible. They are 3 times more likely to suffer from depression, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide. Each rape kit that gets tested brings these survivors closer to justice and prevents future rapes.

Since I introduced the first version of this legislation in 2001, it has always received wide bipartisan support. I thank Chairman GOODLATTE, Ranking Member CONYERS, members of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. POE, Ms. BASS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SCOTT, and former Congressman Mark Green for all of their hard work.

I hope that this bill will quickly pass the Senate and become law. This is one of those rare bills that virtually guarantees that it will put real criminals behind bars and protect people more effectively from one of the most traumatic assaults imaginable: rape. The grants provided to States and local governments will allow them to significantly reduce or eliminate their backlogs.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. By using a national DNA database, it helps them identify criminals.

The bill that Mr. POE and I passed earlier this year, the SAFER Act, will direct that 75 percent of this money go directly for the backlog. It is roughly $113 million. It is important. It is a moral imperative to eliminate the rape backlog so that women will not be victimized simply because their government failed to act and failed to process this important evidence.

This is an important day. I urge my colleagues to unanimously pass this bill and move it to the Senate and unanimously pass it there.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Crime, the chairman and ranking member of the full committee, and Mrs. MALONEY for their leadership.

I was on the Crime Subcommittee as this bill was introduced. I was eager to see it work its will in that early timeframe in the backdrop of the courage of Debbie Smith. I also recognize Natasha Alexenko, who I understand is a constituent of Mr. SCOTT. Those were the early days in 2001 when we were finding out all over the Nation that rape kits were actually lost. My city was no different.

This is an important reauthorization because of the grant programs that are provided. In particular, the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act authorizes $151 million in grants for State and local DNA labs to address DNA backlogs. As I indicated, in my own hometown, we were faced with backlogs and lost kits as well.

The DNA training and technical assistance is extremely important, helping law enforcement, courts, and forensic scientists. For DNA training and technical assistance, $30 million is directed to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs.

There is nothing more lonely than to be raped and then, on top of it, not see your case pursued.

I want to thank the Houston Area Women's Center, which involves itself in sexual violence against women, as well as Kathryn Griffin, who has worked with prostitutes and others who have actually been raped.

In Houston, decades-old rape kits that sat untested have identified at least one-third of potential offenders in cases where there was sufficient DNA, according to the Houston Police Department. And I congratulate the city of Houston. Combined with dollars from the Debbie Smith Reauthorization and the city's own investment, we now have a new DNA lab that is open and ready for business to ensure that the victims of crime and sexual assault are not left along the highway of despair. In my district alone, 6,600 rape kits have been cleared as of August 2013. That is an important step forward.

I also look forward to continuing to work on issues dealing with DNA of those who involve themselves in human trafficking in a national database.

I also want to give another reason why this is extremely important. As I left Houston, in my own congressional district, we found that, unfortunately, the State of Texas decided to put 23 violent sexual offenders in a neighborhood in what is called a halfway house. Those individuals are at the back side of their incarceration. Mr. Speaker, I would say that it is a dangerous set of circumstances when these individuals will be among children and women and be without the necessary security in a neighborhood.

And so this DNA for rape kits is one aspect of the need that is being addressed in helping women, again, not feel lonely and left without refuge and the ability to access justice.

I support H.R. 4323. I ask my colleagues to support it, and remember there is a larger and broader picture we must look at in order to address the violence against women.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of both the Judiciary Committee and a co-sponsor, I

rise in strong support of H.R. 4323, the "Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014," which reauthorizes three grant programs to address DNA backlogs and provide DNA training and technical assistance on local, state, and federal levels.

It is essential that these programs be reauthorized so that the backlog of unprocessed rape kits can be reduced and then eliminated and perpetrators of sexual assault crimes can be prosecuted and convicted.

There is an ever-present need to continue robust funding for programs such as the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program in order to make sure victims do not fall through the cracks of the system.

Women who have been raped have a right to expect police to thoroughly investigate the case and prosecute the offenders; however, many rape kits across the country are never even tested, and the perpetrators never face justice.

Mr. Speaker, the number of backlogged DNA samples was in excess of 100,000 nationwide as recently as January 2010.

H.R. 4323 reauthorizes for four years (until the end of fiscal year 2019) the following programs:

1. "Debbie Smith Reauthorization" ($151 million/fiscal year): grants for state and local DNA crime laboratories to address DNA backlogs and enhance their capacity.

2. DNA training and technical assistance ($12.5 million/fiscal year): directed to law enforcement, courts, forensic scientists, and corrections.

3. DNA training and technical assistance ($30 million/fiscal year): directed to sexual assault nurse examiner ("SANE") programs.

In my congressional district, these grant programs have resulted in forensic laboratories being hired to clear much of the Houston Police Department's backlog of untested DNA benefit from this type of legislation.

Just within the past year, decades-old rape kits that sat untested in Houston have identified at least one-third of potential offenders in cases where there was sufficient DNA, according to the Houston Police Department.

In my district more than 6,600 rape kits have been cleared as of August 2013 because of the funding made possible by the grant programs that H.R. 4323 will reauthorize. This record of success highlights the importance and continuing need to provide adequate funding so law enforcement agencies can conduct necessary DNA testing and training.

Mr. Speaker, the DNA Initiative is an invaluable tool for law enforcement today, and it will continue to be a legislative priority of mine. That is why I am pleased to co-sponsor H.R. 4323 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting to approve this critically important legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to encourage my colleagues to support the reauthorization of the Debbie Smith Act. I thank my colleague from Virginia for his support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I recognize the many people who have worked very hard to bring us to the reauthorization today of this important legislation.

I particularly want to thank Congresswoman MALONEY for her leadership from the original legislation to today. Congresswoman KAREN BASS of California unfortunately could not be with us for this debate this evening, but she has played a role as the lead cosponsor of this legislation. I thank the ranking member of the full committee and the ranking member of the Crime Subcommittee, Mr. CONYERS and Mr. SCOTT, for their hard work on this as well.

I certainly thank the chairman of the Crime Subcommittee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, for his contribution, as well at the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for his work in this area on this and other legislation affecting crimes against women.

Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation that will help avoid many, many future victims. I really thank Debbie Smith and Natasha Alexenko for being with us when we talked about this issue this afternoon. I want to thank them for their courage in speaking out about it. They are not only helping to have a better understanding on the part of the public of the nature of this problem, but they are actually helping to fight crime.

This Congress will be helping to fight crime when we get these perpetrators of these horrific events much, much more quickly than these multiyear delays that we have heard about tonight. We need to get them quickly. We need to prosecute the guilty. We need to exonerate the innocent and put the guilty ones in prison, where they cannot perpetrate more of these crimes. Some of them are out on the streets for additional years perpetrating multitudinous crimes. This is a serious problem. It will save the taxpayers money by reducing the amount of crime that is perpetrated in our society.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4323.

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.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1820

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1872 will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. DeLauro moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1872, as reported, to the Committee on the Budget with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following new title:

TITLE IV—EQUAL PAY AND PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS

SEC. 401. EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN AND PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS FROM HIGHER LOAN COSTS.

(a) EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN.—This Act shall not take effect until the female-to-male earnings ratio of full-time, year-round workers is at least 100 percent, as reported by the Bureau of the Census pursuant to the data collected from any Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

(b) PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS.—This Act shall not apply to any loan for a small business, student, agriculture, or for veterans' housing if such Act increases the cost of such loan and credit programs for small businesses and consumers due to the elimination or reduction of Federal support.

Ms. DELAURO (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, this is a final amendment to the bill. It will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

This amendment works to end pay discrimination against women, and it helps to ensure a very simple principle, one I hope that everyone in this body agrees with: men, women, same job, same pay, because it is true in this body.

Tomorrow is the dubious milestone of Equal Pay Day, the day a women's earnings catch up to what a man made last year. We are now over 3 full months into 2014. Women should not have to work an extra quarter of a year to be paid what they are due.

My amendment would postpone the effective date of the bill under consideration until Congress has worked to close this pay gap. It also ensures that this act does not increase the cost of loan and credit programs for small businesses, students, farmers, and veterans as a result of an elimination or reduction of Federal support.

Paycheck discrimination is not a partisan issue. It affects every women. It affects every family in America. Nearly 60 years ago, a Republican President, Dwight Eisenhower, told the Congress that ''legislation to apply the principle of equal pay for equal work without discrimination because of sex is a matter of simple justice.''

Over 50 years ago, Congress came together in a bipartisan fashion to pass the Equal Pay Act and end what President Kennedy called ''the serious and endemic problem of unequal wages.''

In 2014, women are still making 77 cents on average for every dollar made by a man. This wage gap is only closing at a rate of less than one-half a cent a year. That means we still have 40 more years before women will get paid what they deserve for the same work.

Families cannot afford to wait that long. They should not have to. That is why we just saw the Republican-controlled Senate in New Hampshire pass a paycheck fairness bill unanimously because this is an issue of simple fairness—same job, same pay—that affects everyone.

Women are half the workforce in America today, two-thirds of the primary cobreadwinners in American families. The poverty rate among women is as high as it has been in 17 years. Women have less retirement security, less protection on their pension, and more reliance on Social Security, but they receive lower payments because of this continuing wage gap.

As a result, two-thirds of seniors living in poverty today in the United States of America are women. These disproportionate financial pressures that women are facing are very much a product of this wage gap.

According to the National Partnership for Women and Families, women lose $11,000 in income every year as a result of pay discrimination. This pay gap has not budged in a decade. For women of color, it is even worse. African American women make only 62 cents as compared to the average White male; Hispanic women, only 54 cents.

The pay gap holds true across occupations and education levels. This is not just a problem for women. Less pay for women means less income. That affects an entire family. Two-income households are already struggling.

This is not a partisan issue. Unequal pay affects families all across our country. What are they trying to do? Pay their bills, achieve the American Dream, and they are getting less take-home pay for their hard work.

We have heard it from AnnMarie DuChon in Massachusetts. She found out years into her job that the university she worked for was paying men more for the same work.

Terri Kelly in Tennessee only discovered she was making less than she deserved because her husband held the exact same job, and she saw his paycheck.

ReShonda Young of Iowa discovered that her own father was paying women less when she went to work in the family business. This is real.

Both Republicans and Democrats agree that people doing the same job should receive the same pay. This amendment reaffirms our commitment to this basic principle.

It also says that we are not going to force small businesses and consumers, who are working hard, playing by the rules, and trying to make a better future for themselves, to pay more because of their skill.

Mr. Speaker, we made an enormous difference for women and families when we passed the Affordable Care Act in March 2010. We said to insurance companies: you cannot charge women more than men.

That is the law of the land today. It is real, it is being implemented, and it is happening right now. Now, we should build on that.

Let us make sure that employers cannot pay women less for the same job. This makes all the difference in their lives and the lives of their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, a number of questions come to my mind after just hearing the sponsor of the motion. They don't necessarily go in this order.

One is: Why does she want to hide from the American public the actual facts of what they are doing to the American public, as far as spending the taxpayers' money?

The second question that comes to mind is: Why, when the opportunity was given to the other side of the aisle to work with us, to amend the bill or change the bill on those areas that they disagree with on its merits, why did they instead come with this proposal, this motion on the floor totally extraneous to the underlying message and purpose of the bill?

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, many times we come to the floor and people say that the bill before us is a commonsense piece of legislation. Well, I am going to say it again because this is a commonsense piece of legislation. The underlying bill, maybe we should have had a different name to it. Maybe if we simply called the bill what it is, the ''Knowing What You Are Spending Bill,'' then the other side of the aisle would have agreed with us, wrapped their arms around the bill and us and said let's move forward, because who can disagree with actually know what you are spending?

That is all this bill does. It doesn't eliminate any programs; it doesn't cut any programs; and it doesn't diminish any programs. All it does is allow Congress and the American public to understand what we are spending and what the costs are to the various programs that both sides of the aisle support.

The proponent just now of the motion didn't get into the weeds at all. But let me just, for those just coming to the floor, remind them of what the major provisions of the underlying bill do. There are a number of them. I will give you three highlights.

First and foremost, it brings Federal budgeting in line with what the private sector has already been doing for a long time. It requires the executive branch and Congress to use something called fair value accounting when estimating the cost of Federal credit programs. What does that mean? Again, it just means that, when we spend American taxpayers' dollars, we have to let the taxpayers know how much it is actually costing.

This is not just my idea. This is what the private sector has been doing. This is even what the nonpartisan CBO, Congressional Budget Office, says we should be doing as well.

The second point is it brings Fannie and Freddie on budget. Why do we do that? To recognize the enormous and potential budgetary impact that these housing-related enterprises can and have had on our government. I don't think I have to remind either side of the aisle that they have cost upwards to $187 billion in taxpayer dollars to get it done, and we want to make sure it is on the budget so we can see it clearly.

Thirdly and lastly, this bill would require agencies to make public the budgetary justification for the materials prepared in support of their programs. What is that saying? It just means that, if you have an agency out there that wants to spend your tax dollars, they have to have the justification for it.

I think those are three honest and fair proposals that the American public has a right to know. We can continue to help the poor; we can continue to have ag programs; we can continue to have energy programs; and we can continue to have programs that facilitate housing in this country. But as we do on those programs that we both agree on, let's make sure that we are being honest with the American public and telling them and knowing what it actually costs.

For that reason, I recommend a ''no'' on this motion to recommit that would

eliminate that possibility for transparency, accountability, and openness, and a ''yes'' on the final passage of the legislation.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 179, nays 217, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 165]

YEAS—179

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—217

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—35

Barr
Bass
Black
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Campbell
Cárdenas
Carter
DeFazio
Denham
Fincher
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Griffin (AR)
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Harris
Keating
Larson (CT)
McAllister
Meeks
Miller, Gary
Moran
Neal
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Richmond
Schock
Schwartz
Stewart
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Westmoreland

□ 1857

Mr. FARENTHOLD changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. GRIJALVA, DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. GABBARD changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 230, noes 165, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 166]

AYES—230

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)

Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—165

Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Garamendi
Garcia
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—36

Barr
Bass
Black
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Campbell
Cárdenas
Carney
Carter
DeFazio
Denham
Diaz-Balart
Fincher
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Griffin (AR)
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Harris
Keating
Larson (CT)
McAllister
Meeks
Miller, Gary
Moran
Neal
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Richmond
Schock
Schwartz
Stewart
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Westmoreland

□ 1904

Mr. ELLISON changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 90, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 90

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY.

Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on April 30, 2014, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. CON. RES. 94

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Washington, Mr. DENNY HECK, be removed as a cosponsor from H. Con. Res. 94.

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

There was no objection.

SHANNON MELENDI'S DEATH STINGS, 20 YEARS LATER

(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 share some words written by Anne Vasquez about the tragic loss of a teen from my Miami high school:

Shannon Melendi and I became fast friends. Tears still sting my eyes when I think of the final chapters of Shannon's short life.

At 19, a sophomore at Emory, she disappeared on a Saturday afternoon lunch break from her job at a softball field in suburban Atlanta.

The year was 1994. It would be another painful 12 years before the suspect confessed.

Shannon's body was never found. No funeral, no official moment to mourn. The last 20 years have unfolded in surreal fashion.

A smart 19-year-old with quick wit, the president of her high school senior class, an aspiring lawyer, a champion debater, the daughter of present and caring parents—it can happen to anyone, anywhere.

Indeed.

Thank you, Anne. Shannon, we'll always remember you.

A THREAT TO LIBERTY IN UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, a threat to liberty anywhere is a threat to liberty everywhere.

Freedom's bell rings now for nations around our world to choose between the fledgling democracy of Ukraine or the dictatorship of Russia.

As the Russian bear eats its way through Ukraine's easternmost regions with abandon, the scene seems almost surreal as the world waits while Putin's pushes his illegal aggregation further.

The questions for freedom loving nations are:

Who defines freedom's edge for Ukraine? Surely, not Russia. Where does the edge of defiance stop? And who will push the bear back in its cage?

Aggressor Putin says he will send Russian peacekeeping forces to the nation he has just invaded illegally. That would be a line for ''Saturday Night Live'' if it were not so real.

When the Budapest Accords were signed in 1994 and Ukraine voluntarily gave up the third-largest cache of nuclear weapons on Earth, it was left defenseless, but was promised by our government, the United Kingdom, and Russia to respect the independence, sovereignty, and existing borders of Ukraine.

So let me ask our government, the United Kingdom, and Russia: Do words mean anything, or were they merely artful conveniences at the time?

Now, let me ask NATO nations: Where is the edge of liberty you will defend?

THE CAMEL STATUE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United States State Department is on an art spending spree.

First, it spent $1 million for a granite statue at the London Embassy. It is modern art. It looks like a stack of bricks.

Now it has spent $400,000 for a statue of a camel that will be sent to the Embassy in Pakistan. Is this really necessary? I mean, a camel?

This is an example of spending somebody else's money. This ought to be embarrassing to the State Department.

Mr. Speaker, there is more.

This is the same State Department that the inspector general has recently said has lost or misplaced $6 billion. The State Department cannot account for this money. Where, oh, where has the taxpayer money gone? If any business lost $6 billion its shareholders would be mad and want answers. But the government gives no answers, and what money it has it wastes on camel statues.

Congress should pass my bipartisan bill with Mr. CONNOLLY, the Foreign Aid Accountability Act, and make the State Department account for the money it spends, otherwise more lost money, more camel statues, more art spending sprees.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1915

AMERICA'S MORAL COMPASS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have always viewed the budget document that is produced by this House and the Senate and the President as a moral compass of America's commitment to her people.

That is why I rise with such great disappointment on the Republican Ryan budget in that today, as we speak in the Rules Committee, we are gutting investments in education, scientific research, advanced manufacturing. We are cutting from those vital transportation investments by over $52 billion when we have crumbling highways and crumbling dams and crumbling infrastructure. We are slashing $145 billion from the very heart of our children's opportunity for education out of the Pell grants, providing millionaires with over $200,000 in a tax break, ending Medicare as we know it by vouchering it—almost like the privatization of Social Security—and cutting Medicaid by $732 billion, then ending the opportunity for Americans to have access to affordable health care, preventative health care, so as to be able to allow those who need health care to have it—to avoid being a third world country.

There are 25 million Americans who need access to health care. Let's get a better moral document and reject this present Republican budget.

IN RECOGNITION OF TROOPS TO THE TRACK

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Troops to the Track's fifth anniversary.

A partnership between the Armed Forces Foundation and NASCAR, Troops to the Track is a recreational group therapy program for servicemembers, veterans, and their families. Now in its fifth year, Troops to the Track has reached more than 2,000 individuals since its inception. I am humbled to be part of this initiative.

Last year, I was honored to join participating soldiers and their families from the 19th Engineer Battalion at Fort Knox for last year's Quaker State 400 at the Kentucky Speedway.

I would like to commend the Armed Forces Foundation and NASCAR for joining together in the creation of this important partnership and in giving our troops the recognition they so richly deserve.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PAYMENTS

(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, last week, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that over $300 million would soon be paid out to States through the Secure Rural Schools program in order to compensate for the lost local revenue because of a lack of timber harvesting in national forests.

Last year, the administration decided to retroactively apply 2013 sequestration cuts to the 2012 SRS funds, and it requested the repayment of $17.9 million that has already been distributed to States and counties. This decision immediately sparked bipartisan opposition, prompting the House Committee on Natural Resources to conduct an investigation into the administration's legally questionable actions. The investigation found that the White House ordered the sequestration cuts for the SRS program and that the administration chose to apply the reductions in a manner that made certain that all Secure Rural Schools counties felt the hurt.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad the administration chose against playing more politics with this program at the expense of our rural communities, including those which I represent in the Allegheny National Forest, but in the long run, rural communities wouldn't need additional funding through this program if we actually harvested the proper levels of timber on these taxpayer-owned lands.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DANIEL FERGUSON

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sergeant First Class Daniel Ferguson.

Sergeant Ferguson grew up in Polk County, Florida, where he attended Mulberry High School and played tight end for the football team. He was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. His classmates and teachers remember him fondly as a person of great character, kindness, and respect.

After graduating, he joined the Army in 1993. He served with distinction in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait, earning a Bronze Star, three Meritorious Service Medals, and five Army Commendation Medals, amongst many others. He returned from Afghanistan last year.

Last week, on April 2, Sergeant Ferguson was shot and killed on Fort Hood in a tragedy that left three killed and 16 more wounded.

On behalf of the people of the 17th District of Florida and Florida's heartland, I send my deepest condolences to the family of Sergeant First Class Ferguson as well as to the families of Sergeant Carlos Rodriguez and Sergeant Timothy Owens.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2030

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) at 8 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 96, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 11, 2014, THROUGH APRIL 25, 2014

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–405) on the resolution (H. Res. 544) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, and providing for proceedings during the period from April 11, 2014, through April 25, 2014, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2014 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BELGIUM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 15 AND FEB. 20, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Michael Turner	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		1,870.00				3,188.00
Hon. Lois Frankel	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		9,755.00				11,073.00
Hon. Brett Guthrie	2/15	2/17	Belgium		947.00		2,510.00				3,457.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	2/15	2/20	Belgium		1,318.00		10,760.00				12,078.00
Hon. Rob Bishop	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		1,835.00				3,153.00
Hon. Tom Marino	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		8,105.00				9,423.00
Jeff Dressler	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		1,835.00				3,153.00
Janice Robinson	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		1,835.00				3,153.00
Marcus Micheli	2/15	2/18	Belgium		1,318.00		1,835.00				3,153.00
Committee total					11,491.00		40,340.00				51,831.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER, Mar. 17, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

5218. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Benzoic Acid [Docket No.: FDA-2012-F-1100] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5219. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Third Party Payment of Qualified Health Plan Premiums [CMS-9943-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AS28) received March 18, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5220. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — New Animal Drug Applications; Confidentiality of Data and Information in a New Animal Drug Application File [Docket No.: FDA-2014-N-0108] received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5221. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Vitamin D2 Bakers Yeast [Docket No.: FDA-2009-F-0570] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5222. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans; (Negative Declarations) for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont; Withdrawal of State Plan for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; New Hampshire; Technical Corrections to Approved State Plans (Negative Declarations): Rhode Island and Vermont [EPA-R01-OAR-2012-0707; A-1-FRL-9908-37-Region 1] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5223. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Heat-killed Burkholderia spp. Strain A396 Cells and Spent Fermentation Media; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0012; FRL-9907-41] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5224. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Ipconazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0796; FRL-9907-25] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5225. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Nevada; Infrastructure Requirements for Lead (Pb) [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0663; FRL-9908-09-Region 9] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5226. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Idaho State Implementation Plan; Approval of Fine Particulate Matter Control Measures; Franklin County [EPA-R10-OAR-2013-0002; FRL-9908-38-Region 10] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5227. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality: Revision to the Regulatory Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds — Exclusion of 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol (AMP) [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0775; FRL-9906-73-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR92) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5228. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; PSD Rules for PM2.5 [EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0646; FRL-9908-72-Region 5] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5229. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Carbon Monoxide Second Limited Maintenance Plan for the Pittsburgh Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0248; FRL-9908-48-Region 3] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5230. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Update of the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the Reading 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Maintenance Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0589; FRL-9908-50-Region 3] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5231. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0211; FRL-9908-46-Region 3] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5232. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Approval of the Redesignation Requests and the Associated Maintenance Plans of the Charleston Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual and the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0090; FRL-9908-88-Region 3] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5233. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Conflict of Interest [EPA-R04-OAR-2012-0285; FRL-9909-01-Region 4] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5234. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Commonwealth of Virginia; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units [EPA-R03-

OAR-2013-0164; FRL-9908-89-Region 3] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5235. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Texas; Revisions to the Minor New Source Review (NSR) State Implementation Plan (SIP); Types of Standard Permits, State Pollution Control Project Standard Permit and Control Methods for the Permitting of Grandfathered and Electing Electric Generating Facilities [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0191; FRL-9908-27-Region 6] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5236. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of States' Requests to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure Volatility Standard in Florida, and the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill and Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point Areas in North Carolina [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0787; FRL-9908-13-OAR] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5237. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clomazone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0056; FRL-9907-62] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5238. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Forchlorfenuron; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0011; FRL-9907-47] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5239. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Kraft Pulp Mills NSPS Review [EPA-HQ-OAR-2012-0640; FRL-9907-37-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR64) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5240. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Propiconazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0051; FRL-9907-05] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5241. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0171; FRL-9908-25-Region 9] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5242. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Maricopa [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0576; FRL-9904-75-Region 9] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5243. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — S-metolachlor; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0926; FRL-9907-61] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5244. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; (GSAR); Electronic Contracting Initiative (ECI) [(Change 56); GSAR Case 2012-G501; Docket No. 2013-0006; Sequence No. 1] received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5245. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Individual Fishing Quota Program [Docket No.: 120416009-4095-02] (RIN: 0648-BB78) received March 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5246. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Commercial, Limited Entry Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Program Improvement and Enhancement; Correction [Docket No.: 130528511-4171-03] (RIN: 0648-BD31) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5247. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Amendment 14 [Docket No.: 100120035-4085-03] (RIN: 0648-AY26) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5248. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2014 and 2015 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 130925836-4174-02] (RIN: 0648-XC895) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5249. A letter from the Acting Deputy, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 121009528-2729-02] (RIN: 0648-XD116) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5250. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollack in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD158) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5251. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Trawl Catcher Vessels in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XD148) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5252. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Golden Tilefish Longline Component [Docket No.: 12040257-3325-02] (RIN: 0648-XD118) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5253. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Trip Limit Reduction [Docket No.: 130312235-3658-02] (RIN: 0648-XD117) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5254. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD160) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5255. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish Managed Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program [Docket No.: 111207737-2141-02 and 1112113751-2102-02] (RIN: 0648-XD159) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5256. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 120918468-3111-02] (RIN: 0648-XD133) received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5257. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Change to Start of Pacific Sardine Fishing Year [Docket No.: 130822744-4144-02] (RIN: 0648-BD63) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5258. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Highly Migratory Species; Withdrawal of Emergency Regulations Related to the Deepwater Horizon MC252 Oil Spill [Docket No.: 100510220-4111-06] (RIN: 0648-AY87 and 0648-AY90) received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5259. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalties [Docket ID: OSM-2013-0003; S1D1S SS08011000 SX066A00067F 134S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX066A00 33F

13XS501520] (RIN: 1029-AC67) received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5260. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Adjustments to Civil Penalty Amounts received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5261. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0984; FRL-9904-83-Region 9] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5262. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — VA Dental Insurance Program-Federalism (RIN: 2900-AO85) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

5263. A letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program: Changes Related to the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (RIN: 2900-AO87) received March 24, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

5264. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disclosures to Participate in State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (RIN: 2900-AO45) received March 19, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4323. A bill to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–404). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 544. Resolution providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, and providing for proceedings during the period from April 11, 2014, through April 25, 2014 (Rept. 113–405). 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. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 4411. A bill to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALAZZO (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 4412. A bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 4413. A bill to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to better protect futures customers, to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CARNEY (for himself, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. DENT, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. KIND, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. ESTY, Mr. MATHESON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. BARBER, and Ms. HANABUSA):

H.R. 4414. A bill to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4415. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (for herself, Mr. BARBER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 4416. A bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, as the ''Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4417. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of entering into public-private partnerships to operate federally owned golf courses in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 4418. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase access to Medicare data; 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. RENACCI (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H. Res. 545. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should adopt and use accrual basis generally accepted accounting principles for Government budgeting, financial reporting, and performance evaluation purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

180. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to House Resolution No. 340 commending Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and Ohio; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

181. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1006 urging the Congress to provide full, sustainable funding for the PILT program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

182. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Ohio, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 5 urging the Congress to propose a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. MEADOWS:

H.R. 4411.

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

Clauses 3 and 18 of Article I

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H.R. 4412.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 4413.

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

The ability to regulate interstate commerce and with foreign Nations pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 includes the power to regulate commodity prices by insuring fair, open and transparent commodity futures and swap markets and the practices affecting them.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 4414.

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

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 4415.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Mrs. KIRKPATRICK:

H.R. 4416.

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

Article 1, Section 8 (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 Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4417.

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

clause 2 of section 3 of article IV of the Constitution.

By Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 4418.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. TERRY and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 10: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 32: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 78: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CARTER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BARR, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CULBERSON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HALL, Mr. BARTON, Mr. FLORES, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. HOYER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Ms. PELOSI.

H.R. 270: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 411: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 460: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 498: Mr. FLEMING and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 523: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 524: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 543: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 683: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 713: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 718: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 808: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 886: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1070: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1146: Mr. FORBES and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1199: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 1281: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1354: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1428: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1508: Mr. DELANEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 1563: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 1652: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 1696: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 1698: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1795: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 1843: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 2415: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2510: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 2619: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2648: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2662: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 2707: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2727: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2807: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 2935: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2939: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JONES, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. STEWART, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. TERRY, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 3055: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 3240: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 3335: Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 3339: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3395: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 3461: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3470: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 3529: Mr. GARDNER.

H.R. 3530: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 3539: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 3546: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 3580: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3600: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3717: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 3723: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 3725: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 3776: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 3852: Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 3864: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 3877: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 3921: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3929: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 3930: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3933: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 3992: Mr. COOK and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 3996: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 4031: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. HURT, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 4045: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 4060: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 4103: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 4157: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 4158: Mr. BENTIVOLIO.

H.R. 4187: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 4219: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 4225: Mr. FORBES, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 4227: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 4241: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 4250: Mr. FORBES, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. LANCE, and Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 4261: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 4305: Ms. CHU and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 4321: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 4323: Mr. GARCIA and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 4330: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 4336: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 4342: Mr. KLINE and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 4344: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 4348: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 4357: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. COOK, Mr. LANCE, Mr. JONES, Mr. COLE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 4366: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 4370: Mr. NUNES, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 4396: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 4399: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 4407: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H. J. Res. 20: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H. J. Res. 25: Mr. NOLAN and Mr. ENYART.

H. J. Res. 34: Ms. MENG.

H. J. Res. 110: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. OLSON, Mr. LONG, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H. Res. 148: Ms. SPEIER.

H. Res. 190: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H. Res. 440: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H. Res. 480: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H. Res. 494: Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H. Res. 509: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SCHOCK.

H. Res. 519: Mr. TIERNEY.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H. Con. Res. 94: Mr. HECK of Washington.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014 No. 56

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of life, hear our prayers. Fill us with Your spirit so that we may please You. Today, empower our lawmakers. Help them not to have an excessive focus on temporary things while ignoring the eternal. May their lives bring glory and honor to Your Name as they receive Your approbation for their faithfulness. Lord, create in them humble and contrite hearts that are willing to serve You and humanity. Shelter them in their coming in and going out, so that You can use them to advance the work of Your kingdom.

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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 7, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if there are any, the Senate will be in morning business until 5 p.m.

At 5 p.m. the Senate will resume H.R. 3979, as amended, the unemployment insurance extension, postcloture.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be a rollcall vote and passage of that legislation.

SPONSORING AMERICANS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, NASCAR fans can easily find their favorite drivers simply by looking at the cars as they fly by because of corporate emblems on the hood of the car. In fact, they are all over the car. For our clothing here in the Senate, we don't bear any commercial logos. Many Republican leaders these days may as well wear the Koch Industries insignia, but as Members of the Senate, there should never be any doubt as to our sponsors—the American people.

We are in the Senate for one reason: To give Americans a fair shot at providing for their families and having their voices heard, but Republicans seem more willing to identify themselves by their billionaire sponsors. While they don't wear Koch Industries ties and jackets, they display their sponsors proudly through their actions in the Senate. So it comes as no surprise Republican Senators stood on the Senate floor and voiced their support for Charles and David Koch. Senate Republicans depend on the Koch brothers to make their job easier.

I appreciate the forthrightness of those who expressed their support of the Koch brothers. The chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee came to this floor praising the richest brothers in the world. If Charles and David Koch helped Republican Members in this Chamber, they should not be ashamed to defend the Kochs' power. If the Koch brothers have bankrolled efforts to keep Senators in their seats, those Members should publicly acknowledge their providers.

If my Republican colleagues find my criticism of the Kochs' shadowy influence unjust, they should take their case to the American people. Senate Republicans should come to the Senate floor and take up the cause of the persecuted multibillionaires, but Senate Republicans shouldn't expect Americans to be easily fooled into ignoring the fact that the Koch brothers are trying to sweep middle-class families under the rug.

Regardless of the words Charles Koch espouses, for example, in his Wall Street Journal op-ed last week, he and his brother don't have the interests of average Americans in mind. They have in mind increasing their wealth and hiding their efforts behind words such as dignity, respect, equality, and freedom. That ran throughout the column they wrote.

Dignity? What about the dignity of struggling, long-term unemployed families? The Koch brothers continue closing plants and laying off employees in Alaska, Arkansas, North Carolina, and other places, devastating the economies in those communities. Americans need a fair shot at getting back on their feet and finding work, but Koch-backed groups are actively opposing the extension of benefits for the long-term unemployed.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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What about the dignity of a single mother from Las Vegas, Christina, who is stuck living in her elderly grandmother's living room because she and her son were evicted when Christina's benefits were cut off? Perhaps Charles and David Koch should spend their nights sharing one air mattress, as Christina and her son do, and see what dignity there is living as Christina and her boy do. The Koch brothers want Americans to be dignified as they lose their cars and homes and security.

The Koch brothers hide behind words such as ''respect.'' What about treating the American voter with respect? Instead, the Koch brothers have dumped hundreds of millions of dollars in dishonest ads about health care reform, trying to fool American families into thinking that affordable health care is bad for them. It is good for them. If the Affordable Care Act was so awful, why did Koch Industries use it to their advantage? Koch Industries applied for and participated in the temporary program called the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, part of the Affordable Care Act. This program helped the company Koch Industries pay health insurance costs to retirees who were not covered by Medicare. In other words, the government helped subsidize health care which Koch Industries promised to its retiring employees. So it is OK for Koch Industries to save money through ObamaCare, but if an American family wants a fair shot at health care, they risk being labeled as collectivists. That was all through the article, the op-ed piece, ''collectivists.'' Is that the new rightwing buzz word for Communists? That doesn't sound like respect to me.

The Kochs throw around phrases such as ''equality under the law.'' What about equality for hard-working American women? Yet the Republicans in Congress who carry water for the Kochs are actively campaigning against legislation that will ensure that women are paid equally with their male counterparts for doing the exact same work.

I have a daughter. I have four sons. My daughter, if she does the same work as any of my four boys, should be paid the same as they are, but that isn't how it is in America. She is paid only 76 or 77 cents on the dollar for what men make doing the same work.

One of the Koch organizations is ironically called the Independent Women's Forum. They do this all the time. They fund money for the Chamber of Commerce, many other organizations, but one of their organizations is called the Independent Women's Forum, which is making the argument that the disparity between men's and women's salaries is a myth. But this tactic shouldn't surprise anyone, given the Republicans' utter disregard for women that is on display here in Washington.

We are going to vote on Wednesday on a fair pay piece of legislation, simply saying women should get the same amount of money a man does doing the same work—not too absurd, not too radical. That is what we are trying to do. I repeat. This tactic shouldn't surprise anyone, given the Republicans' disregard for women that is on display here in Washington.

For example, on one of the Sunday shows yesterday comments were made by former Director of the CIA Michael Hayden, who was there for a long time. In responding to the Senate Intelligence Committee's attempts to shed light on the CIA's questionable interrogation methods, General Hayden condescendingly accused DIANNE FEINSTEIN of being too emotional. How about that—DIANNE FEINSTEIN being too emotional. This woman has been an outstanding leader of the Senate Intelligence Committee. She has been fearless. She has been thorough and fair. For this man to say that because she criticizes tactics led by General Hayden as torture she was too emotional—I don't think so. Does this sound like a person or a party who respects women? So much for equality under the law as seen by the Koch brothers.

Finally, the Koch brothers claim they are fighting to restore a free society—also some buzz words: ''Free society.'' Free in what way? They single-handedly turned the American electoral process into a pay-to-play scheme. The Koch brothers' endgame is to elect officials, to elect people who will help overhaul our system of government and replace it with something more to their liking to increase their wealth. Even though they are the richest people in the world, they want to be richer.

So I again extend the invitation to my colleagues, if you bear the logo of the Koch brothers, come on down and announce your affiliation openly. The Koch brothers' agenda is an agenda that is not my agenda, it is not our agenda, but is it your agenda, my Republican friends? If it is, come and tell your constituents that is the case. Let this Nation know where you stand. As for we Democrats, we will continue to defend American families from these oil baron bullies who want nothing more than to enrich themselves. We will continue to oppose their efforts to buy our democracy because we work for America, not just rich Americans.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business for today.

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 5 p.m. with Senators therein being permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. 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.

ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today to discuss the opportunity we have as a nation to truly take a leadership role when it comes to responsible development of the Arctic region. As we discuss the great opportunities and the challenges that face us, I think it is fair to say that I will also be expressing some disappointment with the general lack of resources our Federal Government has invested in this important issue, including, just most recently, through the President's annual budget request.

Back in May 2013 the Obama administration released its ''National Strategy for the Arctic Region.'' The national strategy was really designed to set forth this government's strategic priorities for the Arctic—pretty important to recognize what our priorities are going forward. While that might sound impressive—a national strategy for the Arctic region—what we ended up seeing was just an 11-page document, and it is really hard to describe it as strategic. Perhaps a more accurate description is that it was a glorified memo, a general outline, but there were a lot of gaps that needed to be filled.

Recognizing that this is a new area for us in terms of opportunities and, really, for vision, I was prepared to sit back and listen to what the administration had to say and work with them as they built this strategic vision. So when they released their implementation plan for the national strategy in late January, I was looking forward to it. I was looking forward to what had been gathered in meetings not only in Alaska—the State of Alaska is what makes the United States an Arctic nation—but it was broader than just Alaskans' input; it was input from so many of our agencies, so many of our departments. Yet, when the implementation of our national strategy was released, I have to admit that, again, I was underwhelmed.

I made certain the President and members of the administration knew my concerns, and I told him—these were my words when I wrote to him—my concern was that his plan does not offer a vision to make the United States a leader in the Arctic, particularly as we prepare for the chairmanship of the Arctic Council in May 2015, nor does it suggest that the Arctic is a national priority. Instead, the plan provides a snapshot of existing Arctic-related programs and projects with numerous assessments to be undertaken but no real path of action.

It was important to me as someone who cares very deeply about our role as an Arctic nation and our role not only within the confines of the Federal Government but our role going forward in the world among the other Arctic nations and truly all of the nations throughout our planet in terms of where the United States sits when it comes to our vision and our view for the Arctic.

The administration's plan would maintain our rather meager status quo in the Arctic while the other Arctic nations—the rest of the international community—seem to be devoting increasing amounts of resources to the region.

It would also leave the residents of the Far North—U.S. citizens up there in Alaska—out in the cold when it comes to the U.S. Government's own priorities. Rather than advance an agenda that will benefit those who live in the Arctic, they are, instead, regulated to being part of a science project for observation and conservation.

Let me give you an example of that.

One of the proposed initiatives within the implementation plan is to ''Improve Arctic Community Sustainability, Well-being, and Cultural and Linguistic Heritage.'' I have to say, that is a pretty laudable goal. We certainly want to maintain, we certainly want to pass down the culture of our indigenous populations to future generations. We certainly want to improve their quality of life. Yet within this initiative, the administration has designated the Smithsonian Institution to be the lead agency for this particular initiative. It is as if the people of the Far North—it is as if the Inuit, the Eskimo, the Aleut, the Yupik—are somehow or other people to be observed as part of a museum exhibit or perhaps placed under a glass bubble.

Combine this with the implementation plan's heavy emphasis on conservation, research into climate change, and preemption of development on State Native and Federal lands, and it is difficult for me to see any support by this administration for economic development, for job creation, or really for a better quality of life for the people who live in the Far North.

So again, when we talk about the ''Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region,'' climate is absolutely an issue that needs to be discussed and addressed—absolutely. Development issues clearly need to be addressed. Conservation clearly needs to be addressed. But we have to remember there are people who live and raise their families and work up in the Arctic. So making sure we are thinking about them as we advance an implementation plan is key.

But even with the implementation plan being rolled out in January, I thought: OK, there is still not enough meat on the bones here for me to understand how we move forward with a set of priorities, a real vision for the Arctic. But I knew the President's budget was going to be coming out in March, and that is the opportunity for any President to establish his or her priorities when it comes to the budget.

So I held out hope that when we saw the fiscal year 2015 budget request that was where we would finally start to see some kind of a coherent strategy come together. I expected it would at least demonstrate the administration's desire to show some level of leadership in the Arctic. My office was told that part of the purpose of the implementation plan and the designation of lead and support agencies was to gain an ability to propose jointly supported Arctic projects that OMB would then deem important enough to be included in the budget request.

But, again, we looked through the budget, and I am disappointed, sorely disappointed. My immediate reaction to the budget request was we are seeing so much spending here through the budget proposal, but yet so very little attention paid to our needs and our opportunities in the Arctic.

A search of the 1,400-plus page detailed appendix for the administration's budget reveals only 5 requests—5 requests—for Arctic-related activity. Two are for longstanding programs that have been funded for many years. One is the U.S. Arctic Research Commission—very important—and then, of course, the North Pacific Research Board. Another is for international fisheries work done through the Arctic Council. And the last two are for climate change-related activities. That is it. Five references—five references—out of a 1,400-plus page appendix for the budget speak to any Arctic-related activity.

Now, you may ask why I am disappointed, underwhelmed, perhaps a little bit agitated about where we are with advancing an implementation plan, a strategic vision for the Arctic. Well, in about a year from now, the United States will take over the chair of the Arctic Council. That chairmanship is currently held by Canada.

I have had opportunities to sit down with the chair of the Arctic Council, Leona Aglukkaq, who is from the Nunavut area, and talk about what Canada is doing to really lead in so many different areas when it comes to Arctic policy and Arctic strategy—not only for their nation but all the Arctic nations and beyond.

I look with a little bit of longing at how Canada has truly embraced their leadership role as an Arctic nation, not only with statements of intention that are backed up by real resources, but an appreciation for what the future can hold for the Arctic.

So over the last several weeks we have had our Appropriations subcommittees that are really starting to kick into gear here, and I have had the opportunity to ask several Cabinet members—Secretary Johnson from the Department of Homeland Security and Secretary Jewell from the Department of Interior—I have had a chance to ask both of them about their Departments' budget priorities for the Arctic and, specifically, the programs for which their Departments have been designated as the lead agency within this implementation plan for fiscal year 2015. And both Cabinet members have assured me, they have said, yes, the Arctic is a priority, it is important to the United States. But neither one of these Cabinet members could tell me what their Department's budget request contained for the Arctic. They have assured me they are going to be going back and seeing if they cannot fill in those details for me, but, to me, that is symbolic of the Arctic's overall standing within the administration. There are lots of good words when asked about it. Everyone is saying, yes, it should be a priority. But yet it does not seem to be important enough to be proactive on or to even be familiar with without prompting.

We all know that any President's budget request, regardless of party, is not likely to be enacted word for word, and, quite honestly, recognizing politics, more likely than not it is not going to be enacted at all. But if a budget request does signify something, it is the message, it is the signal of what the administration's priorities for that fiscal year and beyond are.

So it is apparent, at least in my view, that this administration is not willing to devote the resources necessary to make the Arctic a true priority. That, to me, is very shortsighted. I think it is a failure of leadership, a failure to think ahead and to take the long view.

I recognize, as we all do, that we are at a time of budget constraint and restraint, that there is competition for all dollars, as we look to make wise decisions here. But as we are setting priorities, as we are thinking toward the future and a longer term view, we have to ensure—we have to ensure—that the Arctic is placed as a priority. Some people would ask why we should care about it. Is this just an Alaska-specific issue? Are these just Alaska projects we are talking about? Why should the Arctic really matter to the United States?

First, the reality is that the Arctic is a relatively blank slate right now. It is not presently an area that is subject to longstanding disputes or entrenched views. Think about the significance of that. When you look at the Arctic, you have your eight Arctic nations around it, but whether it is Finland, Norway, Canada, the United States, Russia, the area that occupies the Arctic is not one that is known for conflict.

Think about the role Secretary Kerry has. He does not have to worry about hotspots in the Arctic in the sense of political hotspots. You just do not have those longstanding disputes. It is not a hotspot for potential conflict. It is, however, a region that is garnering increased international attention and recognition because of its tremendous potential, and it is generating cooperation amongst Arctic nations. Now,

isn't that a concept—that something is actually generating cooperation?

Let me give you an example. I was at the 2013 Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in Sweden, and I was there with Secretary Kerry. When you think about the issues in front of our Secretary of State, at that time back in May, there was no shortage of differences and disagreements with the Russian Government at that moment. Yet at that ministerial meeting, we had Secretary of State Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov side by side signing a binding agreement on oilspill preparedness and response capabilities in the Arctic. But this was all going on while differences over Syria and U.S. Embassy spy charges were hanging over their heads. So despite all the other issues those two gentlemen were dealing with, they were able to come together in Sweden and join on to a joint document of cooperation among Arctic nations as it related to oilspill preparedness and response capabilities. From a foreign policy perspective, the Arctic is an area for cooperation and relationship building, and that is a good and a positive that we should look to build on.

From an economic perspective, our neighbors—Russia to the west and Canada to the east—continue with aggressive national plans that include state investment to develop northern resources and advance commerce in the region. They know—they know all too well—that this will help create jobs and economic growth in areas that face extraordinary challenges.

A recent report by the Norwegian Shipowners' Association shows that the regions bordering the Arctic Ocean are experiencing higher annual economic growth than the rest of their respective nations on average and are considered drivers for economic growth in the Arctic countries.

Russia's territorial claim to a large swath of the Arctic seabed received a boost when an area in the Sea of Okhotsk was recognized as part of its extended continental shelf by the same commission examining its Arctic claims. These are territorial claims that Russia is able to make because they are a party to the Convention of the Law of the Sea, while the United States is not.

I will just make a particular aside at this point in time that I have long been a proponent of the U.S. Senate ratifying the Convention on the Law of the Sea. As we engage in the Arctic, as we not only work on areas of cooperation, I think we need to ensure that we, as an Arctic nation, have a seat at the table on the issues that face the Arctic. While we sit on the sidelines, because we have failed to ratify the law of the sea, we miss out. We miss out.

Even non-Arctic nations are embracing the opportunities that come with diminished polar sea ice representing the transit benefits, conducting scientific research and moving ahead with resource exploration and development activities. Nations such as China, South Korea, and Japan each have icebreakers. China is in the process of constructing a second larger icebreaker. It is even India's intention to have an icebreaker by the end of 2016. Think how far India is from the Arctic.

You may ask the question: Well, where is the United States when it comes to its number of icebreakers?

We have one heavy icebreaker, the *Polar Star*. We have a second, the *Polar Sea*, which is going to effectively be mothballed. We have a medium breaker, the *Healy*, which is primarily used for research missions, and the useful life of the *Polar Star* is expected to be concluded in less than 10 years.

Right now, as I talk to those within the administration about the plans to move forward on a polar icebreaker, it is pretty dismal. The proposal thus far in the President's budget is that there will be $6 million to advance, as far as studies go. We know we need a heavy polar-class icebreaker. In fact, we know we need three heavy icebreakers and three medium icebreakers. But it is a big capital investment. It has not been made a priority. It is yet one of those initiatives that I think we look at from a shortsighted perspective by failing to place an imperative on it now.

Even Singapore—not exactly synonymous with the Arctic—has designated an Arctic ambassador and is actively participating in the Arctic Council and other Arctic-related forums around the globe.

So there are non-Arctic nations that are building ice-capable ships. There are non-Arctic nations that are asking to be observers in the Arctic Council. There are non-Arctic nations stepping forward and saying: We want to have an Arctic ambassador, somebody who is there as part of the discussions on issues in an area of the globe that is evolving so quickly; where there are so many opportunities; where there are challenges, yes, but where there are so many opportunities. We want to be part of that.

You would think the United States would not only jump in and say ''me too,'' but that we would be leading as one of the eight Arctic nations. This activity by other nations is going to continue—in fact, accelerate—regardless of whether the United States engages. But if we do engage, we will also benefit and we will also be in a better position to ensure that any development, that any commerce, that any activity is carried out safely and responsibly.

There is a lot of discussion about the energy potential, the potential for natural resource wealth and what that might bring to the Arctic. This is a map that shows the extent of the year-long ice in the Arctic. Setting aside the natural resource potential, which is in the range of 30 billion barrels of oil and 220 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the United States Arctic OCS alone—we recognize that the natural resource potential is significant, but it is not just about the natural resources. Let me give an example of the activity that is already underway in the Arctic, its impact on us here in the United States, and the opportunity our Nation has to embrace that potential.

With the decreasing amount of sea ice in the Arctic, we are seeing a corresponding increase in maritime activity.

So, again, this is a chart that shows the extent of the sea ice in the year 2000. So your sea ice is the whiter area, with your opportunities for maritime activity limited as you are moving through Canada here and even through Russia there.

This next chart shows the extent of the sea ice and vessel activity in the Arctic in 2011. So you can see increased activity is taking place where the sea ice used to be. So here is the sea ice now, but notice the passage you have transiting through the Bering Strait, over the top of Alaska, through the Northwest Passage, and out over to Europe.

Notice also going through the Northern Sea Route from Russia over to the Baltic States. The colored lines you see are not necessarily oil and gas exploration ships; they are cargo ships, they are tankers, and they are icebreakers. They are fishing vessels, research vessels, passenger vessels, cruise ships, and others. So in a decade, what you are seeing is a level of maritime traffic that is really unprecedented—and unprecedented because we have not had the ability to transit in these waters because they were locked by ice for almost the full extent of the year.

So here is a closer look at the vessel activity in the Bering Strait region in 2013. So this is going to look like this amazing blur of color. But here we have Alaska. This is Russia. Where all of these lines seem to be converging, at the center here, is where we have Little Diomede and Big Diomede. Big Diomede is owned by Russia, Little Diomede is held by the United States, and 2.5 miles separates the two islands. In truth, we can see Russia from Little Diomede. I was there last summer.

But when you appreciate that the distance between Alaska and Russia outside of the very narrow area between Big and Little Diomede is just 57 miles—we have a 57-mile choke point here in the Bering Strait where we have incredible amounts of maritime commerce coming through: tankers, cargo ships, tugs, towing ships, passenger vessels, fishing vessels, search and rescue, military, law enforcement, and others. This is what we are seeing in the year 2013. Transits have doubled in the past 5 years.

The next chart comes from the recently released U.S. Navy Arctic Roadmap. This map shows the predicted sea ice coverage by the year 2030. So here we were at 2012 with the sea ice covering all of this. By 2020 it is shrinking. Here it is by 2025, by 2030. This is the

predicted model for our sea ice coverage by 2030. We can see an even larger portion of the Arctic is expected to be open to maritime commerce.

The Navy predicts that the traffic through the Bering Strait will double again in the next 10 years. Again, that is going to happen whether or not the United States participates. Foreign vessels, if not American vessels, will be traveling across Alaska's western and northern coast. That is a given.

The last chart I have shows the Bering Strait as the gateway between the Pacific and the Arctic Oceans. Again, when we talk about Alaska, we are talking about its strategic geographic location, where it is on the globe. We are very proud of the military opportunities we have for amazing training ranges in Alaska when it comes to our assets in the air and on the ground.

But look at where Alaska sits in terms of its strategic location to not only Asia—we are sitting literally halfway between Nagoya, Japan, and Seattle, Washington, when you are at Adak. It is just as easy for me to get to Japan as it is to get to Seattle if I go as the crow flies. Unfortunately, I do not have anything that will take me as the crow flies.

But I think it is important for us to recognize this: That whether it is passage over the Northwest Passage, which is still relatively problematic, the increased traffic we are seeing from the Northern Sea Route coming over Russia, or potentially the transpolar route at some point in time, everything funnels through the Bering Strait here—the 57 miles between Russia and the United States—and then has to exit or cut through the Aleutian chain here.

So when we think about where Alaska sits, we truly are the gateway between the Pacific and the Arctic Oceans. With the predicting of a doubling of vessel activity in the Arctic via the Bering Strait in the next 10 years, the time to develop the infrastructure and support capacity to handle this growing amount of traffic is now—actually, it was yesterday.

This is not a region that is devoid of activity, but it is a region that lacks adequate levels of investment, government resources, and attention. Deepwater ports, navigational aids, search and rescue capabilities, and icebreakers are all needed now and, in addition, the basic charting of many of our Arctic waters, which some of us have recognized is seriously lacking. This is going to take a very collaborative effort across all of our agencies and working with our Arctic neighbors to achieve that.

With a vision, it is not difficult to see how we could have a transshipment facility developed in the Aleutian chain to capitalize on the intersection between the North Pacific great circle route and the three Arctic Sea routes. Imagine you have cargo that is transiting the Arctic from Europe, coming from the Northwest Passage or coming over the Northern Sea Route.

Imagine that cargo then being offloaded at Adak. Adak is a former Navy base and, quite honestly, the infrastructure that is there is—well, it is a little bit old—pretty amazing. You could then offload in either Adak or Unalaska and load that cargo onto ships transiting the North Pacific and to the west coast—and vice versa.

Ice-strengthened ships could be used entirely within the Arctic, rather than traveling all the way to Singapore or Hong Kong. It would save time, it would save money, and it would allow for an increased number of transits. I am looking at it and saying: This could be a real win, a win for consumers, a win for business, and a win for national security by being able to keep a closer eye on commerce traveling to the United States.

It is clear—I hope it is clear—that people recognize that we have such opportunity, we have such capacity for opportunity and growth within the Arctic. But we have to be careful, we have to be considerate, and we have to be sure that the necessary resources and infrastructure necessary are there.

The United States has never been last in a race to the future, but absent visionary leadership and meaningful resourcing, we will continue to take a back seat and fail to capitalize on all that the Arctic has to offer. We will miss out on resource development and shipping efficiencies and, in turn, new opportunities to create new jobs and generate needed economic growth.

I don't believe that we can afford to sit idle any longer, which means that it is time for our Federal Government and this administration to really start taking the Arctic seriously and dedicate the necessary resources to the region.

I don't mean to suggest that the efforts that have been made to date are not important. We have come quite far in the past few years, but you have to remember, we were starting from ground zero. There was nothing, really. We have made some strides, and it is important that we have these documents coming out of our agencies, and it is important that we have framework because it is on these that we will build. But I feel like I need to lend an air of urgency that it is not just about methodically chipping away year by year with yet another document—another strategy plan that will sit on the bookshelf.

I have a lot of those on the Arctic. I think many do. It is how we are a true participant in a level of engagement in a region that holds such excitement and such potential that nations around the world are turning their eyes northward with excitement and enthusiasm.

The United States should be leading with equal enthusiasm about what our opportunities hold.

I thank the Chair, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss the vote that is about to occur on the unemployment benefits extension act. I have repeatedly said that the Senate should have a full and open debate on this important issue and that debate should include the opportunity for those of us in the minority—and perhaps those in the majority—to offer amendments and changes that would represent the view of the people they represent in Congress. Those amendments could strengthen the bill, make it better, and perhaps make it something that the House could consider, since they have not taken up this legislation.

Clearly, for those who are truly in need and for those who have played by the rules, the issue of extended unemployment benefits is a legitimate issue for debate—and for many here, for passage. I have not only worked with my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, but also with my Democratic colleagues, to secure two items which would give me a better sense of where we are going and would provide for better legislation—legislation that could perhaps work its way through the Congress and onto the President's desk.

One of those two items was a legitimate pay-for. We clearly have a fiscal situation where, if we can't offset new spending with spending on programs that have not proven their worth, then we are going to continue to spend more than we take in, continue to add to our national debt, and continue to trot down the precipitous road to a fiscal crisis—$17 trillion-plus and counting, an ever-accumulating debt and continued unbalanced budgets. You can only run a business, a family or a government for so long when you do not make ends meet by having your revenues there to pay for your expenses. So having a legitimate pay-for was one of the criteria that I was trying to address along with my colleagues.

Secondly was reforms to the program. It was the President himself who publicly acknowledged that the unemployment insurance program needed reforms. There were abuses in the program. It was not reaching all of the people it was intended to reach. It had some flaws and needed to be fixed. Once again, all of those attempts for reasonable reforms—not only by me, but by a number of my colleagues—were to provide what I believe is deemed, even on a bipartisan basis, as reasonable, but they have been rejected. They have been rejected not because we had a debate and voted and didn't achieve the requisite number of votes for passage, but they were rejected because the majority leader simply used procedures,

once again, to deny the minority any opportunity—and, of course, that also includes the majority—to stand on this floor, to offer an amendment, to debate that amendment, to have a vote on it, to accept the result, and then move to forward.

The two reforms I had mentioned—and that I thought made eminent sense—didn't really have much opposition to them. One was to simply end a process that resulted in a waste of taxpayers' money by violation of the law. The law requires that if you apply for unemployment benefits, you must prove you are able to work and that you have been seeking work—but most importantly, you are capable of working.

The Social Security Disability Insurance Program requires, by law, that you are unable to work. Therefore, you cannot be eligible for those benefits unless you can prove—through a medical process or evidence—your inability to work. Yet the Government Accountability Office has found a significant number of folks in our country who are receiving checks from both programs. You can't have it both ways. You can't say you are not able to work and therefore receive a disability payment, and at the same time—and in the same mailbox—receive a government check for unemployment insurance where you have to prove you are willing to work. I don't know what provision might be more logical than that in terms of reforming the program. It saves the taxpayer money, it eliminates fraud, and it simply puts the program on better footing. Given our fiscal plight today, it is the least we can do. Yet I have been denied—and my colleagues who have tried to offer the same amendment have been denied—the opportunity to do just that.

Had we had the opportunity to come down here and offer that amendment, we could have had a debate. Those who saw it another way or didn't agree with what we were saying would have had every opportunity to vote no and turn down that amendment. They would then be accountable for their no or yes when they went back home—one way or another. There are people on both sides of the reform issue, and that is how the Senate is designed to work.

The Senate is not designed to simply shut off a debate and deny the minority the opportunity to offer amendments. We are not asking for passage. We are simply saying: Give us a chance to make our case, and we will have to accept the outcome. That way every Member of this body will be responsible for how they voted and will go home and tell folks: This is why I did such and such. That is how the system is designed to work.

Yet we find ourselves in a dysfunctional situation where there is no opportunity to have a debate and no opportunity to vote and to let people know where we stand. Maybe it is designed that way. Maybe we don't want people to know where we stand. I don't think anyone in this body can go home and tell the people they represent—their constituents: We are not going to tell you how we feel about that. I didn't want to put my vote on the record, and therefore, we are not going to have an opportunity to do that.

It is a black mark on the Senate. It is a dysfunctional situation. It is no wonder that the American public holds us in such low regard. This body, which was created by our Founding Fathers, enshrined in the Constitution, and labeled as the greatest deliberative body in the world has simply turned into something totally different and totally opposite from that. We are a rubberstamp Senate, depending on what the majority leader decides he wants or doesn't want. I think that is a great disservice to the American people, and it is a great disservice to this institution.

Having had the opportunity to serve here on two different occasions, the contrast between my two tenures in the Senate could not be more stark. When I first came, the rights of the minority were recognized by a variety of majority leaders who simply said: This is the Senate. You take tough votes, you have the debate, and you allow the minority their rights. As a consequence, the Senate has functioned as the world's greatest deliberative body for more than 200 years.

Suddenly, we are now in a situation where that is not the case, and we have turned this simply into somewhat of a fiefdom where the majority leader has the full power to deny the minority their rights.

I think we will come to rue the day when this practice was first initiated and rue the day when it has been accepted because it denies those of us who have had the great honor and privilege of representing our States the opportunity to do just that.

Along with the amendment that I had for suitability, which simply gives States more flexibility in terms of providing suitable work for the unemployed—if it is provided to them, they have to accept it or they don't receive the unemployment checks. Those two amendments are two of the many suggested reforms that I think would make sense. But whether you agree with that or not, shouldn't we have the opportunity to present to the American people an honest, intellectual, rational debate on legislation—whether it fails or passes—so we can have a full understanding and they can have a full understanding of how to measure us in terms of whether we are true representatives of those who sent us here?

Having said that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I hope for and expect a strong bipartisan vote today for legislation to extend emergency unemployment benefits through the end of May and applies retroactively from the point emergency benefits expired in December.

This is an important victory I wish had come much sooner—sooner for the 80,000 Michiganians who already have gone without unemployment benefits and for the thousands more who stand to lose them if Congress fails to act.

These benefits keep food on the table and a roof overhead for families affected by job loss through no fault of their own. The idea that some of our colleagues have advanced—that unemployment insurance gives workers an excuse not to find a job—is as inaccurate as it is insulting. For all but a handful of recipients, unemployment benefits are not a free pass from working but the economic lifeline that keeps them going while searching for the job they so desperately want and need.

I wish to commend Senators on both sides of the aisle who have not given up on this issue and who worked so hard to forge a compromise, led by Senators JACK REED and DEAN HELLER. Republicans have joined with Democrats on the procedural votes necessary to move this bill forward, and I hope the bipartisan support for this measure in the Senate will prompt Speaker BOEHNER to bring it to a vote in the House. There is a strong bipartisan majority for passage in the House. It is now up to Speaker BOEHNER to respond to the will of the American people who understand that people who are unemployed don't want to be unemployed. There may be a few exceptions and a few stories and a few anecdotes, but that is about it. The unemployed in this country are suffering. They have suffered for too long. The job growth that has come following the recession has been weak, and the least we can do is respond.

There is a bipartisan majority to do that here. It will be strong. My hunch is it will be well over 60, perhaps over two-thirds of the Senate, and there is no excuse for Speaker BOEHNER not to bring this bill to the floor of the House. I hope he does so. It is just in all conscience essential that he do so.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that following the vote on H.R. 3979, the Senate proceed to executive

session to consider Calendar Nos. 688, 706, and 549; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes be 10 minutes in length; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations 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.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3979, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that all time be charged equally during quorum calls.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to discuss the unemployment insurance extension bill currently being considered. There is little question that the job market remains tight providing few job opportunities for those who are currently unemployed. The unemployment rate remains at historically high levels of around 6.7 percent. However, the unemployment rate only tells part of the story. Millions of Americans have become discouraged and left the labor market entirely or are underemployed. When you consider these Americans, the unemployment rate isn't 6.7 percent, but a much starker 12.7 percent.

It is obvious from these numbers that many Americans continue to struggle in the face of a historically tepid recovery. Republicans and Democrats agree that there are things we can and should do to help the millions of Americans who are out of work and struggling to make ends meet. However, we have conflicting views on the best way to achieve this goal.

In 2008, Congress established the extended Emergency Unemployment Compensation program that provided Federal funded unemployment insurance benefits to the long-term unemployed. This benefit was on top of the 26 weeks of unemployment compensation ordinarily provided by the States. This program was never meant to go on forever. It is a temporary program that was designed to provide relief while we were in the depths of a recession.

This program has since been extended 11 times and we are now debating extending it for the 12th. There are reasonable arguments that at this time the emergency unemployment benefits should be extended once more. But if we are to extend the emergency unemployment program it should be done in a fiscally responsible way.

While the majority argues that the extension is fully offset, this is only true through a budgetary sleight of hand. The largest offset used to pay for the unemployment program is a so-called pension smoothing provision. This provision essentially allows sponsors of pension plans to underfund their pensions over the next few years. This raises concerns that pensions could be underfunded in future years, hurting pensioners, and potentially putting taxpayers on the hook for these plans should they need be taken over by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

The Joint Committee on Taxation, JCT, estimates that over the long term the provision will actually cost the Treasury billions of dollars in revenue. As a result, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, and JCT estimate that overall the bill before us would increase deficits by more than $5 billion between 2024 and 2033.

Moreover, while an extension of emergency employment benefits is well intentioned, it serves only to treat the symptoms of unemployment, while doing nothing to address its cause. Instead of the debate we are having on extending unemployment benefits we should be focused on what can be done to ensure those who want to work are able to find good paying jobs.

Republicans have offered such an approach with the Good Jobs, Good Wages, and Good Hours Act, which was filed as an amendment to the underlying unemployment insurance bill.

This amendment is targeted at job creation be providing small businesses who are responsible for creating 70 percent of jobs in our economy with permanent tax relief aimed at incentivizing new investments. It would further cut red tape that imposes unnecessary burdens on job creators and would modify or repeal provisions of Obamacare that are proven job killers. Moreover, the amendment would spur job creation by increasing energy development by, amongst other things, authorizing the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. I ask unanimous consent that a summary of this amendment be printed in the RECORD.

Unfortunately, the majority leader filled the amendment tree, thereby blocking all amendments. This prevented us from having an up-or-down vote on the jobs amendment I just described as well as several other amendments that sought to improve the underlying bill. As a result, the underlying bill is not fiscally responsible and would do nothing to address the causes of weak job creation. As such, I cannot in good conscience vote in favor of extending unemployment insurance at this time.

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

GOOD JOBS, GOOD WAGES, GOOD HOURS ACT—OMNIBUS ALTERNATIVE TO UI

TITLE I—ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Approve Keystone XL and LNG Exports: This provision would approve the Keystone XL pipeline by removing the requirement of a presidential permit. It would also require the Department of Energy to automatically approve LNG export applications to Ukraine, Japan, and other NATO countries. (Hoeven UI Amdt. #2891)

The Saving Coal Jobs Act: This provision would block EPA regulations of greenhouse gas emissions for new and existing power plants. It would also streamline the mine permitting process and automatically approve permits the EPA has not acted on after a certain period of time. (McConnell UI Amdt. #2955)

Prohibit a Carbon Tax: This provision would create a point of order against any legislation that would establish a carbon tax. (Blunt UI Amdt. #2885)

TITLE II—OBAMACARE RELIEF

Restore the 40-hour Workweek: This provision would amend the definition of a full-time employee under ObamaCare from an employee who works 30 hours per week to an employee who works 40 hours per week. (S. 1188—Collins)

Repeal the ObamaCare Individual Mandate: This provision would permanently repeal the individual mandate under ObamaCare. (S. 40—Hatch)

Repeal the Medical Device Tax: This provision would repeal the 2.3% ObamaCare medical device tax, which has already destroyed over 30,000 jobs. (S. 232—Hatch/Toomey/Coats)

Exempt the Long-Term Unemployed from ObamaCare Employer Mandate: This provision would exempt long-term unemployed from the ObamaCare employer mandate headcount. (Thune UI Amdt. #2899)

Hire More Heroes Act: This provision would exempt veterans from the ObamaCare employer mandate headcount. A similar provision passed that House 406–1. (S. 2190—Blunt)

Full Repeal of ObamaCare: This provision repeals those sections of ObamaCare that were not repealed by the preceding sections.

TITLE III—TAX AND REGULATORY RELIEF

Permanent Expansion Section 179 Expensing: This section would make the $500,000 Section 179 expensing permanent. Without any changes to the current law, the Section 179 expensing allowance would drop to $25,000 for qualified assets acquired and placed in service in 2014.

Permanent Expansion of Section 1202 Stock: This provision would make permanent the 100 percent exclusion for Section

1202 small business stock, increase the gross asset limit to $150 million, and index this limit for inflation. To encourage investment in start-up businesses, investors may exclude 100 percent (reverted back to 50 percent in 2014) of the capital gains from selling Section 1202 stock that was acquired at original issue and held for more than five years.

Permanent Double Deductions for Start-up Businesses: This provision would permanently double the maximum allowable deduction for start-up costs to $10,000.

Permanent Reduction in S-Corporation Built-In Gains Tax: Corporations that convert to S-corporation status are subject to a tax on appreciated assets that the corporation held before the conversion. The required holding period was shortened from 10 years to five years for sales of assets in 2012 and 2013. This provision would make permanent the five-year holding period.

Permanent Deduction for Health Insurance Costs in Computing Self-Employment Taxes: This provision would permanently place the self-employed on a level playing field with other businesses that currently exclude health insurance costs for both income and payroll tax purposes.

Permanent Expansion of Cash Accounting: This provision would permanently expand cash accounting to firms with annual gross receipts of up to $10 million and inventories of up to the $10 million—current law is $5 million. Cash accounting affords small businesses greater flexibility in managing their cash flow, as it allows recognition of income and expenses when they are realized rather than when events give rise to the income (such as when a contract is signed).

Regulatory Accountability: This provision would enact targeted reforms of the federal rulemaking process. It would require that agencies conduct a cost-benefit analysis and consider alternatives to proposed regulations, and it would require advanced public notice of major rulemakings with greater than $100 million in annual costs. (S. 1606 from the 112th Congress—Portman)

TITLE IV—SKILLS ACT

Strengthen Federal Worker Training Programs: This provision includes the House-passed SKILLS Act, which reforms and streamlines federal worker training programs and empowers Governors to further improve worker training programs. (Scott UI Amdt. #2899)

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 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.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is considered expired.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 101 Leg.]

YEAS—59

Ayotte	Harkin	Nelson
Baldwin	Heinrich	Portman
Begich	Heitkamp	Pryor
Bennet	Heller	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Kirk	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—38

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—3

Coburn	Landrieu	McCaskill

The bill (H.R. 3979), as amended, was passed, as follows:

H.R. 3979

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 3979) entitled ''An Act 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.'', do pass with the following amendment:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Extension of emergency unemployment compensation program.
Sec. 3. Temporary extension of extended benefit provisions.
Sec. 4. Extension of funding for reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities.
Sec. 5. Additional extended unemployment benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.
Sec. 6. Flexibility for unemployment program agreements.
Sec. 7. Ending unemployment payments to jobless millionaires and billionaires.
Sec. 8. GAO study on the use of work suitability requirements in unemployment insurance programs.
Sec. 9. Funding stabilization.
Sec. 10. Prepayment of certain PBGC premiums.
Sec. 11. Extension of customs user fees.
Sec. 12. Emergency services, government, and certain nonprofit volunteers.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 4007(a)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2014'' and inserting ''June 1, 2014''.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by inserting ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

''(K) the amendment made by section 2(a) of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014;''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–240).

SEC. 3. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF EXTENDED BENEFIT PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111–5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note), is amended—

(1) by striking ''December 31, 2013'' each place it appears and inserting ''May 31, 2014''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''June 30, 2014'' and inserting ''November 30, 2014''.

(b) EXTENSION OF MATCHING FOR STATES WITH NO WAITING WEEK.—Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking ''June 30, 2014'' and inserting ''November 30, 2014''.

(c) EXTENSION OF MODIFICATION OF INDICATORS UNDER THE EXTENDED BENEFIT PROGRAM.—Section 203 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''May 31, 2014''; and

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''May 31, 2014''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–240).

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND REEMPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) EXTENSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4004(c)(2)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking ''through fiscal year 2014'' and inserting ''through the first five months of fiscal year 2015''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–240).

(b) TIMING FOR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4001(i)(1)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''At a minimum, such reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities shall be provided to an individual within a time period (determined appropriate by the Secretary) after the date the individual begins to receive amounts under section 4002(b) (first tier benefits) and, if applicable, again within a time period (determined appropriate by the Secretary) after the date the individual begins to

receive amounts under section 4002(d) (third tier benefits).''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) PURPOSES OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.—The purposes of the reemployment services and reemployment and eligibility assessment activities under section 4001(i) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) are—

(1) to better link the unemployed with the overall workforce system by bringing individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits in for personalized assessments and referrals to reemployment services; and

(2) to provide individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits with early access to specific strategies that can help get them back into the workforce faster, including through—

(A) the development of a reemployment plan;

(B) the provision of access to relevant labor market information;

(C) the provision of access to information about industry-recognized credentials that are regionally relevant or nationally portable;

(D) the provision of referrals to reemployment services and training; and

(E) an assessment of the individual's on-going eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits.

SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 2(c)(2)(D)(iii) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 352(c)(2)(D)(iii)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''June 30, 2013'' and inserting ''November 30, 2013''; and

(2) by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''May 31, 2014''.

(b) CLARIFICATION ON AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS.—Funds appropriated under either the first or second sentence of clause (iv) of section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act shall be available to cover the cost of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) as well as to cover the cost of such benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATION.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Railroad Retirement Board $105,000 for administrative expenses associated with the payment of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 6. FLEXIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.

(a) FLEXIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall not apply with respect to a State that has enacted a law before December 1, 2013, that, upon taking effect, would violate such subsection.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) is effective with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after December 29, 2013.

(b) PERMITTING A SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.—Nothing in title IV of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall preclude a State whose agreement under such title was terminated from entering into a subsequent agreement under such title on or after the date of the enactment of this Act if the State, taking into account the application of subsection (a), would otherwise meet the requirements for an agreement under such title.

SEC. 7. ENDING UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS TO JOBLESS MILLIONAIRES AND BILLIONAIRES.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds may be used for payments of unemployment compensation under the emergency unemployment compensation program under title IV of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) to an individual whose adjusted gross income in the preceding year was equal to or greater than $1,000,000.

(b) COMPLIANCE.—Unemployment Insurance applications shall include a form or procedure for an individual applicant to certify the individual's adjusted gross income was not equal to or greater than $1,000,000 in the preceding year.

(c) AUDITS.—The certifications required by subsection (b) shall be auditable by the U.S. Department of Labor or the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

(d) STATUS OF APPLICANTS.—It is the duty of the States to verify the residency, employment, legal, and income status of applicants for Unemployment Insurance and no Federal funds may be expended for purposes of determining whether or not the prohibition under subsection (a) applies with respect to an individual.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall apply to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. GAO STUDY ON THE USE OF WORK SUITABILITY REQUIREMENTS IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the use of work suitability requirements to strengthen requirements to ensure that unemployment insurance benefits are being provided to individuals who are actively looking for work and who truly want to return to the labor force. Such study shall include an analysis of—

(1) how work suitability requirements work under both State and Federal unemployment insurance programs; and

(2) how to incorporate and improve such requirements under Federal unemployment insurance programs; and

(3) other items determined appropriate by the Comptroller General.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall brief Congress on the ongoing study required under subsection (a). Such briefing shall include preliminary recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 9. FUNDING STABILIZATION.

(a) FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—The table in subclause (II) of section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''If the calendar year is:	*The applicable minimum percentage is:*	*The applicable maximum percentage is:*
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017	*90%*	*110%*
2018	*85%*	*115%*
2019	*80%*	*120%*
2020	*75%*	*125%*
After 2020	*70%*	*130%''.*

(b) FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER ERISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The table in subclause (II) of section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended to read as follows:

''If the calendar year is:	*The applicable minimum percentage is:*	*The applicable maximum percentage is:*
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, or 2017	*90%*	*110%*
2018	*85%*	*115%*
2019	*80%*	*120%*
2020	*75%*	*125%*
After 2020	*70%*	*130%''.*

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Clause (ii) of section 101(f)(2)(D) of such Act is amended by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2020''.

(B) STATEMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall modify the statements required under subclauses (I) and (II) of section 101(f)(2)(D)(i) of such Act to conform to the amendments made by this section.

(c) STABILIZATION NOT TO APPLY FOR PURPOSES OF CERTAIN ACCELERATED BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION RULES.—

(1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—The second sentence of paragraph (2) of section 436(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''of such plan'' and inserting ''of such plan (determined by not taking into account any adjustment of segment rates under section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv))''.

(2) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—The second sentence of subparagraph (B) of section 206(g)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1056(g)(3)(B)) is amended by striking ''of such plan'' and inserting ''of such plan (determined by not taking into account any adjustment of segment rates under section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv))''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2014.

(B) COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED PLANS.—In the case of a plan maintained pursuant to 1 or more collective bargaining agreements, the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2015.

(4) PROVISIONS RELATING TO PLAN AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If this paragraph applies to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract, such plan or contract shall be treated as being operated in accordance with the terms of

the plan during the period described in subparagraph (B)(ii).

(B) AMENDMENTS TO WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—This paragraph shall apply to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract which is made—

(I) pursuant to the amendments made by this subsection, or pursuant to any regulation issued by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Labor under any provision as so amended, and

(II) on or before the last day of the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2016, or such later date as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

(ii) CONDITIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to any amendment unless, during the period—

(I) beginning on the date that the amendments made by this subsection or the regulation described in clause (i)(I) takes effect (or in the case of a plan or contract amendment not required by such amendments or such regulation, the effective date specified by the plan), and

(II) ending on the date described in clause (i)(II) (or, if earlier, the date the plan or contract amendment is adopted),

the plan or contract is operated as if such plan or contract amendment were in effect, and such plan or contract amendment applies retroactively for such period.

(C) ANTI-CUTBACK RELIEF.—A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of section 204(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 411(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 solely by reason of a plan amendment to which this paragraph applies.

(d) MODIFICATION OF FUNDING TARGET DETERMINATION PERIODS.—

(1) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Clause (i) of section 430(h)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''the first day of the plan year'' and inserting ''the valuation date for the plan year''.

(2) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—Clause (i) of section 303(h)(2)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1083(h)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking ''the first day of the plan year'' and inserting ''the valuation date for the plan year''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) shall apply with respect to plan years beginning after December 31, 2012.

(2) ELECTIONS.—A plan sponsor may elect not to have the amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) apply to any plan year beginning before January 1, 2014, either (as specified in the election)—

(A) for all purposes for which such amendments apply, or

(B) solely for purposes of determining the adjusted funding target attainment percentage under sections 436 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and 206(g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 for such plan year. A plan shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of section 204(g) of such Act and section 411(d)(6) of such Code solely by reason of an election under this paragraph.

SEC. 10. PREPAYMENT OF CERTAIN PBGC PREMIUMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4007 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1307) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) ELECTION TO PREPAY FLAT DOLLAR PREMIUMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The designated payor may elect to prepay during any plan year the premiums due under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for the number of consecutive subsequent plan years (not greater than 5) specified in the election.

''(2) AMOUNT OF PREPAYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the prepayment for any subsequent plan year under paragraph (1) shall be equal to the amount of the premium determined under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for the plan year in which the prepayment is made.

''(B) ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS.—If there is an increase in the number of participants in the plan during any plan year with respect to which a prepayment has been made, the designated payor shall pay a premium for such additional participants at the premium rate in effect under clause (i) or (v), whichever is applicable, of section 4006(a)(3)(A) for such plan year. No credit or other refund shall be granted in the case of a plan that has a decrease in number of participants during a plan year with respect to which a prepayment has been made.

''(C) COORDINATION WITH PREMIUM FOR UNFUNDED VESTED BENEFITS.—The amount of the premium determined under section 4006(a)(3)(A)(i) for the purpose of determining the prepayment amount for any plan year shall be determined without regard to the increase in such premium under section 4006(a)(3)(E). Such increase shall be paid in the same amount and at the same time as it would otherwise be paid without regard to this subsection.

''(3) ELECTION.—The election under this subsection shall be made at such time and in such manner as the corporation may prescribe.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The second sentence of subsection (a) of section 4007 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1307) is amended by striking ''Premiums'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (f), premiums''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. EXTENSION OF CUSTOMS USER FEES.

Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''September 30, 2023'' and inserting ''September 30, 2024''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''September 30, 2023'' and inserting ''September 30, 2024''.

SEC. 12. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF FRANCIS XAVIER TAYLOR TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NOMINATION OF L. REGINALD BROTHERS, JR., TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NOMINATION OF MARK BRADLEY CHILDRESS TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Francis Xavier Taylor, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security; L. Reginald Brothers, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security; Department of State, Mark Bradley Childress, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tanzania.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time on those nominations.

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

VOTE ON TAYLOR NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Francis Xavier Taylor, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON BROTHERS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of L. Reginald Brothers, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON CHILDRESS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mark Bradley Childress, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Republic of Tanzania?

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 345, S. 2199.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2199) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 motion to proceed to calendar No. 345, S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Barbara A. Mikulski, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Brian Schatz, Heidi Heitkamp, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Barbara Boxer, Debbie Stabenow, Mazie K. Hirono, Kay R. Hagan, Mary Landrieu, Claire McCaskill, Jeanne Shaheen, Dianne Feinstein, Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Colorado.

WIND ENERGY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about jobs and about one sector in particular that has created tremendous economic growth in Colorado and across the United States, and that is wind energy and the jobs it has brought to our State.

During last Thursday's markup in the Finance Committee, we worked in a bipartisan fashion to include a 2-year extension of the production tax credit, known as the PTC, and the investment tax credit, known as the ITC, for wind energy.

The wind credit has enjoyed broad bipartisan support from both sides of the aisle over a number of years, ranging from its original champion—who continues to be a champion—Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa, to my friend and colleague from Colorado Senator MARK UDALL, who has been a tireless and relentless supporter over the years for wind energy jobs in Colorado. I know he will be a supportive advocate when the extenders bill reaches the floor. If enacted into the law, the extension of the production tax credit and investment tax credit will continue to drive job growth in my State of Colorado.

Sometimes I hear people say the government should not pick winners and losers in their critique of the wind energy tax credits. I actually agree with that notion, but what I would say to people who are listening to this on the TV is that when you hear someone in Washington say you shouldn't pick winners and losers, that is when you should hold onto your wallet. They say that is as if those decisions haven't already been made—as if winners haven't already been produced somewhere deep in the Tax Code in the last century or the regulatory code or the statute books. It is a reminder to ask yourself: Who is more likely to have benefits in this town? Is it the incumbent industries that have been working on these for decade after decade or is it the innovators in our economy? And, of course, time and time again it is the legacy firms that have the upper hand in these debates. I don't blame them for fighting for that advantage. But I also know they are not necessarily going to be the industries that are going to create the 21st century jobs we need, and whether we know it or not that is fundamentally the debate we are having. It is not a left-right debate in this town. It is future versus past debate, and it is critically important to the next generation of Americans that we get this right.

This is an updated version of a chart I have been bringing to the floor for the last 4 years that shows some interesting relationships of lines relating to our economy. The top chart is GDP growth in the United States, and that is the green line. Here is the recession right here. You can see we are actually producing much more as an economy today than when we went into the recession. There is much greater gross domestic product.

This is the unemployment level. You can see at the depths of the recession the destruction in jobs the Presiding Officer saw in his home State, and we saw it in my home State. We were in a very difficult period at that time. We have actually begun to add jobs again, and we are almost back to where we were. I think we are back to where we were in terms of job creation.

This is a very stubborn and difficult issue for the people at home and the people I represent. This shows what has happened to median family and household income over periods of economic growth and over periods of economic decline. A way of thinking about that line is: What is happening to the middle-class income in this country? What is happening is the growth of middle-class income has decoupled from our economic growth. That, among other causes, has produced the worst income inequality we have seen in this country since 1928, I would argue, with the educational outcomes we have seen for kids, the most significant opportunity gap we have had in our lifetimes.

Why has this happened? There are a variety of reasons, but let me call your attention to this line. This is the productivity index in the United States. This shows how productive and efficient our economy has become. It has become incredibly efficient partly because of the use of technology, that is true, partly because of reaction to competition from overseas from China and India, and partly because the recession itself, which you can see, drove the line straight up because firms had to figure out how to get by with fewer people. That is our challenge. That is our central economic dilemma as we move into the second decade of this 21st century.

It is my view that there are two principal answers to that challenge. The first is education. I am not here to talk about that tonight, but just as a reminder, we are not going to recognize ourselves in this new century if we continue to perpetuate a set of outcomes in our K–12 system where if you are born poor in the United States, your chances of graduating with the equivalent of a college degree are roughly 9 in 100. That is completely unsatisfactory and outrageous, particularly for the kids we are talking about.

The other is innovation. We have to make sure we have the most innovative economy in the United States, and whether we are willing to lead the world; it is the companies that will start next week, the week after that, and the week after that, and the venture-backed companies that are somebody's bright idea today in their garage, but tomorrow could become the next Apple or Google. That is where the job growth and the wage growth is going to come from.

In my view the wind credit cuts right to the core of whether we are going to compete in a global economy. We are not talking about a fly-by-night experimental industry. This credit has triggered tremendous economic growth in Colorado and across the country. In Colorado alone, these tax credits directly support 5,000 jobs.

Vestas, which manufactures wind turbines, employs over 1,400 workers across four factories in our State from Pueblo all the way up I–25 to Brighton

and Windsor. They have hired 400 new workers this year with another 450 projected to be added before the end of 2014. This is it. Right here. Bricks and mortar. Real jobs. Made in America. It is not just manufacturing and design jobs near urban centers; it is also construction and operation jobs at the actual wind farms.

One Thursday night I left this floor, as I do almost every week—or it was a Friday morning, I guess. I flew back to Colorado. I got in the car and drove up to Peetz, where we have a wind farm. I climbed up to the top of a wind turbine. I thought that was it. I was in the pod at the top. That is not the technical term, but that is what it was. I thought I could then go home. When I got up there, they opened a trap door in the ceiling, and then I had to climb out on the roof of this thing, swaying over the Wyoming border, in the very shoes I wear on the floor of the Senate. That was an uncomfortable feeling, even though I was clipped in.

There was a guy up there who was one of the operators, one of the workers. He said: I would never have had this job in this community if it were not for this wind farm. If it were not for a vision somebody imagined several years ago but was unimaginable a decade ago, I would not have this job in this community.

This industry drives economic growth across our State from the conference rooms of tech startups in Boulder and Denver and all the way to 6,000-acre Kit Carson Wind Power Generating Site just west of the Kansas State line.

These are good jobs. In 2012, median household income for a single male in this country was just under $37,000. Compare this figure to jobs in the wind industry—and these are all from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Crane and wind tower operators have a median annual wage of over $47,000. These are jobs that can't be exported overseas. They can't be exported overseas. The electricians on wind projects average nearly $50,000 annually. Land acquisition specialists who secure the land where wind projects are located have a median salary of $74,000, and site managers for wind projects make over $100,000 a year.

So if we are looking for a way to say we would like to see median family income start to rise again in this country instead of going down whether we are in a period of economic growth or decline, we might start to look at things such as the wind industry. These are good-paying jobs, and we are seeing it more and more in Colorado and all across the country.

The production tax credit has driven $105 billion in private investment, opened 550 industrial facilities, and provided $180 million in lease payments to farmers, ranchers, and landowners who host wind farms. Wind power accounts for more than a third of all new U.S. electric generation in recent years. It has moved our State toward a more diversified and cleaner energy portfolio. Colorado is in the lead in many ways, and we are proud of that. Most importantly, 70 percent of a U.S. wind turbine is produced right here in the United States, and that creates 80,000 American jobs. When we travel the highways of my State, we see the component parts of these wind turbines moving from one plant to another, reflecting manufacturing jobs right here in the United States of America.

So I am delighted, I am glad, that we are moving to restore the wind credit that expired at the end of last year. We have seen this before where the PTC expired without a prompt extension, and it doesn't end well. Each time the credit has expired in the past, new installations fell between 76 and 93 percent, dealing a blow to the industry and its employees—and a reminder once again that what we don't do here actually matters out there in the real lives of people.

I know I sound like a broken record, but the world is not waiting for us to get out of our own way. We can't keep going through this unnecessary political boom-and-bust cycle. I am pleased the Senate Finance Committee took an important first step last week by reporting out a 2-year extension. We need to follow that with good work by bringing the extenders package to the floor and passing it into law. That outcome will give much-needed certainty to our industries and help secure the economic future for Colorado families who work in the wind industry.

With that, I thank the Chair for allowing me to speak this evening, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

DENYING ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, the nomination of Hamid Aboutalebi to be the Ambassador from the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations is a deliberate and unambiguous insult to the United States. Mr. Aboutalebi was an active participant in the terrorist group that took 52 Americans hostage on November 4, 1979, and held them for 444 days. There are no circumstances under which the United States should grant such a person a visa, and our immediate concern is to prevent Mr. Aboutalebi from ever setting foot on American soil.

But this nomination is not an isolated incident that is taking place in a vacuum. It is part of Iran's clear and consistent pattern of virulent anti-Americanism that has defined their foreign policy since 1979.

Given the larger strategic threat to the United States and our allies represented by Iran's nuclear ambitions, this is not the moment for diplomatic niceties. We need to send Tehran an equally clear message: The Senate is not going to ignore this most recent insult but, rather, is going to give our President the authority to affirmatively reject it. Unanimous passage of the bill I have introduced, which specifies that engaging in terrorism against the United States is a basis to deny a foreign U.N. ambassador a visa to enter our country, will do just that, while also signaling to other unfriendly nations that we see this kind of offensive behavior for what it is, and we will not tolerate it.

I wish in particular to thank Senator COATS, who is a cosponsor of this bill, as well as Senator GRAHAM, Senator MCCAIN, and Senator KIRK for their leadership. I also wish to thank my friends across the aisle and, in particular, Senator SCHUMER, Senator LEAHY, and Senator MENENDEZ for working together with my office to reach bipartisan agreement. I am proud to join with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in this effort, and I am encouraged that we can all come together in a bipartisan manner on this national security issue that transcends political parties. I am encouraged that the Senate can speak unanimously in a bipartisan voice defending the interests of our Nation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2195 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2195) to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who is engaged in espionage activities against the United States, poses a threat to United States national security interests, or has engaged in a terrorist activity against the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cruz amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, the Cruz amendment to the title be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2960) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 2, line 4, insert ''been found to have been'' after ''has''.

The bill (S. 2195), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2195

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

SECTION 1. VISA LIMITATION FOR CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

Section 407(a) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (8 U.S.C. 1102 note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''such individual has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities'' and inserting the following: ''such individual—

''(1) has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity (as defined in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(iii)))''; and

(2) by striking ''allies and may pose'' and inserting the following: ''allies; and

''(2) may pose''.

The amendment (No. 2961) was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I know my colleagues and good friends are waiting. I will be very brief. I agree with the Senator from Texas that it was totally inappropriate that Mr. Aboutalebi was nominated in the first place. He was a member of the Muslim Student Followers of the Imam's Line, the group that seized the embassy on November 4, 1979, and held American staff hostage until 1981. There were New Yorkers I knew among that group.

While I believe that Mr. Aboutalebi's actions certainly would have made him ineligible for a visa under the Immigration and Nationality Act, I believe it is worth it to clear up all doubt about our ability to deny him a visa under U.S. law by passing this bill.

I am fully aware that now is a sensitive time in our negotiations with Iran regarding the future of the nuclear program. Nevertheless, it is exactly for this reason that Iran's leadership should not have unnecessarily escalated tensions with the United States by seeking to appoint an ambassador to the United Nations who materially aided terrorists who abducted American citizens. We should not further aggravate the pain of the individuals and families who suffered through the hostage crisis by allowing this individual to have a visa and diplomatic immunity within the United States.

So I support this legislation. I am glad it has moved forward in a bipartisan way. I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for supporting this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I wish to recognize that this is a very important moment for the Senate to speak with one voice at a time when I think it matters to former hostages and their families. We heard you, Senator CRUZ heard you, I heard you, and our friends on the other side heard you. So it is good to know that the Senate is listening to people who have suffered in the past from this regime and Iran.

To Senators LEAHY, MENENDEZ, and SCHUMER, thank you very much for working with Senator CRUZ so we could reach this moment. I will do everything I can to get the House to act accordingly.

At the end of the day, it is very important that the Iranians not mistake how we view them. We have had our differences about Syria. We have had foreign policy disputes between the administration and Republicans, and sometimes Democrats, regarding how to move forward in the world. But this is a unique moment when all 100 Senators support the following statement to the Iranians: We remember who you are. We remember what you have done to our country and to our fellow citizens, and we are not going to forget. If you are listening in Iran, we have a very clear-eyed view in the Senate of who we are dealing with. So this is a very appropriate time to speak with one voice. I hope the Iranians will understand that we are resolved, Republicans and Democrats, to make sure they never possess a nuclear weapon.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, as a cosponsor of this legislation, I applaud my colleagues who are here tonight. I think this is the right message to send. It is a sensitive time, so therefore we need to stand and be counted. I hope the House will act swiftly on this legislation.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise tonight at a time when we face a quiet crisis in this country. President Obama and many on the other side of the aisle tell us the economy has improved, we have turned a corner, we are out of the woods, but I can tell my colleagues too many Americans are being left behind. In fact, historic numbers of Americans are disconnected from work. It is a quiet crisis. It is affecting them and their families. It is affecting our economy in very fundamental ways. It is one of the reasons we haven't seen the economic growth we had hoped for because not enough Americans are involved in active work because so many are out of work. The unemployment numbers, by the way, don't show the degree of the problem. An unemployment number around 7 percent doesn't show the fact that a lot of folks have left the work force all together.

This crisis includes also 3.7 million long-term unemployed. These are people who have been out of work for 6 months or more. This is also at historic levels. During this recent recession and during this weak recovery over the last 5 years, we have had numbers of long-term unemployed, over 6 months, at historic levels. In fact, the number of long-term unemployed right now is higher than it has been during any recession in our Nation's history, except for the most recent one 5 years ago.

Second, we have a lot of people who have left looking for work all together. So a lot of these folks were long-term unemployed, and they have now given up looking for work. Some 10.5 million Americans aren't even counted in the unemployment numbers because they have given up looking for work. The economists call this the labor participation rate. It is at historic lows for men, going back to the 1940s. In other words, more men are out of work—and that means not working or not even looking for a job—than we have ever had as a percentage of our population since we started keeping track of these statistics in the 1940s.

For men and women combined, we can go back to the 1970s—the numbers are so low for the participation rate in work. That goes back to the Carter era, when we had double-digit unemployment, double-digit inflation, and double-digit interest rates. We have to go back to that economy that was cratering in order to see the numbers of people who are out of work, not looking for work, and not even trying.

So we have a real problem in this country, and we are not addressing it. To make matters worse, people are saying: Well, Rob, this is actually the baby boomers, and it is people retiring early, so it is not that bad. That is not true. To make matters worse, it is a lot of young people. There was a recent Brookings study that came out a couple weeks ago which indicates that actually a lot of the problem is young men, single men, who are choosing not to work or cannot find a job and, therefore, they drop out of the workforce altogether. Again, this is not reflected in the unemployment numbers. This is not even reflected in the long-term unemployment numbers.

Disappointment after disappointment for many of these workers leads them to give up looking for work altogether. These Americans feel as if what we are doing here in Washington does not really affect them and their lives. They feel as if we are not dealing with this issue, so the underemployed, the unemployed, the long-term unemployed—the folks who are so disconnected from work that they are not even looking for a job—they are looking at us in Washington saying: What are you going to do to help?

They are the reason I supported tonight this extension of unemployment insurance. Now, this was not exactly the legislation I wanted. But, also, it is not exactly the legislation that was brought to the floor. The other side of the aisle, the Democrats, brought legislation to the floor that was a long-term extension on an emergency basis. This is for people who have been out of work for over 26 weeks. This is the Federal addition to the State unemployment insurance that generally is in place for people for up to 26 weeks. The Democratic version was long-term—over a year. It also was not paid for, which would take us further into debt and deficit, which would hurt the economy. It also did not have any reforms.

The legislation that passed tonight with my vote—and some other Republicans—had three things. No. 1, it is

short term—5 months instead of a year. No. 2, it is paid for, so it does not take us further into debt and deficit. No. 3, it does have some reforms to try to make the unemployment system work better to help these people who are long-term unemployed who otherwise have very little prospect of getting gainful employment, being productive members of our economy.

In fact, there are some studies out there saying that only 10 to 15 percent of them would normally be likely to get a job once they are out of work for 6 months or more because of the resume gap, because of the skills gap. So we have in this legislation—that I will talk about later in more detail—some reforms that add some skills training for the long-term unemployed. The notion here is that there are jobs available out there, and there are a lot of people, as we talked about, who are out of work—or the long-term unemployed, in this case—but they do not have the skills to match the jobs that are out there. So the notion is to bring the skills and the jobs together to deal with the skills gap.

Most on my side of the aisle—all but, I think, six of us—were against this unemployment extension because they argued that, instead, we need progrowth policies to get this economy moving. I totally agree with them about the progrowth policies. The ultimate solution here is not another extension of unemployment insurance; it is to reform the program rather than just have another check, to add the skills training, which we will talk about in a second. We need to do more there, but we also have to do what Jack Kennedy used to talk about. President Kennedy said, famously: A rising tide lifts all boats.

We need a rising tide. We need to create more economic growth and opportunity, and there is a plan to do this. It is called the Jobs for America Plan. The Senate Republicans have all signed off on it. It has seven elements, all of which make a lot of sense.

One is to ensure, on health care, we actually reduce the cost, increase choice. The economy is hurting now because the costs are going up, not down, and sometimes dramatically.

Another is an all-of-the-above energy strategy, to use the energy here in the ground; having an all-of-the-above energy strategy to get America's economy going, moving our economy forward. We can do a lot more there.

Another is living within our means. The reason this unemployment insurance extension was paid for is because we Republicans insisted on it. Why? Because the debt and deficit are like a wet blanket over the economy. We do have to keep ourselves from going further into debt with our $17 trillion debt.

Another is having Tax Code reforms that are necessary to spur economic growth. Both on the individual side and the business side our Tax Code is antiquated and inefficient. It will help to give the economy a shot in the arm if we can reform the Tax Code.

Another deals with regulations, unshackling job creators, helping to ensure that regulations are sensible, that they are not making it more difficult for small businesses to create jobs and opportunity. This is something we should be doing on a bipartisan basis.

Another is increasing exports. That means jobs. This President, this administration, has not been able to move forward with any export agreements because the President has not been able to get trade promotion authority. In fact, some on the other side of the aisle have said he will not get it. That would be tragic for America's workers, for America's farmers, for the people who provide services, who want to push for more exports because they create good-paying jobs and good benefits.

Then, finally, and significantly, part of this Republican plan for jobs is to create a competitive workforce to close the skills gap. That is what we are talking about here with the unemployment insurance issue. We need to ensure that our workforce is meeting the needs of the 21st century—meaning a lot of technology jobs, even in manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, bioscience jobs, information technology jobs. Those jobs are out there, as I said earlier. But, unfortunately, the Federal Government has not done a good job in providing the skills, giving people the tools to access those jobs.

So we have made some steps in this legislation. The legislation we passed tonight ensures that job training reforms are part of long-term unemployment insurance. The reforms require officials to connect with the unemployed early in the process and provide important information they are now not getting about the skills and credentials that businesses in their area, in their region, are looking for.

We have also included provisions to strengthen the skills assessment process to ensure that the long-term unemployed have a better idea of the specific skills necessary to become more competitive in the job market. That assessment is really important. A lot of these folks are starting to give up hope. The assessment is important for them to understand where they are and where they can be.

These measures are intended to give the unemployed the opportunity to attain critical skills and credentials that are regionally relevant and nationally portable so they can access not only available jobs in their area but so that they can find other jobs around the country. There are some States, as you know, where you have unemployment as low as 3 percent, and other States where unemployment is as high as 9 percent. So people do need to know what the opportunities are, should they be able and willing to move.

So that is part of this unemployment extension we did tonight, and that is something that was put in place because of negotiations between Republicans and Democrats alike to ensure that, yes, it was paid for, and, yes, it was not long term—it was short term—and, third, that we did put some skills training in place. I want to thank Senator JACK REED, Senator DEAN HELLER, and others who worked with us to ensure that was part of this package.

But, folks, that is just the beginning. We have to do a lot more in terms of ensuring that our workforce programs in the Federal Government are meeting the needs of the 21st century.

So part of the Republican jobs plan is to say: Let's take the next step. By the way, there is a commitment from both sides of the aisle, from the people who worked this out, to work during this short-term extension to try to increase the opportunities to provide people the tools they need.

We have big problems, as I said. We have a lot of people who are long-term unemployed. It is at historic levels. We have historic levels of people who are disconnected from work altogether, and yet we have jobs that are out there and available.

They say there are 3.9 million jobs around the country currently available and unfilled—3.9 million jobs. That means about 25 percent of those who are out of the workforce could have an opportunity for a job if they had the skills and had the ability to meet the requirements for those jobs.

In Ohio, we have over 100,000 jobs available. You can go on the Web site and see them. These are not just part-time or minimum-wage positions. According to a recent study, Ohio is third—behind only California and Texas—in skilled factory job openings, full-time jobs with benefits that often turn into long-term careers.

The problem of chronic unemployment is holding back our economy. By not having the people to fill those jobs, the economy is not reaching its potential. In fact, some of those jobs are going overseas to find those skilled workers. The Manufacturing Institute recently concluded that 74 percent of manufacturers are experiencing workforce shortages or skills deficiency that keeps them from expanding their operations; 74 percent of manufacturers are not expanding plants and equipment and creating more jobs, as they could, because they do not have the workforce.

So I view this unemployment insurance debate as an opportunity—an opportunity to talk about this issue, an opportunity to put in place some initial reforms, some first steps for more skills assessment, more training, to encourage people to get the credentials they need to get a job. But it is only the first step. We should do much, much more.

The Federal Government is already very involved, by the way, in work retraining—not in a very productive way but very involved. There are 47 different Federal workforce training programs spread over 7, 8 or 9 departments

and agencies, often overlapping. Often the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing. It costs us, by the way, as taxpayers about $15 billion a year. So about $15 billion a year is going into worker retraining. Yet look at the results—again, record numbers of the long-term unemployed, record numbers of men disconnected from work. Something is not working.

The Government Accountability Office found that very little is known about the effectiveness of these 47 programs. They have said, unbelievably, that only five of these Federal programs have conducted an impact study of their efforts since 2004. So 47 programs and only 5 have conducted the kind of performance measures you would expect the government to do to be sure the taxpayers' money is being spent right and that you certainly would be doing in the private sector.

The GAO is kind of generous in its assessment because those millions of unfilled jobs and millions more struggling workers are as incriminating an indictment of our worker training programs as any impact study could ever be.

This is the story I hear all the time. Back home in Ohio, when I talk to workers, when I talk to businesses, when I talk to educators, people are frustrated. People are seeing these Federal dollars being spent but not for actual training. What is unbelievable to me is recent data shows us that the number of credentials people are getting through these Federal workforce training programs is actually going down, not up—at a time when it is clear that credentials are a key way to get a job.

It is unfair to employers who have open positions that they cannot find qualified candidates to fill them. It is unfair to taxpayers who send money to Washington believing the government is going to be a good steward of those funds, and it is not. And, of course, it is unfair to the millions of Americans who want to build a better life for themselves and for their families, but they need the tools.

A lot of jobs were lost in this last recession. Unfortunately, I believe a lot of them are not coming back. But other jobs are being created. But, again, they are jobs that require a higher level of skill. We have to be sure we are doing a better job providing people with those tools to get the skills they need. It is part of the plan that Senate Republicans are talking about.

A small step was taken tonight with the unemployment insurance extension. I do not think we necessarily explained it very well to all of our colleagues, but it was part of what happened tonight on the floor of the Senate. I am hopeful over the next few months we will take the next important step, which is actually to change the way these Federal programs work so they are more effective at dealing with this crisis.

I have a specific proposal that I like. It is called the CAREER Act. The CAREER Act—you can look at it on line. Go to portman.senate.gov. My cosponsor is MICHAEL BENNET, who spoke here earlier tonight. He is a Democrat from Colorado. He is a former education superintendent. He understands we need to change these programs to make them more efficient. To incentivize success, we have performance measures in our proposal, for instance. We do need to streamline and consolidate these programs. We also need to be sure we are rewarding job training providers that produce measurable results in actual job placement. It seems it is a pretty simple concept, but it is not happening now, as the GAO told us.

The unemployment extension, in my view, buys us a couple more months. But that is time where we ought to be doing the hard work to ensure that workers have the skills they need to compete in this global economy. Again, companies look globally for workers these days—particularly larger companies. If we are not providing the skilled workforce here, our economy is not as productive as it could be, not meeting its potential, the rising tide is not lifting all boats because it is not rising. But we are also going to lose jobs overseas where there is more focus on the STEM disciplines, on engineering and math, on skills training.

We have to do a much better job at the Federal Government level, working with the States, working with the private sector. One thing we do in the CAREER Act is we connect the Federal funds with the actual private-sector jobs that out there to ensure we are getting a better result—not training people for jobs that are not even available.

So let's spend these next few months working on more strategies to help folks get jobs. Let's work on all of this because we need to have a growing economy. But with regard to the training part, let's fix a system that is not serving the unemployed. It is not serving the taxpayer. Let's deal with this crisis. Let's restore hope and opportunity to America's workers.

With that, I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

WAGE DISCRIMINATION

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I rise to join with my colleagues in addressing an issue that affects women and families across America every day; that is, wage discrimination. Over 50 years have passed since the Equal Pay Act was signed into law to require that men and women earn equal pay for equal work. Yet the wage gap between men and women remains persistently wide.

Tomorrow, April 8, is Equal Pay Day, the day that women's earnings finally catch up to what men earned during the previous calendar year. Women across our country have had to work more than 3 months into this year to match what their male colleagues made in 2013. It is time to end gender discrimination in pay.

That is why I am proud to again stand on the Senate floor as a cosponsor and strong supporter of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This important bill would close loopholes in our existing equal pay laws and ensure that gender-based pay discrimination cannot happen in the first place.

Some still question why we need this legislation. The numbers make it pretty clear. More than 50 years after the Equal Pay Act was passed women in America still earn only 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. In North Carolina it is a little better but still far from equal. Women earn 82 cents for every dollar earned by men doing the same work. To be sure, we have seen remarkable progress among women in North Carolina over the last 20 years.

Women have higher levels of education than men of the same age, and the share of employed women in my State who work in managerial and professional occupations has increased from 26 to 40 percent. While increased education has improved women's pay, it has not reduced the pay gap. Men are earning more money than women across all major sectors of the economy and at every educational level.

In fact, women in North Carolina who have some college education or an associates degree still earn less on average than men who have only received a high school diploma. In 2014, that is simply unacceptable.

I will never forget a constituent whom I met at an event back home in North Carolina. A woman had her young son with her. They both had T-shirts on that had a number on the front. The mother's shirt said ''94.'' The son's shirt said ''50.'' If earnings continue at the slow pace at which they are growing now, those numbers, the 94 and the 50, signify the ages those two individuals will be when pay equality is finally achieved.

Sadly, at the rate we are progressing, most of us in the Senate will not live to see that day. We cannot afford to wait another few decades for this change. This wage gap has real consequences, not just for women but for their families too. In North Carolina alone, women head over 500,000 households. Women and families' economic security is put at risk when they are paid less than men for performing the same job.

In North Carolina women who are employed full time lose approximately $9.8 billion each year due to the wage gap. Once again, just in North Carolina, these women, employed full time, lose approximately $9.8 billion. That is real money. That is money that could be spent on a downpayment or a mortgage for a home, put away for their child's college savings or invested in a secure retirement.

Also in North Carolina there are 108,000 households with incomes below the poverty line headed by women. Closing the wage gap would help put food on the table for them, gas in their

car, and pay basic necessities such as rent and utilities. In fact, closing the wage gap would allow a working woman in North Carolina to afford 63 more weeks of food, 6 more months of mortgage and utility payments, 10 more months of rent or 2,200 additional gallons of gas by changing that wage gap.

Addressing those disparities is critical to promoting the well-being of local economies across North Carolina and nationwide. When women thrive at work, their families and communities prosper as well. Later this week I will be voting for equal pay and to end wage discrimination. I am hopeful that partisan gamesmanship does not get in the way of a bipartisan issue that Democrats and Republicans, women and men across the country, overwhelmingly support. Congress needs to come together and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act because we need a stronger equal pay law to prohibit employers from retaliating against employees who discuss salary information with their coworkers. We need a stronger equal pay law to empower women to better negotiate their salaries and wages. We need a stronger equal pay law to provide businesses, especially small ones, assistance with equal pay practices.

On this eve of the anniversary of the Equal Pay Act, we need to close the loophole that allows pay discrimination to happen in the first place. The Paycheck Fairness Act would do just that by helping women successfully fight for the equal pay they have earned. In today's tough economic landscape, equal pay is about more than just principle, it is about ensuring an economically sound future for all of our families.

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

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

COLOMBIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak to two issues, both in the Western Hemisphere, that I think are incredibly important. I come to the floor to speak about labor rights in Colombia and labor rights of workers around the world.

Three years ago today the U.S. and Colombian Governments announced the creation of a Labor Action Plan that identified concrete steps to address the challenges faced by Colombian workers—threats, deadly violence, and widespread informality that opens the door to worker abuse.

Both governments said that the implementation of the plan would be a precondition to enacting the free-trade agreement between our two countries. At the time I advocated that the standards laid out in the Labor Action Plan should have been part of the formal free-trade agreement and should have included provisions for monitoring the plan's implementation.

It is true that the Colombian Government initially made impressive steps, but unfortunately other aspects of the plan have not been fulfilled. Today the AFL–CIO and Colombia's National Union School have released reports evaluating the Labor Action Plan and identifying key areas where implementation has fallen short. I come to the floor to share these key findings.

In February I traveled to Colombia and met with Colombian union leaders and representatives of the National Labor School. I had a chance to meet with President Santos and Minister of Labor Rafael Pardo. We had the opportunity to review the important steps the Colombian Government has taken and what still needs to be done.

Shortly after the Labor Action Plan was established in April of 2011, nearly overnight Colombia established an independent Ministry of Labor. To date, the Ministry has hired more than 480 new labor inspectors and created a formal complaint mechanism for workers and unionists.

The Colombian Government reformed its penal code to strengthen sanctions against employers violating rights to free association. The Ministry of Labor has opened nearly 400 investigations of violations and issued nearly 70 sanctions. The government has directed its protection units to concentrate efforts on labor activists who are under threat. As a result of these steps, Colombia has made progress. According to the Colombian Government's own statistics, more than 530,000 jobs have been formalized in accordance with government standards.

While it is important to acknowledge the progress that has been made, the reports released today by the AFL–CIO and Colombia's National Union School remind us that much more needs to be done. Aspects of the Labor Action Plan remain unfinished and risks to Colombian workers continue, specifically in the palm oil industry, sugar sector, oil industry, and ports sector.

Both reports point out, while some trade unionists have seen better protection from the government, others continue to face threats and violence. In 2013, 26 trade unionists were murdered. Equally troubling was the fact that in the cases of murdered trade unionists, 86.8 percent go unresolved in terms of the cases. The two reports recognize that in response to the Labor Action Plan, the Colombian Government took steps to address irregular contracting practices, specifically focusing on associated work cooperatives or CTAs as they are known.

But given the loopholes in new labor regulations that have come to light, the government has been unable to stem the rise of alternate hiring, such as simplified joint stock companies that keep workers from being directly hired and being entitled to benefits and collective bargaining rights. So there has been progress but clearly more needs to be done.

The report rightfully applauds the creation of the Ministry of Labor but also notes that the hiring of labor inspectors did not comply with international labor organization standards, severely affecting these inspectors' autonomy and technical capacity. As further evidence of the challenges of informal labor arrangements, a majority of labor inspectors are provisional hires.

When it comes to finding those guilty of violations, the Colombian Government has levied millions of dollars in fines against companies violating labor standards, but both the AFL–CIO and the National Labor School point out that not a single dollar of those millions of fines has been collected—not one.

Fines hardly constitute a deterrent if companies know they will never have to pay the bill. As the U.S. and Colombian Governments along with organized labor in the United States and Colombia look forward, it is important that everyone come to the table, identify targeted goals, and establish benchmarks that will bring the kind of change we are all looking for, lasting change that protects workers and worker rights.

Given that the United States and Colombia renewed the Labor Action Plan through the end of 2014, now is the time to renew political commitment. Now is the time for collective action. Having met with Minister Pardo and knowing our colleagues in the Department of Labor, I know the political will is there. Now is the time for swift action.

Lessons from Colombia should be lessons for all of us, as the United States continues to engage in trade negotiations around the world. Our trade agreements must include the highest labor standards, concrete benchmarks for guaranteeing compliance with these standards, and a clear plan to monitor implementation. Anything less will leave the most vulnerable around the world at risk.

We are moving in the right direction when it comes to protecting workers and workers' rights in Colombia and around the world. Let's keep moving forward and aspire to the highest labor standards in every nation.

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. MENENDEZ. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CUBA

Mr. MENENDEZ. As the attention of the world has been focused on the pre-1991 Soviet behavior of President Putin in Crimea, I come to the floor to remind the American public and Members of this body that there is also a full-fledged humanitarian rights crisis ongoing in our own hemisphere, just 90 miles away from our shores in Cuba.

As Ukrainians courageously fight to protect the democracy they won when the Berlin Wall fell 25 years ago this summer, the Cuban people continue to suffer from the oppression of a Soviet-style dictatorship that denies them the most basic rights. When the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, millions of people—from Kiev to Budapest to Africa to Asia—were given their first chances in decades to build their own governments, a first chance to organize democratic elections, the chance to begin to determine their own futures.

Since the end of the Cold War, peace, prosperity and progress has largely been the order of the day for hundreds of millions of people but not for the people of Cuba. Not one of those core principles of democracy can be found on the island. Fidel and Raul Castro have been the only names on any ballot in over 50 years. Not one free election has been held, not one Cuban has been allowed to own their own company, not one legitimate trade union has been allowed to be organized, and not one peaceful protest has occurred without being brutally squashed by the regime.

No, this is the reality of Cuba today. It was the reality when the Berlin Wall fell, and it has been Cuba's reality for almost 60 years since Fidel Castro began taking control of every aspect of Cuban life. This reality in Cuba, a decades-long brutal oppression of simple human democratic rights, with total disdain for the aspirations of a people by the Castro regime, its military and communist lackey thugs who penetrate and control people's lives at all levels, should not be overlooked, should not be romanticized and it can never be explained away.

But, unlike Ukraine, where we have watched in horror as people have been ruthlessly beaten and killed for simply aspiring to democratic and transparent government, the Castro regime does not allow images of its oppression to be broadcast around the globe, let alone at home. Just because we do not see those images streaming across television sets and in the newspapers does not mean the world should not be watching. It does not mean we have turned the other way, and it does not mean we have overlooked the brutal and oftentimes lethal oppression of the Castro regime.

The number of people the regime has murdered or abducted is in the tens of thousands. Hundreds of thousands of children have been separated from their parents, maybe hundreds of thousands of families have been torn apart. We don't even know how many have died in the Florida straits in search of freedom.

Millions of men, women, and young people have been forced into fields to cut sugarcane and perform other hard labor against their will. The average human worker lives on an income of less than $1 a day. The Castro regime has been most adept—not at spreading education and prosperity—I listened to some of my colleagues recently on the floor and, oh my God, what a paradise, a paradise that people are willing to take to makeshift rafts to flee from and die on the high seas, a paradise that has long lines at the U.S. interests section waiting to be able to come to the United States, such a paradise that there are well over 1 million Cuban Americans in the United States and others in Spain and throughout the world.

It is not a paradise that I think people flee from. But they are great—not at spreading education and prosperity, but at instilling a penetrating fear and terror in the style of a Stalinist police state. It has been going on since 1959. Unfortunately, these are all of the realities. It is not a thing of the past.

Let us not overlook the fact that arbitrary and politically motivated arrests in Cuba reportedly topped 1,000 for a third straight month this February, according to the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation, a group inside of Cuba, formed and founded by Elizardo Sanchez Santa-Cruz—whose mission is to bring change and freedom—to report to the world. The commission reported that:

> . . . arrests in the past three months have nearly doubled from the monthly averages of the previous 2 years.

We must remind ourselves every day of the continued oppression and human suffering that is happening, not halfway around the world but 90 miles from our own shores. The ongoing oppressive behavior of the Cuban regime we saw for the last half of the 20th century still haunts our hemisphere today.

While Putin has annexed Crimea, while one wonders what is next, while Assad continues to kill his own people in Syria, while the world is watching the Taliban in Afghanistan, and violence continues in the Central African Republic taking countless lives, the oppression of the Castro regime keeps rolling along unabated.

If there is a single symbol of that oppression, of the longing for freedom in Cuba, it is the Ladies in White, Damas de Blanco, and their leader Berta Soler.

This is a picture of Berta. The courage she has displayed, along with all the other women, to promote democracy and political freedom in Cuba has served as an extraordinary example for all of us and everyone around the world who longs to be free. Every Sunday they protest the jailing of their relatives by attending mass and quietly marching through the streets of Havana, praying for nothing more than the freedom of their relatives and respect for the human rights of all Cubans.

But, as we see in this picture, often arrested, roughed-up—let's go to the previous picture. These are some of the of the Ladies in White. All they do is dress up in white, they march with a gladiola—quietly—toward church. The response of the state regime is to detain them, beat them, jail them, and hold them for days, maybe weeks. They are released, then jailed again.

The Ladies in White are the symbol of freedom, and women such as Laura Pollan represent the story of thousands. She was a schoolteacher living with her husband Hector, the leader of the outlawed Cuban Liberal Party. They were living a normal life in a small house on Neptune Street in Havana.

Early one morning there was a pounding on the front door. The police came in, searched everything. There was a sham trial held in Cuba. Hector was imprisoned, sentenced to 20 years in jail, and accused of acting against national security. His crime was dreaming of a free Cuba and putting that dream in writing.

Since I last came to the floor to speak about Cuba, I met Rosa Maria Paya, the daughter of the long-time political activist Oswaldo Paya. He was a Catholic and head of the Christian Liberation Movement who collected 25,000 signatures under a project called the Varela Project, a peaceful effort to petition the regime under the existing Cuban Constitution for freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. For his peaceful efforts he was awarded the Sakharov prize by the European Parliament.

His peaceful efforts were seen as a danger to the regime, a threat for which he was detained and arrested many times. Many times he suffered at the hands of the regime, and last year he died in Cuba, killed as Cuban state security rammed his car off the road.

What we know is that the car, driven by a Spanish politician from Spain, Angel Carromero, a citizen of Spain, and Jens Aron Modig, a party activist in Sweden, was involved in the fatal automobile accident that killed Paya and his Cuban colleague Harold Cepero. The circumstances surrounding Paya's death lead any reasonable person to conclude what really happened on that road in eastern Cuba that took the life of Oswaldo was an assassination. His daughter Rosa Maria immediately challenged the regime's version of events, stating that the family had received information from the survivors that their car was repeatedly rammed by another vehicle. She said:

> So we think it's not an accident. They wanted to do harm and then ended up killing my father.

Ms. Paya was in Washington not long ago accepting a posthumous award from the National Endowment for Democracy on behalf of another Cuban activist who died alongside her father. At the time the U.N. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power had come before the Foreign Relations Committee during the nominations process and assured me she would reach out to Ms. Paya when confirmed. Since then, she has not only met with Rosa Maria but also to directly challenge Cuba's Foreign Minister to permit an independent international investigation into Mr. Paya's death.

I want to commend Ambassador Power for standing with those still suffering in Cuba and with the family of

Oswaldo Paya who died for advocating peaceful, democratic change and Christian values.

But Cuba's reach doesn't end with the detention or the death of dissidents such as Paya. It doesn't end at the water's edge. It goes much farther.

Cuba is the head of a new and dire crisis in our hemisphere that we cannot ignore, and now we see the same oppression of peaceful activists in Cuba on the streets of Caracas.

Venezuela's political crisis is growing: 40 dead, hundreds injured, the nation's economy deteriorating, inflation at record levels, and a scarcity of basic food and goods. It sounds like Cuba to me.

But behind Venezuela's economic crisis we can see Cuba's failed policies, expropriation, and nationalization of various sectors of the economy, fixed prices in the consumer economy, criminalization of business leaders and their companies, currency manipulation, and rationing of basic foodstuffs. Behind Venezuela's political crisis we can clearly see familiar Cuban tactics—the demonization of the dissent, intolerance, and oppression of any form of opposition, politicizing of the military and judiciary, the silencing of independent television and radio stations, the shutting down of newspapers, and the arrests of political opponents doing nothing more than exercising basic rights to freedom of assembly.

We see Cuba's destabilizing presence is deeply intertwined in Venezuela's crisis, not simply because of the actions but because of these facts. It started with the discovery of 29 Cuban spies on Margarita Island in Venezuela.

It grew steadily and insidiously throughout the Chavez years with the Cuban presence and key advisers from Havana in almost every institution of national government in Venezuela, from the military, to intelligence agencies, to the health sector, to industrial policy. And the result? Democracy subverted and innocent people dying from bullets fired by the government and its thugs, just like in Cuba.

Yet knowing the instability the Cuban regime continues to spread, amazing, amazing European nations, nations in Latin America, then the Caribbean, some of my colleagues in this Chamber are seeking new opportunities to engage the Cuban regime by easing sanctions at a critical moment and fundamentally redefining our relationship with Cuba.

I couldn't disagree more. We can never turn our back on what has happened and continues to happen inside of Cuba. We can never have a wink and a nod and say, well, it has been almost 50 years, that is long enough. Things are changing for the better in Cuba so we should ease sanctions when, in fact, that is not the case at all.

As I listen to these human rights activists who finally have been able to come from Cuba and visit with us, to a person, they have said to me when I have asked them, is there change? They laugh and say: Senator, no, of course, there is no change. Is there a change in the economic system? No, there is no change. Is there change in your ability to organize? No, there is no change.

They call for some of the most significant measures that I could imagine—based upon them being in the belly of the beast, not some romanticism from outside. So, no, we should not ease sanctions. That is not what they are calling for. We should not let up and we should not reward the Castro regime for its human rights violations, for the suffering it continues to cause the people of Cuba. We should not reward the regime of the long dark years that have been brought to the island. And we should not ease tourism restrictions simply because the clock is ticking. Those who wish to pursue that type of engagement with Cuba must not forget Cuba's history. It is also its present state of torture and oppression, its systemic curtailment of freedom.

Recent events tell us a different story than those who have the sense of romanticism about the Castro regime. It is the story of two terrorist states: Cuba and North Korea.

There is unshakable, undeniable, incontrovertible proof that the Cuban Government, colluding with North Korea, violated United Nations security sanctions regimes.

In July of last year, a North Korean ship was docked in Cuba's new Mariel Port facility. The North Korean ship—suspicious even to the most untrained observer—left the dock, and it wasn't long afterward it was seized by the Panamanian Government when it attempted to enter the Panama Canal. Panamanian authorities boarded the ship and what did they find? There in the cargo bays, under some 200,000 bags of sugar, authorities discovered 240 tons of weapons—bound for where? For where? North Korea, another terrorist state.

Apparently this evidence, to some of my colleagues, is not of concern, but that is not the end of the story. When authorities inventoried the 240 tons of weapons hidden beneath the 200,000 bags of sugar they found on the North Korean ship, they found 2 MiG aircraft, several SA–2, SA–3 surface-to-air missile systems, missile and radar components, and a cache of small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

This is a depiction from the U.N. sources of what was found. I ask my colleagues, is this the behavior of a tired and old, benign regime, one that deserves our sympathy? Is there a misunderstanding that does not check enough terrorist boxes? Is this something we should justifiably ignore, falling under the category of Castro will be Castro or is this, at its core, the active and dangerous play of a terrorist state that we would not tolerate from any other Nation?

It seems to me that supplying a rogue nation such as North Korea with a secret cache of weapons demands something more than the loosening of travel restrictions and the opening of trade. It demands exactly the opposite. We should treat Cuba and the Castro regime as we would treat any other state sponsor of terrorism, because it is. Yet here I am once again forced to come to the floor of the Senate to point to pictures of a North Korean ship in a Cuban port smuggling MiG aircraft and surface-to-air missiles and ask: Why should we turn a blind eye to what we clearly would not accept from Iran, Syria or Sudan? And why in God's name would we want to take this opportunity to reward the regime with cashflow so they can continue to oppress their people and subvert neighboring countries? Why should we accept the lame excuses given by the Cuban regime that somehow—despite the fact that many of the arms were still in their original packaging, despite the fact that others had been recently calibrated, despite the fact there was a fresh coat of paint over the insignia of the Cuban Air Force on the side of the MiGs to hide their origin, despite the fact that the entire shipment was covered with 200,000 bags of sugar to deceive—this was a purely innocent business transaction, an innocent business transaction, and that the arms were being sent to North Korea for maintenance and would have been returned to the island?

Does anyone actually believe such a ludicrous claim? Can we and should we simply ignore it and move on, even though U.N. weapons inspectors found that the shipment was a clear violation—a clear violation—of U.N. sanctions, that Cuba was the first country in the Western Hemisphere to violate international sanctions related to North Korea and that the shipment constituted the largest amount of arms shipped to or from North Korea since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1874 in 2009 and resolution 2094 in 2013? I repeat, the largest amount of arms shipped to or from North Korea. If that is not food for thought when it comes to easing restrictions against a terrorist state to our south, I don't know what is.

In recent years some would have us believe—and I have listened to some of my colleagues—that reforms led by Raul Castro placed Cuba on a path to economic progress, but if we look at the new law on foreign investment Cuba just passed last week, we get a clearer picture of the truth behind Cuba's economic model.

Let's be clear about this economic model. Under Cuba's new foreign investment law, investment projects will be allowed to be fully funded by foreign capital, business taxes on profits would be cut by 50 percent, foreign companies would be exempt from paying taxes for the first 8 years of operations in Cuba, and many foreigners living in Cuba would be let off the hook from paying income taxes at all. Think about it. The question is, Who wins? Who wins? Not the people of Cuba.

The most glaring omission in this law is any benefit at all to the Cuban people. Instead of receiving a new investment opportunity or benefiting from tax cuts—although Cubans don't make enough to benefit from any tax cuts—they will continue to live under restrictive laws and regulations, unable to start their own business, unable to follow a dream or build a better life. They are left to live under the most restrictive laws preventing them from ever realizing their dreams for themselves and their families.

In fact, the Cuban regime has permitted people to work for themselves but only in 200 types of jobs the government officially sanctions. They have a list of authorized jobs that includes sewing buttons, filling cigarette lighters, street performing—not exactly lucrative startups that can build an economy. These authorized jobs bear more resemblance to a feudal economy than anything we would recognize as economic opportunity.

At the same time the government has moved aggressively to close inhome movie theaters, secondhand clothing markets, and fledgling private restaurants that it considers too large or too successful. Why? Because anything that allows Cubans to meet legally, lawfully, and as a group is seen as a threat to the regime. Simply allowing people to come together for what we take for granted in our country and most countries in the world is seen as a threat to the regime because God knows what those Cubans would do if they started talking to each other in a place where they had no fear.

While the Cuban Government offers new incentives to foreign investors and continues to clamp down on self-employed workers, the real economic change in Cuba is the growing role of the Cuban Armed Forces in the country's economy. Under the watchful eye of Raul Castro's son-in-law, a general in the Cuban Armed Forces, the military holding company, GAESA, has amassed control of more than 40 percent of Cuba's economy. Through companies such as GAESA, the government and the Armed Forces—those most loyal to the Castros—are laying a foundation for its future control of Cuba and the Cuban economy.

On the economic front, I think it is important to make the point that when people argue for travel and trade with Cuba, they are arguing to do so with who—with Castro's monopolies. Let us be clear: Regular Cubans are prohibited from engaging in foreign trade and commerce. So do we want to trade with Castro's state-owned monopolies—monopolies that are largely controlled by the Armed Forces of Cuba? Do we? Do we truly want to reward a regime that sends the biggest amount of weapons to North Korea in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions?

The U.S. Government's own report of agricultural sales to Cuba states how every single transaction with Cuba, by hundreds of American agricultural companies, has only one counterpart—Castro's food monopoly through a state-owned company named Alimport. That hasn't helped the people one bit. So do we truly want to unleash billions to Castro's monopolies?

Also, every single foreign people-to-people traveler who currently stays at a hotel or resort owned by whom? By the Cuban military. No exceptions. No exceptions. So how does that promote independence of the Cuban people from the regime as President Obama's policy statement upon release of this regulation states? At the very least they should be compelled to stay at what we call a casa particular, which means a private home that used to be able to take in a visitor, but staying at the military facilities owned by the military or copartnering by the military with some foreign private sector contravenes the President's own policy statement.

This hardly constitutes an economic opening for the people of Cuba. By the way, if you are an individual Cuban, you can't go to a foreign company. You can't even go to the hotels in your own country unless you are invited in by a foreigner. You work there if the state sends you there. Those of us who get to work here, we actually would only be here because the state would send us here, not because through our abilities and competency we would have earned the opportunity to be employed here or anywhere else in this country or in the private sector. That is not possible for the average Cuban. So in their own country they cannot go to a hotel unless they are invited in by a foreigner. Imagine visiting throughout our country and not being able to go into a hotel unless somebody from some other country tells you you can go into it.

However, if there is one positive trend to be found in Cuba today it is that after decades of fear and self-imposed silence there is a growing and growing number of Cuban citizens beginning to speak out critically, increasingly in public.

In June of 2012, Jorge Luis Garcia Perez—known as Antunez—testified at my invitation before the Foreign Relations Committee via Skype from the U.S. intrasection, as you can see in this photograph. After he testified he was beaten and detained for his testimony on human rights abuses on the island, but that didn't stop him. It didn't stop the bloggers from the Cuban diasporo from getting the word out.

After decades of being manipulated by the Castros, the people of Cuba no longer identify with the government. While the government still holds power through its security operations, its legitimacy is plummeting in the opinions of its people. So after 55 years of dictatorship, it is our responsibility in the international community to encourage this independence and help the people of Cuba reclaim their rights—rights to freedom of expression, rights to organize unions, rights to freedom of assembly, rights to freedom of the press, rights to freedom of religion—universal human rights, the rights and freedoms that will be the building blocks of a new and Democratic Cuba of the future.

But let us not be misled. Although Berto Soler—the ladies in white that I showed earlier—is now allowed by the regime to visit the United States and Europe after an enormous amount of international pressure, when she returns to Cuba there is no change in the status of the ladies in white. The pictures I showed of the beatings and the arrests is still their reality. Every move she and her courageous partners make is monitored by the Castro regime. They are physically harassed intimidated and arrested. Why? For simply wanting what any mother in any country on the face of the Earth wants—to learn the fate of her husband, her son or daughter who has been harassed, beaten and jailed by an aging, illegitimate regime.

According to the Cuban Commissioner for Human Rights and National Reconciliation, there were more than 15,000 cases of arbitrarily, politically motivated detentions since the start of 2012. In January of this year, when 30 heads of State from Latin America and the Caribbean came together, as well as the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the OAS, at a summit in Havana, there were more than 1,050 detentions over the course of 1 month.

In one prominent case, a leading Afro-Cuban political activist, intellectual, and known leftist Manuel Cuesta Morua was arrested after attempting—to do what? To organize a parallel civil society summit during the visit by the heads of state.

This simple practice—a practice not uncommon and, in fact ubiquitous throughout Latin America and the world—is not tolerated by the Castro regime.

Instead, Mr. Cuesta Morua faced 5 days of intensive interrogation and has been charged with ''disseminating false news against international peace,'' joining prominent activists Jorge Luis Garcia Perez Antunez and Guillermo Farinas—who was awarded the Sakharov Prize by the European Parliament—simply because they knew there were heads of state throughout Latin America and of major international organizations wanting to hold a parallel meeting, peacefully doing so to promote their vision of what human rights and democracy should be inside of their country. Their result was to ultimately be jailed and face the charges which can leave them for many years in jail.

Unfortunately, except for one or two, most of the leaders of the hemisphere who went to that meeting didn't even try to meet with the human rights activists, political dissidents, or independent journalists because they did not want to insult the Castro regime.

Here is Farinas shown being taken away by the police. These activists

have faced repeated brutal acts at the hands of the Castro regime—no less violent than the regimes of any other terrorist state.

Finally, it is important to note that detentions, violence, and harassment are not reserved for political activists alone but also directed at labor rights activists as well. In early March of this year AFL–CIO President Trumka called on the Cuban Government to end its harassment of Mr. Cuesta Morua and all independent union activists advocating for labor rights to protect Cuban workers, such as Morua and Maria Elena Mir and her colleagues.

American workers are not turning a blind eye to what the Cuban regime is doing to limit worker rights, and we should not turn a blind eye either. We must support those such as Morua and Maria who are willing to step forward for labor rights in the face of a repressive regime that will not stop at anything to silence them.

As the people of Cuba look to cast off the shackles of five decades of dictatorial rule, we must stand with and speak out in support of all those who seek to reclaim their civil and political rights and promote political pluralism and democratic values. We cannot turn our back on Cuba's human rights violations record for decades simply because ''enough time has passed.'' If that is the case, enough time has surely passed in places such as Syria, Sudan, Iran, and North Korea.

To me and to the thousands who have suffered at the hands of this regime, the clock has nothing to do with our policy options. Engagement and sanctions relief have to be earned. It can't be timed out. It must come through real change, not Xs on a calendar or the ticking of a clock. And the clock is ticking for Alan Gross.

On December 4, 2009, Alan Gross, a private subcontractor for the U.S. Government, working to bring information to the Jewish community inside of Cuba, was arrested in Cuba. Mr. Gross, a 64-year-old development professional who worked in dozens of countries around the world with programs to help people get access to basic information, was doing nothing different. That is why I am amazed with this uproar which exists by some who want to paint this picture that, my God, we actually were trying to assist the Cuban people to have greater access to the Internet through a Twitter program. That is what we do throughout the world. Even the foreign operations legislation talks about tens of millions of dollars—not several hundred million dollars—to be promoting Internet access in closed societies.

It seems to me that freedom of information is one of the most fundamental elements, and yet we have this bit of a firestorm going on over simply creating the possibility for people to have access to information so they can speak for themselves and hear unfettered what is happening in the outside world. We all condemned what is happening in Turkey when the head of Turkey ultimately tried to shut down Twitter, but somehow it is OK to shut down the people of Cuba.

Since 2009, Alan Gross has been detained in Villa Marista, a prison in Havana notorious for its treatment of political prisoners by the Cuban National Security Agency. This is not a minimum-security prison where foreigners are routinely held. It is a harsh, repressive prison reserved for Cuban dissidents. He is still being held at Villa Marista, and it is time for the Castro regime to let this American be released. He did nothing wrong. After serving 4 years now of a 15-year sentence, this 64-year-old American's mental health is reported to be deteriorating and his life may well be in danger.

The case of Alan Gross is only one example of why we cannot let up until the dead weight of this oppressive regime is lifted once and for all.

We have supported democracy movements around the world. I have been a big advocate of that in my 21 years in the Congress, in the House and the Senate, serving on both foreign policy committees. I am a big advocate because freedom and democracy and human rights, when they are observed, mean we deal with countries in which we will have less conflict and more opportunity. It is the idea upon which this Nation was founded, and it is who we are as a people and what we stand for in the eyes of the world.

We can no longer condone, through inaction and outright support—in some cases even from some of my colleagues in this Chamber—the actions of a repressive regime 90 miles from our own shores simply because of the passage of time or because of some romantic idea of what the Castro regime is all about.

So to my colleagues, let me say, I know I have come to this floor on many occasions demanding action. I have come to this floor demanding that we live up to our rhetoric and our values. I ask that we hold the Castro brothers accountable for the suffering of the Cuban people—not only the years of brutality and oppression which have deprived the Cuban people of the basic human rights we so proudly proclaim to support around the world, but also for the continuing reality of the suppression of those human rights today. I will come to the floor again and again to ask for nothing less, to ask that we never allow the Castro regime to profit from increased trade which would benefit the regime and will use these dollars for repression but not put one ounce of food on the plates of Cuban families.

I will end with this photograph of a man being arrested in Havana and flashing a sign recognized across Cuba and throughout the world. The sign is ''L'' for liberty. Libertad. That is all we ask for the people of Cuba, and I won't rest until we achieve it.

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. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, 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. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the 50th anniversary for the League of Women Voters of the Las Vegas Valley. On May 7, 1964, the league held their first meeting, which was attended by just a handful of women in Las Vegas. Fifty years later, because of the hard work and relentless service of its founding members and their predecessors, the league today continues to be a resounding voice for Southern Nevadans on issues that matter most to women, families, and communities.

Upon the league's inception and formal recognition from the National League of Women Voters in 1965, the group began organizing around issues such as school integration, open housing, environmental conservation, and education. By coming together, league members found great success on many of the issues they championed. Today, the league remains a vital force in the Las Vegas Valley around similar, important social causes. Some of the league's earliest members included distinguished Southern Nevadans, many of whom are personal role models of mine, like Flora Duncan, Margaret Quinn, and Jean Ford. Over the years, countless others began their path to leadership with the League.

As I stand to honor the league on this special occasion, it is also important to recognize that this year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women having the right to vote in Nevada. In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed to prohibit any United States citizen from being denied the right to vote on the basis of sex. I am proud that in my home State, we had already recognized women's right to vote 6 years earlier.

Nevada was a leader among States in the fight for women's suffrage—undoubtedly, this achievement was due to the remarkable and pioneer-like spirit of those Nevadans behind the movement. This spirit still exists today among organizations like the league and its members.

Across the U.S. and in every State, women have had the constitutional

right to vote for just short of a century. It is important that citizens, both women and men, do not take for granted their right to be heard. For this reason, it is fitting that we honor the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley as their work offers each new generation the reminder that civic engagement has been, and continues to be, one of the most important rights we have as we strive to make our community and our country a better place to live. I applaud and celebrate with the League of Women Voters of Las Vegas Valley on their 50th anniversary.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am particularly proud of my home State, as we commemorate the fifth anniversary of the passage of Vermont's law guaranteeing marriage equality.

Throughout history, Vermont has taken a leadership role in America's journey to build a more just society. Vermont was the first State in the Union to outlaw slavery, and Vermonters offered shelter to runaway slaves seeking refuge while in transit to Canada—serving as one of the last stops on the Underground Railroad. Vermont was also the first to adopt universal manhood suffrage, regardless of property ownership.

It is because of this history that it is not surprising that Vermont has been at the forefront of our Nation's march toward marriage equality: Vermont was the first State to provide civil unions to same-sex couples back in 2000. On April 7, 2009, Vermont took the next step, overriding a veto to pass legislation affording marriage equality to all Vermonters in loving relationships who wanted their commitment recognized by the State. Once again Vermont led the Nation by granting marriage equality for the first time through democratically elected officials on a bipartisan basis, instead of through the courts.

This is not to say that it was easy. The initial move toward civil unions fomented heated debate among Vermonters and throughout the Nation. Several courageous leaders, such as the late Republican U.S. Senator from Vermont Bob Stafford, and State Representatives Bill Lippert and Marion Milne, among others, showed us the way, and their advocacy for equality was powerfully moving. Like many Vermonters, I listened to advocates, friends, and neighbors who reminded us that love and commitment are values to encourage and not to fear. I continue to be inspired by the inclusive example set by Vermont.

Now, 5 years later, 3,766 same-sex couples have married in the State of Vermont, 17 States and the District of Columbia have marriage equality, and the Supreme Court has decided a landmark case on the issue of same-sex marriage. In that case—United States v. Windsor—the Court struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage for purposes of Federal law as ''only a legal union between one man and one woman.'' The Court reasoned that the law deprived couples of equal liberty as protected by our Fifth Amendment. All Americans deserve equal justice under the law, and Marcelle and I, married for more than 50 years, celebrated this important decision, which pushed the Nation farther on its path toward equality.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have long worked to make civil rights a focal point of our committee's agenda and a priority in the Senate. I often hear from those who think that the struggle for civil rights is over—that this issue is one for the history books. I remind them that this is our recent history and that while we have made great strides, there is still much work to be done. The march toward equality must continue until all individuals—regardless of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability—are protected and respected, equally, under our laws. I am confident that Vermont will continue to lead the way, and I am proud of all that we have already accomplished.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, and it is an important reminder of the ongoing problem of sexual assault in our nation.

The Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, which first passed in 1994, has had an astounding impact on reducing sexual and domestic assault in our country. The annual incidence of domestic violence has dropped more than 50 percent since VAWA became law. This groundbreaking bipartisan legislation included many provisions critical to supporting and improving services for all victims of sexual assault and ensuring that law enforcement has the tools it needs to find and prosecute perpetrators. I was proud to author the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which was signed into law by President Obama last year.

The Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Act built upon past successes and expanded its protections to more inclusive to the victims most at risk of domestic violence and sexual assault, including LGBT, Native American, and immigrant victims. One aspect of this important effort that did not receive much attention is how it increased focus on sexual assault prevention, enforcement, and services to encourage reporting. It also increased support for programs that improve law enforcement and forensic responses to sexual assault and to address backlogs of untested rape kits. These improvements, along with the many others made in the reauthorization, will continue to advance the national response to sexual assault.

Our bipartisan effort last year is making lives better today, but there is much more we must do. The National Network to End Domestic Violence, in their annual National Domestic Violence Counts Census, found that every day 9,000 service requests go unmet because of a lack of resources. This is not acceptable. Every day tens of thousands of victims turn to domestic and sexual violence services providers for support through emergency safe shelters, legal assistance, and child support groups, and we must do all we can to ensure these needs are met.

We cannot stop by simply supporting a strong VAWA law. That is why I was proud to support the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, which included historic reforms to sexual assault prevention and response within the military. I was also heartened last month when the Senate came together to pass the Victims Protection Act of 2014 by a vote of 97 to 0. This legislation takes even greater steps to encourage military servicemembers to come forward and report sexual assault. As I have said many times, a victim, is a victim, is a victim. We must protect all victims, including our Nation's service men and women, and that means working to decrease the fear of stigma or inaction that can often deter reporting.

Following the reauthorization of VAWA, the passage of the NDAA, and the Victims Protection Act, I hope the Senate will soon approve the bipartisan Justice for All Act reauthorization that I authored with Senator JOHN CORNYN. I was proud to author the original legislation, and our reauthorization includes many critical provisions for victims. Importantly, our bill reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, which seeks to reduce the backlog of untested rape kits and other DNA evidence. This program is named after Debbie Smith, who waited years after being attacked before her rape kit was tested and the perpetrator was caught. Every Senate Democrat has cleared the way for passage the bipartisan Justice For All Act reauthorization, and I hope Senate Republicans will act quickly so we can pass this measure that means so much to rape survivors and all victims of crime.

I applaud the tireless work of the many advocates who work on behalf of victims each day and thank them for their dedication to this critical problem. Together we have taken significant steps to ensure victims of sexual assault have access to the services they need to rebuild their lives, that law enforcement have the tools they need to prosecute those who commit these horrific crimes, and to reduce future incidences of sexual assault through education and prevention efforts. Last year, the Senate stood up for the survivors of rape by passing the Leahy-

Crapo Violence Against Women Act reauthorization. Today, as we mark Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention month, I hope Senate Republicans will join Senate Democrats to stand with them again by passing the Leahy-Cornyn Justice For All Act.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT JESSE T. WETHINGTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this past Saturday, April 5, I was extremely pleased and honored to be a part of the awarding of the Purple Heart Medal to a brave soldier Kentucky is proud to call one of its own. SGT Jesse T. Wethington of Liberty, KY, received his Purple Heart for wounds suffered while serving our country in Iraq. I want to share the honor and majesty of this event with my colleagues and so therefore ask unanimous consent that the full text of my remarks at the ceremony to award SGT Jesse T. Wethington his Purple Heart, as well as the text of the proclamation for the Purple Heart be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

SENATOR MCCONNELL'S REMARKS AT AWARDING OF PURPLE HEART TO SERGEANT JESSE T. WETHINGTON, APRIL 5, 2014

Thank you for that kind introduction. Thank you, General Dolan, for the invocation. It is my great honor to be here for the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal to Sergeant Jesse T. Wethington of Liberty, Kentucky, for wounds received in action while in service to our country in Iraq. It is an honor that is long overdue.

Because we are here to recognize the service of a brave soldier, it is fitting to be at VFW Post 1170. I want to thank our hosts, led by VFW Post Commander Dwight Riggle. I also want to thank VFW State Commander Joe Schnitterbaum and VFW leaders Brian Duffy and Carl Kaelin for all they have done in support of America's veterans.

It's a pleasure to have Chris Smrt and the Kentucky chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart here today to welcome Sergeant Wethington into their ranks. Chris and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, like the VFW, are strong advocates for our veterans.

And on this day when we're honoring a Kentucky Guardsman, it's wonderful to see so many Kentucky Guard soldiers and airmen here today, including our outstanding Adjutant General, Ed Tonini.

Finally, I'd like to welcome the folks who came here from Jesse's hometown of Liberty, including Jesse's wife, Ashley; his daughter, Hannah; his mother, Gayle; Jesse's brother, Chris, and Chris's wife, Dorothy; Jesse's mother-in-law, Mrs. Hope Metz; and Liberty VFW Post Commander and former State VFW Commander Claude Wyatt. Welcome to VFW Post 1170.

The original Purple Heart, also known as the Badge of Military Merit, was established by George Washington himself, and as such, the Purple Heart is the oldest existing military award that is still given to servicemembers.

I think the commander of the Continental Army and our first president can speak better than I to the courage and bravery which this award represents. In July of 1776, at the outbreak of the War for Independence, General Washington wrote in his own hand the weight of the task that had befallen him and his army. He said:

''The fate of unborn millions will now depend, under God, on the courage and conduct of this Army . . . we have therefore to resolve to conquer or die. . . . Let us therefore rely upon the goodness of the cause, and the aid of the Supreme Being, in whose hands victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions. The eyes of all our countrymen are now upon us.''

That same patriotism—that same Spirit of '76—which was embodied by the leader of the Revolutionary Army lives on today in those in uniform such as Jesse. Perhaps that is inevitable in Jesse's case, given that he hails from a place called Liberty, a town founded by Revolutionary War veterans in 1806.

Although warfare has changed dramatically since the Revolutionary Era, the valor of our warfighters, such as Jesse, remains the same. That valor would have been instantly recognizable to George Washington.

It is the same valor that propelled Americans to victory against the mighty British Empire. The same valor that propelled Americans to die for other men's freedoms in the Civil War. The same valor we remember in the Greatest Generation, men and women who sacrificed halfway around the globe to save democracy. The same valor displayed in Cold War conflicts in Korea and Vietnam.

Sergeant Wethington's service is simply the latest chapter in a long and unbroken line of heroism and sacrifice, a line that is as old as our country.

The story of Jesse Wethington, the soldier from Liberty, is like that of those who served in the Revolutionary War—it is the story of a volunteer. Jesse could have chosen any number of paths, paths that would not have involved protecting ''the fate of unborn millions,'' paths that would not have placed him in imminent danger.

Instead, Jesse volunteered to serve in the Kentucky Army National Guard. He volunteered to go on the road in a Humvee that would be targeted by the enemy in Iraq. He volunteered to sit in the gunner's turret. And even after his injury in combat, Jesse volunteered again to sit right back in that gunner's turret through the end of his tour of duty.

Jesse was mobilized with Battery B, First Battalion, 623rd Field Artillery of the Kentucky Army National Guard in late 2004, and he deployed to Iraq in January 2005. He served as a communications specialist and worked in the tactical operations center at the forward operating base.

In his communications role, Jesse had a view of his entire unit's activities. He saw the gun trucks and Humvees that deployed every day, and how often they were targeted by the enemy's IEDs. He saw good men, friends of his, injured. He saw the deaths of three soldiers in his unit, Kentuckians all.

Knowing these things, knowing all the risks involved, Jesse still volunteered. And when a spot opened up in a gun truck, Jesse stepped forward and said, ''Send me.'' Jesse volunteered yet again to serve as a gunner. He encountered several IEDs on the road, but always came away uninjured. Until the fateful day of September 30, 2005.

On that day, Jesse's Humvee was moving slowly through congested traffic as part of a convoy. It stopped, and Jesse stood up in the gunner's hatch to direct traffic. Suddenly, an IED struck the right side of the truck with devastating force. The impact from the blast was so great it sent shrapnel hurdling through the back window, just missing Jesse's right leg and embedding itself into a storage bin within the Humvee.

Jesse suffered injury to his throat and the back of his head. After the explosion, he could not hear, and his vision and thoughts were blurred. Yet, amazingly, he continued his mission. Upon returning to the base, Jesse received medical care, and after a few days of light duty returned to the gunner's turret. He finished out his tour of duty through the end of the year and returned from Iraq in January 2006.

Unfortunately, Jesse's departure from the battlefield didn't end his struggles. He suffered traumatic brain injury, hearing loss, and post-traumatic stress disorder, and he is continually confronted by the effects of his injuries.

Through all these difficulties, I know Jesse's greatest source of strength and support is his family, especially, Ashley and Hannah.

Coincidentally, the very same day Jesse found out he would be receiving this Purple Heart, he and Ashley also discovered they would be having a baby boy. It is entirely fitting that news of both events arrived on the same day, given Jesse's valor in defending the ''fate of unborn millions.''

Before the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal, I want to note that there is another hero in this story. It's Jesse's friend and fellow soldier, retired Staff Sergeant Glen Phillips, who we heard from earlier this morning.

It was Staff Sergeant Phillips who gathered the facts in order for Jesse to receive his Purple Heart today. Glen, who is also from Liberty, has helped look out for Jesse and many other veterans over the years.

When Jesse told Glen he didn't think anyone would care that he had yet to receive his Purple Heart, this is what Glen had to say: ''Jesse, I care, the VA cares, the U.S. Army cares, and people you don't even know care across this great land.''

I couldn't agree more. I think the witnesses here today for this solemn occasion are proof positive that Kentucky does indeed care and cares deeply about you, Jesse, and your bravery in uniform. And we are grateful for all you have done and continue to do to make us proud.

And I believe that many people who are not present today—including, one day, your son—will see how you served in Iraq with dignity and honor, will see that you continue to carry yourself with dignity and honor here at home, and will see the Purple Heart proclamation of your heroism. And they too will be moved by your service and your sacrifice.

The presentation of this Purple Heart Medal is just a small recognition of the wealth of respect you deserve for your service to our country. Your service in protecting all of us. And your service to the values that make America the greatest nation on earth—values expressed by General Washington and the men who founded a place called Liberty more than two centuries ago.

Now, the solemn moment we're gathered here today for has arrived. Sergeant Jesse T. Wethington, Ashley, and Hannah—please join me for the reading of the proclamation and the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal.

TEXT OF PURPLE HEART MEDAL PROCLAMATION

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:
This is to Certify That the President of the United States of America Has Awarded the PURPLE HEART
Established by General George Washington
At Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782 to:
Specialist Jesse T. Wethington
United States Army
For Wounds Received in Action
On 30 September 2005 in Iraq
Given Under my Hand in the City of Washington

This 5th Day of March 2014

David K. MacEwen
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Permanent Order 064–08, 5 March 2014
United States Army Human Resources Command
Fort Knox, Kentucky 40122–5408

John M. McHugh
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

SCHOOL FOOD MODERNIZATION ACT

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, our kids spend at least 7 hours a day at school working, learning, growing, and trying to build themselves into the people they want to grow up to become. It is our job to help them. That means giving them the education they deserve. It means giving them the support they need to keep working hard. And it means making sure they get healthy meals to keep them strong and to give them the fuel they need to focus in class.

That is why Senator SUSAN COLLINS from Maine and I introduced the School Food Modernization Act, which would help schools provide healthier meals to students in North Dakota and throughout the country. This bill would continue ongoing efforts to provide healthy meals for our children during the school day and make sure schools have the resources they need to get the most nutritious food to students.

Providing healthy meals is particularly important as childhood obesity rates in the U.S. have tripled over the last three decades. More than 23 million adolescents and children in our country—nearly 1 in 3 young people nationwide—are obese or overweight. According to the American Heart Association, it is the No. 1 healthy concern among parents—more than drug abuse and smoking. Even in my State of North Dakota, which is consistently ranked as one of the healthiest States in the country, more than 1 in 8 adolescents are overweight or obese.

Improving the nutritional quality of school meals can help fight the obesity epidemic, putting children on strong footing to prevent long-term health concerns related to obesity, such as diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. In 2010, Congress passed the Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act to improve the school nutrition standards. It made important improvements to nutrition standards in school meals, but was not perfect. Most importantly, it mandated school lunch requirements without offering real support to reach those standards.

Senator COLLINS and I are working to improve these standards in order to provide greater flexibility to school meal planners to make sure they can provide students with the nutrition they need in workable fashion. We are also offering grant assistance to help schools get resources to comply with standards.

Another way we can help provide more nutritious meals to students is by providing our schools with the necessary tools to prepare meals and store fresh produce. While nutritional standards for meals served in our schools have increased considerably, support for schools to implement these important changes has lagged behind.

Many school kitchens were built decades ago and designed with little capacity beyond reheating and holding food for dining service. In fact, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts, 74 percent of school districts in North Dakota need at least one piece of kitchen equipment to better serve healthy meals. We can do better than that.

The legislation we introduced would give schools greater access to the equipment they need to prepare healthy meals, reduce waste, and make resources stretch further.

Specifically, our legislation would provide targeted grant assistance to school administrators and food service directors to upgrade kitchen infrastructure or purchase high-quality, durable kitchen equipment such as commercial ovens, steamers, and stoves. Additionally, our legislation would establish a loan assistance program within USDA to help schools acquire new equipment to prepare and serve healthier, more nutritious meals to students. School administrators and other eligible borrowers would be able to obtain Federal guarantees for 90 percent of the loan value needed to construct, remodel, or expand their kitchens, dining, or food storage infrastructure. Finally, our legislation would strengthen training and provide technical assistance to aid school food service personnel in meeting the updated nutrition guidelines. Not every school food service employee is equipped with the expertise to comply with healthier meal and food preparation standards. Our bill authorizes USDA to provide support on a competitive basis to highly qualified third-party trainers to develop and administer training and technical assistance.

USDA has a long history of providing support for schools to upgrade meal preparation equipment; however, this support has been sporadic and unreliable for long-term planning. And in recent years, the demand for support has been great with requests for assistance far outpacing availability.

As the Senate agriculture committee begins to consider reauthorization of the school nutrition program, I look forward to working with my colleagues on improving school meal offerings and providing schools with the tools needed to give our children the nutritional fuel necessary to learn and grow.

As the daughter of a school cook, I understand the work that goes into preparing many healthy meals each day for kids, and this bill would help make limited resources stretch as far as possible to provide support to communities that need it in North Dakota and throughout the U.S. That just makes sense for our students, parents, teachers, and school cooks.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, growing up, my mother was a single parent. She raised three children by herself. I know what it is like to run out of money at the end of the month, what it is like when every dime matters.

The minimum wage is a poverty wage. Today, the minimum wage hasn't kept up with inflation. If the minimum wage had kept up with inflation in 1968, the minimum wage today would be $10.68. If you do the math, minimum wage workers today earn less than $15,000 per year. If you are supporting a child or an elderly parent, that is a family income below the Federal poverty line. Raising the minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.10 would help lift nearly a million workers and their families out of poverty. In Hawaii, nearly 100,000 women would get a raise.

This is especially important for women. More and more women serve as heads of households. And nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers are women. Nearly two-thirds of workers in tipped occupations are women.

The situation is even more dire in Hawaii, where the cost of living is higher. In Hawaii, one out of five Hawaii women workers would get a raise if we raised the minimum wage from $7.25 to $10.10. A person working full time making $7.25 per hour makes $14,500 per year. The average rent in Hawaii for a one-bedroom is $1,278. That is more than $15,000 per year. That is why many in Hawaii have to work more than one job.

And there are stories all across the country of women struggling. Hawaii Catholic Charities recently shared their story with me of a woman in Hawaii working for minimum wage who was unable to afford basic living expenses for herself and her son. She had to move back in with her parents. Over the course of a few years she was able to change jobs to a department store, where she eventually earned $10 per hour. At that wage she was able to contribute to her family's household expenses and start a savings account for her son. We all hear stories like this often. It's why we must raise the minimum wage—so that hard working families have a chance at building a better life for themselves and their children.

Some critics claim the minimum wage will cost jobs. The CBO report looked at old studies and not the latest research. Just last week, a Goldman Sachs report said the CBO estimate of 0.3 percent job loss is too high because raising the minimum wage would actually increase demand. Minimum-wage workers spend that money right away, at local businesses in their communities. A survey of small business owners found that three out of five supported raising the minimum wage. They said a higher minimum wage would increase consumer spending on their goods and services. The Goldman Sachs report said that States which raised their minimum wage in 2014 actually created more jobs than other states.

In Hawaii, a large part of our economy is hospitality and tourism. Many workers earn the tipped minimum wage, which is lower than the regular wage. I have met restaurant workers who can't afford to eat at the restaurant where they work. I heard one mother say she had to choose between buying diapers for her kids or eating lunch that day. Women should not have to make that choice. Back in 2007, the last time Congress raised the minimum wage, the restaurant industry said it would cost their industry jobs. But in 2013, the restaurant industry forecast said, ''Restaurants remain among the leaders in job creation.'' The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that between 2007 and 2013, restaurants added 724,000 jobs.

Raising the minimum wage also saves taxpayer money on social services. When companies pay a low minimum wage, workers in poverty can't afford to eat. Taxpayers are picking up the tab—we're subsidizing low-wage companies. If we raise the wage to $10.10, we reduce taxpayer costs for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, by $4.6 billion a year. In Hawaii, over 15,000 workers would no longer need SNAP beneifts.

In America, we believe that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can get ahead. Let's increase the minimum wage, to give all Americans a fair shot.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING NICHOLAS J. HALIAS

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the exceptional public service of Nicholas J. ''Nick'' Halias who passed away on March 3, 2014. Nick most recently served as the chief of police of the University of New Hampshire Police Department and previously served as a major in the New Hampshire State Police. His law enforcement career extended for more than 42 years of dedicated service to our State and nation.

Nick began his law enforcement career with the New Hampshire State Police in 1969. Through hard work, dedication, and an innate leadership ability, Nick advanced through the ranks of the New Hampshire State Police culminating in his promotion to major. Major Halias was a graduate of the FBI National Academy, earned a master's degree from Fitchburg State University, and graduated from the New England Institute of Law Enforcement Management at Babson College.

Following his retirement from the New Hampshire State Police, Nick continued his law enforcement career serving as the chief of police for the University of New Hampshire Police Department from 2000 to 2012. Nick led that agency to accreditation by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation and became an accreditation mentor and assessor for police organizations across the United States.

It was my privilege during my service as New Hampshire's attorney general to work directly with Nick on many law enforcement initiatives. Nick earned the respect and admiration of his peers in law enforcement. He was also highly regarded by members of other disciplines including advocates for reducing domestic and sexual violence, victim witness advocates, and many others across New Hampshire. Nick was a thoughtful and effective participant in efforts to improve the criminal justice system and public safety in New Hampshire. He also was a down-to-earth, kind man who regularly volunteered at annual multidisciplinary conferences conducted by the attorney general's office. He participated as an instructor, but also consistently helped set up and tear down. Nick was fun to work with. I will miss his wise counsel and his friendship.

As the New Hampshire law enforcement community gathers on April 10, 2014 to honor Nicholas J. Halias' extraordinary life of public service, I join all in commending Nick's exceptional contribution to law enforcement and public safety in New Hampshire. New Hampshire is safer and our quality of life is better because of the work done by Nicholas J. Halias. I extend heartfelt condolences to Nick's wife Linda and to his family.•

RECOGNIZING DR. ROBERT SPENCE

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I wish to honor Dr. Robert H. Spence, who is retiring as president of Evangel University after 40 years of dedicated service in that role—making him the longest tenured college president in the State of Missouri and one of the longest tenured college presidents in the United States.

Under his vision and leadership over the last 40 years, Evangel has been transformed from what was once a World War II-era Army hospital campus—complete with metal huts—into a modern institution with a dozen new facilities. Today, Evangel boasts an impressive campus with two residence halls, a 2,200 seat chapel, a state-of-the-art fitness center, dining hall, student union, fine arts center, two major classroom buildings and a 66,000-square-foot administration building. The expansion of facilities reflects the fact that Evangel's enrollment has doubled, and the school has added nine masters programs. With Dr. Spence at the helm, Evangel University has flourished.

Evangel is located in my hometown of Springfield, MO, so I have personally witnessed the growth and development of the university and can attest to Dr. Spence's dynamic leadership and commitment. He is active in the community, serving on numerous boards and institutions, dedicating his time and energy to Springfield's citizens on- and off-campus. In recognition of his community work, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, where Dr. Spence once served as chairman of the board, honored him for a ''Career of Character,'' naming him Springfieldian of the Year in 2004. In 2012 he received the Springfield Business Journal's Lifetime Achievement in Business Award. These recognitions are well deserved.

I join many other community leaders in Springfield in thanking Dr. Spence for his lifetime of work as an inspirational minister, messenger, and educator. As a former university president, I applaud him for his commitment to Evangel University over the last four decades. I have always relied on Dr. Spence's sound counsel and judgment and wish him and his wife Ann a long and enjoyable retirement. They have certainly earned this time to relax.•

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JOHN ALAN FISHER

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to honor CW5 John Alan Fisher as he retires from a 30-year career with the Missouri Army National Guard. Chief Fisher has had an extraordinary career with the Guard and has made incredible contributions little-known outside his field. I am glad to be able to recognize him for his accomplishments today.

Chief Fisher began his career as a young Marine, earning the Vietnam Service Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal over the course of his 8 years of service. In 1980, after fulfilling his commitment to the Marines, Chief Fisher enlisted in the Army National Guard. In the three decades since, he and his team of professionals have helped supply and maintain mission-ready aircraft without a single aircraft accident or incident reported.

Chief Fisher's career has been in aviation maintenance, leading efforts to identify problems with the helicopter fleet that is serviced in my hometown of Springfield, MO. Early in his career, Chief Fisher recognized problems with wiring that compromised the Guard's ability to maintain combat-readiness in its helicopter fleet. While others thought the modules for the fleet were wearing out, it was Chief Fisher who recognized that the problem was in fact a failure of the wiring. Since that time, he and his team have developed the first protocol to rewire literally miles of wiring in helicopters. His efforts ensure the reliability of the fleet for 14 States.

Under Chief Fisher's leadership, these programs have grown into a world-class operation at the Missouri Theater Aviation Sustainment Maintenance Group, MO-TASMG, in Springfield. Today, Springfield remains the only National Guard site in the Nation that specializes in rewiring air frames for America's military helicopters. Officer Fisher has been an incredible asset to this mission, as has the team

of highly-skilled professionals he helped train. The crew at MO-TASMG are able to build and repair some of the most complex parts of virtually any aircraft in the Army inventory. Many of these components have been integral to the success of missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In fact, in 2004 you could open nearly any avionics compartment in an aircraft in theater to find a repaired component label identifying Chief Fisher's team as the source of its repair.

With multiple deployments to both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, these accomplishments only scratch the surface of Chief Fisher's many contributions throughout his nearly four decades of service. I am also pleased to note that Chief Fisher's legacy extends beyond his own service, as his son Shane Fisher also serves in the Missouri National Guard. I am thankful to both of them for their service. Congratulations again to Chief Fisher on his well-deserved retirement. He has certainly earned this time to relax with his family.●

PROJECT HOME

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Project HOME on the occasion of their 25th anniversary. Founded in Philadelphia, PA, Project HOME is a national leader in combating homelessness and providing life-saving services to countless individuals. Project HOME has a mission that not only includes providing shelter to those in need, but also helping to break the cycle of chronic homelessness by examining the root causes.

Project HOME was co-founded in 1989 by Sister Mary Scullion and Joan Dawson McConnon. Their first shelter, the Mother Katherine Drexel Residence for chronically homeless men, was established shortly thereafter. Then, in the summer of 1990, Project HOME opened its first transitional house, the Diamond Street Residence, which provided a safe environment for up to 12 men.

Over the last 25 years Project HOME has grown dramatically, providing the care and support that is necessary to combat Philadelphia's battle with homelessness. The strong leadership of Sister Mary Scullion and Joan Dawson McConnon has allowed Project HOME to expand from a single winter shelter into an organization with 535 units of affordable housing.

The vision of Project HOME is simple: none of us are home until all of us are home. Sister Mary and Joan, along with their dedicated staff, strive to make this vision a reality every day. Project HOME has empowered countless individuals in Philadelphia to realize their full potential. Their commitment to promoting compassion and a community spirit has benefited the City of Philadelphia and served as a model within the Commonwealth and across the country. It is a privilege and an honor to recognize Project HOME for its tremendous work as they celebrate 25 years of activism and advocacy.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL GREGORY A. SCHEIDHAUER

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I express deep gratitude to COL Gregory A. Scheidhauer for his past 2 years of exemplary dedication to duty and service as a congressional budget liaison for the Secretary of the Army. Greg was recently selected to serve the Army and Congress as the chief of Army Reserve Legislative Affairs. We wish him well in his new position.

A native of Bowie, MD, Colonel Scheidhauer earned a bachelor of science degree at West Virginia University and was commissioned a quartermaster officer in the Army in 1990. He has earned advanced degrees in public administration, public health education, and strategic studies.

Greg has served in a broad range of duty stations and assignments during his 23 years of service. As a lieutenant, he served as a transportation platoon leader and battalion logistics officer. As a captain, he served as a supply and services officer in Tennessee and as a training officer in Fort Buchanan, PR. Prior to his current assignment, Greg was the director J4, Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command, Iraq.

In 2009, following his assignment with the First Army Division East, Colonel Scheidhauer was selected as a military fellow in then-Representative JOE DONNELLY's personal office, serving the people of Indiana's Second Congressional District.

After this, he served as a legislative liaison in the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve, and then as a congressional budget liaison officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller. In this capacity, Greg was tasked with managing the Army's research, development, test and evaluation portfolio as well as its aviation portfolio. As a budget liaison officer, he worked directly with the Senate and House Appropriations Committees to educate and inform Senators, Representatives, and staff on critical Army issues.

Throughout his 23-year career, COL Gregory Scheidhauer has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors, and I am grateful that he has chosen to continue to serve as an Army leader. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the U.S. Congress as an Army congressional budget liaison.

Greg is accustomed to working long hours in his congressional relations work. So let me also acknowledge Greg's wife Andrea, and their children Alexis, Brennan, and Christopher, thank them for their sacrifices and wish them all the best for continued success in the future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13536 ON APRIL 12, 2010 WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA—PM 39

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2014.

On January 17, 2013, the United States Government announced its recognition of the Government of Somalia. The United States had not recognized a government in Somalia for the previous 22 years. Although the U.S. recognition underscores a strong commitment to Somalia's stabilization, it does not remove the importance of U.S. sanctions, especially against persons undermining the stability of Somalia. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Somalia and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 7, 2014*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1874. An act to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of legislation.

H.R. 2575. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1874. An act to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to provide for macroeconomic analysis of the impact of legislation; to the Committee on the Budget.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 2575. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours.

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–5228. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 52nd Annual Report of the activities of the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5229. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan'' (RIN0648–BD82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5230. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Precision Strike Weapon and Air-to-Surface Gunnery Training and Testing Operations at Eglin Air Force Base, FL'' (RIN0648–BC46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5231. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer'' (RIN0648–XD156) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5232. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD190) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5233. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Butterfish Trip Limit Reduction'' (RIN0648–XD167) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5234. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD166) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5235. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Jig or Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bogoslof Pacific Cod Exemption Area in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD175) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5236. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD184) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5237. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD181) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5238. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XD189) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5239. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; General Category Fishery'' (RIN0648–XD201) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5240. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Gross Combination Weight Rating; Definition'' (RIN2126–AB70; Formerly RIN2126–AB53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5241. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazardous Materials: Adoption of Certain Special Permits and Competent Authorities into Regulations'' (RIN2137–AE82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. RUBIO:

S. 2214. A bill to prevent a taxpayer bailout of health insurance issuers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2215. A bill to protect taxpayers from improper audits by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2216. A bill to provide small businesses with a grace period for a regulatory violation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WALSH):

S. 2217. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the participation of mental health professionals in boards for the correction of military records and boards for the review of the discharge or dismissal of members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 412. A resolution reaffirming the strong support of the United States Government for freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region, and for the peaceful diplomatic resolution of outstanding territorial and maritime claims and disputes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. Res. 413. A resolution recognizing 20 years since the genocide in Rwanda, and affirming it is in the national interest of the United States to work in close coordination with international partners to help prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and mass atrocities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 414. A resolution designating April 2014 as ''National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. Res. 415. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 416. A resolution authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Chamber of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of New Columbia into the Union.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, a bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education.

S. 429

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 429, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1764

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1764, a bill to limit the retirement of A–10 aircraft.

S. 1793

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1793, a bill to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors 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. 1923

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1923, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies.

S. 2043

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2043, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from asking taxpayers questions regarding religious, political, or social beliefs.

S. 2044

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2044, a bill to improve transparency and efficiency with respect to audits and communications between taxpayers and the Internal Revenue Service.

S. 2053

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2053, a bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action on the Capitol Grounds.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2113

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2113, a bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2125, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 2133

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2133, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other statutes to clarify appropriate liability standards for Federal anti-discrimination claims.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2146

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2146, a bill to establish a United States Patent and Trademark Office Innovation Promotion Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2156

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2156, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to

confirm the scope of the authority of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to deny or restrict the use of defined areas as disposal sites.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2178, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 2190

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2190, a bill 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.

S. 2195

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2195, a bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

S. 2199

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 2209

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2209, a bill to require a report on accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria.

S. 2212

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2212, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 2213

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2213, a bill to replace the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with a five-person Commission.

S. CON. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 33, a concurrent resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

S. RES. 369

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 369, a resolution to designate May 22, 2014 as ''United States Foreign Service Day'' in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and to honor those in the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty.

S. RES. 402

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 402, a resolution expressing the regret of the Senate for the passage of section 3 of the Expatriation Act of 1907 (34 Stat. 1228) that revoked the United States citizenship of women who married foreign nationals.

S. RES. 410

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 410, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

S. RES. 411

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 411, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Moldova.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2215. A bill to protect taxpayers from improper audits by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2215

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Eliminating Improper and Abusive IRS Audits Act of 2014''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Civil damages allowed for reckless or intentional disregard of internal revenue laws.
Sec. 3. Modifications relating to certain offenses by officers and employees in connection with revenue laws.
Sec. 4. Modifications relating to civil damages for unauthorized inspection or disclosure of returns and return information.
Sec. 5. Extension of time for contesting IRS levy.
Sec. 6. Increase in monetary penalties for certain unauthorized disclosures of information.
Sec. 7. Ban on raising new issues on appeal.
Sec. 8. Limitation on enforcement of liens against principal residences.
Sec. 9. Additional provisions relating to mandatory termination for misconduct.
Sec. 10. Extension of declaratory judgment procedures to social welfare organizations.
Sec. 11. Review by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

SEC. 2. CIVIL DAMAGES ALLOWED FOR RECKLESS OR INTENTIONAL DISREGARD OF INTERNAL REVENUE LAWS.

(a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF DAMAGES.—Section 7433(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''$1,000,000 ($100,000, in the case of negligence)'' and inserting ''$3,000,000 ($300,000, in the case of negligence)''.

(b) EXTENSION OF TIME TO BRING ACTION.—Section 7433(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''2 years'' and inserting ''5 years''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to actions of employees of the Internal Revenue Service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN OFFENSES BY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN CONNECTION WITH REVENUE LAWS.

(a) INCREASE IN PENALTY.—Section 7214 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking ''$10,000'' in subsection (a) and inserting ''$25,000'', and

(2) by striking ''$5,000'' in subsection (b) and inserting ''$10,000''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. MODIFICATIONS RELATING TO CIVIL DAMAGES FOR UNAUTHORIZED INSPECTION OR DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION.

(a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF DAMAGES.—Subparagraph (A) of section 7431(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''$1,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to inspections and disclosure occurring on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CONTESTING IRS LEVY.

(a) EXTENSION OF TIME FOR RETURN OF PROPERTY SUBJECT TO LEVY.—Subsection (b) of section 6343 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''9 months'' and inserting ''3 years''.

(b) PERIOD OF LIMITATION ON SUITS.—Subsection (c) of section 6532 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking ''9 months'' and inserting ''3 years'', and

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking ''9-month'' and inserting ''3-year''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to—

(1) levies made after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) levies made on or before such date if the 9-month period has not expired under section 6343(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (without regard to this section) as of such date.

SEC. 6. INCREASE IN MONETARY PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of section 7213(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are each amended by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. BAN ON RAISING NEW ISSUES ON APPEAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 77 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 7529. PROHIBITION ON INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RAISING NEW ISSUES IN AN INTERNAL APPEAL.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In reviewing an appeal of any determination initially made by the Internal Revenue Service, the Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals may not consider or decide any issue that is not within the scope of the initial determination.

''(b) CERTAIN ISSUES DEEMED OUTSIDE OF SCOPE OF DETERMINATION.—For purposes of subsection (a), the following matters shall be considered to be not within the scope of a determination:

''(1) Any issue that was not raised in a notice of deficiency or an examiner's report which is the subject of the appeal.

''(2) Any deficiency in tax which was not included in the initial determination.

''(3) Any theory or justification for a tax deficiency which was not considered in the initial determination.

''(c) NO INFERENCE WITH RESPECT TO ISSUES RAISED BY TAXPAYERS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide any limitation in addition to any limitations in effect on the date of the enactment of this section on the right of a taxpayer to raise an issue, theory, or justification on an appeal from a determination initially made by the Internal Revenue Service that was not within the scope of the initial determination.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 77 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 7529. Prohibition on Internal Revenue Service raising new issues in an internal appeal.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to matters filed or pending with the Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. LIMITATION ON ENFORCEMENT OF LIENS AGAINST PRINCIPAL RESIDENCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7403(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking ''In any case'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In any case'', and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) LIMITATION WITH RESPECT TO PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any property used as the principal residence of the taxpayer (within the meaning of section 121) unless the Secretary of the Treasury makes a written determination that—

''(i) all other property of the taxpayer, if sold, is insufficient to pay the tax or discharge the liability, and

''(ii) such action will not create an economic hardship for the taxpayer.

''(B) DELEGATION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary of the Treasury may not delegate any responsibilities under subparagraph (A) to any person other than—

''(i) the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, or

''(ii) a district director or assistant district director of the Internal Revenue Service.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to actions filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO MANDATORY TERMINATION FOR MISCONDUCT.

(a) TERMINATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR INAPPROPRIATE REVIEW OF TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.—Section 1203(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C. 7804 note) is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (10) and inserting ''; and'', and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(11) in the case of any review of an application for tax-exempt status by an organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, developing or using any methodology that applies disproportionate scrutiny to any applicant based on the ideology expressed in the name or purpose of the organization.''.

(b) MANDATORY UNPAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE FOR MISCONDUCT.—Paragraph (1) of Section 1203(c) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C. 7804 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if the Commissioner of Internal Revenue takes a personnel action other than termination for an act or omission described in subsection (b), the Commissioner shall place the employee on unpaid administrative leave for a period of not less than 30 days.''.

(c) LIMITATION ON ALTERNATIVE PUNISHMENT.—Paragraph (1) of section 1203(c) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (26 U.S.C. 7804 note) is amended by striking ''The Commissioner'' and inserting ''Except in the case of an act or omission described in subsection (b)(3)(A), the Commissioner''.

SEC. 10. EXTENSION OF DECLARATORY JUDGMENT PROCEDURES TO SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7428(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (C) and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) with respect to the initial classification or continuing classification of an organization described in section 501(c)(4) which is exempt from tax under section 501(a), or''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to pleading filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. REVIEW BY THE TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REVIEW.—Subsection (k)(1) of section 8D of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

''(D) shall—

''(i) review any criteria employed by the Internal Revenue Service to select tax returns (including applications for recognition of tax-exempt status) for examination or audit, assessment or collection of deficiencies, criminal investigation or referral, refunds for amounts paid, or any heightened scrutiny or review in order to determine whether the criteria discriminates against taxpayers on the basis of race, religion, or political ideology; and

''(ii) consult with the Internal Revenue Service on recommended amendments to such criteria in order to eliminate any discrimination identified pursuant to the review described in clause (i); and''; and

(4) in subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking ''and (C)'' and inserting ''(C), and (D)''.

(b) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) Any semiannual report made by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration that is required pursuant to section 5(a) shall include—

''(A) a statement affirming that the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration has reviewed the criteria described in subsection (k)(1)(D) and consulted with the Internal Revenue Service regarding such criteria; and

''(B) a description and explanation of any such criteria that was identified as discriminatory by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 412—REAFFIRMING THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND OTHER INTERNATIONALLY LAWFUL USES OF SEA AND AIRSPACE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION, AND FOR THE PEACEFUL DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING TERRITORIAL AND MARITIME CLAIMS AND DISPUTES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MCCAIN, and

Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 412

Whereas Asia-Pacific's maritime domains, which include both the sea and airspace above the domains, are critical to the region's prosperity, stability, and security, including global commerce;

Whereas the United States is a longstanding Asia-Pacific power and has a national interest in maintaining freedom of operations in international waters and airspace both in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world;

Whereas, for over 60 years, the United States Government, alongside United States allies and partners, has played an instrumental role in maintaining stability in the Asia-Pacific, including safeguarding the prosperity and economic growth and development of the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States, from the earliest days of the Republic, has had a deep and abiding national security interest in freedom of navigation, freedom of the seas, respect for international law, and unimpeded lawful commerce, including in the East China and South China Seas;

Whereas the United States alliance relationships in the region, including with Japan, Korea, Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand, are at the heart of United States policy and engagement in the Asia-Pacific region, and share a common approach to supporting the maintenance of peace and stability, freedom of navigation, and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas territorial and maritime claims must be derived from land features and otherwise comport with international law;

Whereas the United States Government has a clear interest in encouraging and supporting the nations of the region to work collaboratively and diplomatically to resolve disputes and is firmly opposed to coercion, intimidation, threats, or the use of force;

Whereas the South China Sea contains great natural resources, and their stewardship and responsible use offers immense potential benefit for generations to come;

Whereas the United States is not a claimant party in either the East China or South China Seas, but does have an interest in the peaceful diplomatic resolution of disputed claims in accordance with international law, in freedom of operations, and in the free-flow of commerce free of coercion, intimidation, or the use of force;

Whereas the United States supports the obligation of all members of the United Nations to seek to resolve disputes by peaceful means;

Whereas freedom of navigation and other lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region are embodied in international law, not granted by certain states to others;

Whereas, on November 23, 2013, the People's Republic of China unilaterally and without prior consultations with the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea or other nations of the Asia-Pacific region, declared an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in the East China Sea, also announcing that all aircraft entering the PRC's self-declared ADIZ, even if they do not intend to enter Chinese territorial airspace, would have to submit flight plans, maintain radio contact, and follow directions from the Chinese Ministry of National Defense or face ''emergency defensive measures'';

Whereas the ''rules of engagement'' declared by China, including the ''emergency defensive measures'', are in violation of the concept of ''due regard for the safety of civil aviation'' under the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization's Chicago Convention and thereby are a departure from accepted practice;

Whereas the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization distinguishes between civilian aircraft and state aircraft and provides for the specific obligations of state parties, consistent with customary law, to ''refrain from resorting to the use of weapons against civil aircraft in flight and . . . in case of interception, the lives of persons on board and the safety of aircraft must not be endangered'';

Whereas international civil aviation is regulated by international agreements, including standards and regulations set by ICAO for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection;

Whereas, in accordance with the norm of airborne innocent passage, the United States does not recognize the right of a coastal nation to apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter national airspace nor does the United States apply its ADIZ procedures to foreign state aircraft not intending to enter United States airspace;

Whereas the United States Government expressed profound concerns with China's unilateral, provocative, dangerous, and destabilizing declaration of such a zone, including the potential for misunderstandings and miscalculations by aircraft operating lawfully in international airspace;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's declaration of an ADIZ in the East China Sea will not alter how the United States Government conducts operations in the region or the unwavering United States commitment to peace, security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Government of Japan expressed deep concern about the People's Republic of China's declaration of such a zone, regarding it as an effort to unduly infringe upon the freedom of flight in international airspace and to change the status quo that could escalate tensions and potentially cause unintentional consequences in the East China Sea;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Korea has expressed concern over China's declared ADIZ, and on December 9, 2013, announced an adjustment to its longstanding Air Defense Identification Zone, which does not encompass territory administered by another country, and did so only after undertaking a deliberate process of consultations with the United States, Japan, and China;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has stressed that China's declared ADIZ seeks to transfer an entire air zone into Chinese domestic airspace, infringes on freedom of flight in international airspace, and compromises the safety of civil aviation and the national security of affected states, and has called on China to ensure that its actions do not jeopardize regional security and stability;

Whereas, on November 26, 2013, the Government of Australia made clear in a statement its opposition to any coercive or unilateral actions to change the status quo in the East China Sea;

Whereas, on March 10, 2014, the United States Government and the Government of Japan jointly submitted a letter to the ICAO Secretariat regarding the issue of freedom of overflight by civil aircraft in international airspace and the effective management of civil air traffic within allocated Flight Information Regions (FIR);

Whereas Indonesia Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa, in a hearing before the Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs on February 18, 2014, stated, ''We have firmly told China we will not accept a similar [Air Defense Identification] Zone if it is adopted in the South China Sea. And the signal we have received thus far is, China does not plan to adopt a similar Zone in the South China Sea.'';

Whereas over half the world's merchant tonnage flows through the South China Sea, and over 15,000,000 barrels of oil per day transit the Strait of Malacca, fueling economic growth and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the increasing frequency and assertiveness of patrols and competing regulations over disputed territory and maritime areas and airspace in the South China Sea and the East China Sea are raising tensions and increasing the risk of confrontation;

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has promoted multilateral talks on disputed areas without settling the issue of sovereignty, and in 2002 joined with China in signing a Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that committed all parties to those territorial disputes to ''reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law'' and to ''resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force'';

Whereas ASEAN and China committed in 2002 to develop an effective Code of Conduct when they adopted the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, yet negotiations are irregular and little progress has been made;

Whereas, in recent years, there have been numerous dangerous and destabilizing incidents in waters near the coasts of the Philippines, China, Malaysia, and Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about unilateral actions by any claimant seeking to change the status quo through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force, including the continued restrictions on access to Scarborough Reef and pressure on long-standing Philippine presence at the Second Thomas Shoal by the People's Republic of China; actions by any state to prevent any other state from exercising its sovereign rights to the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by making claims to those areas that have no support in international law; declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South China Sea; and the imposition of new fishing regulations covering disputed areas, which have raised tensions in the region;

Whereas international law is important to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all states in the Asia-Pacific region, and the lack of clarity in accordance with international law by claimants with regard to their South China Sea claims can create uncertainty, insecurity, and instability;

Whereas the United States Government opposes the use of intimidation, coercion, or force to assert a territorial claim in the South China Sea;

Whereas claims in the South China Sea must accord with international law, and those that are not derived from land features are fundamentally flawed;

Whereas ASEAN issued Six-Point Principles on the South China Sea on July 20, 2012, whereby ASEAN's Foreign Ministers reiterated and reaffirmed ''the commitment of ASEAN Member States to:. . . 1. the full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2002); . . . 2. the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (2011); . . . 3. the early conclusion of a Regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea; . . . 4. the full respect of the universally recognized

principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); . . . 5. the continued exercise of self-restraint and non-use of force by all parties; and . . . 6. the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with universally recognized principles of International Law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).''';

Whereas, in 2013, the Republic of the Philippines properly exercised its rights to peaceful settlement mechanisms with the filing of arbitration case under Article 287 and Annex VII of the Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to achieve a peaceful and durable solution to the dispute, and the United States hopes that all parties in any dispute ultimately abide by the rulings of internationally recognized dispute-settlement bodies;

Whereas China and Japan are the world's second and third largest economies, and have a shared interest in preserving stable maritime domains to continue to support economic growth;

Whereas there has been an unprecedented increase in dangerous activities by Chinese maritime agencies in areas near the Senkaku islands, including between 6 and 25 ships of the Government of China intruding into the Japanese territorial sea each month since September 2012, between 26 and 124 ships entering the ''contiguous zone'' in the same time period, and 9 ships intruding into the territorial sea and 33 ships entering in the contiguous zone in February 2014;

Whereas, although the United States Government does not take a position on the ultimate sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the United States Government acknowledges that they are under the administration of Japan and opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine such administration;

Whereas the United States Senate has previously affirmed that the unilateral actions of a third party will not affect the United States' acknowledgment of the administration of Japan over the Senkaku Islands;

Whereas the United States remains committed under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security to respond to any armed attack in the territories under the administration of Japan, has urged all parties to take steps to prevent incidents and manage disagreements through peaceful means, and commends the Government of Japan for its restrained approach in this regard;

Whereas both the United States and the People's Republic of China are parties to and are obligated to observe the rules of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, done at London October 12, 1972 (COLREGs);

Whereas on December 5, 2013, the USS Cowpens was lawfully operating in international waters in the South China Sea when a People's Liberation Army Navy vessel reportedly crossed its bow at a distance of less than 500 yards and stopped in the water, forcing the USS Cowpens to take evasive action to avoid a collision;

Whereas the reported actions taken by the People's Liberation Army Navy vessel in the USS Cowpens' incident, as publicly reported, appear contrary to the international legal obligations of the People's Republic of China under COLREGs;

Whereas, on January 19, 1998, the United States and People's Republic of China signed the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement, creating a mechanism for consultation and coordination on operational safety issues in the maritime domain between the United States and the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Western Pacific Naval Symposium, inaugurated in 1988 and comprising the navies of Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United States, and Vietnam, whose countries all border the Pacific Ocean region, provides a forum where leaders of regional navies can meet to discuss cooperative initiatives, discuss regional and global maritime issues, and undertake exercises to strengthen norms and practices that contribute to operational safety, including protocols for unexpected encounters at sea, common ways of communication, common ways of operating, and common ways of engagement;

Whereas, Japan and the People's Republic of China sought to negotiate a Maritime Communications Mechanism between the defense authorities and a Maritime Search and Rescue Agreement and agreed in principle to these agreements to address operational safety on the maritime domains but failed to sign them;

Whereas the Changi Command and Control Center in Singapore provides a platform for all the countries of the Western Pacific to share information on what kind of contact at sea and to provide a common operational picture for the region;

Whereas 2014 commemorates the 35th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China, and the United States welcomes the development of a peaceful and prosperous China that becomes a responsible international stakeholder, the government of which respects international norms, international laws, international institutions, and international rules; enhances security and peace; and seeks to advance relations between the United States and China; and

Whereas ASEAN plays an important role, in partnership with others in the regional and international community, in addressing maritime security issues in the Asia-Pacific region and the Indian Ocean, including open access to the maritime domain of Asia; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

The Senate—

(1) condemns coercive and threatening actions or the use of force to impede freedom of operations in international airspace by military or civilian aircraft, to alter the status quo or to destabilize the Asia-Pacific region;

(2) urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to refrain from implementing the declared East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), which is contrary to freedom of overflight in international airspace, and to refrain from taking similar provocative actions elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region; and

(3) commends the Governments of Japan and of the Republic of Korea for their restraint, and commends the Government of the Republic of Korea for engaging in a deliberate process of consultations with the United States, Japan and China prior to announcing its adjustment of its Air Defense Identification Zone on December 9, 2013, and for its commitment to implement this adjusted Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in a manner consistent with international practice and respect for the freedom of overflight and other internationally lawful uses of international airspace.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) reaffirm its unwavering commitment and support for allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region, including longstanding United States policy regarding Article V of the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty and that Article V of the United States-Japan Mutual Defense Treaty applies to the Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands;

(2) oppose claims that impinge on the rights, freedoms, and lawful use of the sea that belong to all nations;

(3) urge all parties to refrain from engaging in destabilizing activities, including illegal occupation or efforts to unlawfully assert administration over disputed claims;

(4) ensure that disputes are managed without intimidation, coercion, or force;

(5) call on all claimants to clarify or adjust claims in accordance with international law;

(6) support efforts by ASEAN and the People's Republic of China to develop an effective Code of Conduct, including the ''early harvest'' of agreed-upon elements in the Code of Conduct that can be implemented immediately;

(7) reaffirm that an existing body of international rules and guidelines, including the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, done at London October 12, 1972 (COLREGs), is sufficient to ensure the safety of navigation between the United States Armed Forces and the forces of other countries, including the People's Republic of China;

(8) support the development of regional institutions and bodies, including the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defense Minister's Meeting Plus, the East Asia Summit, and the expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum, to build practical cooperation in the region and reinforce the role of international law;

(9) encourage the adoption of mechanisms such as hotlines or emergency procedures for preventing incidents in sensitive areas, managing them if they occur, and preventing disputes from escalating;

(10) fully support the rights of claimants to exercise rights they may have to avail themselves of peaceful dispute settlement mechanisms;

(11) encourage claimants not to undertake new unilateral attempts to change the status quo since the signing of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct, including not asserting administrative measures or controls in disputed areas in the South China Sea;

(12) encourage the deepening of partnerships with other countries in the region for maritime domain awareness and capacity building, as well as efforts by the United States Government to explore the development of appropriate multilateral mechanisms for a ''common operating picture'' in the South China Sea that would serve to help countries avoid destabilizing behavior and deter risky and dangerous activities; and

(13) assure the continuity of operations by the United States in the Asia-Pacific region, including, when appropriate, in cooperation with partners and allies, to reaffirm the principle of freedom of operations in international waters and airspace in accordance with established principles and practices of international law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 413—RECOGNIZING 20 YEARS SINCE THE GENOCIDE IN RWANDA, AND AFFIRMING IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES TO WORK IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO HELP PREVENT AND MITIGATE ACTS OF GENOCIDE AND MASS ATROCITIES

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. FLAKE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES. 413

Whereas, in the aftermath of the Holocaust, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide declaring that genocide, whether committed in a time of peace or war, is a crime under international law;

Whereas the United States was the first country to sign the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the Senate voted to ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on February 11, 1986;

Whereas, for approximately 100 days between April 7, 1994, and July 1994, more than 800,000 civilians were killed in a genocide in Rwanda that targeted members of the Tutsi, moderate Hutu, and Twa populations, resulting in the horrific deaths of nearly 70 percent of the Tutsi population living in Rwanda;

Whereas the massacres of innocent Rwandan civilians were premeditated and systematic attempts to eliminate the Tutsi population by Hutu extremists, fueled by hatred and incitement propagated by newspapers and radio;

Whereas, in addition to systematic targeting of an ethnic minority in Rwanda resulting in the mass slaughter of innocent civilians, rape was also used as a weapon of war;

Whereas, despite the deployment of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) in October 1993 following the end of the Rwandan Civil War, its mandate was insufficient to ensure the protection of large swathes of the population, demonstrating the inability of the United Nations to effectively respond to the unfolding genocide and stop or mitigate its impact;

Whereas, on July 4, 1994, the Rwandan Patriotic Front, a trained military group consisting of formerly exiled Tutsis, began its takeover of the country, which resulted in an ending of the genocide, though not a complete end to the violence, including retribution;

Whereas, in October 1994, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established as the first international tribunal with the mandate to prosecute the crime of genocide and ultimately prosecuted 63 individuals for war crimes, including genocide and crimes against humanity as well as the first convictions for rape as a weapon of war;

Whereas the United States Government supports initiatives to ensure that victims of genocide and mass atrocities are not forgotten, and has committed to work with international partners to help prevent genocide and mass atrocities and identify and support a range of actions to protect civilian populations at risk;

Whereas, in July 2004, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 133 and the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution 467, declaring that ''the atrocities unfolding in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide'', and calling on the United States Government and the international community to take measures to address the situation immediately;

Whereas, in September 2004, the United States Government, in testimony by Secretary of State Colin Powell before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, declared the ongoing conflict in Darfur, Sudan a ''genocide'' perpetrated by the government based in Khartoum against its own people and affecting over 2,400,000 people in Sudan, including an estimated 200,000 fatalities;

Whereas, in September 2005, the United States joined other members of the United Nations in adopting United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/1, which affirmed that the international community has a responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapter VI (Military enforcement) and VIII (Regional Arrangements) of the United Nations Charter, to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity;

Whereas, in December 2011, the Senate unanimously passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, recognizing the United States' national interest in helping to prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and other mass atrocities against civilians, and urging the development of a whole of government approach to prevent and mitigate such acts;

Whereas, in April 2012, President Barack Obama established the Atrocities Prevention Board within the United States inter-agency structure, chaired by National Security staff, to help identify and more effectively address atrocity threats, including genocide, as a core national security interest and core moral responsibility;

Whereas, in July 2013, the National Intelligence Council completed the first ever National Intelligence Estimate on the global risk for mass atrocities and genocide;

Whereas, in January 2014, the National Director of Intelligence testified before the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, stating that ''the overall risk of mass atrocities worldwide will probably increase in 2014 and beyond . . . Much of the world will almost certainly turn to the United States for leadership to prevent and respond to mass atrocities.'';

Whereas, despite measures taken by the United States Government and other governments since 1994, the international community still faces the challenges of responding to escalation of violence, atrocities, and religious-based conflict in many corners of the globe, including Syria and the Central African Republic, and a failure of the international community to appropriately respond to and address the rapidly deteriorating situation could result in further atrocities;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council was unable to pass a resolution condemning the Government of Bashar al Assad of Syria for the use of chemical weapons against civilians, killing more than 1,400 of his own people in August 2013; and

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recommended to the United Nations Security Council the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic with the primary mandate to protect civilians: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the United Nations' designation of April 7th as the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda;

(2) honors the memory of the more than 800,000 victims of the Rwandan genocide and expresses sympathy for those whose lives were forever changed by this horrific event;

(3) expresses support for the people of Rwanda as they remember the victims of genocide;

(4) affirms it is in the national interest of the United States to work in close coordination with international partners to prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and mass atrocities;

(5) condemns ongoing acts of violence and mass atrocities perpetrated against innocent civilians in Syria, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Sudan and elsewhere;

(6) urges the President to confer with Congress on an ongoing basis regarding the priorities and objectives of the Atrocities Prevention Board;

(7) urges the President to work with Congress to strengthen the United States Government's ability to identify and more rapidly respond to genocide and mass atrocities in order to prevent where possible and mitigate the impact of such events; and

(8) supports ongoing United States and international efforts to—

(A) strengthen multilateral peacekeeping capacities;

(B) build capacity for democratic rule of law, security sector reform, and other measures to improve civilian protection in areas of conflict;

(C) ensure measures of accountability for perpetrators of mass atrocities and crimes against humanity; and

(D) strengthen the work of United States and international institutions, such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum, which are working to document, identify, and prevent mass atrocities and inspire citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred and prevent genocide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 414—DESIGNATING APRIL 2014 AS ''NATIONAL CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 414

Whereas congenital diaphragmatic hernia (referred to in this preamble as ''CDH'') occurs when the diaphragm fails to fully form, allowing abdominal organs to migrate into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes CDH as a birth defect;

Whereas the majority of CDH patients suffer from underdeveloped lungs or poor pulmonary function;

Whereas babies born with CDH endure extended hospital stays in intensive care with multiple surgeries;

Whereas CDH patients often endure long-term complications, such as pulmonary hypertension, pulmonary hypoplasia, asthma, gastrointestinal reflex, feeding disorders, and developmental delays;

Whereas CDH survivors sometimes endure long-term mechanical ventilation dependency, skeletal malformations, supplemental oxygen dependency, enteral and parenteral nutrition, and hypoxic brain injury;

Whereas CDH is treated through mechanical ventilation, a heart and lung bypass (commonly known as ''extracorporeal membrane oxygenation''), machines, and surgical repair;

Whereas surgical repair is often not a permanent solution for CDH and can lead to reherniation and require additional surgery;

Whereas CDH is diagnosed in utero in less than 50 percent of cases;

Whereas infants born with CDH have a high mortality rate, ranging from 20 to 60 percent, depending on the severity of the defect and interventions available at delivery;

Whereas CDH has a rate of occurrence of 1 in every 3,800 live births worldwide;

Whereas CDH affects approximately 1,088 babies each year in the United States;

Whereas CDH has affected more than 700,000 babies worldwide since 2000;

Whereas CDH does not discriminate based on race, gender, or socioeconomic status;

Whereas the cause of CDH is unknown;

Whereas the average CDH survivor will face postnatal care of at least $100,000; and

Whereas Federal support for CDH research at the National Institutes of Health for 2013 is estimated to be not more than $3,000,000: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2014 as ''National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month'';

(2) declares that steps should be taken to—

(A) raise awareness of and increase public knowledge about congenital diaphragmatic hernia (referred to in this resolution as ''CDH'');

(B) inform minority populations about CDH;

(C) disseminate information on the importance of quality neonatal care of CDH patients;

(D) promote quality prenatal care and ultrasounds to detect CDH in utero; and

(E) increase research funding in an amount commensurate with the burden of CDH to—

(i) improve screening and treatment for CDH;

(ii) discover the causes of CDH; and

(iii) develop a cure for CDH; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected persons to—

(A) promote awareness of CDH;

(B) take an active role in the fight against this devastating birth defect; and

(C) observe National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 415—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mrs. HAGAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 415

Whereas the week of April 7 through April 13, 2014, is National Public Health Week, and the theme for 2014 is ''Public Health: Start Here'';

Whereas since 1995, public health organizations have used National Public Health Week to educate the public, policymakers, and public health professionals about issues that are important to improving the health of the people of the United States;

Whereas the public health system that keeps our communities healthy and safe is changing as technologies advance, public attitudes toward health shift, and more health and safety options become available;

Whereas the value of a strong public health system is in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the places where we live, learn, work, and play;

Whereas public health professionals help communities prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of natural and man-made disasters;

Whereas according to the Institute of Medicine, despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world, the United States still ranks below many other economically prosperous countries in life expectancy, infant mortality, low birth weight, and many other indicators of public health;

Whereas studies have shown that small strategic investments in preventive health care could result in significant savings in overall health care costs;

Whereas research suggests that each 10 percent increase in local public health spending contributes to a 6.9 percent decrease in infant deaths, a 3.2 percent decrease in cardiovascular deaths, a 1.4 percent decrease in deaths due to diabetes, and a 1.1 percent decrease in cancer deaths;

Whereas in communities across the country, people are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating well, being physically active, and preventing injuries at home and in the workplace; and

Whereas by adequately supporting public health and preventive health care, we can continue to transition from a public health system focused on treating illness to one focused on preventing disease and promoting wellness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week;

(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals, the Federal Government, States, Tribes, municipalities, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury;

(3) recognizes the role of the public health system in improving the health of individuals in the United States;

(4) encourages increasing the efforts and resources devoted to improving the health of people in the United States and to making the United States the healthiest nation in the world in one generation through—

(A) greater opportunities to improve community health and prevent disease and injury; and

(B) strengthening the public health system of the United States; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 416—AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE CHAMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 416

Resolved, That paragraph 1 of Rule IV of the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol (prohibiting the taking of pictures in the Senate Chamber) be temporarily suspended for the sole and specific purpose of permitting the Senate Photographic Studio to photograph the United States Senate in actual session on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at the hour of 2:15 p.m.

SEC. 2. The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements therefore, which arrangements shall provide for a minimum of disruption to Senate proceedings.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2960. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2195, to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.

SA 2961. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2195, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2960. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2195, to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests; as follows:

On page 2, line 4, insert ''been found to have been'' after ''has''.

SA 2961. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2195, to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.''.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The title of this oversight hearing is ''Keeping the Lights On—Are We Doing Enough to Ensure the Reliability and Security of the U.S. Electric Grid?''

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to dan_adamson@energy.senate.gov, or kristen_granier@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Dan Adamson at (202) 224–2871, Kristen Granier at (202) 224–1219, or Afton Zaunbrecher at (202) 224–5479.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 92, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) was agreed to.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 414; S. Res. 415; and S. Res. 416.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolutions en bloc were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2575

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2575 has been received from the House and is at the desk. I would ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2575) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 30-hour threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I would ask for a second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 8, 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 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for weekly caucus meetings; further, that the majority control the time from 2:15 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. and the Republicans control the time from 3:15 p.m. until 4:15 p.m.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, this evening cloture was filed on the motion to proceed to the equal pay bill. Under the rules the cloture vote will be Wednesday morning.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. 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 7:57 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

STEVEN H. COHEN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GORDON O. TANNER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE, VICE CHARLES A. BLANCHARD, RESIGNED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JANE TOSHIKO NISHIDA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE MICHELLE DEPASS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THOMAS P. KELLY III, OF CALIFORNIA, 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 DJIBOUTI.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

SUNIL SABHARWAL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE DOUGLAS A. REDIKER, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 7, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARK BRADLEY CHILDRESS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FRANCIS XAVIER TAYLOR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

L. REGINALD BROTHERS, JR., OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H.R. 2413, THE WEATHER FORECASTING IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2413, the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act. This bill represents a bipartisan agreement by members of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I am pleased to join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, the bill's sponsor, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, subcommittee Chair SCHWEIKERT, the former subcommittee Chair STEWART, and Chair SMITH, in support of this bill. I want to thank them, as well as Ranking Member JOHNSON, for their work on this important bill.

Members on both sides of the aisle can be assured that this bill represents a truly bipartisan effort, and is built on extensive discussions with, and advice from, the weather community.

After the devastating tornados in his district, Mr. BRIDENSTINE introduced a well-intended bill that went a long way toward improving the tools available to NOAA for evaluating emerging forecast technologies. His emphasis on tornado research was appropriate and helpful. At the Subcommittee markup, Mr. GRAYSON added a valuable amendment for a focused hurricane research program.

Mr. STEWART, then the Chairman of the Environment Subcommittee, worked with my staff and me on an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to add to the tools and programs in the original bill.

We drew on expert advice from the weather enterprise and from extensive reports from the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Public Administration. Experts told us that to improve weather forecasting, the research at the Office of Oceans and Atmospheric Research (OAR) and the forecasting at the National Weather Service had to be better coordinated; this legislation contains provisions to improve that coordination.

This bill encourages NOAA to integrate research and operations in a way that models the successful innovation structure used by the Department of Defense.

The bill we are considering today also creates numerous opportunities for the broader weather community to provide insights to NOAA.

At every opportunity, we charge the agency to consult with the American weather industry and researchers as they develop research plans and undertake new initiatives. We also press NOAA to get serious about exploring private sector solutions to their data needs.

The bill makes clear that we expect the historical support for extramural research to continue. The engine of weather forecasting innovation has not always been found within NOAA, but often is found in the external research community and labs that work with NOAA. That collaboration must and will continue under this legislation.

In addition, the bill includes an explicit focus on tapping the expertise of social scientists in how to best communicate risks and warnings to the public. Witnesses who came before the Science Committee emphasized the importance of this work.

The best forecasting skill and technology in the world won't be as effective unless the messages to the public result in the right safety-response.

The bill before us today is designed to improve public safety, enhance the American economy, and transform the innovation culture at NOAA. I am confident that its passage will improve weather forecasting and tangibly benefit our constituents.

I can assure all Members that weather research is strengthened in this bill, but not at the expense of other important work at NOAA.

During the committee process we heard from witness after witness who stressed that weather forecasting involves many different scientific disciplines, and this integrated, multidisciplinary approach reflects an understanding that we cannot choose to strengthen one area of research at OAR without endangering the progress in the other areas because they are all interconnected. Physical and chemical laws do not respect OAR's budgeting boundaries of climate, weather, and oceans and this bill does not step beyond addressing organizational issues in weather at NOAA.

I want to be clear about what this bill does and does not do, because there seems to be some confusion on the Hill and elsewhere. There is no question that the bill as introduced threatened NOAA's ability to make expert judgments about how to distribute research support among climate, weather, and oceans work. The original language of H.R. 2413 would have required that weather-related activities be the "top priority" across all NOAA offices. This clearly would have put weather at the front of the line in budget and planning efforts compared to oceans or climate.

That language raised significant concerns for Members on my side of the aisle, in part because there was no hearing record to support such a reordering of programs. On the contrary, the testimony we received reflected consensus that such direction would be counter-productive, and would not substantively improve weather forecasting.

In light of that record, and the real goal of the bill's original sponsors to have a bipartisan bill, Chairman STEWART and Mr. BRIDENSTINE agreed to accept a change in that language to simply direct NOAA to "prioritize" weather-related work. Instead of a value statement that puts weather in front of all other initiatives, we adopted a neutral process statement. This language was discussed with NOAA, and my staff and my Democratic colleagues on the committee were satisfied with their response. In other words, setting priorities is what the agency does in its strategic plans, annual performance plans, and budgets.

The language in the bill before us today instructs NOAA to prioritize, a process that is already in place. The legislative record is clear on this subject. The Committee abandoned a value direction to the agency and instead adopted a simple process direction.

My willingness to support the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute and the underlying bill, and to recommend that colleagues on my side of the aisle do the same, was based in part on conversations with NOAA reflecting their understanding that the shift away from "Top Priority" represented a significant improvement to the legislation. I would not support legislation that sought to make weather forecasting superior to other areas of work at OAR, and the weather community would not support that either. Witnesses from across that community were very articulate on the interconnected nature of work in these three budgeting areas at NOAA. Proof that the minority would not support language that placed weather research in front of climate or oceans research can easily be found in our unanimous opposition to the original version of this bill, which moved through the subcommittee on a partisan vote. Only after the prioritization issue was addressed were minority committee members willing to support the bill.

Although H.R. 2413 does not reprioritize funding from climate or oceans research to weather research, the bill does include some reprioritization across weather programs at NOAA. The most significant financial move is shifting the technology transfer program and account from the National Weather Service to NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

There is reprioritization within OAR, it can all be found in how the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research lays out its own weather research effort. For example, the bill puts in place a clear process that ties the needs of forecasters at the National Weather Service to the research initiatives at OAR.

On the question of funding for weather research, I remind my colleagues that the total amount requested for weather and forecasting research at NOAA in the FY2015 budget is $207 million. In addition to the $84 million requested for OAR weather research, another $123 million was requested for science and technology at the National Weather Service. This exceeds the amount requested for climate research by $19 million.

As I have stated previously, expert witnesses testifying on this matter emphasized that improving weather forecasting accuracy requires prioritizing into oceans and climate. The physics and chemistry of these three areas makes them interconnected in a way that budgeting obscures.

Weather is defined as what happens in the atmosphere in any 14-day period. Droughts and tropical storm seasons are driven by longer-term processes, well beyond 14 days. The severe weather phenomena that have been ravaging our country in recent years are

climatic events that are the result of processes that can be measured in seasons and even years.

Ocean and climate research undoubtedly support weather forecasting improvement. Similarly, understanding short-term phenomena—weather—has implications for oceans and climate. The bill as amended reflects this understanding.

Thank you, again, to Chair SMITH and Ranking Member JOHNSON for giving us the support to work out a compromise. And I want reiterate my thanks to Mr. BRIDENSTINE for his willingness to work with us and accept changes to the original bill.

Mr. Speaker, weather is not a partisan issue. The American public needs and deserves the best weather forecasting system we can provide.

This bill has broad support in the weather community among research institutions, established businesses, and emerging companies. Supporters include: The American Commercial Space Weather Association, University Consortium for Atmospheric Research, GeoOptics, Planet IQ, and The Weather Coalition.

I particularly want to thank Mr. STEWART, the former Chair of the Environment Subcommittee, whose attitude throughout the process was collaborative and constructive, allowing us to arrive at the bipartisan bill we have before us today. Chair SCHWEIKERT, who took on the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee when Mr. STEWART went to the Committee on Appropriations, has brought with him that same collaborative spirit. And finally, thank you to all of the very hardworking staff on both sides of the aisle.

In summary, this bill does not reallocate money from oceans or climate to weather research, I would not support a bill that did that. What the bill does do is to launch some new management processes designed to give taxpayers a better return on their investment while opening the door to exploring commercial opportunities that could reduce costs at NOAA. This bill can drive meaningful cultural change at NOAA, harvest the benefits of research tied to operational needs, and accomplish that without significant spending increases.

This legislation will make real and measurable improvements in weather research and weather forecasting. I urge my colleagues to support this effort, and to vote yes on this bill.

ROSS ARAGON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Ross Aragon, a distinguished public servant from Pagosa Springs, CO. Mr. Aragon has served the town of Pagosa Springs for over 38 years, making him the longest serving town trustee and Mayor in the history of Colorado.

During his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Aragon was instrumental in improving the quality of police protection, expanding the town's boundaries by annexing the business corridor, expanding recreational programs and facilities, and establishing the parks and trail systems within the town. Additionally, under his leadership, the town was included in the Pagosa Fire Protection District as well as the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, resulting in domestic water being made available to town residents.

Not only has he tirelessly served the residents of Pagosa Springs, but he has served as a visionary seeking to expand geothermal energy by using the natural resources of his town. As a result, Mr. Aragon has played a key role in Pagosa Springs supporting and exploring geothermal energy for commercial use. One project that still engages his attention is the Pagosa Springs Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership. Through a unanimous vote of the Town Council led by Mr. Aragon, the town of Pagosa Springs is in partnership with various community residents in developing greenhouses for production of various agricultural products on permaculture principles. The geothermal greenhouse partnership will also serve as an avenue to educate the community on this viable green energy source and its many benefits.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize Mr. Aragon's tireless service to his community over these many years. I stand with the residents of the town of Pagosa Springs in saluting this remarkable man and congratulating him on a lifetime of service.

CELEBRATING THE ROCKFORD RESCUE MISSION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today in celebration of the Rockford Rescue Mission, which is set to celebrate its 50th Anniversary this May.

Mr. Ray Stewart rented a building in 1964 in downtown Rockford in order to establish the Rockford Rescue Mission. There was a sign on the door that read, ''All are welcome here. The alcoholic, the addict, the stranger, the sojourner, the pilgrim, the poor. There is hope for all who enter here.'' This important work continues fifty years later and I am proud of the service they have provided to many constituents in Illinois' Sixteenth Congressional District.

The Rockford Rescue Mission is open twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year. They serve Rockford and the surrounding communities by providing prevention and recovery services for addiction, abuse, and destructive relations. They are also the primary provider for meals and shelter in northern Illinois and are able to provide these services with private donations from individuals, foundations, businesses, organizations, and churches. None of this would be possible without the tremendous help of the over 500 volunteers who contribute nearly 45,000 hours throughout the year.

During the Rockford Rescue Mission's 2013 fiscal year, they served over 160,000 meals, provided over 58,000 beds for lodging, distributed over 159,000 items, facilitated over 10,000 counseling sessions, and served over 2,500 clinic patients.

The City of Rockford and surrounding communities can take pride in the Rockford Rescue Mission which gives back to the community so willingly. I would like to congratulate all the volunteers who have helped this organization over the past fifty years and I encourage them to continue their important service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Illinois' Sixteenth District of Illinois, I wish to express our appreciation for Rockford Rescue Mission's impressive service to the community and their diligent work.

RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WISCONSIN 4–H PROGRAM

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Wisconsin's 4–H Youth Development tradition. The very first meeting occurred on October 30th, 1914 in Walworth County in southeastern Wisconsin. 4–H stands for ''Head, Heart, Hands and Health.'' There are 350,000 youth enrolled in my state's 4–H Youth Development program, and the 8th District is home to more than 13,000 of these exceptional young leaders.

4–H's slogan is ''Learn by doing'', and that is certainly true in Wisconsin. This partnership between the University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county government has a tremendous history of engaging youth to pursue excellence in the areas of leadership, citizenship and life-skills. The program offers youth experiences in large and small animal projects, dairy-related activities, tractor driving contests, different shooting sports and wildlife management. Wisconsin's 4–H Youth Development program has provided youth in rural and urban settings with a unique opportunity develop skills that will serve them well throughout their lifetimes.

As Congressman, I thank the many University of Wisconsin educators and volunteers that have contributed so much to this program over the last 100 years. As a proud Member of the House Agriculture Committee, I encourage residents in Northeast Wisconsin to celebrate this organization's rich history and tradition through the centennial events scheduled during the 2014 calendar year.

TRIBUTE TO BJORN BERG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Bjorn Berg of US Bank in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction,

which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Bjorn in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Berg for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Bjorn on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL DAVID DARWIN SILBERBERG

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of First Lieutenant David Darwin Silberberg. Mr. Silberberg served as an accomplished attorney in Memphis and has been internationally recognized for his discovery during World War II of countless documents and priceless works of art that were hidden by the Nazis in Germany. Although not technically a member of the famed ''Monuments Men'' now receiving acclaim in Hollywood, his achievements were no less notable.

Lieutenant Silberberg was born in Niedenstein, Germany on March 20, 1921 to Lee and Rosa Silberberg. In 1936, as the Nazis were gaining power, he and his family moved to Memphis, TN. When World War II broke out, he joined the U.S. Army and went to fight against his native land. While with his unit in the Harz Mountains of Germany he came across a broken down truck in a ditch outside of Degenershausen with various papers scattered around. As a German speaker, he could read the papers and they appeared to be important, including one signed by German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, so he investigated them further. This led him and his unit to the Chateau Degenershausen, where he and his group uncovered numerous files full of military command papers dating back to World War I. Some of the documents were even signed by Adolf Hitler, Kaiser Wilhelm II, and Otto von Bismarck.

Upon questioning of the Chateau's owners, he learned the locations of two other hiding places for similar documents, both of them located in the Harz Mountains. One of the locations was Castle Falkenstein, where the Lieutenant not only found archives dating as far back as the Franco-Prussian War, but also numerous crates holding paintings, sculptures and other artistic works, comprising the entire Library of the Berlin Academy of Arts. After discovering that officials in Berlin had ordered that the documents be burned Lieutenant Silberberg prevented their destruction, thereby saving countless historical artifacts, enough to fill fifty C–47 transport planes.

In the midst of these critical discoveries, it was learned that 250,000 German soldiers had made a major defensive stand outside Berlin. Thus, Lieutenant Silberberg left the archives behind and joined the Allies' effort in one of the War's last big campaigns in Europe. The military career of Lieutenant Silberberg is truly one for the history books. His accomplishments earned him much honor and respect and were noted by the BBC, Memphis Commercial Appeal and the Ninth Infantry Division Association. He served overseas twice during World War II: first with the 9th Infantry from Normandy to VE Day and then with Military Intelligence and Counter Intelligence during the initial occupation of Germany. Because of his honorable federal active duty service, he held the rank of Major in the active Reserve and was assigned to Military Intelligence at the Memphis Army Reserve School. Finding importance in community involvement, Silberberg was also a member of the prestigious Leila Scott Lodge F. & A.M. and the American Legion Post 189.

Once he resettled in the United States after World War II, Silberberg attended Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland and earned an L.L.B Degree from the University of Baltimore Law School in 1951. Soon after, he returned to Memphis to earn a B.S. Degree from Christian Brothers University (CBU) in 1956. Among his several awards, Silberberg was recognized for his contributions to society as a recipient of the CBU Distinguished Alumnus Award of 1974. He also served as the President of the National Alumni Board at CBU.

In addition to being a war hero, Lieutenant Silberberg was a successful attorney and civic activist in the city of Memphis, including within the Memphis Jewish community. A year following his death in 2007, Silberberg was one of a few notable lawyers and judges honored at the 2008 Memphis Bar Association Memorial Service during Law Week. The city of Memphis and the state of Tennessee lost a legend on July 14, 2007, and the difference he made each and every day will always be remembered. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in remembering Lieutenant David Darwin Silberberg. His was truly a life well-lived.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY F. TYLER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sidney F. Tyler, of Pasadena, California, a man of great integrity, a dedicated public servant, and an outstanding community leader, who passed away on Friday, March 28, 2014.

Sid was born in Abington, Pennsylvania on July 19, 1932. While in his teens, after his family moved to Colorado, he developed a great love of the outdoors, particularly for camping, skiing and hiking. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in American Government from Harvard in 1954, and then served in the Marine Corps for three years, stationed in Japan and Korea. Sid began working in the pharmaceutical marketing research field shortly after his honorable discharge in 1957. In 1969, Mr. Tyler moved his family to Pasadena and accepted a position with Tenet Healthcare the following year, where he remained until retiring as executive vice president in 1994.

After his retirement, Mr. Tyler was elected to the Pasadena City Council in 1997, where he served for twelve years. Known for his astute financial expertise, Sid effectively led the city through the effects of the power industry deregulation, chairing the city's Deregulation Committee. A supporter of the outdoors, particularly trees, he helped pass a tree protection ordinance in Pasadena, which protected oak trees and other species growing on public and private property, an accomplishment of which he was very proud.

Sid believed in active participation in his community, and to that end, his record of community service is impressive. He served on the boards of the Pasadena Community Foundation, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, Pacific Asia Museum and Descanso Gardens, was a trustee and board chair at Chandler School, was on the Vestry at All Saints Episcopal Church, and gave generously to open space and environmental causes.

Married for fifty-five years, Sid and his wife Betsey, have four children, Toby, David, Richard and Becky, and eight grandchildren.

Sid was an irreplaceable part of our community, and he will be sorely missed. He was a model public servant, admired by all as a man of impeccable character, a great gentleman, and a trusted friend. I ask all members to join me in remembering one of Pasadena's most admired citizens, Sid Tyler.

JACK COTTON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise today in recognition of Dr. Jack ''Doc'' Cotton, who bravely fought in World War II in the Navy on a supply ship, a hospital ship, and eventually on a troop transport ship, the USS *Buckingham*.

In 1943, Dr. Cotton received a draft notice, but under naval medical requirements, he was three inches too tall. Unwavering in his determination to serve, he subtly hunched over during his evaluation so he would be eligible to serve. While many, if not most, would have tried to escape the draft, Dr. Cotton did whatever he could to serve.

The *Buckingham*, on which Dr. Cotton served, transported troops throughout the South Pacific, and in fact carried the final transport of forces to Nagasaki, Japan, a crucial factor in our victory in the Second World War.

Though it was an obstacle to his naval service, his height would become an invaluable asset during his college basketball career. So valuable, in fact, that Dr. Cotton became an NBA player with the Denver Nuggets from 1948 to 1950. Always dedicated to service, he went on to serve as a coach, professor, and athletic director at Adams State University.

Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct privilege to recognize Dr. Jack ''Doc'' Cotton for his service to our country and his communities. I congratulate him on a long and successful career and thank him for the many sacrifices he made to preserve our freedom.

COMMANDER WARREN E. CUPPS CHANGE OF COMMAND

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Warren E. Cupps, Captain of the USS *Fort Worth*. The sixteenth of April two thousand fourteen marks a historic day for the United States Navy and the City of Fort Worth. Commander Warren E. Cupps will complete his successful tour as the Commanding Officer of USS *Fort Worth* LCS 3, Crew 103 Rough Riders.

Commander Cupps successfully commanded his ship and her Sailors through sixteen months of arduous sea duty. Taking Command on the seventh of December two thousand twelve, he commanded over 80 Sailors as crewmembers, mission package detachment crews and aviation detachment personnel. He has been instrumental in guiding the various mission packages including Surface Warfare Mission Package Detachment One, HSM–35 Detachment ONE and Mine Countermeasures Mission Package Detachment Three.

His leadership as the commanding officer is evident when the Commander of Naval Surface Forces in the U.S. Pacific Fleet awarded USS *Fort Worth* the 2013 Battle Effectiveness award. The Battle ''E'' is one of the highest awards presented to a ship. An annual award, it recognizes ships and crews who have demonstrated their combat readiness with superior performances in six categories in which they have maintained excellence and high standards.

Commander Cupps has led his crew through many milestones and achievements throughout the early life of USS *Fort Worth*. During his tenure, the ship completed Final Contract Trials, the Cybersecurity Inspection, the Technical Evaluation and Initial Operational Testing and Evaluation Period.

Final Contract Trials is a major ship inspection by the Board of Inspection and Survey, a congressionally mandated inspection. In the life of a newly constructed ship, it is the final inspection where the ship's material condition and operations are thoroughly tested. This is one of the last milestones in a ship's first year of life. Commander Cupps led his crew through the first-ever trial period for the newest class of ships, the Littoral Combat Ship.

In addition, USS *Fort Worth* is completing their Technical Evaluation and Initial Operational Testing and Evaluation Period. These events are crucial for the Littoral Combat Ship program in final testing of the seaframe, Surface Warfare Mission Package including 30mm cannons, 11m fast boats with maritime security teams and an MH–60R helicopter. In addition, during the crew's Cybersecurity Inspection, the crew set a new Fleet Record of excellence.

USS *Fort Worth* is one of the newest littoral combat ships to join our naval fleet. The Littoral Combat Ship, is a fast, agile and focused-mission platform designed for operation in near-shore environments and open-ocean operation, with war fighting capabilities to defeat asymmetric threats such as mines, submarines and fast surface craft. USS *Fort Worth* was christened in 2010 and commissioned in 2012 celebrating the first time our great city has been named as a Naval vessel to honor our city. The citizens of Fort Worth have embraced the Sailors of USS *Fort Worth* with true Texas hospitality. Our city maintains a proud military heritage and is home to the Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base.

The charge of command is an immense responsibility. It is the very soul of our Navy since 1775. It represents the finest level of leadership. Commander Cupps upheld the highest degree of naval standards and Navy traditions when commanding his Sailors. Through relentless hard work and determination, Commander Cupps exemplified Fort Worth's ''Grit and Tenacity''. The planks of USS *Fort Worth* are engraved with his leadership in professionalism, honor and virtue.

Finally, I will say the lasting impression within the bulwarks of USS *Fort Worth* will be the true loyalty and trust in which he instilled in his Sailors. At all times, Commander Cupps put his ship and her crew above himself. Warren, as a dear friend, I will say Bravo Zulu on your Command at Sea. Thank you for taking care of our men and women in uniform and keeping our ship combat ready. You are a great American and a Naval Officer of high honor and virtue. Fair Winds and Following Seas!

TRIBUTE TO JOE BENESH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Joe Benesh of RDG Planning in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Joe in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Benesh for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Joe on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING PAUL NICHOLSON'S SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Paul Nicholson, Streator City Manager, and to recognize his many years of service to the citizens of the City of Streator, LaSalle County, and the State of Illinois.

Paul has served for more than 40 years in city management for the City of Streator and other municipalities. He has been a reliable steward of city resources in Streator and helped save the city time and funds due to his professionalism and expertise.

Paul will be retiring from the position of City Manager after a new manager is selected. I would like to thank him for all he has done for the residents of Streator and LaSalle County. He has been a leader and advocate for many important issues throughout his years of service, and has become a well-respected member of the community.

While he is leaving his post and heading into retirement, I know that Paul will always be there to lend a helping hand or offer advice to those in need. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to Paul Nicholson for his commendable years of service and dedication.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. EDWIN C. KRUPP

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Edwin C. Krupp as he celebrates 40 years as Director of Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. During these past four decades, Dr. Krupp has become an expert on ancient, prehistoric, and traditional astronomy, authored extensive publications on astronomical and science education to promote the field to the general public, and established Griffith Observatory as one of Los Angeles' iconic destinations.

Prior to directing the most-visited public observatory in the world, Dr. Krupp graduated with a B.A. in physics and astronomy from Pomona College in 1966; he followed with M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Krupp joined Griffith Observatory in 1970 as a part-time Planetarium Lecturer, was appointed full-time Curator in 1972 after receiving his Ph.D. in astronomy, and was named Observatory Director in 1974. Soon thereafter, Dr. Krupp co-founded Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO) in 1978 as the Observatory's indispensable non-profit partner. From concept to completion, Dr. Krupp led the $93 million, award-winning renovation and expansion of the Observatory from 2002–2006, which restored and renewed the historic landmark, transformed its exhibits and programming capabilities, and more than doubled the size of its public space. Attendance has increased every year since reopening, and now exceeds 1 million visitors annually.

In pursuit of groundbreaking research, Dr. Krupp has visited, examined, photographed, and measured over 1,900 ancient and prehistoric sites throughout the world, and has led 38 field study tours for UCLA Extension and other organizations to exotic locations of both astronomical and archaeological interest.

Dr. Krupp has also published noteworthy texts on astronomy throughout his career, such as "In Search of Ancient Astronomies" (1978) and "Skywatchers, Shamans & Kings—Astronomy and the Archeology of Power" (1997), both of which demonstrate his specialist contributions to the field of archaeoastronomy. Additionally, he has written several astronomy books for children, and hosted the astronomy education series "Project Universe" on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), in the late 1970s. These books and broadcasts, as well as his lectures, programs, and publications at the Observatory, have inspired countless new astronomers and archaeoastronomers, not to mention tens of millions of visitors.

It is with profound appreciation and respect that I congratulate Dr. Edwin C. Krupp on 40 years of leadership and innovation at Griffith Observatory. As an employee of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks, Dr. Krupp embodies the best attributes of a public servant. His dedication, energy, and enthusiasm is extraordinary, and people the world over have benefited from his service and scientific contributions. I now proudly ask you all to join me in commending Dr. Edwin C. Krupp for going "to infinity and beyond" to share the wonder of the cosmos.

RECOGNIZING FAIR HOUSING MONTH AND HONORING OPEN COMMUNITIES FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO FAIR HOUSING FOR ALL

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Fair Housing Month to recognize the 46th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act and to honor Open Communities, a nonprofit organization in the suburban Chicago district I represent that is working to defend and protect fair, just housing for all.

In 1968, in the heart of the Civil Rights Movement, the Fair Housing Act was enacted, guaranteeing freedom from racial, ethnic, gender, religious, disability, sexual and marital discrimination in housing.

Today, Open Communities honors this legacy and protects these rights throughout the communities I represent. Founded in 1972, this organization educates individuals, officials, real-estate professionals and many others on fair housing standards.

Open Communities also conducts critical advocacy and offers assistance with claims and attorney referrals-all free of charge to the community.

Open Communities works to create a welcoming, inclusive community where all can come together, build their lives and raise their families. Born out of the Civil Rights Movement, Open Communities is carrying on the work that began in the 1960s and even further back.

The dedicated staff at Open Communities demonstrates a true, unwavering commitment to protecting fair housing rights and furthering the development of welcoming communities.

Mr. Speaker, our communities are best and strongest when they are fair and just and open. Open Communities honors the legacy of the Fair Housing Act, furthers the themes of Fair Housing Month, realizes a vision for more welcoming communities and brings the Tenth District closer together.

I am incredibly grateful for Open Communities' dedicated service, and I am proud to mark the 46th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL BEYER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Daniel Beyer of Kabel Business Services in West Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Daniel in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Beyer for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Daniel on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING DR. I. JUSTIN KLEAVELAND

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. I. Justin Kleaveland on his 90th birthday, which he celebrates on April 11, 2014. A resident of North Muskegon for over 60 years, Dr. Kleaveland has been an integral part of our community.

In 1951, Dr. Kleaveland joined the Army in the Doctor's Draft of the Korean War, serving for two years in Stuttgart, Germany. Upon returning to the United States, Dr. Kleaveland and his wife, Rosemary, settled in Muskegon, Michigan.

Upon returning from Germany, Dr. Kleaveland served as an internist at Hackley Hospital and Mercy Hospital until retiring in 2003, at the age of 79. Dr. Kleaveland has been an active contributor to local and state politics, with special interest in both health care and education reform.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Second District of Michigan, I congratulate Dr. Kleaveland on his milestone 90th birthday and thank him for his service to Western Michigan and to our nation.

DAVID DILLMAN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. David Dillman, a dedicated business and marketing teacher at Durango High School. After leaving a highly successful career in sales and marketing in the private sector, Mr. Dillman began his teaching career in 1997, where he has inspired hundreds of students to learn more about business.

Throughout his teaching career, Mr. Dillman took it upon himself to mentor his students and provide them with real-world business experience and insights to help them succeed. Beyond the classroom, Mr. Dillman has diligently worked with local businesses to help students obtain employment. Once they have a job, he continues to advise them on best practices to tackle problems in the workplace and encourages them to build a strong work ethic that will serve them throughout their professional lives.

In his limited personal time, Mr. Dillman continues in his service by initiating and leading a new Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program in his high school. DECA programs and competitions provide emerging business leaders training and hands-on experience in the areas of hospitality, marketing, management, finance and entrepreneurship. He also works to ensure that his students are able to participate in the Annual Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) Stock Market Game Capitol Hill Challenge every year. In addition to all of this, Mr. Dillman develops numerous partnerships with businesses for Durango High School. His enthusiasm for his craft and caring for his students is something deserving of recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize Mr. Dillman today for his passion for education and his unyielding dedication to his students. I congratulate him on his numerous achievements, thank him for his service, and look forward to seeing how he will continue to inspire future generations in his classroom and beyond.

HONORING ADELE ROSEN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and honor Adele Rosen as the recipient of the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara's 2014 Woman of Valor Award

and for her years of leadership in our community.

Ms. Rosen has been an active member of the Santa Barbara community for 50 years. She has long been a dedicated and active member of the Jewish Federation, which has been a strong force for good in the Santa Barbara community for many years. During her years of service, she has served as President of the Jewish Federation's Women's Division and currently serves on its Women's Planning Commission. In addition to her work with the Jewish Federation, Ms. Rosen is the director of the non-profit Beyond Tolerance Education Center in Santa Barbara. This center has been a wonderful contribution to our community, working to teach thousands of school children about the causes, instruments, and dangers of discrimination and violence.

Ms. Rosen has also served as a board member of CALM, which strives to prevent, assess and treat child abuse in Santa Barbara County, a sustaining member of the Women's Board of the Santa Barbara Art Museum, a life member of Hadassah and Congregation B'nai Brith Sisterhood, Friend of Ensemble Theater, and the Santa Barbara Symphony.

Ms. Rosen's commitment to helping others and strengthening our community is truly an inspiration. May we all find the perseverance and passion that has inspired Ms. Rosen to leave her indelible mark upon our community.

PENBROOK LEO CLUB

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Penbrook Leo Club which is celebrating five years of service to the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania community.

Penbrook Leo Club was chartered in 2009 as a way for teenagers in Harrisburg to serve their community through volunteerism. Since that time, the members of this organization have engaged in many projects to improve the local area. They have helped beautify Harrisburg by adopting a mile of the Capital Area Greenbelt, participating in park and street cleaning, and maintaining a Memorial Garden at the community park. Members actively engage with local residents by visiting nursing homes, assisting with holiday parades and dinners, and participating in events such as National Night Out. The club has also raised money for organizations such as Diabetes Education and Research, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Lions Clubs International Foundation, and the Northeast Pennsylvania Lions Eye. Today, the 20 current members of this club continue to find ways to improve lives for the residents of South Central Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, for the last five years, the Penbrook Leo Club has served as an invaluable asset to the Harrisburg community. Therefore, I commend all the members of this organization that have devoted their time and energy to bettering their community.

TRIBUTE TO BRETT ADAMS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Brett Adams of Trilix in Johnston, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brett in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Adams for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Brett on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO THE VERDUGO HILLS FAMILY YMCA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA of Tujunga, CA upon its 25th anniversary.

The Verdugo Hills Family YMCA has had a strong presence in the Sunland-Tujunga area for many decades. Originally started in the early 1950s, the YMCA became a centralized gathering place for community activity. As a result of increasing popularity and financial support throughout the 1980s, the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA sought to expand in order to better meet the needs of the community, and so 25 years ago, the YMCA moved into its 6840 Foothill Boulevard facility in Tujunga. Since then, the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA has played a vital role in strengthening the community by providing quality programs for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, not just for young people, but for people of all ages.

The Verdugo Hills Family YMCA offers Sunland-Tujunga area residents many opportunities for involvement with a wide variety of programs and services, including camp, adult fitness, chaplain services, photography, preschool, an art and literature club, and many community events and lectures. One particular focus is the YMCA's effort to promote youth fitness. The Verdugo Hills Family YMCA is dedicated to combating childhood obesity and has developed an outreach program with elementary schools in the Sunland-Tujunga area to teach physical education classes. In addition, the YMCA's swimming training programs helps encourage young people from an early age to maintain safe and healthy lifestyles, and they provide students from the local elementary school with free swimming lessons.

In recognition of its 25th anniversary, the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA will honor its many volunteers, who have donated more than 4,000 hours of their time, with the President's Call to Service Award.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA for its 25 years of service in the Sunland-Tujunga area.

HONORING MR. DON COATES AND HIS 40 YEARS OF MUSIC AT ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Mr. Don Coates for his leadership of the music department at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, ABAC. It is appropriate at this milestone to reflect on and celebrate his achievements.

For a small agricultural college of just 3,665 students, ABAC has a rich musical history. Each year the university sponsors a major jazz festival that attracts participation from well-known jazz performing artists as well as top high school jazz bands from across the state. This festival has seen performances from jazz greats including Maynard Ferguson, Nat Adderly, Jamie Abersold, Ron Diehl, and Bobby Shew.

Also included in this annual festival is the accomplished ABAC Jazz Ensemble. The ensemble has entertained audiences throughout the southeastern United States, Mexico, and even Europe. Additionally, they performed on the world stage on three occasions: in 1996, as part of the Olympic Games opening ceremony in Atlanta, GA, in 1982 and 1984, when they played at the Knoxville, TN, and New Orleans, LA, world's fairs, respectively.

Forty years ago, none of this would have been imagined possible, for no such music program existed at ABAC. Mr. Don Coates started the music program at ABAC upon joining the staff after he received his masters in musical education from Florida State University in 1974. A colleague lauded, ''For many years, he was the entire program—directing concert band, jazz band, and choir, in addition to teaching most of the music classes.'' His dedication has brought music to Georgia and to the world. For that, his 40 years as a musical educator should be celebrated.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, on behalf of the great people of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, in recognizing Mr. Coates for his service to our community and our state.

THE OCCASION OF AFFIRMATIONS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO THE LGBT COMMUNITY OF GREATER DETROIT

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff and supporters of Affirmations on reaching a great milestone in their organization's history—twenty-five years of service to the Greater Detroit LGBT community.

Created in 1989, Affirmations began as the LGBT community's answer for a need to have a safe haven, with a mission to provide a welcoming space where individuals of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and cultures would be able to find support and acceptance. Operated entirely by volunteers during its first 2 years, Affirmations' first service was a toll-free phone line, where community members could call for information and assistance. Under the leadership of Affirmations' first executive director, Jan Stevenson, programs quickly expanded to include several support groups, where community members could find reassurance and acceptance among their peers.

From its humble beginnings, Affirmations quickly grew to address the evolving needs of Greater Detroit's LGBT community. At the center of its operating philosophy is the goal of empowering and educating volunteers to effect positive change in their own lives and in the broader community. Early on in its existence tragedy struck. In 1992 as Susan Pittmann and Christine Puckett, two of Affirmations founding members and leaders in Michigan's LGBT community, were murdered. Affirmations worked with other LGBT advocacy organizations in Michigan to rally the community and engage the public in a discussion on the need to protect all individuals from hate crimes.

The mission of advocacy has not waned in the years that have followed as Affirmations has held countless community forums and created many programs to assist its community members. Among these programs are health services geared toward practices that are sensitive to an individual's sexual orientation and gender identity. In a state and a country where it is still unfortunately legal for companies to fire someone based on their perceived orientation or gender identity, Affirmations provides LGBT youth with an internship program where they can gain valuable workplace skills in a supportive environment, and works with other local organizations to assist community members that have been the victims of discrimination in the workplace.

Over my many years in public service, as a proud ally of the LGBT community in Michigan, it has been a pleasure to support Affirmations' endeavors. Whether it is marriage equality, health services funding, or protecting LGBT people in the workplace and at school, Affirmations has been at the forefront of advocating for a more just, informed, and tolerant discussion of these important issues. Just two weekends ago, I was gratified to see that Affirmations rallied the community following Judge Friedman's historical ruling on marriage equality in Michigan to ensure that so many loving LGBT couples were able to finally have all of the same protections under the law that other loving couples enjoy. I was proud to work with my fellow Democratic members of Michigan's Congressional delegation to successfully push for Federal recognition of those marriages.

Mr. Speaker, as a long time friend, supporter and ally of Affirmations and Michigan's LGBT community, I am proud to recognize the profound impact this organization has made in Michigan over the last 25 years. The staff, supporters and volunteers of Affirmations have touched so many lives through their years of dedication and advocacy—fostering a dialogue and taking actions that have seen great steps forward in the ongoing endeavor to obtain full equality for the LGBT community. In its first 25 years, Affirmations has worked hard to fulfill its mission and I look forward to continuing to partner with its staff, supporters and volunteers as we make more progress to ensure that our entire state is safe and supportive for Michigan's LGBT residents.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP BLUMBERG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Philip Blumberg of Des Moines University for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Philip in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Blumberg for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Philip on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MALAYSIA AIRLINES FLIGHT 370

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my sympathies to the families and loved ones of the 239 passengers and crew members of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which departed Kuala Lumpur enroute to Beijing on March 8, 2014, but disappeared somewhere over the Indian Ocean and has yet to be found.

In an age where powerful technology is capable of interconnecting the expanses of our world and able to provide real-time information globally, the haunting question must be asked: How can a sophisticated commercial airliner carrying 12 highly trained crew members and 227 passengers disappear without a trace?

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to families of those who appear to have perished on Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 to find answers and to take all necessary measures and make all necessary improvements to ensure that a tragedy like this never happens again.

Modern aircraft are technological marvels, capable of unrivaled aeronautical feats. The advances in aircraft technology have helped make possible many of the smart devices we use daily. But a disaster involving the disappearance of Malaysia Flight 370 has revealed glaring weaknesses in aviation technology areas of flight safety, information monitoring, and recovery.

The modern commercial airliner is among the safest machines ever built. Fail-safes, system redundancies, automated controls, and sophisticated radar systems ensure that almost any crisis can be prevented if the best practices of flight are observed. However, if the technology was perfected, disasters like that of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 could be eliminated.

In the case of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, the transponders—devices important to tracking the aircraft via radar—were disabled, effectively eliminating most modern methods for tracking the aircraft. Whether the tracking technology was powered down or disabled as a result of a catastrophic failure is irrelevant to the question of safety. The fact that tracking technology important to the recovery of an aircraft can be manually disabled in the air is a technological flaw that must be corrected.

Design processes that do not adequately exploit engineering technology or that prevent life-saving recovery efforts and lower safety standards need to be fixed immediately. In addition to critical safety measures, advanced methods of aircraft systems information monitoring need to be employed. Radar and tracking systems are as important to aircraft in the air as they are to monitoring systems on the ground.

During the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, experts were required to rely on unreliable "pings" from satellites that were only able to provide poor insight as to the location of the aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, monitoring information regarding the status of aircraft systems is vital in understanding whether operator error or system failure is responsible for aircraft disasters. Unfortunately, the majority of this monitoring information is stored internal to the aircraft, in flight data recorders.

In the case of a disappearance like that of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, system status information is essentially lost with the loss of the aircraft, or depends entirely on the recoverability of the aircraft.

Advanced technology can be employed to send real-time information on airborne aircraft to monitoring stations on the ground. If ground operators were able to monitor the system information normally contained in the flight data recorder, recovery operations would be streamlined and yield much more information,

greatly improving future tracking and recovery efforts.

The importance of aircraft recovery is impossible to overstate. Beyond the technological aspect is the human factor. Hundreds of concerned and anxious persons were left in the dark concerning the fate of their friends, family, and loved ones aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, with little hope offered under the current safety, monitoring, and recovery standards.

Additionally, the majority of flight status information, telling to an aircraft's fate, is directly linked to the ability to recover an aircraft. Recovery hinges on a tight timeline—the longer it takes to establish information concerning the route and aircraft system configuration, the longer it will take to recover the aircraft.

The family and loved ones of airline passengers are entitled to receive frequent and reliable status updates just as soon as the information is available.

The availability of that information today is unduly dependent on technology that is in turn dependent upon the recovery of the aircraft but at the same time makes recovery efforts more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, and a former Chair of its Transportation Security Subcommittee, I will continue to work with my colleagues, the Administration, and responsible officials in the aviation industry to ensure that technological weaknesses are corrected and to do all I can to ensure a terrible tragedy like that of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 never happens again. We owe the families and loved ones of the missing passengers and crew members at least that much.

UNION FIRE COMPANY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Union Fire Company which is celebrating 225 years of service to the Borough of Carlisle, Pennsylvania and the surrounding areas.

The Union Fire Company was formed in October 1788 after a fire destroyed several local homes. The company formally organized on April 6, 1789 and received their first engine soon after. Since that time, they have been an important force against many historic fires in the region and have been instrumental in keeping the residents of Carlisle safe. In 1931, the company entered into rural service, a move which earned them the title of the busiest firehouse in Cumberland County. Over the past 225 years, Union Fire Company has taken on an integral function within the community, extending their role to include hosting festivals and participating in parades.

Throughout history, many of the brave men working for Union Fire Company have pursued the call to serve and protect beyond the local level. Members of the organization served and sometimes sacrificed their lives in the Civil War and World War I and II. Today, members of the fire house continue to put their own safety at risk to assure that the people of Cumberland County are protected from destructive fires and other disasters.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 225 years, the Union Fire Company has served as an important asset to the citizens of Carlisle and the surrounding areas. Therefore, I commend the personnel who have faithfully worked to protect and defend our community at this fire house.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE HOCKADAY SCHOOL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, this weekend will mark the culmination of the centennial school year for The Hockaday School in Dallas, Texas. The Hockaday School is a college preparatory day and boarding school for girls and young women in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. It is an exceptionally well-regarded and large institution with 1,000 students from eleven different countries around the world.

The Hockaday School today stands on the same Four Cornerstones upon which it was founded—Character, Courtesy, Scholarship, and Athletics. Though it has grown over the course of this century, it has grown to continually fulfill the vision of its founder, Miss Ela Hockaday, who believed that education, combined with a sense of ethics, was essential to the advancement of women in society. Miss Hockaday, born in 1875 and raised in Ladonia, Texas, was a lifelong educator. She received her bachelor's degree from what is today the University of North Texas and worked in several institutions as both a teacher and a principal in Texas and Oklahoma. She also attended the University of Chicago and Columbia University. Miss Hockaday's interests were especially strong in the sciences and, after receiving many accolades, she was made head of the biology department at Durant State Normal School in Oklahoma in 1910.

In the summer of 1913, while working her small farm in South Texas and on a break from teaching at the Oklahoma College for women, she received a telegram from Menter B. Terrill, who had previously founded the Terrill School for Boys (now St. Mark's School of Texas) in Dallas. At his suggestion she met with several Dallas businessmen who wanted her to establish a girls' preparatory school so that their daughters might have educational opportunities. Shortly thereafter, in September of 1913, Miss Hockaday's School for Girls opened in a house on North Haskell Avenue in Dallas, with an initial enrollment of ten students.

Miss Hockaday's School grew quickly, moving to its second site on Greenville Avenue in 1919. By the 1920s, its academic reputation has been well established and the school grew. A Lower School and Boarding Department were added in those years. In 1931 a Junior College was added and, seven years later, the Music Institute was opened. Miss Hockaday continued to serve as headmistress until 1946 and remained involved until her passing a decade later. All the while she ensured the permanence of the Four Cornerstones and the rigor of the classical education at the school.

In 1961, The Hockaday School moved to its third and present location at Welch Road in North Dallas. The effort had begun in 1956 under J. Erik Jonsson (who later became mayor of Dallas) and was made possible by a donation of 100 acres by Karl Hoblitzelle. The Dallas Times Herald called it ''eye-catching'' and ''the most unusual, the most attractive, the most advanced learning facility in Dallas.''

Today the Hockaday School continues to thrive. Thanks to the Hockaday Tomorrow Capital Campaign in 2004, it is home to a state-of-the-art Academic Research Center, a Lower School Addition, and a Wellness Center. Now, ten years later, the Centennial Campaign aims to provide the school with even more facilities and initiatives in the years ahead. The Hockaday School continues to serve as an important part of Dallas' educational landscape, educating girls and young women to assume positions of leadership in an ever-changing world.

Throughout this centennial school year, the school has hosted various festivities to commemorate its rich history and celebrate its bright future. After kicking-off the events in September, the school has put on an ongoing Centennial Exhibit, the Hockaday Day of Service, and the Centennial Speaker Series. It all culminates in a Centennial Week of commemorative events with a luncheon on April 11 and ''The Party of the Century'' finale on April 12, complete with musical performances and fireworks. This magnificent moment in the history of a venerable institution of women's education will be shared by students, alumnae, faculty, and many friends and family who share in the Hockaday legacy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in marking and celebrating the centennial of The Hockaday School.

CONGRATULATING BOSMA INDUSTRIES AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding work of Bosma Industries and the AbilityOne Program. AbilityOne is an outstanding program committed to providing ''employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities in the manufacture and delivery of products and services to the Federal Government.'' Unfortunately, over 70 percent of those who are blind and visually impaired are unemployed. Thanks to the efforts of AbilityOne, over 50,000 people who are blind or have significant disabilities have found gainful employment. Since 1915, Indiana's very own Bosma Enterprises has been a partner of the program by providing job training, employment services, rehabilitation and outreach programs for people who are blind or visually impaired. In fact, Bosma is Indiana's largest employer of people with vision loss. Last year alone, Bosma helped 179 blind people find gainful employment and assisted over 700 people in acclimating to their vision loss.

This is about more than numbers though. It is about the people they are assisting. Take the example of Robert. In the sixth grade, he was diagnosed with a learning disability and

he also has impaired hearing and a speech impediment. Despite these obstacles, Robert was able to graduate high school. He then went on to earn a certification in welding from the Upper Valley Joint Vocational School in Ohio. Unfortunately, Robert's vision then began to decline. While Robert's vision declined, he was able to work at Walmart for 15 years. Then, in 2010, he lost his vision entirely to glaucoma and was no longer able to work. A year after he was declared legally blind, Robert found Bosma Industries and a whole new purpose in life. He went through the rehabilitation program and later began utilizing Bosma's employment services. First, Robert was taught how to acclimate himself to the outside world. He was hesitant to leave the comfort of his community but with Bosma's orientation to mobility training he began to come out of his shell. Robert learned how to build a computer, write a check, repair a broken door and other life skills. He even learned sculpting and pottery at Bosma. Bosma got Robert ready to take on the world through counseling, workshops on resume writing and how to find different ways of performing everyday tasks. Robert currently enjoys his time volunteering at Goodwill Industries, and hopes it will lead to a paid position soon. Bosma Industries empowers people to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. I also want to thank Lou Moneymaker, the President and CEO of Bosma Industries and their staff for their dedication and support to changing the lives of Hoosiers struggling with blindness or vision loss. They have forever transformed these lives and have had a positive impact on all of our communities.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER CHITTENDEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jennifer Chittenden of the Des Moines Downtown Chamber of Commerce for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Jennifer in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Chittenden for utilizing her talents to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jennifer on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THELDA DOBBINS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Mrs. Thelda Dobbins.

Thelda Kirschner Dobbins was born on April 26, 1914 in Lisbon Falls, Maine. She graduated from Lisbon Falls High School in 1930 at the age of 16 and went on to receive a teaching degree from Farmington State Normal School, now known as the University of Maine at Farmington, as a member of the Class of 1932. Thelda went on to teach grade school in Durham, Maine for three years, making $12 a week during the Great Depression.

Thelda continued to teach until she married Lester Dobbins in 1938, and the couple gave birth to their only child, Herb, in 1941. After the onset of World War II, Thelda returned to teaching in Sabattus and then at Pettingill School in Lewiston until her retirement in 1971.

Thelda and Lester enjoyed over 60 years of marriage until Lester passed away in 2000. Thelda continues to be an active member of the Auburn community as a resident of The Chapman House.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mrs. Thelda Dobbins, who has led an extraordinary life dedicated to her family and the education of Maine's children.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF LA PLAZA

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor La Plaza, whose tireless work over the past ten years has blessed thousands in my hometown of Indianapolis.

La Plaza exists to serve, empower, and integrate the Latino community of Central Indiana. The organization was founded in 2004 through the merger of Hispanic Education Center, Fiesta Indianapolis and El Centro Hispano. By bringing together the separate resources and services under one organizational umbrella, La Plaza committed to provide strong programming under a more efficient model. Today, La Plaza continues to fulfill this charge through its mission of strengthening Central Indiana by advocating and preparing Latino students for educational success and by connecting Latino families to health and social services.

La Plaza is Central Indiana's largest provider of culturally and linguistically appropriate services to Latino families. The organization's work is increasingly important as the Latino population in Indianapolis continues to grow. Data from the 2010 Census shows a 154 percent increase in the number of Hispanics in Marion County, increasing from 33,000 to more than 84,000 in the last 10 years.

Serving as a trusted liaison between Central Indiana Latinos and the community at large, La Plaza connects over 5,000 individuals each year to over 20 community partners to deliver high-quality health and social services. The range of services spans from providing a pediatric and dentistry clinic to case management and basic needs assistance. La Plaza's educational initiatives additionally serve over 2,000 elementary to college-aged students. These programs help encourage and support Latino youth to excel in school and to pursue a post-secondary education. La Plaza also provides many of these first-generation college students with scholarships to ease the financial burden of college.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring La Plaza for its efforts to strengthen and integrate the growing Latino community in Central Indiana by providing them with vital educational and social services.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This is an important reminder that there is much work still to be done to promote the rights and needs of victims of crime in our communities.

As a State senator, I was the author of the first anti-stalking law in the country—before this legislation, there was very little legal protection available for stalking victims. I also worked to establish rights for crime victims in California's state constitution as author and campaign co-chair of Proposition 115. Proposition 115 gives victims the rights to a speedy trial, reduces the number of times crime victims must testify, increases sentences and punishment, and requires reciprocal discovery of evidence.

When I arrived in Congress, I made it a priority to address stalking at the federal level. In 1996, I introduced the Interstate Stalking Punishment and Prevention Act, which was signed into law, making it a felony to cross state lines to stalk someone. I am also a cosponsor of a Victims' Rights Amendment, which gives victims of crime the same protections as their offenders. Crime victims deserve equal consideration in the criminal justice process. In addition, I am a cosponsor of Justice for Crime Victims Act of 2014, legislation to legislatively further some of the same goals of the Amendment.

There is also much work to be done to serve victims of human trafficking—a growing issue in Southern California. That's why I've cosponsored the Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Human Trafficking Act. This legislation helps ensure that child welfare agencies have the necessary tools to understand the unique needs of child trafficking victims and the resources to appropriately serve them.

I encourage you to visit http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/incvrw/ to learn more about Crime Victims' Rights Week and what we can be doing in our

local communities to raise awareness about the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, from January 6, 2014 through January 17, 2014, I was in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, reporting for mandatory annual National Guard training. I missed rollcall votes Nos. 1–23. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 1: ''Present''—On Quorum Call of the House.

Rollcall No. 2: ''yes''—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 724.

Rollcall No. 3: ''yes''—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3527.

Rollcall No. 4: ''yes''—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3628.

Rollcall No. 5: ''no''—Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 6: ''no''—On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 455.

Rollcall No. 7: ''yes''—Agreeing to the Sinema Amendment.

Rollcall No. 8: ''yes''—Agreeing to the Tonko Amendment.

Rollcall No. 9: ''yes''—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 10: ''no''—On Passage of H.R. 2279.

Rollcall No. 11: ''yes''—Final Passage of H.R. 3811.

Rollcall No. 12: ''yes''—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1513.

Rollcall No. 13: ''yes''—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 230.

Rollcall No. 14: ''yes''—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 2274.

Rollcall No. 15: ''yes''—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 801.

Rollcall No. 16: ''yes''—On Approving the Journal.

Rollcall No. 17: ''yes''—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2860.

Rollcall No. 18: ''yes''—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1233.

Rollcall No. 19: ''no''—On Ordering the Previous Question.

Rollcall No. 20: ''no''—On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 458.

Rollcall No. 21: ''yes''—Concurring in the Senate Amendments with an Amendment on H.R. 3547.

Rollcall No. 22: ''yes''—On Motion to Recommit with Instructions.

Rollcall No. 23: ''no''—On Passage of H.R. 3362.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BANASIAK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mike Banasiak of Legacy Financial Group for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mike in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Banasiak for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Mike on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,555,437,713,940.26. We've added $6,928,560,665,027.18 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO CONDUCT A RESOURCES STUDY TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY AND FEASIBILITY OF ENTERING INTO PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO OPERATE FEDERALLY OWNED GOLF COURSES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of entering into public-private partnerships to operate federally owned golf courses in the District of Columbia. The three golf courses—Langston Golf Course, Rock Creek Golf Course and East Potomac Golf Course—are owned by the National Park Service (NPS). The courses have long been in desperate need of capital investment to reverse decades of deterioration and to maintain and preserve their historic features. From the time Congress created the first of the courses in the 1920s, they have been underfunded. The major reason is that NPS has continued to operate the courses under concession contracts even though concession contracts do not allow for the significant annual capital improvements necessary for golf courses. The concessions approach to operating golf courses has led to an inevitable declining state of repair.

East Potomac Golf Course was built in 1920 and included three courses that accommodated all levels of play, with an 18-hole course and two 9-hole courses. East Potomac was initially segregated, with African Americans permitted to play only on Mondays. The course was desegregated in 1941 by the then-Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, following pressure from an African-American women's golf club, the Wake Robin Golf Club. However, Langston Golf Course opened in 1939 as a segregated course for African-Americans, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Langston was the home course for the Royal Golf Club and the Wake Robin Golf Club, the Nation's first clubs for African American men and women golfers, respectively. Langston, named for John Mercer Langston, the first African-American elected to Congress from Virginia in 1888, was originally a 9-hole course. Langston's expansion to an 18-hole course began in 1955, but was not completed until the mid-1980s. Rock Creek Golf Course opened in 1923 as a 9-hole course and an additional nine holes were added to it in 1926. None of the courses have been modernized, all three have fallen into disrepair, and all lack the amenities necessary to serve the public today.

My bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of NPS, to conduct a special resources study to determine the suitability and feasibility of entering into public-private partnerships with a non-Federal entity or entities to operate the courses. The study would assume that one of the three golf courses will be a world-class, tournament-quality public course, with playing fees commensurate with such courses. The other two courses would be public courses of substantially similar quality to top-ranked courses owned by cities, towns, counties and states. The playing fees for these other two courses would remain the same as they are on the date of enactment of the bill, indexed annually to the Consumer Price Index. The study would also determine which course would be best suitable as the world-class, tournament-quality public course.

The three courses together constitute a magnificent but underutilized public asset that could be renovated and modernized, facilitating affordable recreation, attracting significantly more golfers and generating revenue to maintain the courses. Unlike other NPS facilities, golf courses require significant, continuing capital investment for maintenance. The current fees collected from patrons at the courses, which are established in the concessions contracts, must remain affordable and therefore do not generate sufficient revenue for NPS or the concessioners to properly maintain the courses.

Because the public golf courses in the Nation's capital are in such poor condition and are in need of a different and better means of

operating and funding, I urge support of this bill.

IN HONOR OF EDWIN JEFFREY ''LANCE'' WENTZEL

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor fireman Edwin Jeffrey ''Lance'' Wentzel, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty serving the residents of Youngwood Borough and Southwestern Pennsylvania on Saturday, March 22, 2014.

Lance Wentzel was part a large group of volunteers searching North Versailles for a senior citizen who had been lost for days. Tragically, Lance lost his life during the search. A dedicated public servant, Mr. Wentzel sacrificed many hours away from his family, without pay, to help those in need.

Lance Wentzel was a distinguished thirty-five year member of the Youngwood Volunteer Fire Department. Ready and willing to serve his fellow citizens in need, Mr. Wentzel volunteered at Ground Zero in New York City following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. In 2012, he was named the department's ''Firefighter of the Year.''

Born on October 16, 1956, in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, Lance was active in the 14th Quartermaster family support group, attended St. Mark Lutheran Church in New Stanton, and was an accomplished marathon runner.

We offer our prayers and thanks to his family: wife, Judith; two sons, Jeffrey Jeremiah Wentzel, and Christopher William Wentzel; two stepsons, Justin Martin Vestrand, and Jason Mac Vestrand; three grandchildren, Oscar Thomas, Nevaeh and Urijah Wentzel; a brother, Philip A. Wentzel; four sisters, Judith C. Wagner, Connie L. Watson, Bonnie Kucenic, and Doris Santone.

Mr. Wentzel's sacrifice and service to the Youngwood Volunteer Fire Department, the community, and the country will not soon be forgotten. Tonight, as we say our evening prayers, let us thank God for men like Lance who without a second thought to their own well-being, are willing to do whatever is necessary to protect our families and communities.

OBSERVING THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMOLENSK DISASTER

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn observation of the 4th anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster.

On the morning of April 10th, 2010 Polish Air Force One crashed at Smolenski North Military Airfield in western Russia, killing all 96 passengers onboard—including Poland's president and first lady, political and military elites, as well as religious leaders and civilian families.

The stunning catastrophe happened as those Poles flew to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest Mass Murders perpetrated under the direction of Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union against Polish prisoners of war.

Years later, both tragedies still bring pain and suffering to the Polish people—both abroad and in my home district of Bucks and Montgomery counties.

In recognition of the fourth anniversary of the Smolensk Disaster, members of the Polish community in my region will gather at the American Czestochowa in Doylestown to pay tribute to those who lost their lives and commemorate this somber anniversary. I join them in marking this important date with reflection and prayer, as well as thanking the organizing committee for preparing this important event.

Poland and America remain strong allies with mutual interests in advancing the causes of freedom and liberty. I support a strong relationship between the two nations, and encourage all Americans to remember the Smolensk Disaster and those lost.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 4, 2014, I was unavoidably detained while questioning the Attorney General in the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee and so I was not present for rollcall vote No. 159.

Had I been present I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall vote No. 159 amendment offered by my good friend Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

CONGRATULATING THE NAIA DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, THE INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY WILDCATS

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the Indiana Wesleyan University Men's Basketball team for winning the NAIA Division II national championship. I am proud that the IWU Wildcats hail from Marion, Indiana, in my District. The Wildcats not only crushed the Midland University Warriors on March 18, 2014 and earned their first national championship, but they also ended the season as the No. 1 team in the NAIA poll, the third time the team has held this honor.

The Wildcats had an incredible season, becoming the first team to win all five tournament games by double digits and finishing the season with an outstanding 31–6 record, this season's highest Division II men's basketball win total. Coach Greg Tonagel led the team to victory and was named the NABC/NAIA Division II Coach of the Year. However, Coach Tonagel's award was one of many for the Wildcats this year, as senior Jordan Weidner was the 2014 Championship Most Outstanding Player, Lane Mahurin won the Championship Hustle Award, and the IWU Wildcats won the Dr. James Naismith/Emil Liston Team Sportsmanship Award. The sportsmanship award speaks to the integrity and hard work exemplified by each and every IWU player throughout this phenomenal season. They set a wonderful example for the entire Marion community and most especially their young fans.

My home state of Indiana has such a rich basketball heritage, and I am joined by Hoosiers across the state in celebrating Indiana's only 2014 Men's Basketball Championship. The Wildcats' unique approach to the game is exemplified by the team's motto of ''I Am Third''—God first, your teammates second, and yourself third. This inspiring motto is prominently displayed in the locker room and on the team warm-up shirts which are emblazoned with ''Team 3''.

Once again, congratulations Indiana Wesleyan University, we are very proud of you and look forward to cheering you on through another great season next year. Go Wildcats!

RECOGNIZING LOUIS SPADACCINO

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, duty, honor, country and responsibility are the core values said to be shared by our ''Greatest Generation.'' Louis Spadaccino of Holland, Bucks County, PA was no exception. Sadly, Lou passed away April 3 at the age of 90.

Lou, along with his six brothers served our country in World War II. In his senior year of high school he took his final exams early and left to join the U.S. Navy. Lou was a gunner's mate on LCI 489 and together with his fellow naval crew mates was active in bringing in the first wave of troops to Normandy at the Battle of Omaha Beach. Lou spent the next three years in the Navy and was honorably discharged in 1946.

About two years ago I had the opportunity to accompany Lou with Honor Flight to visit the National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. It was a privilege to share this experience with such an extraordinary gentleman, an American hero.

Lou led a full life as a business leader, community servant and loving family man. He will be missed but his remarkable achievements will live on in the hearts and minds of those he touched over the course of his lifetime.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OMEGA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Omega Christian Church, in White River Township, Hamilton County, 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 surrounding neighborhood was known as Bethany but later came to be called Omega. 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 dedicatory sermon in November of 1863. Knowles Shaw (1834–1878), an early minister of the church, became a prominent evangelist and composer of religious music and is best known for the hymn "Bringing in the Sheaves".

In the years following the war, the community around the church began to grow and prosper. After construction was finished on the church, a sawmill, general store, doctor's office, blacksmith shop, and post office were also established. In 1926, 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. While the physical building has changed, the mission of the Omega Christian Church remains unchanged from its founding in 1863: to serve God and 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 the Church reaches out to serve in other ministries far beyond the dreams of its pioneer founders, including supporting the Damou Christian Mission near Jacmel on the southern coast of Haiti. The Mission maintains a school for more than a thousand students, an assisted living facility for the elderly, and two orphanages established following the tragic earthquake of 2010.

Today, I am proud to recognize "the small country church that cares" and thank them for their contributions to the spiritual well-being of their community and the world. May the next 150 years be equally blessed.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW HOPE-LAMBERTVILLE BRIDGE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the New Hope-Lambertville Bridge is a historic, two-lane, steel truss bridge that has linked the two picturesque communities along the Delaware River for 200 years. The two-lane, toll-free span has weathered well, surviving floods and ice and two centuries of traffic from horses to motor vehicles. It remains a busy bridge with an estimated daily traffic count of 14,000. The New Hope-Lambertville Bridge opened as a wooden-covered bridge on Sept. 12, 1814, followed in 1904 with construction of the current steel truss bridge. Local historians created a documentary containing rare film footage that chronicles the 200-year history of the span, other landmarks and the rich artistic tradition of the area. The film premiered at a special celebration held at the New Hope Playhouse on April 10, 2014 to commemorate the 200-year anniversary. Congratulations to all involved in this tribute, including the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, the interstate agency responsible for the care and maintenance of the trusted connection between Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 9

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD–124

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–232A

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine an assessment on how to keep our railways safe for passengers and communities.

SD–138

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To hold hearings to examine defense health programs.

SD–106

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Labor.

SD–192

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–222

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Science and Space

To hold hearings to examine from here to Mars.

SR–253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging

To hold hearings to examine addressing primary care access and workforce challenges, focusing on voices from the field.

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger and the impact on consumers.

SH–216

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine election administration, focusing on making voter rolls more complete and more accurate.

SR–301

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Ukraine, focusing on confronting internal challenges and external threats, including Russia's seizure of Crimea.

SD–215

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to consider S. 1728, to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, S. 1937, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to develop contingency plans to address unexpected emergencies or natural disasters that may threaten to disrupt the administration of an election for Federal office, S. 1947, to rename the Government Printing Office the Government Publishing Office, S. 2197, to repeal certain requirements regarding newspaper advertising of Senate stationery contracts, and the nominations of Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, and Myrna Perez, of Texas, both to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission.

SR–301

11 a.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Small Business Administration.

SR–428A

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Energy.

SD–192

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force.

SD–124

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine National Nuclear Security Administration management of its National Security Laboratories and the status of the Nuclear Security Enterprise in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program
SR–222

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 429, to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products, S. 1014, to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, S. 1406, to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, S. 1275, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to issue a fishing capacity reduction loan to refinance the existing loan funding the Pacific Coast groundfish fishing capacity reduction program, S. 1379, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, S. 1468, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation, S. 1793, to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, S. 1925, to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders, S. 2022, to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, S. 2028, to amend the law relating to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, S. 2030, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, S. 2076, to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, S. 2086, to address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future, S. 2140, to improve the transition between experimental permits and commercial licenses for commercial reusable launch vehicles, H.R. 2052, to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment, the nomination of David J. Arroyo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and nominations for promotion in the United States Coast Guard.
SR–253

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on Indian students in public schools, and cultivating the next generation.
SD–628

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the economic impact of increased natural gas production.
SH–216

APRIL 10

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–106

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine United States electric grid reliability and security, focusing on if enough is being done.
SD–366

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for international development priorities.
SD–419

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Commerce.
SD–192

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015.
SD–215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine expanding access to quality early learning, focusing on the ''Strong Start for America's Children Act''.
SD–430

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight
To hold an oversight hearing to examine small agencies.
SD–342

2 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
S–116

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

3 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on European Affairs
To hold hearings to examine transatlantic security challenges, focusing on Central and Eastern Europe.
SD–419

APRIL 30

10 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the President's 2014 Trade Policy Agenda.
SD–215

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

MAY 21

10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to mark up those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SD–G50

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.
SR–222

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR–222

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to mark up the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015.

SR–222

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 3979, Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act, as amended. (The legislative vehicle entitled, "The Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act".)

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2169–S2202

Measures Introduced: Four bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2214–2217, and S. Res. 412–416. **Page S2194**

Measures Passed:

Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act: By 59 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 101), Senate passed 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.

Pages S2175–78, S2181–88

Representatives to the United Nations: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 2195, to deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2180–81**

Cruz Amendment No. 2960, to make a technical amendment. **Page S2180**

Cruz Amendment No. 2961, to amend the title. **Page S2181**

Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 92, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. **Page S2202**

National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 414, designating April 2014 as "National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month". **Page S2202**

National Public Health Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 415, supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week. **Page S2202**

Authorizing the Taking of a Photograph in the Senate Chamber: Senate agreed to S. Res. 416, authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Chamber of the United States Senate. **Page S2202**

Measures Considered:

Paycheck Fairness Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration to S. 2199, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex. **Pages S2179–80**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, April 9, 2014.

Page S2179

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency originally declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010 with respect to Somalia; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–39) **Page S2193**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Francis Xavier Taylor, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security. **Pages S2178, S2202**

L. Reginald Brothers, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security. **Pages S2178–79, S2202**

Mark Bradley Childress, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania. **Pages S2179, S2202**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Steven H. Cohen, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2019.

Gordon O. Tanner, of Alabama, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

Jane Toshiko Nishida, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Thomas P. Kelly III, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti.

Sunil Sabharwal, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years. **Page S2202**

Messages from the House: **Pages S2193–94**

Measures Referred: **Page S2194**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S2194, S2202**

Executive Communications: **Page S2194**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2195–96**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2196–S2201**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2192–93**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S2201**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S2201**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—101) **Page S2176**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:57 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2202.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 4411–4418; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 545 were introduced. **Pages H2990–91**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H2991**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4323, to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–404) and

H. Res. 544, providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 96) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024, and providing for proceedings during the period from April 11, 2014, through April 25, 2014 (H. Rept. 113–405). **Page H2990**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Wolf to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2963**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:09 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2964**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 4:02 p.m. **Page H2965**

Budget and Accounting Transparency Act of 2014: The House passed H.R. 1872, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, by a recorded vote of 230 ayes to 165 noes, Roll No. 166. **Pages H2965–73, H2983–86**

Rejected the DeLauro motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Budget with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 179 yeas to 217 nays, Roll No. 165. **Page H2985**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Budget now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H2965**

H. Res. 539, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1874), (H.R. 1871), and (H.R. 1872), was agreed to on Friday, April 4th.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Naval Vessel Transfer and Arms Export Control Amendments Act: H.R. 3470, amended, to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries; **Pages H2973–77**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To affirm the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act, to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign countries, and for other purposes.". **Page H2977**

Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act: S. 404, to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest; and **Pages H2977–80**

Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2014: H.R. 4323, to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004. **Pages H2980–83**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:55 p.m. and reconvened at 6:20 p.m. **Page H2983**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Con. Res. 90, to authorize the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. **Page H2986**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010 with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2014—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 113–103). **Page H2965**

Recess: The House recessed at 7:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:30 p.m. **Page H2987**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H2965.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2965 and H2965–66. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVES PUBLIC WITNESS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing for American Indian and Alaska Native public and outside witnesses. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on Internal Revenue Service FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from John A. Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Treasury.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 4299, the "Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act"; H.R. 4069, the "Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2013"; and H.R. 4250, the "Sunscreen Innovation Act". Testimony was heard from Janet Woodcock, M.D., Director, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Joseph T. Rannazzisi, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control Drug Enforcement; and public witnesses.

ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AND SETTING FORTH APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 THROUGH 2024

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H. Con. Res. 96, establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–3, a structured rule for H. Con. Res. 96. The rule provides four hours of general debate with three hours confined to the congressional budget equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget and one hour on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Rep. Brady of Texas and Rep. Carolyn Maloney of New York or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in 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, and shall not be subject to amendment. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report except that the adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute shall constitute the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment. The rule provides, upon the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment, a final period of general debate, which shall not exceed 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. The rule permits the Chair of the Budget Committee to offer amendments in the House pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. The rule provides that the concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption. In section 2, the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from April 11, 2014 through April 25, 2014: (a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and (b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. In section 3, the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of the resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I. In section 4, the rule provides that each day during the period addressed by section 2 of the resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546). In section 5, the rule provides that the Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2014, file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. Testimony was heard from Chairman Ryan (WI), and Representatives Van Hollen, Polis, Ellison, Scott (VA), Jackson Lee, and Mulvaney.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D359)*

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. Signed on April 3, 2014. (Public Law 113–94)

H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine. Signed on April 3, 2014. (Public Law 113–95)

S. 2183, entitled "United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions". Signed on April 3, 2014. (Public Law 113–96)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: business meeting to consider S. 1294, to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, and the nominations of Timothy G. Massad, of Connecticut, to be Chairman, Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, and J. Christopher Giancarlo, of New Jersey, all to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 9:45 a.m., SR–328A.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine advanced biofuels, focusing on creating jobs and lower prices at the pump, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the United States Agency for International Development, 10:15 a.m., SD–138.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the Open World Leadership Center, 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine Army Active and Reserve force mix in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine the role of the Department of Defense science and technology enterprise for innovation and affordability in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:15 p.m., SR–222.

Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 3:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine supporting broad-based economic growth and fiscal responsibility through a fairer tax code, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Vice Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, and Elliot F. Kaye, of New York, to be Chairman, and Joseph P. Mohorovic, of Illinois, both to be a Commissioner, both of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Janet Garvin McCabe, of the District of Columbia, and Ann Elizabeth Dunkin, of California, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Manuel H. Ehrlich, Jr., of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine protecting taxpayers from incompetent and unethical return preparers, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed international affairs budget request for fiscal year 2015 for national security and foreign policy priorities, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1720, to promote transparency in patent ownership and make other improvements to the patent system, 2:30 p.m., SD–106.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, American Indian and Alaska Native public and outside witness hearing, 9 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on NASA Request and Oversight of NASA Security, 9:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Agriculture Field Agencies FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on United States Africa Command FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This is a closed hearing.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Energy, Environmental Management FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Education FY 2015 Budget, 10:30 am., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, American Indian and Alaska Native public and outside witness hearing, 1 p.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing on United States Agency for International Development FY 2015 Budget, 1 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on United States Special Forces Command FY 2015 Budget, 1:30 p.m., H–405 Capitol. This is a closed hearing and for Members only.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on General Service Administration FY 2015 Budget, 2 p.m., H–309 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Russian Military Developments and Strategic Implications", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled "The FY15 Budget Request for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the Chemical Biological Defense Program: Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction in a Changing Global Environment", 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2015 Atomic Energy Defense and Nuclear Forces", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4366, the "Strengthening Education through Research Act"; and H.R. 10, the "Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act", 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled "Trolling for a Solution: Ending Abusive Patent Demand Letters", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Examining the Implementation of the Tobacco Control Act", 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Power, markup on H.R. 6, the "Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act", 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Hearing entitled "Who's in Your Wallet: Examining How Washington Red Tape Impairs Economic Freedom", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled "Lebanon's Security Challenges and U.S. Interests", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled "Is al-Qaeda Winning? Grading the Administration's Counterterrorism Policy", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled "Authorizing Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement", 10 a.m., 311 Canon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 4315, the "21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act"; H.R. 4316, the "Endangered Species Recovery Transparency Act";

H.R. 4317, the ''State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act''; and H.R. 4318, the ''Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''American Energy Jobs: Opportunities for Women and Minorities'', 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 187, to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit L06, Topsail, North Carolina; H.R. 277, to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Sachuest Point Unit RI–04P, Easton Beach Unit RI–05P, Almy Pond Unit RI–06, and Hazards Beach Unit RI–07 in Rhode Island; H.R. 1810, to revise the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Gasparilla Island Unit in Florida; H.R. 1811, to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System areas included in Florida System Unit P–16, and for other purposes; H.R. 2057, to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System the areas comprising Bay County Unit P–31P in Florida; H.R. 3226, to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; H.R. 3227, to remove from the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System certain properties in South Carolina; H.R. 3572, to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in North Carolina; and H.R. 4222, to correct the boundaries of John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System in Gulf County Florida, and for other purposes, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The President's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal for the Postal Service'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Reducing Waste in Government: Addressing GAO's 2014 Report on Duplicative Federal Programs'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Panel on Public-Private Partnerships, hearing entitled ''The International Experience with Public-Private Partnerships'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing on the Benefits of Permanent Tax Policy for America's Job Creators, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Treasury Department's Final Employer Mandate and Employer Reporting Requirements Regulations'', 2 p.m., B–318 Rayburn.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 8 through April 11, 2014

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m.

On *Wednesday*, unless an agreement is reached, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2199, Paycheck Fairness Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: April 8, business meeting to consider S. 1294, to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, and the nominations of Timothy G. Massad, of Connecticut, to be Chairman, Sharon Y. Bowen, of New York, and J. Christopher Giancarlo, of New Jersey, all to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 9:45 a.m., SR–328A.

April 8, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine advanced biofuels, focusing on creating jobs and lower prices at the pump, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: April 8, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the United States Agency for International Development, 10:15 a.m., SD–138.

April 8, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Architect of the Capitol, the Library of Congress, and the Open World Leadership Center, 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

April 9, Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Environmental Protection Agency, 9:15 a.m., SD–124.

April 9, Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine an assessment on how to keep our railways safe for passengers and communities, 9:45 a.m., SD–138.

April 9, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Labor, 10 a.m., SD–192.

April 9, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine defense health programs, 10 a.m., SD–106.

April 9, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Energy, 2:30 p.m., SD–192.

April 9, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

April 10, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: April 8, to hold hearings to examine Army Active and Reserve force mix in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

April 8, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine the role of the Department of Defense science and technology enterprise for innovation and affordability in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:15 p.m., SR–222.

April 8, Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 3:30 p.m., SR–232A.

April 9, Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:15 a.m., SR–232A.

April 9, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 10 a.m., SR–222.

April 9, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine National Nuclear Security Administration management of its National Security Laboratories and the status of the Nuclear Security Enterprise in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

April 10, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Environmental Management of the Department of Energy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

April 10, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding 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: April 8, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: April 8, to hold hearings to examine supporting broad-based economic growth and fiscal responsibility through a fairer tax code, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: April 8, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Vice Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, and Elliot F. Kaye, of New York, to be Chairman, and Joseph P. Mohorovic, of Illinois, both to be a Commissioner, both of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

April 9, Subcommittee on Science and Space, to hold hearings to examine from here to Mars, 10 a.m., SR–253.

April 9, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 429, to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products, S. 1014, to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, S. 1406, to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, S. 1275, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to issue a fishing capacity reduction loan to refinance the existing loan funding the Pacific Coast groundfish fishing capacity reduction program, S. 1379, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, S. 1468, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation, S. 1793, to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, S. 1925, to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders, S. 2022, to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, S. 2028, to amend the law relating to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, S. 2030, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, S. 2076, to amend the provisions of title 46, United States Code, related to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, S. 2086, to address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future, S. 2140, to improve the transition between experimental permits and commercial licenses for commercial reusable launch vehicles, H.R. 2052, to direct the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to conduct an interagency review of and report to Congress on ways to increase the global competitiveness of the United States in attracting foreign direct investment, the nomination of David J. Arroyo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and nominations for promotion in the United States Coast Guard, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: April 10, to hold an oversight hearing to examine United States electric grid reliability and security, focusing on if enough is being done, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: April 8, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Janet Garvin McCabe, of the District of Columbia, and Ann Elizabeth

Dunkin, of California, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Manuel H. Ehrlich, Jr., of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: April 8, to hold hearings to examine protecting taxpayers from incompetent and unethical return preparers, 10 a.m., SD–215.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: April 8, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed international affairs budget request for fiscal year 2015 for national security and foreign policy priorities, 10 a.m., SD–419.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for international development priorities, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

April 10, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

April 10, Subcommittee on European Affairs, to hold hearings to examine transatlantic security challenges, focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, 3 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: April 9, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging, to hold hearings to examine addressing primary care access and workforce challenges, focusing on voices from the field, 10 a.m., SD–430.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine expanding access to quality early learning, focusing on the "Strong Start for America's Children Act", 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: April 10, Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight, to hold an oversight hearing to examine small agencies, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: April 9, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on Indian students in public schools, and cultivating the next generation, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: April 8, business meeting to consider S. 1720, to promote transparency in patent ownership and make other improvements to the patent system, 2:30 p.m., SD–106.

April 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger and the impact on consumers, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Rules and Administration: April 9, to hold hearings to examine election administration, focusing on making voter rolls more complete and more accurate, 10 a.m., SR–301.

April 9, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1728, to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, S. 1937, to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to develop contingency plans to address unexpected emergencies or natural disasters that may threaten to disrupt the administration of an election for Federal office, S. 1947, to rename the Government Printing Office the Government Publishing Office, S. 2197, to repeal certain requirements regarding newspaper advertising of Senate stationery contracts, and the nominations of Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, and Myrna Perez, of Texas, both to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission, 10:30 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: April 9, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Small Business Administration, 11 a.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: April 8, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

April 10, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, April 9, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4413, the "Customer Protection and End User Relief Act", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, April 9, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Commerce, FY 2015 Budget, 2 p.m., H–309 Capitol.

April 9, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing on Office of Management and Budget FY 2015 Budget, 2 p.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

April 9, Full Committee, markup on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill, FY 2015; and Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, FY 2015; and Report on the Interim Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2015, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, public and outside witness hearing, 9 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled Bureau of Prison FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

April 10, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing on Intelligence Community Overview, 10 a.m., H–405 Capitol. This hearing is a closed hearing and is for Members only.

April 10, Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Housing and Urban Development FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, public and outside witness hearing, 1 p.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, April 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled "National Defense Priorities from Members for the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

April 9, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled "Beneficiary and Advocacy Overview of the FY15 President's Budget", 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled "Readiness Posture", 8 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, April 9, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4321, the "Employee Privacy Protection Act"; and H.R. 4320, the "Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act", 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, April 9, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, markup on H.R. 6, the ''Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

April 9, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, markup on H.R. 4342, the ''Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters (DOTCOM) Act of 2014'', 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

April 10, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, continued markup on H.R. 4342, the ''Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters (DOTCOM) Act of 2014'', 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, April 9, Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled ''Legislative Proposals to Enhance Capital Formation for Small and Emerging Growth Companies'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, April 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''U.S. Foreign Assistance in FY 2015: What Are the Priorities, How Effective?'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 9, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled ''Advancing U.S. Interests in the Western Hemisphere: The FY 2015 Foreign Affairs Budget'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

April 9, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''U.S. Policy Towards Morocco'', 3 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Sercurity, April 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Boston Marathon Bombings, One Year On: A Look Back to Look Forward'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, April 10, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Should the Department of Commerce Relinquish Direct Oversight Over ICANN?'', 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, April 9, Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 503, the ''National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act''; H.R. 836, the ''Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013''; H.R. 2208, the ''North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act of 2013''; H.R. 2430, the ''Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act of 2013''; H.R. 3802, to extend the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, and for other purposes; H.R. 4002, to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes; H.R. 4017, to designate a peak located in Nevada as ''Mount Reagan''; H.R. 4120, to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date; H.R. 4253, the ''Bureau of Land Management Withdrawn Military Lands Efficiency and Savings Act''; and H.R. 4309, to amend the Sikes Act to make certain improvements to the administration of cooperative agreements for land management related to Department of Defense readiness activities, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

April 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Tribal Forest Management: A Model for Promoting Healthy Forests and Rural Jobs'', 9:30 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, April 9, Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements, hearing entitled ''Examining Ways the Social Security Administration Can Improve the Disability Review Process'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

April 10, Full Committee, business meeting, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, April 9, Subcommittee on Space, markup on H.R. 4412, the ''National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014'', 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

April 9, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled ''Prizes to Spur Innovation and Technology Breakthroughs'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

April 10, Full Committee, hearing on Department of Energy Science and Technology Priorities, 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, April 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Biggest Tax Problems for Small Businesses'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, April 9, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 524, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency does not have the authority to disapprove a permit after it has been issued by the Secretary of the Army under section 404 of such Act; and H.R. 4156, the ''Transparent Airfares Act of 2014'', 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, April 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''A Continued Assessment of Delays in VA Medical Care and Preventable Veteran Deaths'', 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, April 9, Full Committee, markup on referral to Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois G. Lerner for possible criminal prosecution for violations of one or more criminal statutes based on evidence the Committee has uncovered in the course of the investigation of IRS abuses, 9:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

April 9, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled ''Trade Implications of U.S. Energy Policy and the Export of Liquefied Natural Gas'', 1:15 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, April 10, Full Committee, business meeting, member access requests; and hearing entitled ''Ongoing Intelligence Activities'', 9 a.m., 304–HVC. A portion of the business meeting may close. The hearing is closed.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: April 9, to hold hearings to examine the economic impact of increased natural gas production, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: April 9, to hold hearings to examine Ukraine, focusing on confronting internal challenges and external threats, including Russia's seizure of Crimea, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 8

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 1871—Baseline Reform Act (Subject to a Rule). Begin consideration of H. Con. Res. 96—Establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024

(Subject to a Rule).

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