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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 9, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr., 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 11:50 a.m.

FLORIDA BEACH RENOURISHMENT

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of critical importance to my community, to Florida's 13th Congressional District of Pinellas County, Florida, but also to coastal communities around the country—the issue of beach renourishment.

There is an urgency that I want to express today on behalf of communities like Treasure Island, Florida. The Federal Government has invested in beach renourishment for the past 50 years, and it has done so alongside State and local municipalities and State and local governments, who have also made a priority in investing in beach renourishment.

This year alone, State and local governments will likely invest nearly $100 million in beach renourishment projects, and it is for good reason. Beach renourishment addresses a very critical issue of pre-storm mitigation, it protects communities from flooding, it protects communities from losses to property, from losses to critical infrastructure, and it ultimately reduces disaster assistance when such assistance is needed.

Beach renourishment also protects our environment, it protects against damage to habitats critical to environments, it encourages stronger environments, cleaner environments; and, perhaps most importantly, beach renourishment programs invested in by State and local governments and our Federal Government contribute to jobs and economic growth in communities across the country.

We have industries that exist in communities in my district, like Clearwater Beach and St. Pete Beach, and in communities across the country whose jobs and economic growth and local economy rely on international visitors and visitors from around the country.

In Florida alone, we will more than double visits to our beaches as compared to visits to all U.S. national parks combined. It takes jobs and employees to support those visitors, and it is critical to our local economy that we continue the investment in beach renourishment projects.

So I rise today with a sense of urgency. When this House, this body, considered the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, it passed a responsible bill, but one that did not include continued authorization for important beach renourishment projects. That legislation is now in conference, and I am here today to ask my colleagues that we not let this provision slip by. We must reauthorize these programs.

So I would urge the conferees on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act to strongly consider bringing back language that reauthorizes programs, or at least allows for the reauthorization of programs, that are soon to expire. I ask my colleagues to be receptive to that language should it come back.

I would like to thank today my chairman on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for allowing me to work with him in the very few weeks that I have been here on this issue that is of critical importance to my district, but also to districts around the country.

HONORING THE FLYING TIGERS

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

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the members of the American volunteer group known as the Flying Tigers for their heroic service to the United States of America during World War II. The Flying Tigers consisted of ex-personnel from the Navy, Marines, and the Army Air Corps. Operating out of China, they trained in secret, and shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor began a series of heroic battles against the Japanese aircraft squadrons.

Working together with the Chinese and the Royal Air Force, the Flying Tigers drove back attacks on the port of Rangoon in Burma, and became celebrated for their tactical victories.

On July 4, 1942, the Flying Tigers were absorbed into the 23rd Fighter Group, and their distinctive shark-faced planes remain among the most recognizable of any aircraft from World War II.

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Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the members of the Flying Tigers for their brave service to our great country.

RECOGNIZING JODY BRUCE AND JOSH HOFFMAN

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

Mr. CRAMER. The author Henry Miller wrote: ''The ordinary man is involved in action, the hero acts, an immense difference.''

Mr. Speaker, having grown up the son of a rural electric lineman, I am more than a little familiar with the not so ordinary actions of these rather ordinary people.

They do a job most of us won't or can't do, often putting themselves in danger's way as they carry out their duties in all kinds of weather conditions. They earn a paycheck for their work for sure, but their contribution to the quality of life of rural America is to the benefit of millions of people.

But today, Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the extraordinary efforts of two rural electric linemen from North Dakota who stepped beyond being involved in the action to act.

Jody Bruce from Minot, who works for Verendrye Electric Cooperative, and Josh Hoffman from Carrington, who works for Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, left the comfort zone of middle America to facilitate the advent of safe, reliable, and affordable electricity in a community in Haiti.

Their service and sacrifice will improve the lives of many people because electricity is a critical element to improve quality of life, health care, education, clean water, and other vital services.

Volunteering their time and expertise, they both spent 2 weeks in the town of Caracol, providing safety training and mentoring for local linemen. They also assisted with installing power for residents located next to an industrial park. When fully functional, this facility will have the capacity to employ 30,000 people.

Jody and Josh are the only linemen from North Dakota to ever participate in such a project in Haiti, a country where only about 13 percent of the people have reliable access to electricity.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation has been working on a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded program to bring electricity to the town of Caracol and nearby areas.

Today, more than 1,200 consumers in the town have access to reliable electricity. Some homes now have antennas for their TVs. In fact, some businesses are springing up, things like Internet cafes that have been established, and water treatment plants are in full operation.

While we often take for granted such basic amenities as safe, reliable electricity in this country, we ought to say a prayer for the men and women who ensure that the lights are always on for us and the families who wait for them at home.

In the case of Jody Bruce and Josh Hoffman, well, they deserve a ticker-tape parade. They, Mr. Speaker, are international heroes.

GRANT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD IN THE UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I began this series of remarks yesterday as the District prepares for Emancipation Day on April 16, when Lincoln freed the slaves in the District of Columbia before the national Emancipation Proclamation.

I began with the status of all the citizens of the District of Columbia today with ''Taxation Without Representation,'' the slogan the Founders of our Nation and the Framers of our Constitution used to start the revolution that created the United States of America itself. With those taxes should come statehood.

But if there is any issue with greater command than taxation without representation for statehood for the District of Columbia, it is surely fighting and dying for one's country without representation, securing the vote for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, only to come home with no vote of your own in the Congress that sent you to war, or not coming home at all.

D.C. residents fought and died in the war that created the United States of America itself, and have served in every war since, often suffering casualties well beyond those of fellow Americans, casualties that mounted in each of the major wars of the 20th century: World War I, more casualties than three States; World War II, more casualties than four States; the Korean war, by then more casualties than eight States; and the Vietnam war, more casualties than 10 States of the Union.

Not only have thousands fought and died without the vote, many served with unusual distinction and many in the segregated Armed Forces, although African Americans in the District were outnumbered by Whites until recent years. Yet the District produced the first African American Army general, Benjamin O. Davis; the first African American Air Force general, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., a graduate of West Point and commander of the Tuskegee Airmen; Wesley Davis, the first African American Naval Academy graduate; Charles Vernon Bush, the first African American Air Force Academy graduate, and the roster continues today—today the first Deputy Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Manson Brown, and the first female African American aviator, D.C. National Guard First Lieutenant Demetria Elosiebo.

Our country continues to deny District of Columbia citizens their basic rights at home.

Today, we ask that Congress draw the line on service in the Armed Forces. In the name of those who have fought or died in the Nation's wars, grant the citizens of the District of Columbia equal rights with other Americans. Grant the District of Columbia statehood in the Union.

A LETTER TO THE TURKISH PEOPLE

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

Mr. SCHIFF. An open letter to the Turkish people:

Today, I write to you on an issue of great importance to both our nations. It is on a subject that many of you, especially the younger generation, may know little about because it concerns a chapter of world history that your government has expended enormous efforts to conceal.

Turkey has been at the center of human civilization from Neolithic times to the present, and your arts, culture, and science have enriched the world. But interwoven with all of Turkey's remarkable achievements is a dark chapter that too many of today's Turks know little or nothing about.

Were you aware that your grandparents and great-grandparents had many Armenian neighbors and friends—that 20 percent of the population of today's Istanbul was Armenian? Did you know that the Armenians were well integrated into Turkish society as celebrated intellects, artists, craftsmen, and community leaders? Have you ever wondered what happened to the Armenians? Have you ever asked your parents and grandparents how such a large, industrious, and prosperous people largely vanished from your midst? Do you know why your government goes to such lengths to conceal this part of your history?

Let me tell you a part of their story. The rest you must find out for yourselves.

Ninety-nine years ago this month, in the dying years of the Ottoman Empire, the Young Turk government launched a campaign of deportation, expropriation, starvation, and murder against the empire's Armenian citizens.

□ 1015

Much of the Armenian population was forcibly removed to Syria, where many succumbed during brutal forced marches through the desert heat. Hundreds of thousands were massacred by Ottoman gendarmes, soldiers, and even their own neighbors.

By the time the slaughter ended in 1923, 1.5 million Armenians had been killed in what is now universally acknowledged as the first genocide of the 20th century. The survivors scattered throughout the Middle East and the

wider world, with some making their way to the United States and to Los Angeles.

It is their grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom I represent as a Member of the U.S. Congress. Theirs is a vibrant community, many tens of thousands strong, with schools, churches, and businesses providing a daily link to their ancestral homeland. It is on their behalf that I urge you to begin anew a national conversation in Turkey about the events of 1915–1923.

As a young man or woman in Turkey, you might ask: What has this to do with me? Am I to blame for a crime committed long before I was born?

I would say this: yours is the moral responsibility to acknowledge the truth and to seek a reconciliation with the Armenian people that your parents and their parents could or would not. It is an obligation you have inherited and is one from which you must not shrink; for though we cannot choose our own history, we decide what to do about it, and you will be the ones to shape Turkey's future.

At the end of World War II, Germany was a shattered nation—defeated in battle and exposed as history's greatest war criminal—but in the decades since the end of the war, Germany has engaged in a prolonged effort to reconcile with the Jewish people, who were nearly exterminated by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

The German Government has prosecuted war criminals, returned expropriated property, allied itself with Israel, and made countless apologies to the victims and to the world. Most importantly, Germany has worked to expunge the cancer of the dehumanizing bigotry and hatred that gave rise to the Holocaust.

This path of reflection, reconciliation, and repentance must be Turkey's path as well. It will not be easy. The questions will be painful and the answers difficult, sometimes unknowable.

One question stands out: How could a nation that ruled peaceably over a diverse, multicultural empire for centuries have turned on one of its own peoples with such ruthlessness that an entirely new word had to be invented to describe what took place? ''Genocide.''

As in Judaism and Christianity, the concept of repentance—or tawba—is central to Islam. Next year will mark a century since the beginning of the genocide, and Armenians around the world will mourn their dead, contemplate the enormity of their loss, and ask: Why?

Answer them, please, with words of repentance.

Sincerely, ADAM SCHIFF, Member of Congress.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE RYAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MAFFEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition of the legislation H. Con. Res. 96, the budget proposed by the chairman of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN).

Unfortunately, this year's Ryan budget is more of the same recklessness and extreme partisanship that we have seen year after year from the House Republican leadership.

According to the Democrats on the House Budget Committee, under RYAN'S plan, middle class families in my district in central New York will pay an average of $2,000 more each year.

Once again, the Ryan budget ends the Medicare guarantee as we know it, and it would turn Medicare, instead, into a privatized voucher program and would shift health care costs to seniors.

It threatens to cut off critical investments in job creation and infrastructure, and it slashes education at a time when local school districts in central New York are already struggling to find the resources necessary to provide our children with the high-quality education that they deserve.

This is not a balanced approach, and it is not a responsible solution. People in central New York and across the country need better. Congress must get serious about balancing the budget and about reducing the national debt and deficit, but not on the backs of our seniors and not on the backs of the middle class and certainly not on the backs of future generations of Americans.

At a time when many central New Yorkers are still struggling as the economy recovers, we simply cannot accept the irresponsible policies of the Ryan budget.

I call on my colleagues to reject the Ryan budget and to work together to create a bipartisan budget that gets our fiscal house in order and promotes economic growth, creates jobs, protects our seniors, and strengthens the middle class.

RECENT EVIDENCE OF INFLATION

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take note of a recent scientific discovery, a result which, if confirmed and understood in its full theoretical context, has the potential to change the way we think about the beginnings of the universe.

Before coming to Congress, I was a high-energy particle physicist and a particle accelerator designer at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for over 20 years. While I sometimes miss being back in the lab, I am very pleased when I have the opportunity to advocate in Congress for scientific research and development.

Twice in my life, I have had the privilege of participating in a fundamental breakthrough in science. The first was during my Ph.D. thesis work when we observed a subatomic process, known as proton decay—which was confidently predicted by many, if not most, of the theoretical physicists at the time—was, in fact, not happening.

The second time was at Fermilab, when I was part of the team that discovered the top quark, which is the heaviest known form of matter and, quite possibly, the heaviest subatomic particle that will ever be discovered—or not.

So like scientists around the world, my pulse quickened with the announcement that the first independent confirming evidence for cosmic inflation in the early universe had been discovered.

Humans have wondered about the origin of the universe for thousands of years. Now, thanks to a team of clever and hard-working scientists and of Federal investments in basic science, we appear to be an important step closer to understanding the birth of the universe.

Immediately following the big bang, which is the moment at which the universe burst into existence, scientists have hypothesized that the universe underwent a period known as inflation. During inflation, which lasted for only a tiny fraction of a second, the universe expanded at an exponential rate.

Now, the BICEP2 team, which is a collaboration of 12 institutes, including universities, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Energy and NASA laboratories, has found direct evidence that appears to verify the theory of inflation.

They were able to study the very first moments of the universe at less than a trillionth of a trillionth of a trillionth of a second after the big bang, and they were able to obtain direct observational evidence of inflation, which, until now, has been mainly based on theoretical work.

To do this, the team constructed a telescope at the National Science Foundation's U.S. Antarctic Program's research station at the South Pole to observe the cosmic microwave background radiation, a faint glow left over from the big bang.

They observed a pattern in the cosmic background radiation that was consistent with being left over from inflation, giving us a glimpse of the universe over 13.7 billion years ago. They were able to detect this, in large part, because of recent advances in highly sensitive detector technology.

This project was primarily funded by the National Science Foundation, and it received generous support from NASA and from the Department of Energy, as well as from private industry, and it is an example of the importance of Federal funding for basic science research.

It is also an example of the interplay between technology and basic science and of how new technology will lead to even greater advances in basic science and vice versa.

Additionally, study after study has shown that there are few investments

our government can make that provide as high a return on investment as scientific research and development.

Despite this, Federal investments in research and development are at an historic low, comprising merely 3.8 percent of the Federal budget—or 0.8 percent of the GDP.

In fact, over the last 3 years, Federal research and development expenditures have decreased by 16.3 percent, which is the steepest decline over a 3-year period since the end of the space race.

These results are an important reminder of the value of Federal investment in research and development. Without the proper investment in scientific research, we must expect fewer of these groundbreaking scientific discoveries, at least in the United States.

The greatest long-term threat that our country faces on both the military and economic fronts is the threat of losing our role as world leaders in innovation and in science and technology.

Nothing is more crucial to preserving that role than having adequate funding for fundamental and applied scientific research. The recent advances in cosmology are just one of many examples of the breadth of intellectual capital and state-of-the-art technology that the U.S. currently possesses.

As Congress determines how to allocate funding for these agencies in the coming year, with many proposing budgets that will cripple future investments in education and research, I urge my colleagues to capitalize on these discoveries and ensure that we are investing enough in research, science, and education.

Because of Federal investments in science, we have just looked significantly farther into the early universe than anyone has done before. This not only tells us about the birth of the universe, but it also gives us insight into our fundamental understanding of the laws of physics.

This discovery by the BICEP2 team has been globally recognized as one of the most important fundamental breakthroughs in science in our lifetimes, a landmark of American academic achievement that will live on in the science textbooks forever.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROPOSAL UNDERMINES AMERICA'S FUTURE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday night, I introduced legislation to provide an extension of emergency unemployment benefits that would extend the important safety net of unemployment benefits, unemployment insurance to over 2 million Americans who lost their benefits on December 28 and thereafter as a result of the failure of this body to act to protect those benefits.

Many of us, particularly on the Democratic side—and I know some on the other side as well because they have expressed it—would have preferred that we had dealt with this question as we were dealing with the budget issues and the budget question that we faced at the end of last year, but we did not, so we are left now with the fact that we have some unfinished business.

On Monday evening, in a bipartisan fashion, the U.S. Senate enacted similar legislation. In fact, the bill that I introduced on Monday night was the precise language enacted on a bipartisan basis by the U.S. Senate.

Two million Americans are living right now with the fear of losing their homes, losing their cars, having their families split up because they don't have that basic need being met of a roof over a head and food on the table between their last jobs and their next jobs.

For typical workers in America, when they lose their jobs, it takes an average of 37 weeks. I know, in my home State, it is probably longer before they find their next opportunities. In Michigan, once one loses one's job, one has got 20 weeks of unemployment insurance. What happens to one after that is what we are dealing with today.

The fact that people go from one week to the next not knowing if they are going to be able to keep their families together and keep roofs over their heads is something that this Congress can do something about if it chooses to.

I know there are Members of the Republican Conference who are anxious to see this enacted because several put together a letter to the Speaker, asking that this issue be brought up immediately, and that is what I hope my colleagues will do—bring extended unemployment compensation, unemployment insurance to the floor, so that we can protect those workers who are trying to get from their last jobs to their next jobs without starting a cycle of poverty that could last generations.

There are some who say we don't need this because, number one, workers who are on unemployment don't want to work. I suppose there may be an exception or a myth that we could conjure up about an individual who is receiving unemployment compensation who doesn't want to work, but for those of you who believe that, come to my district or, better yet, go to your home district.

Talk to people in the unemployment lines and ask them if they would trade their situations today for meaningful work. I assure you that the vast majority, if not all of the people in that situation, would trade, in a minute, their situations for a real job with a decent wage.

There are some also who say that we shouldn't do this because it is not an emergency, that these are supposed to be emergency benefits. As far as I can see, it is not only an emergency here in Washington, but if you are about to lose your house or if you are about to lose your car or if you don't have enough food on the table to feed your kids, for you, it is an emergency.

We represent those folks, and we ought to be thinking about them, and we ought to take this up.

So why is it that we need to do this in the first place? I think the Republicans and Democrats could agree that the economy is not growing at a rate to put all Americans back to work. We will acknowledge that. We will stipulate that, while there has been growth and while there has been private sector job creation, it is not enough.

We will probably disagree on the reasons behind that, but we can agree that the current economy is not enough to put these folks back to work. We should help them, but we should also do the things that it will take to get America back to work again.

Unfortunately, what we will deal with in the next couple of days is a budget that undermines economic growth, that undermines the kind of investments in the skills of our workforce by cutting job training, by cutting Pell grants, by cutting early childhood education—programs like Head Start—that actually change the trajectory for those individuals, that make them more capable and more able to get into the workforce in this competitive economy that we are in.

□ 1030

Rather than investing in our people, what this proposed Ryan budget would do is to cut those essential programs and not contribute to economic growth.

It also would cut important investments in infrastructure. Democrats and Republicans alike agree that we need to rebuild our infrastructure—our roads, our bridges, our rail systems, and our ports.

This budget takes us in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Congress can come together around this question and realize that if, in the short term, we are going to deal with the crisis that families are facing, we will pass an unemployment extension, and, in the long term, we take the kind of steps that we need to rebuild our economy.

The budget proposed by Mr. RYAN that will be coming to the floor will take us in the wrong direction.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Darius Pridgen, True Bethel Baptist Church, Buffalo, New York, offered the following prayer:

To the grand architect of the universe, who meticulously and purposefully placed each star and planet into a predestined position in the universe, the results of such methodical placement has caused tranquility in the universe in that Mars does not clash with Jupiter, Venus does not war with Saturn, and the Sun does not compete with the Moon.

As You have done in the universe, You have also done in this House of the people. May those whom You have perfectly placed in these hallowed seats remember they, like the perfectly planned universe, have been placed here by You, not to clash, crash, and war, but to work together for the good of their constituents, the country, the world, and, indeed, the universe.

In the name of the God we serve, amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTENGER 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND DARIUS PRIDGEN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome Pastor Darius Pridgen to the House of Representatives today from the True Bethel Baptist Church in western New York.

Pastor Pridgen is well known and well respected in our community for his passionate and inspiring leadership. We could all benefit from adopting his style of cooperation and uniting people of different beliefs and ideologies.

His contributions to our region are many. In addition to being a role model, he works through creative ministry to create jobs, to care for those in need, and to influence good in his church and far beyond.

This is most notable by his expansion of True Bethel's reach from east Buffalo into the city of Niagara Falls. Pastor Pridgen is also a family man and encourages strong families. In addition to his ministry, Pastor Pridgen has served our Nation, as he is a veteran of the United States Air Force, and he currently serves as president of the Buffalo City Council.

Pastor Pridgen is the embodiment of Buffalo's reputation as the City of Good Neighbors, and I am honored to have him here today to represent our community.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WILL GRIER

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Will Grier who, as quarterback of the Davidson Day School, led them to three consecutive championships.

Over his high school career, Will threw for 195 touchdowns, averaged 383 passing yards a game, and once threw 10 touchdown passes in a single game. For his exploits on the field, Will Grier was named Parade Magazine's 2014 All-America Player of the Year and was selected as America's top high school football player by Football USA.

He graduated from high school a semester early and is already attending classes at the University of Florida, where he will continue his football career.

While I congratulate Will for his football accomplishments, I also want to congratulate him for remaining focused off the field. At Davidson Day, he chose to be a positive role model, regularly spending time with younger students and always reading to the elementary classes.

Please join me in congratulating Davidson's and North Carolina's Will Grier for his accomplishments and for his commitment to serving others.

T.C. GILLESPIE

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend who departed this Earth last week, who I know is headed to glory because of the great things he did in Tarrant County for working men and women.

T.C. Gillespie, who was the president of the Tarrant County Central Labor Council, died after a long battle with lung disease.

T.C. was such a tireless advocate for men and women. Before he was president of the Central Labor Council, he was the treasurer and secretary of the Communications Workers of America.

T.C. just believed in people. He was someone who helped me very early on in my career, before I was in Congress. He helped so many people he believed would do the right thing for so many workers and for so many families in Tarrant County.

Even as I watched T.C. struggle in the last couple of years of his life, I would say: T.C., you don't need to be here; you need to be home resting.

He was having such a hard time walking and breathing because of the lung issue that he was having, and he just wanted to be there for people he believed in.

I want to thank the family and friends he leaves behind. T.C. Gillespie was a dear friend and a great man to so many people in Tarrant County.

KELLIE HINSHAW

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

Mrs. ELLMERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Mrs. Kellie Godwin Hinshaw, who fought and battled cancer until it took her body this week in Dunn, North Carolina. Her spirit will truly live on within all of us.

Kellie was a friend who inspired me in her strength to go forward even on the worst of days. She was a strong, loving, caring woman with an incredible sense of humor. She was a daughter, sister, wife, and mother of two beautiful boys, Kenneth and Kannon.

Kellie had adenoid cystic carcinoma, a rare form of cancer. Despite this terrible disease, Kellie and her family chose to use this as a platform to do good. Kellie's Krew successfully organized and grew a 5K race that has raised well over $100,000 for adenoid cystic carcinoma research and has brought our whole community together.

Kellie taught our community that ''vain'' is a four-letter word and that beauty truly comes from within. She will be forever loved by her family, her community, and me.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the most important issue facing our country. Guess what? It has nothing to do with repealing ObamaCare. It is about jobs.

Instead of bringing the American Jobs Act to the floor, an act which would create nearly 2 million new jobs, my Republican colleagues remain obsessed with trying to repeal ObamaCare.

This may be the only job in America at which you can try to do something more than 50 times and still have a job. It is time to move on and pass a bill that will help to create jobs.

In my home State of Rhode Island and across the country, unemployment rates remain unacceptably high. It is time to stop rehashing old political battles and to move on to the issues that will help grow our economy and get people back to work.

The American Jobs Act will boost consumer demand and hiring by cutting taxes for struggling families and small businesses, and it will invest in infrastructure and education. It is fully paid for.

Why would my colleagues on the other side oppose a bill that independent analysts, including Moody's Analytics, say would create up to 1.9 million new jobs?

Madam Speaker, it is time to take up this legislation to get our economy back on track and to help Americans get back to work.

FIVE-TIME WINNERS

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituents who work at the Frito-Lay manufacturing facility in Fayetteville, Tennessee, for helping to win the C.E. Doolin Award for Operations Excellence for an unprecedented fifth time.

This annual nationwide award, named for Frito-Lay's cofounder, is the most prestigious award given by the company for operations and is a testament to the value we place on honest, hard work in Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District.

I have had an opportunity to meet and visit with numerous workers, and I always leave with an admiration for their sincere dedication to not only their jobs, but to the community in which they work. It is no wonder that Tennessee continues to attract some of the best businesses in the world, as we have some of the best workers in the world.

Congratulations to the outstanding, hard-working individuals who received this tremendous honor and who continue to make the great State of Tennessee proud.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, this morning, a productive meeting took place with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus with respect to the deportations going on in our Nation.

This issue is critical to my district of Orange County, which heartbreakingly accounts for 43 percent of the California ICE detainer requests on juveniles, which often lead to deportations. That is why I have advocated for comprehensive immigration reform, to ensure that no one is living in the shadow of fear.

As a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I will continue to urge the Department of Homeland Security to continue to keep in mind the harmful effects that these deportations have on our communities and the trauma they introduce into our families, into our young people, into our children.

As a CHC member, I join my colleagues as we continue to act for the inclusion of the voices of our community stakeholders, so that their stories are not neglected.

Madam Speaker, the time is now to vote on a comprehensive immigration reform package.

PAT TUTHILL—RONALD WILSON REAGAN PUBLIC POLICY AWARD

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

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Madam Speaker, this month of April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Pat Tuthill of Tallahassee, Florida, lost her 23-year-old daughter, Peyton, on February 24, 1999. Peyton was sexually assaulted and brutally murdered by a convicted criminal on unsupervised probation. Three months after her daughter's death and through her own pain, she was determined to get better, not bitter.

Ms. Tuthill quit her job and became a public speaker and an advocate for victims of violent crime. She has traveled the country, lobbying policymakers to support legislation that strengthens the monitoring and supervision of criminals on parole and probation.

Last year, Ms. Tuthill's dream became a reality with the implementation of the first National Automated Standardized Victim Notification system.

I had the honor of meeting with Ms. Tuthill this morning in my office in order to congratulate her on receiving the Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award in recognition of her efforts by the Department of Justice.

As a father of four daughters, I thank her for her tireless effort. I thank Ms. Tuthill for her courage and for her service to others. I can think of no one who is more deserving of this award.

VETERANS' JUSTICE

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

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, as we continue the long process of bringing our troops home from more than a decade of war, I want to recognize activists in my district and all across this country who are taking action to improve the lives of our returning heroes.

For many of these brave men and women, the invisible wounds of war present unique challenges as they return to civilian life. Thousands of these veterans come into contact with our Nation's criminal justice system every year.

We owe our heroes a solemn debt of gratitude, and every American who has worn the uniform deserves the opportunity to thrive after his service is complete.

That is why I have signed on in support of H.R. 2187, the SALUTE Act, legislation that would allow for grant funding to support the establishment and the improvement of veterans' treatment courts for nonviolent offenders.

Activists in my district have already begun the process of establishing a veterans' justice track, and I commend them on their efforts.

It is time for us to recognize the sacrifice our servicemembers have made on behalf of this great Nation and to recommit ourselves to serving our heroes as they have served us.

□ 1215

THANK YOU, BEVERLY COLLEY

(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, today, I appreciate the opportunity to recognize Beverly Colley, the administrative assistant for the Second District of South Carolina. She will be departing the Midlands office on Friday to serve as the town clerk of Blythewood, South Carolina, led by Mayor Mike Ross and a dynamic council.

Since joining the office in October 2004, Beverly has served the people of South Carolina's Second District with respect and diligence. Her genuine bright smile and desire to help those in need has significantly impacted the lives of those across the district, being the first person to welcome citizens to the office.

Beverly's dedicated staff work has made a difference, and I look forward to hearing of her success as she embarks on a new professional career. I wish Beverly; her son, Garin Carter; daughter, Malika Carter; and granddaughter, Rhylie, all the best in the future.

I know that the people of Blythewood will continue to benefit from Beverly's extraordinary constituent service as she serves her hometown community.

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

Godspeed, Beverly.

EQUAL PAY

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

Ms. HAHN. Madam Speaker, we know that when women succeed, America succeeds; but, unfortunately, our mothers, daughters, and sisters are not succeeding when women, on average, earn just 77 cents to every dollar that a man makes, and one in three women and their families are living on the brink of poverty.

Across the Nation, women are facing unprecedented economic insecurity. Pay inequity, combined with the lack of affordable child care or paid family leave, means women are burdened with an unfair disadvantage and struggle to support their families.

Pay discrimination means that African American women are expected to earn just 64 cents to every dollar earned by a White man, while Latinas earn just 54 cents.

Yesterday, I was proud to join President Obama and Lilly Ledbetter at the White House to mark Equal Pay Day. We witnessed the President sign two critical executive orders that will empower women to fight pay discrimination. It is a simple principle: equal pay for equal work.

I was disappointed that our Senate colleagues failed to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and address this situation. I urge them to reconsider addressing the injustice of paycheck discrimination.

MILITARY MENTAL WELLNESS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the timely issue of behavioral health in our military.

Currently, our soldiers undergo comprehensive medical and physical examinations during recruitment to ensure that they are fully fit and capable of performing their military duties; however, currently, no similar examination for mental health competency exists. This is a serious information gap as our military continues to address issues such as posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and suicide.

Madam Speaker, the issue of military mental wellness should be on the mind of every Member of Congress—and not just when this issue is back in the news.

Prior to the Fort Hood shootings, I introduced H.R. 4305, the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act, which will institute a preliminary mental health assessment at the time recruits are first joining the military.

The bill, which was reported on today by the Pittsburgh Tribune Review, is not an end-all solution when it comes to addressing this issue, but it is an important step in tackling a well-established information gap in the realm of servicemember behavioral health.

I encourage Members to join in cosponsoring H.R. 4305.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week; therefore, it is appropriate that we raise the awareness of survivors' challenges and the advocates who help rebuild their lives.

In the face of a victim's trauma, there are countless individuals across the Nation committed to making things right, such as the incredible staff at the Community Action Partnership of Madera County, which I represent.

As cochair of the Victims' Rights Caucus, I will have the honor tomorrow of presenting the Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy.

Programs operated by the Community Action Partnership have met all types of crime victims' needs and reduced the barriers that sometimes prevent victims from accessing services that are so important.

In addition, individuals like Darius Assemi and his family have shared time and treasure to construct the Marjaree Mason Center in Clovis, which is a 24-hour safe haven for women and children.

Each of us has a voice that can speak out against violence and listen to those who have suffered as a result of violence. We can all do our part—and we all should. Until the day when there are no more victims, we will all be with those who have suffered.

25TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING CONFERENCE

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in grateful recognition of the youth leaders who are taking action in their communities to make our world a better place and those who help them get involved.

This week, right here in our Nation's capital, thousands of students have gathered for the 25th Annual National Service-Learning Conference. Their time on the Hill will be used to visit with their elected officials and share how important service is to their district and our country, as well as the personal impact of service learning on their lives.

A group from my district will be led by Joan Liptrot, a tireless leader for positive change and a woman whose commitment to service learning and societal advancement is without question. At this week's conference, she will be presented with the Service-Learning Practitioner Leadership Award, which recognizes those who have equipped young people to lead and serve, both through their direct work with youth and by nurturing other practitioners.

I have been proud to speak at this conference in the past and to work closely with Joan's Youth Action Council on projects that advance awareness and involvement among teens.

The work of people like Joan and countless young people around the country who are ready to make the world a better place is nothing short of commendable. I wish them the best at this week's conference, and I look forward to working with them in Pennsylvania's Eighth District.

RYAN BUDGET

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

Mr. BARBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Ryan budget proposal, which would balance the budget on the backs of seniors, middle class families, and students. We must balance the budget, but this is the wrong way to do it.

The Ryan budget would destroy the Medicare guarantee for Arizona seniors I work for and for seniors across this great country. It would implement a voucher system and ask seniors and future retirees to pay more. Prescription drug costs would increase by nearly $1,200 a year, and Medicare premiums would soar. This is just plain wrong, Madam Speaker.

I stand today against the reckless Ryan budget plan because it undermines the promises we have made to our seniors, it hurts middle class families, and it would slash funding for students who want to go to college. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with me in opposition to this irresponsible budget.

WORKING TO GET AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. POMPEO. Madam Speaker, Kansans and Americans across the country are exhausted by a job market that is failing them. The most recent report in March showed absolutely no improvement in employment. In fact, for women, we saw an increase in unemployment.

Madam Speaker, the President's latest attempt to redefine the workweek form 40 hours to 29 has already proved detrimental to millions of Americans. There are 7.2 million Americans working part-time for economic reasons. This will leave them with less money to take care of their families.

The President's policies have hit Kansans hard—things like identifying the lesser prairie-chicken as an endangered species or redefining navigable waterways such that puddles will come

under EPA's control. These policies have hit pocketbooks, paychecks, and families.

House Republicans have advanced hundreds of solutions that will help get America back to work.

Madam Speaker, we are 5 years into this administration, and it is no longer anything but a joke to blame President Bush for these challenges in our economic workplace. We need the Senate and the President to join us in providing solutions so we can create freedom so Americans can get back to work.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, every American family has to live within its means. It is time for Washington to do the same.

The House Republican budget deals with our debts and builds an economy that rewards Americans who work hard and want to get ahead.

I support the conservative budget for three simple reasons: the plan balances the budget within 10 years, cuts wasteful government spending over 10 years by $5.1 trillion, and pays down the national debt.

In addition, the Republican budget proposal grows the economy, repeals ObamaCare, strengthens Medicare, secures Social Security for the long term, simplifies the broken Tax Code, promotes American energy production, and enhances national and diplomatic security.

In contrast, President Obama's budget never balances, hikes taxes by $1.8 trillion, and adds $8.3 trillion more to the national debt of $17.5 trillion.

My constituents know that we can't afford more of the same Big Government spending that has buried our economy and our country in debt.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the House Republican budget and getting our Nation's fiscal house in order.

BUDGETING FOR MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, budgets don't heal the sick or solve centuries-long medical challenges, but the programs budgets prioritize can.

In my district in Louisville, Kentucky, medical researchers at the University of Louisville and the Frazier Rehab Institute have made an incredible breakthrough. Thanks to an electronic implant that stimulates the spinal cord, four paralyzed men are now moving their legs on command. With continued therapy, they are confident they will walk again.

The Human Locomotor Research Center in Louisville is funded in part through investments made by the National Institutes of Health. More than 80 percent of NIH funding goes to the broader research community, fueling the innovation that makes breakthroughs like those in Louisville possible.

The Republican budget reduces the number of new NIH grants by 1,400, on top of hundreds of projects NIH has already had to turn down because of last year's reckless, across-the-board spending cuts.

Madam Speaker, when you see a man paralyzed for years lift his legs, you can't help but share in the enthusiasm for breaking boundaries we once thought impassible. But if we approve this Republican budget and these cuts, we extinguish that enthusiasm and the hopes of millions of families waiting for the next medical breakthrough.

□ 1230

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS FOR THEIR NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORIES

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, the State of Connecticut is bursting with Huskie pride this morning as the UConn men and the UConn women basketball teams did what was, I think, almost unimaginable: they both won a national championship.

It would be great to stand here today and talk about how the women accomplished a perfect season and beat a team that was undefeated until last night, or the men, who defied every pundit, every odds-maker, every NCAA know-it-all and again won the national championship against all odds.

But I want to really focus for a second on the fact that Geno Auriemma, his women's program over the years has almost a perfect graduation rate in terms of the women who have played in that program.

And Kevin Ollie has three dean's list players on the starting five. His all-star, Shabazz Napier, is going to graduate with a full degree. He is an amazing person, and I am glad the country got a chance to see him.

I want to conclude by reading his final comment that he said to the press the other night:

> Basketball is second to me. I want them to be better people once they leave Storrs campus. If I did that, forget about the wins and losses, national championships, all that stuff, I think I've done my job.

Coach Ollie, Coach Auriemma, you have done your job. We are so proud of you.

Go, Huskies.

WOMEN DESERVE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge as a simple fact that women deserve equal pay for equal work. Same job, same experience, same pay. But that is not happening.

On the aggregate, women earn just 77 cents on the dollar. For African American women, it is only 64 cents, and for Latinas, it is a staggering 54 cents on the dollar for every dollar earned by white men, white non-Hispanic men doing the same job.

As we know, the consequences are great. These pay gaps translate into a loss for African American women of more than $18,000 a year, and for Latinas, more than $24,000 a year that they lose to this pay gap.

Families increasingly rely on women's wages to make ends meet. The pay gap is about our Nation's overall economy, and it is about women's retirement security.

The fact is that when women succeed, America succeeds, and it is time to address the pay and work-family balance disparities that affect women.

Some have said that the argument for equal pay for equal work is politics.

Well, Madam Speaker, it is not. It is about pay.

It is time for 25 courageous Republicans to step up and join 197 Democrats to end wage discrimination and give women what women have earned: equal pay for equal work.

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 9, 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 9, 2014 at 9:48 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment. H. Con. Res. 90.

Appointments:

International conferences.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

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 the motion 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.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4414) 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4414

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 ''Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF EXPATRIATE HEALTH PLANS UNDER ACA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the provisions of (including any amendment made by) the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148) and of title I and subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2011 (Public Law 111–152) shall not apply with respect to—

(1) expatriate health plans;

(2) employers with respect to any such plans for which such employers are acting as plan sponsors; or

(3) expatriate health insurance issuers with respect to coverage offered by such issuers under such plans.

(b) MINIMUM ESSENTIAL COVERAGE AND ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER-SPONSORED PLAN.—For purposes of section 5000A(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and any other section of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that incorporates the definition of minimum essential coverage provided under such section 5000A(f) by reference, coverage under an expatriate health plan shall be deemed to be minimum essential coverage under an eligible employer-sponsored plan as defined in paragraph (2) of such section.

(c) QUALIFIED EXPATRIATES AND DEPENDENTS NOT UNITED STATES HEALTH RISK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 9010 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (26 U.S.C. 4001 note prec.), for calendar years after 2014, a qualified expatriate (and any dependent of such individual) enrolled in an expatriate health plan shall not be considered a United States health risk.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR 2014.—The fee under section 9010 of such Act for calendar year 2014 with respect to any expatriate health insurance issuer shall be the amount which bears the same ratio to the fee amount determined by the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to such issuer under such section for such year (determined without regard to this paragraph) as—

(A) the amount of premiums taken into account under such section with respect to such issuer for such year, less the amount of premiums for expatriate health plans taken into account under such section with respect to such issuer for such year, bears to

(B) the amount of premiums taken into account under such section with respect to such issuer for such year.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXPATRIATE HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER.—The term ''expatriate health insurance issuer'' means a health insurance issuer that issues expatriate health plans.

(2) EXPATRIATE HEALTH PLAN.—The term ''expatriate health plan'' means a group health plan, health insurance coverage offered in connection with a group health plan, or health insurance coverage offered to a group of individuals described in paragraph (3)(B) (which may include dependents of such individuals) that meets each of the following standards:

(A) Substantially all of the primary enrollees in such plan or coverage are qualified expatriates, with respect to such plan or coverage. In applying the previous sentence, an individual shall not be taken into account as a primary enrollee if the individual is not a national of the United States and resides in the country of which the individual is a citizen.

(B) Substantially all of the benefits provided under the plan or coverage are not excepted benefits described in section 9832(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) The plan or coverage provides benefits for items and services, in excess of emergency care, furnished by health care providers—

(i) in the case of individuals described in paragraph (3)(A), in the country or countries in which the individual is present in connection with the individual's employment, and such other country or countries as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor, may designate; or

(ii) in the case of individuals described in paragraph (3)(B), in the country or countries as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor, may designate.

(D) In the case of an expatriate health plan that is a group health plan offered by a plan sponsor that also offers a domestic group health plan, the plan sponsor reasonably believes that the benefits provided by the expatriate health plan are actuarially similar to, or better than, the benefits provided under a domestic group health plan offered by that plan sponsor.

(E) If the plan or coverage provides dependent coverage of children, the plan or coverage makes such dependent coverage available for adult children until the adult child turns 26 years of age, unless such individual is the child of a child receiving dependent coverage.

(F) The plan or coverage is issued by an expatriate health plan issuer, or administered by an administrator, that maintains, with respect to such plan or coverage—

(i) network provider agreements with health care providers that are outside of the United States; and

(ii) call centers in more than one country and accepts calls from customers in multiple languages.

(3) QUALIFIED EXPATRIATE.—The term ''qualified expatriate'' means any of the following individuals:

(A) WORKERS.—An individual who is a participant in a group health plan, who is a national of the United States, lawful permanent resident, or nonimmigrant for whom there is a good faith expectation by the plan sponsor of the plan that, in connection with the individual's employment, the individual is abroad for a total of not less than 90 days during any period of 12 consecutive months of enrollment in the group health plan, or travels abroad on not less than 15 occasions during such a 12-month period.

(B) OTHER INDIVIDUALS ABROAD.—An individual, such as a student or religious missionary, who is abroad, and who is a member of a group determined appropriate by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor.

(4) DOMESTIC GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—The term ''domestic group health plan'' means a group health plan that is offered in the United States and in which substantially all of the primary enrollees are not qualified expatriates, with respect to such plan, and substantially all of the benefits provided under the plan are not excepted benefits described in section 9832(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(5) ABROAD.—

(A) UNITED STATES NATIONALS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), for purposes of applying paragraph (3) to a national of the United States, the term ''abroad'' means outside the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of applying paragraph (3) to a national of the United States who resides in the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, or Guam, the term ''abroad'' means outside of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and such territory or possession.

(B) FOREIGN CITIZENS.—For purposes of applying paragraph (3) to an individual who is not a national of the United States, the term ''abroad'' means outside of the country of which that individual is a citizen.

(6) UNITED STATES.—The term ''United States'' means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Guam.

(7) MISCELLANEOUS TERMS.—

(A) GROUP HEALTH PLAN; HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE; HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER; PLAN SPONSOR.—The terms ''group health plan'', ''health insurance coverage'', ''health insurance issuer'', and ''plan sponsor'' have the meanings given those terms in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–91), except that in applying such terms under this section the term ''health insurance issuer'' includes a foreign corporation which is predominantly engaged in an insurance business and which would be subject to tax under subchapter L of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 if it were a domestic corporation.

(B) FOREIGN STATE; NATIONAL OF THE UNITED STATES; NONIMMIGRANT; RESIDE; LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT.—The terms ''national of the United States'', and ''nonimmigrant'' have the meaning given such terms in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)), the term ''reside'' means having a residence (within the meaning of such term in such section), and the term ''lawful permanent resident'' means an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as defined in such section).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Before I yield to my good friend, who helped coauthor this bill with me, I just have a brief statement.

The Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act is a result of close bipartisan collaboration and extensive discussions with the Obama administration.

I would like to thank Mr. CARNEY for his work on this important bill, along with our numerous bipartisan cosponsors, our original cosponsors.

The bottom line is that this is a jobs bill, one that has been carefully drafted to address the unique problems related to expat health insurance.

Madam Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY).

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and thank him for his hard work on this very serious issue that affects both our States, Delaware and California.

Madam Speaker, in a State of 900,000 people, losing 500 jobs is a serious blow. That is how many jobs we will lose in my home State of Delaware if we don't pass this legislation on the floor today.

I am a strong supporter of the Affordable Care Act. So are a lot of people in my State. But no law is perfect, and in a law as important, as complicated, and as technical as the Affordable Care Act, there are bound to be a few things that needed to be fixed.

The Affordable Care Act was unintentionally written in a way that subjects U.S. expatriate health insurance plans to all the provisions of the ACA, which places a unique burden on these types of plans.

Expatriate health insurance plans offer high-end, robust coverage to people working outside their home country, giving them access to global networks of health care providers. Individuals on the plan could be foreign employees working here in America, Americans working abroad, or, for instance, a German working in France.

These employees can be NGO and foreign aid workers, pilots, cruise ship workers, and contractors sent to support our troops on deployment around the globe.

Expatriate plans ensure that these employees have worldwide access to quality health care while working outside their home country.

Several U.S. health insurance companies, Cigna, MetLife, Aetna, and United Health, offer expatriate health insurance plans. The employees who write those policies generally work here in the United States and make up several thousand U.S. jobs, including 500 in my State.

These insurance companies compete with foreign insurance companies that also sell expatriate health insurance plans. The issue is, these foreign plans don't have to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

Forcing U.S. expatriate insurance plans to comply with the Affordable Care Act gives their foreign competitors a distinct advantage. It makes plans written in the U.S. more expensive, which gives companies an incentive to purchase foreign-based plans instead.

As a result, it makes more sense for U.S. expatriate insurers to move their business overseas, resulting in a potential loss of a few thousand jobs. In Delaware, that is going to mean 500 jobs. In California, it is 700.

The good news is that we have bipartisan legislation here today that will level the playing field.

The Obama administration has already recognized that it is burdensome and unnecessary to require expatriate insurance plans to comply with the Affordable Care Act. In fact, the administration has provided temporary regulatory relief for expat plans from nearly every Affordable Care Act provision that has gone into effect so far.

The problem is this relief is only partial and only temporary. The administration can't make this relief permanent without a legislative fix.

Our legislation clarifies that the Affordable Care Act does not apply to expatriate health insurance plans. It ensures that American expatriate insurance carriers are on a level playing field with their foreign competitors, so that American jobs stay here in America.

You may hear on the floor today that this bill is about destroying the ACA, or changing our immigration laws, or giving a handout to insurance companies.

But let me assure you, that is not what it is about. It is about jobs, pure and simple.

If we don't pass this legislation today, people who have the expatriate plans, and their companies that offer them, will continue to do so, the same as they are today. The only difference is that the companies will buy these plans from insurance carriers that write the plans from abroad.

That means those insurance jobs will go to foreign workers instead of workers in America. They will go to workers based in Singapore instead of those based in Delaware.

I understand as well as anyone that the Affordable Care Act is a political weapon in a larger political war on both sides of the aisle. But that is not what this bill is about today.

All I am asking today is that we take action so 500 hardworking Americans in my district don't become collateral damage in this partisan political fight. Let's call a temporary truce in that battle today to protect these jobs.

I thank Congressman NUNES and Ways and Means staff for their hard work on these issues, and I want to thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for recognizing this as a serious problem that needs to be fixed.

I ask my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 4414.

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

The Republicans have branded this bill as clarification. But what demands clarification is the cold, hard fact that this legislation is a bailout for insurance companies.

This has never had a hearing in the House. It has never been discussed. We have never had witnesses. No regular order whatsoever. This appeared out of nowhere.

This bill, pure and simple, is a case of Republicans seeking special treatment for certain insurance companies who would like nothing more than to avoid the responsibilities under the law and sell inferior insurance policies to Americans and foreign workers and their families in the United States, which is exactly why the American people are fortunate to have the ACA as the law of the land.

It is currently protecting them from these kinds of intolerable insurance company practices.

Republicans have focused on coming out against bailouts for insurance companies in several other ACA contexts, but it is all sound and fury because it means nothing.

With this legislation, however, Republicans want a bailout for a few insurance companies that sell so-called expatriate coverage. But why should this situation be any different?

Why do the Republicans get to pick and choose?

As the Republicans are now in the business of picking and choosing winners in this case, the losers are going to be the patients.

Republicans claim this bill is a simple fix intended to clarify the ACA when it comes to expatriate coverage, and perhaps there is a need for that. Perhaps there is a need. We might have found it out if we had had one hearing.

The current guidance defines individuals under expat plans as those who are out of the country for at least 6 months during the year. The theory is that the people are gone more than they are here.

But this bill overrides current regulations and ignores the comments given by the administration to define a covered individual, and it does it and says, you are an expat if you are out of the country for as few as 90 days, or 15 trips.

Now, I don't know how many people in Seattle make 15 trips out of the country in a year when they are working for Boeing or working for Microsoft or all the international companies. I have got those people in my district.

This means that to serve people who move across the border daily, or frequent fliers for work, they would be exempt from the enrollees who are gone for only a few weeks.

In addition, the legislation says that all foreigners who are living and working in the United States but are outside their own country for 90 days or 15 trips can also be covered by these plans.

As a result, the provisions of this bill would severely undermine current H1B visa requirements that level the playing field with American workers. If you are bringing people in from the outside and they go home, or they are gone for only 90 days, well, you can somehow pay them less.

This legislation will open the door for U.S. employers who wish to avoid the ACA to hire foreign workers rather than American citizens. That is why the United Farm Workers are against this bill.

The United Farm Workers do a pretty good job of clarifying this bill when they say ''Congress should not pass laws that create an economic incentive to hire guest workers over professional U.S. agricultural workers.''

The AFL–CIO is against this bill because it would undermine the health security of 13 million green card holders, people with work visas, and individuals who are granted visas for humanitarian reasons.

□ 1245

The National Immigration Law Center is against this bill because it eliminates minimum essential standards for ''expatriate health insurance plans provided to individuals who travel abroad.'' As a result, this bill would deny health coverage security for low-wage immigrant workers, including farm workers and caregivers.

This bill contains too many loopholes that amount to an extraordinary bailout for insurance companies. This bill also establishes a precedent for employers to hire guest workers. It is being brought here as a suspension bill with no opportunity to amend it. It might be that we could make it a better bill if it had been through the process, but it is being rammed through here by insurance companies who want to get a benefit.

This bill is yet another attempt on the part of the Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They want to drill another hole in the bottom of the bill. They are going to keep drilling holes—trying—this is number 53.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, just to clarify the RECORD here, this has been worked on in a bipartisan way, including the two Senators from Delaware and a Senator from New Jersey, who happen to be Democrats.

A lot of the language that was in here was worked out so that, in fact, this could not only gather bipartisan support in the House, but also quickly pass in the Senate because, as my colleague from Delaware pointed out, if this doesn't pass and doesn't pass quickly, these jobs are going to leave overseas. That is why this is just a clarification.

At this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), my good friend and former Dairy Caucus cochair.

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am a strong ACA supporter. We have got to improve it. We have got to make it work, and that is the reason why I am supporting this legislation.

Some efforts that are brought to the floor about the ACA are about unraveling it, but those of us who are the strong supporters—when an issue is identified that can help jobs and make some improvements, we have the responsibility, in my view, Madam Speaker, to advocate for those changes.

We have the Member from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY), a strong supporter of the ACA, who has identified a specific problem, and I understand the concerns of the opponents because many efforts are being made to unravel the law, but there has been an acknowledgement that there is a problem, and that is what is being addressed by Mr. CARNEY.

If the language is not as good as it should be—and part of that may be because we didn't have as much time to consider it—we have strong allies in the Senate. Senator CARPER and Senator COONS are both very strong ACA supporters who are willing to make the adjustments over there, not to mention the majority leader, Senator REID.

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

Mr. NUNES. I yield to the gentleman from Vermont an additional 1 minute.

Mr. WELCH. So this is not perfect; but we have got a situation here where it is acknowledged by both sides, the opponents of this bill and the proponents of this bill, that there is an issue because of the language in the ACA bill.

If this Congress were working the way, ideally, it would, when there is a problem that we could identify, we would come up with a specific solution.

If we had more time, it might be better language, but the fact that we would act here to keep this alive, give some hope to those folks that Mr. CARNEY is concerned about whose jobs are at stake, and then work with our colleagues in the Senate to make whatever improvements can be made, we could maintain the strength of the Affordable Care Act; preserve the jobs that may be lost in Delaware, California, and elsewhere; and demonstrate some flexibility to make all our legislation that, by definition, is imperfect better.

That can be done on a bipartisan basis.

I thank the gentleman from Delaware, and I thank my colleague from California.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

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

Madam Speaker, I want to say to my friend from Vermont, a member of my committee, that this is not the way to pass laws. This is not the way to correct problems. Problems should be worked out through narrow fixes in a public setting.

This is a bill for an insurance company that is threatening to fire people in Delaware and a little small part of California, so that insurance company is saying: well, we are going to fire these people unless you correct our problem.

The Republicans will not correct their problem. They want to put a big hole in the Affordable Care Act. Well, you can believe the Senate may fix it, but the suspension calendar should not be used for bills that have never been considered in an open hearing and that cannot be amended on the floor of the House.

This bill goes far beyond a narrow, sensible fix. It says that Americans who are out of this country for a matter of weeks can be sold policies with harsh annual limits on their coverage, no minimum quality standards, and it says the families of these Americans—who may not even be overseas, but be living here—will get a plan that would be of lower quality than other Americans, even though they live here 365 days of the year.

This bill's supporters say these expatriate plans are of very high quality, but the insurers and Republicans refuse to accept a bill that subjects the plan even to the most basic standards of quality and affordability.

Why? There is no reason for that, except that they want the ACA to be in competition with plans that are of lower quality. This raises real concerns.

Worse yet, this bill goes far beyond its stated goal of addressing coverage for Americans who live overseas. It is not that narrow. It creates a whole new second class health insurance system for foreign workers and legal permanent residents.

These individuals currently have access to ACA-compliant plans, putting them on an even footing with U.S. workers. It would undercut current law. It would weaken the rights of immigrants and foreign workers. It would create powerful incentives for employers to hire foreign workers instead of U.S. workers.

So this bill isn't about a narrow thing to fix some possible unemployment in these two States. That is why this bill is opposed by organized labor. It is opposed by immigrant advocacy organizations.

There were long negotiations in back rooms between Republicans, Democrats, the administration, and the insurance companies, but there was no agreement on this bill. No one would compromise, and that is disappointing. It is mainly because of the intransigence of one insurance company and the Republican leadership.

We should not advance a deeply flawed bill because an insurance company is making threats. We shouldn't advance a deeply flawed bill with the expectation that somebody else is going to solve the problem. That is why we are here in this House, to make sure the legislation is as good as it can possibly be.

If all parties are ready to act in good faith, they should go back to the negotiating table and solve the narrow problem that we can agree on, rather than opening a troublesome loophole in the ACA.

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, let me first acknowledge the work that has been done by so many of our colleagues here bipartisanly, the gentleman from Delaware, the gentleman from California, the committees of jurisdiction, and leadership, I suspect, on both sides of the aisle. I, too, have been involved in trying to deal with this.

If you take a look at the title of the bill, it tells you what they are trying to do. The bill is called the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act, so the bill tells us that it is to deal with the issue of expatriates.

Well, who are expatriates, and how are they impacted by the Affordable Care Act?

An expatriate, I think most of us would acknowledge, is an American who is told by his or her employer, we need to send you abroad to go work—whatever the task is—but I need you to go; so that expatriate, now living abroad, will be told that he or she must have an insurance policy that abides by the Affordable Care Act's protections for Americans who get health care here.

The insurers will say: well, we may have to deal with different standards in that other country, so give us some flexibility.

That is very fair. We should make sure that any company that has to send a worker abroad has the flexibility to make sure that they are providing good coverage, but that they are not strapped by the regulations that apply to coverage here in the U.S. Everyone agrees with that.

Here is the problem: this bill doesn't do that. It doesn't do that, and I say that with all due respect to my colleague from Delaware. It doesn't do that.

Let me ask you this: Is someone who works in this country 365 days of the year someone who we would consider an expatriate? Is an American who spends most of his time—three-quarters of his time working in the U.S. an expatriate?

Should the family of that American who goes abroad, but the family never leaves the U.S., be denied the protections of the Affordable Care Act, so that a preexisting condition can now be used to discriminate against the child of that American worker?

That is the difficulty with this bill. This bill talks about expatriates, but the reality is a lot of Americans who never leave this country and a lot of foreign workers, including green card holders who are on their way to becoming citizens, who have every lawful right to be here because they have gone about it the right way, they are just waiting their time so they can qualify to become U.S. citizens—many of them could be denied the protections that we all now have.

We cannot be discriminated against based on a preexisting condition. We must be provided minimal protections. We have a right, now, to make sure that an insurance company doesn't use what we are paying in premiums to put in the pockets of executives and big salaries. That money has to now be spent, by law, on health care coverage.

This bill would say no, those who are expatriates would qualify for different plans that don't have to meet those Affordable Care standards.

Why should more than 13 million people who are in this country legally and are on their way to becoming U.S. citizens—who today have the same protections you and I have to not be discriminated against for preexisting conditions—because this bill that is supposed to be for expatriates, now be told no, you might be offered a policy that doesn't have to meet the Affordable Care standards?

Why should an American family that sees one of its breadwinners, father or mother, be sent abroad to work for 90 days be told no, we no longer have to offer you an Affordable Care health care policy that prevents discrimination against your child because he or she has asthma?

If this were a bill to focus on the issue of expatriates who go work abroad, where I think it is a legitimate concern of the insurance company to not impose upon the insurance company costs that are beyond what are paid here, I would agree that this goes well beyond that, and I would urge my colleagues to think twice before voting for this bill this way.

Mr. NUNES. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I will yield myself the balance of my time to close, having no further requests for time.

I have been an expat. I was in the State Department. The State Department sent me overseas. I lived over there. I came home 1 month a year. I would leave. The rest of the time, I was an expat. That is pretty clearly an expat.

My daughter teaches at the King's Academy in Amman, Jordan. She is an expat. She lives over there. She comes home in the summertime for a month or so. She is an expat. Everybody understands that.

What this bill says is, if you live in Seattle and you make 15 trips a year out of the country, then you are an expat, or you could be considered an expat. Now, that is not exactly what I think most people think of when they think of an expat—or somebody who works as a contractor.

Suppose you work for the Federal Government for 3 months overseas. Are you an expat? According to this, you are. You can easily be put in that category and not be offered the protections. That means you don't have any protections around the issues of preexisting conditions. You can't necessarily put your kids on your insurance up until age 26.

Your lifetime limits, all of the things that are built into the Affordable Care Act, the insurance companies now can say: we don't have to offer that to you because you are out of the country 15 times a year, or you have worked overseas for 90 days.

As Mr. WAXMAN said, you are creating a second class of citizen in this country, and Mr. BECERRA raised the issue on the reverse side. People who come from other countries are expats, right, because they came from somewhere else, so they can be put into a plan that does not give them the protections of the ACA.

□ 1300

That is not what I think my friend from Delaware or my friend from California really wanted to do. What is missing here is that we did a backroom deal. We had Members of Congress sit in a back room somewhere with somebody from the White House, talk about something and decide something, and here it is, fait accompli, no chance to change it, no chance to make it better or make it closer to what people really thought.

And most interestingly for Republicans is you are sending a bill to the House and expecting that the Senate is going to fix it. Now, our experience here on the floor and in the Congress the last few months, expecting the Senate to do something is, well, it is probably—it is not like wishing for the tooth fairy, but it is certainly putting your trust in a rather weak situation. The House sent over—what?—500 bills in the last session and got 12 or 15 back? And you are saying that this one is going to be fixed? I doubt it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to oppose the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act which is scheduled for a vote tomorrow. While the bill may be intended to address concerns of health plans covering those who work part of the year outside the United States, the reach of the bill is much greater.

The bill's definition of expatriate workers include 13 million individuals who are lawful permanent residents, people with work visas and individuals who were granted visas for humanitarian reasons. The bill exempts employers and insurance plans from meeting Affordable Care Act (ACA) coverage standards for these millions of people living and working in the United States. Instead, the bill would allow these employers to use their own judgment in determining whether coverage is adequate.

This bill does much more than simply clarify a technical matter of the ACA. It defines a large group of people who will be treated

differently by the ACA and afforded weaker protections than others. The bill undermines the premise that all families are entitled to a minimum standard of coverage and could lead to erosion in standards for other groups and eventually all families.

We urge you to oppose the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act.

Sincerely,

CHARLES M. LOVELESS,
Director, Federal Government Affairs.

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER,
April 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER PELOSI: We urge you to oppose H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act. Although intended to address the concerns of health plan issuers serving expatriate workers, the bill's impact would be much larger and deny important plan protections for millions of low-wage immigrants and nonimmigrant workers in the U.S.

H.R. 4414 would eliminate the Affordable Care Act's (ACA)'s minimum essential standards for ''expatriate health insurance plans'' provided to individuals who travel ''abroad.'' The bill defines an ''expatriate'' as anyone who travels ''abroad'' for 90 days or more in the course of 12 months, or who takes 15 or more trips ''abroad'' over 12 months. This overly broad definition would include lawfully present, foreign-born workers living and working in the U.S., including lawful permanent residents (LPRs or green card holders), individuals with work visas for more highly skilled work, and dozens of other nonimmigrant categories. Also, the definition of ''abroad'' in the legislation captures lawfully present noncitizens who are living and working in the U.S.—or any country outside of their native country—for this same time period. These definitions are so broad that it leaves the bill vulnerable to legal challenges.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is addressing the expatriate insurance issue and has issued proposed regulations (79 FR 15808) that would relax the onerous administrative burdens imposed by the ACA on expatriate insurance issuers. In contrast to H.R. 4414's overly broad definition of ''expatriate,'' HHS has proposed a more common sense definition which requires workers to be abroad for at least 6 months out of the year.

H.R. 4414 would have an unintentional, disastrous impact on low-wage immigrant workers, including farm workers and caregivers. We urge you to oppose the bill, and we look forward to working with members of Congress to close its loopholes and find workable solutions.

Sincerely,

MARIELENA HINCAPIÉ,
Executive Director.

UNITED FARM WORKERS,
Keene, CA, April 8, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The United Farm Workers opposes legislation introduced by Congressman Carney and Congressman Nunes, the stated purpose of which is ''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.''

While the purpose appears to be to clarify the situation of expatriate workers who are working for U.S. corporations abroad, and who are covered under a different health care plan than the corporation's U.S. workers, the definition of qualified expatriate workers is over-broad and would extend to guest workers, and possibly legal permanent residents, working in the United States.

The legislation as drafted would have the effect of allowing agricultural employers in the United States who hire so-called guest workers to escape the ACA requirements that would apply to professional farm workers currently living in the United States, thus making it cheaper to employ a guest worker than to employ a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.

The position of the UFW is, and always has been, equal pay and benefits for equal work. If two workers are working side by side in a field, and one is an H–2A (or other ''guest'') worker and the other is a worker with US citizenship or Legal Permanent Resident status, then both should be entitled to enroll in the same health care plan. One worker should not receive fewer health care benefits than the other.

Congress should not pass laws that create an economic incentive to prefer H–2A or other types of ''guest'' workers over professional US workers already working in agriculture.

Please vote NO on the ''Carney-Nunes'' health care legislation.

Sincerely,

GIEV KASHKOOLI,
Political/Legislative Director, National Vice President.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL–CIO, I urge you to vote against the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act. The bill is intended to make adjustments to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to address the concerns of health plans serving expatriate workers and to retain American jobs, but we are concerned it could create serious gaps in important benefit protections for lawful permanent residents (green card holders) and people with nonimmigrant visas living and working in the United States.

As you know, this bill is intended to accommodate health plans serving workers who perform their jobs in multiple countries. It is reasonable that some flexibility be granted to these health plans to ensure that compliance with the insurance laws of more than one country does not create unreasonable inefficiencies and new costs.

Unfortunately, the bill could undermine benefit protections for 13 million green card holders, people with work visas, and individuals who were granted visas for humanitarian reasons. The bill exempts employers and insurers from abiding by ACA insurance coverage standards for these workers, allowing them to employ their own judgment in determining if coverage is adequate. Provisions to limit the exemption to plans solely-focused on covering expatriate workers are inadequate.

The primary goals of the Affordable Care Act include making major advances toward universal coverage and providing new guarantees of benefit coverage standards. We look forward to working with you to find ways of adjusting the ACA in a manner which preserves the insurance protections it offers to working families.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director, Government Affairs Department.

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, On behalf of SEIU, I write to ask you to vote against the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act. While the legislation aims to address the treatment of plans that cover, expatriate workers under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the legislation as drafted could result in insufficient coverage for lawful permanent residents and those with non-immigrant visas working and living in the United States.

For those plans that truly serve workers who preform jobs in multiple countries, certain accommodations under the law may be appropriate but this legislation is overly broad. The current legislative language allows for employers and insurers to offer coverage that does not include vital ACA protections to millions of lawful permanent residents and non-immigrant visa holders—individuals and families that would not normally be defined as expatriate workers.

Some of the most popular provisions of the ACA are the consumer protections the law creates, including the end to discriminatory practices by insurers. We want to guarantee that as many people as possible benefit from these important provisions. Unfortunately, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act is not narrowly tailored to ensure that is the case.

If you have any questions, please contact Ilene Stein, Assistant Legislative Director.

Sincerely,

STEPH SERLING,
Legislative Director.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, sometimes in this body and with the Senate we can sit down for the common good of the American people. Sometimes we can sit down with Democrats and Republicans working together not only in the House but also in the Senate. And also, sometimes, Mr. Speaker, the arguments that are made on the floor are so ridiculous that they don't deserve a response.

I am going to submit for the RECORD a letter from American Benefits Council.

AMERICAN BENEFITS COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2014.

Re Support for H.R. 4414—Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act

HON. JOHN BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
HON. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND LEADER PELOSI: I write on behalf of the American Benefits Council (''Council'') to express support for H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014 (''Act''). The Act provides important clarification regarding application of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to health coverage that is provided to globally mobile employees. These are issues of significant concern to multinational employers, their employees and families.

The Council is a public policy organization representing principally Fortune 500 companies and other organizations that assist employers of all sizes in providing employee benefits. Collectively, our members either sponsor directly or provide services to health and retirement plans that cover more than 100 million Americans both within the United States and abroad.

Most of our member companies sponsor health coverage for a workforce that includes globally mobile employees. Council members rely on expatriate health plans to provide benefits that meet the unique needs

of this employee population and their families. Multinational employers value expatriate health plans for many reasons, including the role they play in recruiting and retaining a productive globally mobile workforce by ensuring coverage of their employees' and families' health care needs while abroad.

The ACA was intended to reform the U.S. health care system. Its application to expatriate health plans and to the employer sponsors and people covered by such plans, has created compliance uncertainty with respect to the law's individual and employer mandates and certain other health plan requirements. Although some of these matters have been addressed in transition guidance issued by the agencies, the guidance is temporary and does not fully address the outstanding concerns.

H.R. 4414 provides needed statutory clarification with respect to the application of the ACA to expatriate health plans and the employers, employees and family members that rely on such plans to meet the health benefits needs of a globally mobile workforce.

We appreciate your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. KLEIN,
President.

Mr. NUNES. I will also submit a letter from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, also in support of this clarification.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports H.R. 4414, ''The Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014,'' to preserve the ability of our country's businesses to provide, and our citizens to obtain appropriate health care coverage as they conduct business and live overseas. This important bill protects the ability of American companies to provide and workers to obtain coverage abroad that have historically been offered and valued.

The PPACA was designed to improve access to coverage and health care services for people in the United States and to strengthen this nation's health care system. Whether it will accomplish these goals remains to be seen. However, it was certainly not intended and must not be misconstrued to disadvantage American companies either operating or employing individuals in other countries or selling products abroad. It is important to ensure that this unintended consequence does not occur. This bill would protect the coverage and opportunities of American workers, American employers, and American products abroad. Congress must pass this bill to explicitly exempt expatriate plans from the myriad of PPACA requirements.

Applying these new mandates to international plans would not only be extremely difficult and complex from an operations standpoint due to the global nature of this type of coverage but would also be bad policy. They would place American businesses and expatriate American employees at a disadvantage in the global marketplace. Requiring American companies that operate around the globe and their foreign-based employees to buy more costly coverage would unfairly benefit foreign competitors and foreign employees. Such PPACA-compliant expatriate plans are not likely to be cost-competitive. In many instances, they may not provide global coverage and would in fact not comply with applicable local laws. Because of conflicting requirements between these new mandates and the laws of other countries, an employer may also have to purchase multiple policies with overlapping coverage or risk noncompliance with one or more nations' laws. Congress must protect the ability of American companies and their expatriates to purchase and offer appropriate and valued plans that have long been part of how our country operates in the global marketplace.

U.S. jobs are at stake. If this legislation does not get enacted, American jobs associated with writing, servicing and administering these plans will be shipped overseas.

The Chamber continues to champion health care reform that builds on and reinforces the employer-sponsored system while improving access to affordable, quality coverage. The Chamber urges you and your colleagues to support H.R. 2575, and may consider including votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

Mr. NUNES. I will also submit a rebuttal argument for the RECORD so that people can really get to the bottom of this legislation.

I want to address some of the misperceptions and concerns that have been raised about this bill.

First, this bill has nothing to do with what type of plan insurers can write and sell to expatriates. The question is where they are going to write these same plans. Here in the United States, or overseas. The same companies are going to purchase the same plans regardless of whether this bill passes. The only question is whether or not the U.S. jobs associated with these plans will be saved.

Next, the bill does not allow U.S. employers to escape the ACA and offer substandard plans. These plans are incredibly generous by their very nature. They offer coverage in multiple countries and administration of plans that include multiple currencies, languages, and coverage mandates.

But let me quote from the legislation itself. Page 6, lines 1–6, ''the plan sponsor [must] reasonably believe that the benefits provided by the expatriate health plan are actuarially similar to, or better than, the benefits provided under a domestic group health plan offered by that plan sponsor.''

Mr. Speaker, the legislation requires that the expatriate health plan be as good as the domestic health plan that is covered by the ACA. Any suggestion otherwise does not reflect what the legislation clearly states.

There is an employer mandate in the ACA. Employers are required to offer a domestic plan. If they don't, they are fined $2,000 per employee. Employers aren't going to drop their current plan for their U.S. employees, pay the $2,000 penalty for every employee on their payroll, just so they can offer their subset of green card employees a substandard plan. That is a completely unrealistic scenario.

This bill does not allow, as has been suggested, nonimmigrant farm workers to be offered substandard plans. Under the scenario envisioned by opponents of this bill, a farmer would have to drop his or her own plan and that of its U.S. workers to be allowed to offer an expat plan that somehow is less than the ACA standard. Who is going to do that? That's cutting off your nose to spite your face. But even if they were crazy enough to do that—the expat plan would still have to provide coverage in countries outside of the United States—they couldn't save money by doing this—it would likely cost the farmer more money to provide this type of plan.

Mr. Speaker, the ACA is a complicated piece of legislation, but this bill is not. This bill will allow the jobs to stay in the United States—and nothing else. This bill does not legally or practically make changes beyond this narrow scope which is why there is such strong bipartisan support.

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

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative CARNEY for proposing fixes to the Affordable Care Act. Since the law was passed, I have said that parts of the Affordable Care Act need to be improved or changed. As Representative CARNEY has identified, there is no question that Congress needs to clarify how the law is applied to expatriate plans. The Administration has correctly exempted these plans from some ACA requirements that do not make sense for plans used primarily overseas, but the Administration is only able to provide temporary exemptions without congressional action. I am confident that the Senate will be able to make the needed targeted changes to H.R. 4414 so that it can pass both houses of Congress and gain the support of the Administration. I look forward to working with Representative CARNEY to make sure that legislation providing proper clarity to expatriate plans is signed in to law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4414.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 544 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 96.

Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1304

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further 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, with Mr. HASTINGS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 60 minutes of debate remained on the concurrent resolution.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each have 30 minutes remaining.

Who yields time?

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Well, here we are, Mr. Chairman, resuming the debate we left off yesterday. Let me try and give a summary of what this is all about.

This is all about getting our fiscal house in order. This is all about prioritizing hardworking taxpayer dollars. This is all about doing in our generation what we need to do to make sure that the next generation has a secure future and a debt-free future. So that is why we are bringing a budget to the floor, that is why we are making those difficult decisions, and that is why we are advocating for these important reforms.

In much of the 20th century, a lot of programs were created, and a lot of laudable goals were established. But now in the 21st century, I think we have learned a thing or two about how we can better accomplish and achieve some of these goals such as health and retirement security, because the way these programs were designed nearly a generation ago, they are now going into bankruptcy in this generation.

If we allow that to happen, then we will pull out from underneath those who depend on these programs for their health and retirement security, we will renege on that social contract. More to the point, we are going to do damage to our economy if we keep this deficit and debt going on its current course.

We asked the Congressional Budget Office to take a look at the kind of deficit and debt reduction that we are proposing and tell us over the long period, over the course of this budget, what does that do for America and for our economy? And they tell us that getting your economic and fiscal house in order, reducing the deficit and balancing the budget so that you can begin paying off the debt is good for economic growth. In fact, it will increase economic output by 1.8 percentage points. That is actually a lot.

What does that mean to every person in America? About $1,100 in more take-home pay and in higher income because we did our jobs here. But, more importantly, what it means for the next generation is, instead of sending our bills to them to work hard, to pay their taxes to pay off our bills and then they have to start working for themselves, we are going to give them a better future. Because we know right now—the CBO tells us as much—they are going to inherit a diminished future. That is point number one.

Point number two is that we have got to stop spending money we don't have. We will hear all of these arguments about the draconian cuts and the slashing and all of this. These are the same arguments we have heard time and again. And when those arguments have prevailed, they have brought us to where we are today: extraordinarily high deficits, deficits going back to $1 trillion by the end of this budget period, and a debt that is about to take off. If we don't get this under control, then we will not have the kind of economy that the people of this country deserve.

We don't want Washington to stand in the way of people's success. We want Washington to play its rightful supporting role so that people can become successful. We believe in a system of natural rights and equality of opportunity so people can make the most of their lives. We don't believe in a system where government thinks that they must take this commanding role within the middle of people's lives that ends up bankrupting this country, diminishing the future, and lowering economic growth and prosperity. There is a big difference in approaches. We want to tackle these challenges.

What I also want to say is that we have an important obligation to secure this country and protect our national defense. America, like it or not, is the superpower nation in the world and a duty that falls upon us to take that responsibility seriously. With that responsibility also comes the ability to chart our own course in the world, to help preserve the peace, and to help pave the way for prosperity so that we can have economic opportunity and so that we can advance our views and our values and the protection of individual and human rights and democracy.

These things are good for America. A strong America and a strong military helps make for a peaceful America and a prosperous America.

So we need to take the needed reforms to make sure that these critical retirement programs are there, not only intact for people in and near retirement, but there for those of us who are younger when we hope to retire. We need to get our spending under control so we can balance our budget and pay off our debt. We need to enact pro-growth economic reform like tax reform and economic development to create jobs today.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself an additional 15 seconds.

At the end of the day, instead of growing government spending at 5.2 percent, which is the trend, we are proposing to grow it at 3.5 percent over the next 10 years. Hardly draconian.

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Some things do not improve with age. We are here one day later, and this Republican budget is just as bad for the country today as it was yesterday.

Our Republican colleagues are going to have to choose: either you claim your budget balances or you fess up to the American people that you are keeping big parts of the Affordable Care Act, because you can't do both. As we talked yesterday, the House Republican budget only reaches their claim of balance in 10 years if they take the revenues from the Affordable Care Act and all the savings from the Affordable Care Act. And if they are going to claim that they are repealing that—as they voted 54-plus times to do on this floor—then their budget is automatically out of balance.

Now, all of these budgets significantly reduce the deficit as a share of our economy in the outyears. The fundamental question is what choices these budgets make in getting there. And the Democratic budget that has been proposed and the President's budget, all those budgets say we need to have shared responsibility and we need to work together to accomplish that goal.

The Republican budget rigs the rules in the favor of the most powerful and the most wealthy—right? So if you are a millionaire, under the Republican budget, you get your top tax rate cut by a full one-third, and everybody else in this budget gets walloped. So if you are a senior on Medicare, you will immediately see your prescription drug costs rise if you have high prescription drug costs—right?—because they reopen the prescription drug doughnut hole. That is a choice they make in the Republican budget for seniors today, even as they choose to protect special interest tax breaks for the very powerful.

They choose in this budget to say that students, while they are still in college, will be charged interest rates on their student loans—that saves them $40 billion—while they protect tax breaks for hedge fund owners. We don't think that is the right choice.

I am now pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. MCDERMOTT), a member of the Budget Committee and the Ways and Means Committee who has always focused on making the right choice for the American people.

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Chairman, this budget is not a real plan to address the urgent needs of the American people. This budget is an announcement of a campaign for the Presidency of the United States. This bill is intended not to stir great debate in Congress that ultimately delivers fiercely needed solutions for Americans; instead, this bill is written for the 2016 Republican National Convention.

When you listen to the chairman talk about this budget, what you are really hearing is the inaugural address of the 45th President of the United States, a rousing address that asks not what you can do for your country, but proudly proclaims your country refuses to do a thing for you: millions of seniors will be tossed off Medicare; the social safety net will be gutted to pay for millionaire tax cuts; infrastructure projects left to rot; denying millions of Americans health security; and Medicaid slashed to the bone. And that is just going to be the first 100 days.

Remember as you vote: a budget is a statement of your moral principles of what you think ought to go on in a society. Today's vote is the first vote. If that kind of people get elected either in the Senate or in the Presidency in 2016, this is what you are going to see. They are putting it right out there for everybody in America to see. And that is why you must vote ''no.''

□ 1315

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Wow, that is a doozy, I have got to tell you. That is a doozy if that kind of people get elected.

Look, we just think we should balance the budget, have government live within its means, and pay off our debt. If those kinds of people get elected, great.

With that, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), our distinguished majority whip.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Path to Prosperity budget.

Every day, millions of Americans are competing in a race with an economy that asks us to accept a new normal, an anemic growth, an Obama economy.

I was recently in a high school speaking of the challenge that America had, and a student asked me a question about it. I asked him did he play a sport. He happened to be on the swim team. I said: Let me give you an analogy of America competing worldwide by a swim meet. Picture America in a swim competition with every other country. Many times at the early years, after the 1980s, we would jump into the pool and we would swim and we would win. We would hang those championship banners out. In this new Obama economy, things changed, a stimulus spending. Well, that meant we had to add a weight belt, about 20 pounds. Then the tax increases came. We had to add more weight. An onslaught of regulation, pretty soon you are up to 100 pounds.

You know what? We jump in that pool and we don't always win. And nobody says take the weight belt off. They just say you just don't swim like you used to. Think about it. Since the recession, part-time employment has increased at the expense of full-time. Over 90 million Americans are out of the workforce all together; 46 million live in poverty.

You know, the CBO, Congressional Budget Office, now says the new natural rate for unemployment is 6 percent. That means 11 million Americans not working is somehow natural in America. That is what a weight belt will do for you. It will drown you.

Today is different. Today we are going to unshackle. We are going to take that weight belt off. We have a budget that creates a Tax Code that is simpler and fairer, one that let's you keep more money in your pocket and lets you invest differently, one that balances and takes away that debt of the weight belt, one that unshackles the energy—more jobs, cheaper fuel, more manufacturing jobs to be able to grow. We strengthen Medicare and Medicaid. So we take care of the current and the future. We plan to swim for years and compete for years in the future.

I tell you, today, there are two different directions: you can stay with this anemic growth or you can jump into a pool with a future brighter than we have seen before and one that we know that will hang a new banner of championship, that America will rise once again with the prosperity of a balanced budget, one that will take us into a future of strength.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, the gentleman referenced several times the Congressional Budget Office and the economy. I urge all our colleagues to read the Congressional Budget Office report. It indicates that this House Republican budget will actually slow down economic growth over the next couple of years and slow down job growth over the next couple years.

Yes, we need a simpler, fairer Tax Code, but this House Republican budget would provide a huge tax break to the very wealthy and increase the tax burden on the middle class. In fact, they cut the top rate from 39 percent to 25 percent. That is a full one-third tax cut. So millionaires get an average of $87,000 tax break. Middle-income taxpayers have to finance that cut for the folks at the top. That means an increased tax burden of $2,000 for a middle class family. That is not good, fair tax reform.

For somebody who knows a lot about the economy and doing it right, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chair, budgets are a reflection of our values, they are a statement of our priorities, and they are about the choices we make to set the course for our future.

With this budget, Republicans are choosing the well-off and well-connected over middle class families, choosing, for instance, $45 billion in tax subsidies for oil companies whose own executives say they don't need it over veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq who are out of work.

They choose a new average tax cut of $200,000 per millionaire per year over 170,000 of our Nation's most vulnerable children who would lose Head Start services.

Mr. Chair, we just finished with March Madness, and I am very proud of the University of Kentucky Wildcats. They had a great season. But isn't one of the cruel ironies of this debate, Coach Calipari of the University of Kentucky, who makes $5 million a year, roughly, under the Republican budget would get an additional tax cut of $700,000 a year, while the students who support his program would see their Pell grants slashed nationwide by a total of $145 billion over 10 years. Isn't that something? A man who makes $5 million coaching basketball gets a $700,000 tax break, while the students who were suffering and working hard to pay their way through college get slashed. This is one of the choices the budgets are about. This is why the Republican budget is totally out of step with American values. This is why we should reject the Republican budget.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself 30 seconds to say, boy, I wonder what tax bill they are talking about, because it is not the one that is within the Republican budget. The Ways and Means Committee writes tax laws. We put out the outlines of tax reform that say there is a trillion dollars a year of tax expenditures, of loopholes that can be closed to give us a fairer, simpler Tax Code, that lowers taxes for everybody, all families and businesses, not whatever it is they are saying.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself an extra 30 seconds.

What we are saying is, keep the award where it is, the maximum award, and fully funded for the decade. That is slashing it?

That is as opposed to the President who is saying let's grow it and then have some cliff and show no way or means of paying for it. The President and his budget is making a promise in Pell grants that he shows no way of keeping. We think we should make a promise and keep it; that is why we fully fund the current award at Pell.

And, oh, by the way, we also are cognizant of the fact that a lot of studies show us we are raising tuition. We are contributing to tuition inflation. And we need to get to the bottom of that before we keeping throwing more money at a system that is raising tuition.

Mr. Chair, with that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Chair, in this House, we take the constitutional power of the purse very seriously. We also take the future of young Americans very seriously, and we take the notion of leaving something better for the next generation very seriously.

Again, this year, the majority has proposed a budget that responsibly balances our budget within 10 years. It secures our social safety net for the most

needy and for seniors. It repeals the uncertainty forced on Ohioans and all Americans by ObamaCare.

The budget begins to unburden future generations from the tyranny of the debt being left to them by today's decisionmakers. The CBO estimates it will pay $223 billion in interest payments this year—$223 billion in interest. That is enough to build 100 new Brent Spence bridges, which is an aging bridge that spans the Ohio River in Cincinnati, a critical artery for our Nation's highways reaching from Michigan to Florida.

Going back to those payments, left unchecked, they will balloon to $880 billion within 10 years. That is about how much we are spending on Social Security every year right now. American prosperity cannot afford to throw our money away to interest payments.

Vice President JOE BIDEN is fond of saying, ''Don't tell me what you value; show me your budget, and I will tell you what you value.'' It is a revealing quote, Mr. Chair, especially since Senate Democrats yet again refuse to even consider a budget. I guess according to the Vice President, Senate Democrats don't really value anything at all.

It is disrespectful to the American people and to hardworking Americans that this budget debate isn't happening in the Senate. As we have seen in recent years, the Senate Majority Leader has decided not to introduce a budget. In fact, the only time the Senate has introduced a budget recently was when the Senators knew that they wouldn't be paid unless they did so.

I know that Ohio families and Ohio businesses budget and plan for the future. They should be able to expect at least as much from their government, and the House is meeting our obligation with this budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I just want to respond to a couple of points the chairman made about tax reform. You know, Republican etiology in Washington has been that of trickle-down economics. The idea is you provide the wealthiest people in the country with a tax break and somehow it trickles down and lifts everybody up. The problem is that theory was proven bankrupt in the early 2000s. Under the Bush administration, we tried that—lower tax rates at the top. The economy did not do any better. In fact, what we got was huge deficits.

Now in this Republican budget, they are right back to the same old veiled theory. They called for reducing the top tax rate for millionaires from 39 percent down to 25 percent, and they claim that they are going to do this in a deficit-neutral way. When you do the math, what that means is you are going to have to increase the tax burden on middle class taxpayers to finance tax breaks for folks at the top.

Just to give our Republican colleagues an opportunity to say that that is not what they intended, in the Budget Committee, we offered an amendment calling it Protect the American Middle Class from Tax Increases, saying, okay, at least tell the Ways and Means Committee that one of your principles as you reduce tax breaks for millionaires is not to increase the tax burden on the middle class, and every Republican on the Budget Committee voted against that provision.

I am pleased that we have the author of that amendment with us on the floor right now. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from the great State of New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, this budget is fundamentally unserious. We have heard this now for 4 years in a row. My friends on the other side of the aisle come down to the floor with their draconian budget claiming they are reluctantly forced to make tough decisions because the specter of a debt crisis is right around the corner—this, despite the fact that our deficit is falling at the fastest rate since the end of the Second World War. We said this: we would do it, and we did it.

This supposedly looming debt crisis is going to be so incredibly bad for this country that we need to reluctantly gut programs that help low and moderate Americans to prevent it.

And you stand there and stand up there and talk to us about tax-and-spend Democrats? You can't balance your budget without the Affordable Care Act. Isn't that a honey? You have done everything to dismantle it, over 50 votes to get rid of it. Now you are using it and the revenues to balance your budget. Ho, ho, ho. How very convenient of you. Their prescription to prevent this impending disaster is exactly what their Randian world view prescribes in the first place.

Tax cuts for the wealthy paid for on the backs of those not so wealthy. Unfortunately, it leads to only one conclusion. The Republican Party does not care about our deficits.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman from New Jersey another 15 seconds.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, in the words of Vice President—remember him—Dick Cheney, he proclaimed, ''Deficits don't matter.''

So, you have had a call to religion. You have come back. Your budget, the deficit is simply an excuse to cut the social safety net. So I say, let's vote down this phony budget and get on with the real thing, Mr. Chair.

The CHAIR. The Chair would remind Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chair, just in order to balance the time, I think we will let the gentleman from Maryland yield to another speaker so we can catch up.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. If I could just inquire how much time remains.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 20¾ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Wisconsin has 18 minutes remaining.

□ 1330

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from the great State of New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), a terrific member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Chairman, I thank my distinguished friend for yielding.

The GOP budget is a product of the same type of extreme philosophy that gave rise to the reckless Republican shutdown last year. It is like a heat-seeking missile aimed directly at the American people. It is a parade of horribles too numerous to catalogue, but in the time that I have allotted I will try to highlight the most egregious aspects.

It will cut $125 billion from the SNAP program, making it difficult for millions of food insecure Americans to get access to the nutrition needed to live a healthy life. It will cut $260 billion from higher education spending, depriving young Americans of the opportunity to get a college education and robustly pursue the American dream. It will cut $732 billion from the Medicaid program, making it hard for older Americans to get access to this vital safety net program. It will turn Medicare into a voucher program—that is a Trojan horse—effectively ending Medicare as we know it. It will balance the budget on the backs of working families, middle class folks, senior citizens, the poor, the sick, and the afflicted.

The Democratic plan is designed to create progress for the greatest number of Americans possible. The Republican plan is all about prosperity for the few, and for that reason we should vote it down.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, yesterday, I was Dracula; now I am conducting a parade of horribles and firing heat-seeking missiles at the American people. I am interested to see what comes next.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chairman and the opportunity to stand and discuss the budget that we have before us.

I find it so interesting that our constituents are watching this. They are paying attention because they are concerned, and with good reason.

As one of my constituents said in a town hall meeting: I have got to tell you, I have got too much month left at the end of my money, and I am tired of it. I am tired of what this economy has been doing to my opportunities—wage stagnation, increases in health care costs.

The American people are over it, and they are ready to see the Federal Government start to live within its means. Think about it like this. This is the week when millions of Americans are sitting around the kitchen table looking at their income tax form, filling it out, trying to make certain that they do it right.

Let me ask you a question: Is it fair, is it right, for the men and women, the taxpayers, hardworking taxpayers in this country, is it right and fair to require them to send money to Washington, money that they don't have, money that causes them to struggle to meet their bills and to live within their means—they are struggling every month, and they have to send money to Washington to a government that refuses to live within its means.

This is what we are talking about, and this is why a budget that actually makes $5.1 trillion worth of spending cuts is important. It is why it is important that we have a budget that says there is a pathway to economic growth. It is because it is what the American people want to see happen.

I think our constituents find it very interesting that our colleagues across the aisle came to the Budget Committee room. What did they want to do? Plus it up, spend more—$1.5 trillion in taxes. More, let's take more from the taxpayer, let's grow the size of the government, let's make it bigger, let's make it more bloated.

That is their solution to how to deal with what we have here in Washington as a spending crisis. We don't have a revenue problem; we have a spending problem, we have a priority problem, and we see this play out regularly.

Mr. Chairman, it is why it is important for us to have a budget that balances in 10 years. I have to tell you, as a mom and a grandmom, I look a lot at what is happening to our children and our grandchildren.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentlewoman an additional minute.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. You can call it draconian, you can call it all of these names, you can call all of us Neanderthals. But let me tell you what this is: this is a budget that is for our children because it is for reduced regulation, reduced taxation, reducing litigation, it is for innovation and job creation. That is what this budget is for. It is for fairness, because if we don't get this under control it will be my 5-year-old and my 4-year-old grandchildren that are facing draconian taxes, draconian rates, draconian cuts in order to be able to stand and live here in America.

So as we look at this, yes, we put the focus on right-sizing government, flexibility for the States, accountability to the American taxpayer, accountability to the children who are going to inherit the consequences of the decisions we make today.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, the gentlelady used the term ''draconian'' a couple of times, and the chairman keeps referring to comments that Democrats have made as ''overblown.'' I would just remind the body that it was just a few days ago that the senior Republican, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, called the budget we are debating on the floor of the House draconian. That is what he called it—not a Democrat. So I think Members should keep that in mind as we proceed.

I am now very pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), a terrific member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The people I know and the people I meet work very hard every day. They want an opportunity for a good job, they want good schools, safe communities, and the promise that when they retire they can live their years in dignity. They want a government that is fair and helps make progress towards the American dream.

But this Republican budget is not for the hardworking people of America. This Republican budget is crafted by the special interests for the special interests. Republicans stack the deck against working families and small businesses. Incomes of CEOs and the top 1 percent are soaring, but everyone else is working harder to get by.

We need an economy that is firing on all cylinders for everybody, creating jobs that pay enough to keep up. Yet the Republican budget raises taxes on middle class families in order to cut taxes for people who earn over $1 million.

Republicans ignore one of the most important ways to cut the debt and the deficit, and that is have more Americans working. If the middle class succeeds, then America succeeds.

Republicans refuse to find one special interest loophole in the Tax Code. If you are incredibly rich, then you are incredibly lucky because this budget is for you. You pay less. But if you are like the vast majority of Americans, hold on, because you are going to pay more.

If you are a student who wants to attend college, Republicans make that harder by cutting Pell grants and student loans.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, if you have a job in construction at America's ports or in transportation, this Republican budget could cost you your job and new opportunities.

If you believe America should remain the world leader in medical and scientific research, sorry, the Republican budget slashes research at the National Institutes of Health or in universities and research institutions.

If you are an older American, the Republican budget asks you to pay much more for Medicare, long-term care, and nursing care. It takes away that secure lifeline that has been in place since Democratic Congresses passed Medicare and Medicaid so that you will be able to live your retirement years in dignity without the fear of poverty.

This Republican budget is a cynical, special-interest driven vision of America. I recommend a strong ''no'' vote in opposition.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague.

This budget—I am not going to call somebody Dracula. I am sure it is sincere—but it is all about cutting taxes at the public's expense. It disinvests in America. So we disinvest in R&D, we disinvest in our future. The gentlelady from Tennessee talked about children and the tax burden. What about their education? What about opportunity? What about the roads and bridges and tunnels and transit systems they won't have because they have crumbled because we have disinvested? That is what this budget is all about. It is absolutely on the wrong path and it is handing over our future to foreign competition.

I urge defeat of this budget, and I urge more sensible solutions for the future.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, when we call for ''revenue neutral tax reform,'' that means tax reform that keeps raising the same amount of revenue we raise today, do it through a better Tax Code so we are not picking winners and losers, so we can grow the economy and create jobs.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Chairman, when I tour businesses in the Eighth District of Indiana and meet with Hoosier families, they tell me they are concerned about the enormous debt burdening our country.

Just like Hoosier families and businesses that have to make hard decisions when money is tight, Washington must do the same in order to sustain our role as the leader in the free world.

We are over $17 trillion in debt. It is clear Washington, D.C., has a spending problem, and there are two very different pathways to address this issue.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would continue us on the failed status quo pathway of more spending, more taxes, and more debt. Their plan does not address the long-term drivers of our debt. It raises taxes on families who are already struggling to make ends meet and has no intention of balancing, ever. And it does nothing to protect and strengthen the Medicare safety net promised to our seniors. Put simply, their plan does not implement serious reforms necessary to put us on a path to a sustainable future.

Mr. Chairman, our budget has a different vision for America. Our budget plan saves $5.1 trillion over the next

decade, pays down our debt, and encourages a growing and healthy economy. Our plan expands opportunities for all Americans by focusing on higher education and job training. We encourage a simpler, fairer Tax Code that saves Americans thousands of hours spent every year on tax compliance. Our plan protects the social safety net programs by encouraging upward mobility and providing States with the flexibility to meet the needs of their residents.

One of the most important aspects of our budget plan provides Social Security and Medicare for our Nation's seniors. We preserve traditional Medicare for those in or near retirement, while also offering options for Medicare that strengthens this vital program so it is still around for future generations.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I support the Ryan budget plan, which puts our country on a pathway back to prosperity.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It does not strengthen Medicare to reopen the prescription drug doughnut hole, which is exactly what this Republican congressional budget does.

If you are a senior with high prescription drug costs under this budget, it will cost you $1,200 more per year. The whole reason we closed the prescription drug doughnut hole was to prevent seniors in that position from having to undergo such economic hardship. But this Republican budget reopens that doughnut hole now.

With respect to tax reform and picking winners and losers, the reality is that this Republican budget does pick winners and losers. The big winners are people at the very top of the income scale because millionaires will see their top tax rate cut by a full one-third.

The result of that is that middle-income taxpayers are going to have to finance that in order to maintain what they call the deficit neutrality of it. That means that middle-income taxpayers with kids are going to pay an average of $2,000 more to finance the tax cuts for millionaires.

□ 1345

So millionaires are the winners, and middle class taxpayers are the losers. As I said just a moment ago, we gave our Republican colleagues an opportunity in the committee to say no, that is not their intention, but they voted against the amendment to protect American middle class taxpayers.

I am now pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), one of our terrific members of the Budget Committee.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, this is the fourth year in a row that the Republicans have introduced their roadmap for the future.

If they took over the House, the Senate, and the Presidency, what would they do? Who would be the winners and losers?

The chairman of the Budget Committee said this is a win-win budget. It is a win if you are in the top percentile, and it is a win if you are in the second percentile, but the rest of us—the 98 percent—certainly aren't winning.

We lose 1.1 million jobs in 2015 and 3 million jobs in 2016 in the Republican budget. That is like firing every single person in the State of Wisconsin. We lose by slashing investments in infrastructure and science, in transportation and education, and for our seniors. The middle class taxpayers pay for it.

We also lose on the fact that this has fuzzy math. The logic is terrible. To say this actually balances in 10 years is to say that Cheez Whiz is like real Wisconsin cheese. They cut the Affordable Care Act's benefits, but they keep the revenues, and they keep the savings, which is simply impossible.

I hope the American public realizes that, if the Republicans take over, this is their roadmap. These are the cuts you are going to see, so I urge a ''no'' vote on the budget.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a member of the Budget Committee and of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chairman, this budget is too weak. It is too weak in all the wrong places and in all the wrong ways. It is weak on opportunity. It is weak on competitiveness. It is weak on dealing with the tax avoidance and loopholes that would allow us to invest in America. The House Republican budget actually grows the deficit—the opportunity deficit.

A strong budget would help our students earn degrees without mortgaging their futures in order to achieve their full God-given potential, and it would enable an educated workforce that will allow us to be competitive in the world economy.

A strong budget would invest in life-saving medical research, which would grow our economy and would respond to the folks from San Antonio who are here today to ask for more for Alzheimer's research, not by taking it from AIDS or cancer research, but by investing more to get the cures in order to save the lives and create the jobs that America ought to be about.

A strong budget would invest in infrastructure, in roads and rails and bridges and harbors, like the Chinese are doing to move goods and move people and be competitive.

A strong budget would ensure seniors' dignity in retirement, not what AARP says about this budget—that it would weaken the programs that provide the very foundation of health and retirement security for current and future generations.

I urge the rejection of this weak Republican budget in favor of needed investments in our education, our infrastructure, our research, and our retirement security.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. Those investments can be made by simply asking those who have been so privileged and who have enjoyed so many tax loopholes to pay their fair share for the future of America. I believe it is an investment for a stronger America, which will afford more opportunity to every family.

I ask for the rejection of this budget in favor of a strong budget that is strong for America, strong for our economy, and strong for opportunity.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, apparently, a strong budget means we need to borrow more from the Chinese to fund our government.

With that, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished Wisconsinite, Mr. DUFFY, who does know the difference between real cheese and Cheez Whiz.

Mr. DUFFY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, as I sit and listen to this debate today, there is no doubt the Democrats' position is let's just keep the status quo, don't change anything, let's continue on with our $17 trillion debt, let's continue to borrow and spend and spend and borrow and never change course.

We know that is their position by way of the amendments they offered in the Budget Committee and by the conversation you hear on the floor today. Mr. Chairman, we also know that, by way of the Senate budget, when they put one out, because it never balances, and we know that because of the President's budget that he puts out, because it never balances.

It passes off this massive liability to the next generation, and their policies have a real impact on the country as a whole.

We talk about seniors. The Medicare trust fund is going broke in 12 years—it is going bankrupt—and my friends across the aisle, Mr. Chairman, don't want to change it. They want to leave our seniors today and our future seniors in jeopardy with a trust fund that is going broke.

It is hard to lead. It is hard to put ideas on the table and say: listen, my friends, let's come together, let's be responsible, let's make it sustainable, let's fix it—when the response is: don't do a darned thing, continue on the course to a bankrupted trust fund.

That doesn't serve our seniors well. That doesn't serve our next generation of seniors well.

Speaking of Medicare, there is only one party in this town that took over $700 billion out of Medicare and used it for ObamaCare—they raided it—and that is the Democrat Party, Mr. Chairman. That is unacceptable, and to come to the floor today and tell us and the American people that they are here to protect it just isn't true.

We are on the course to a fiscal calamity, and if that happens, who are the people who are hurt the most among us? The people who are hurt the worst are the poorest, the ones who are most in need of government assistance.

We should look to our churches and to our communities for that help, but there is a role for government. If you have a debt crisis, if you have a fiscal crisis, and if you have people who have a hard time heating their homes or putting food on their tables or who have kids who want to go to college or if you want to build roads and bridges, there is not money there for those projects.

If you want to be able to invest in your future, you have to make sure you have a budget that is sustainable. When you pay $230 billion in interest alone today, when the Fed is printing money to buy down that interest rate and when the President says, in 10 years, interest on the debt is going to be $880 billion—you can build a lot of roads, bridges, feed a lot of people, and send a lot of kids to school for almost $1 trillion a year.

Let's fix this problem. Let's work together. Let's balance our budget. It starts right here in the House with the Budget Committee.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I hope all Members of the House will check the facts with respect to the impact of the Affordable Care Act on Medicare. If you actually look at what has happened since the Affordable Care Act was enacted, the per capita rate of increase in health care costs in this country has actually gone down.

Talk to seniors on Medicare. Anybody who is paying attention right now, I ask them: What has their Part B premium done over the last couple of years? It has been steadier. In fact, this year, it went down in real terms. The value that seniors have gotten under Medicare has actually improved significantly, in part, due to the Affordable Care Act.

Now, unlike the Democratic budget, which used some of the savings from getting rid of overpayments to some of the big insurance companies in Medicare and using those savings to strengthen things like the prescription drug benefit, the Republican budget keeps every dime of the Medicare savings from the Affordable Care Act, but they don't use any of it to strengthen Medicare.

In fact, they reopen the prescription drug doughnut hole. They start charging seniors now for preventative health services. Ultimately, they actually end the Medicare guarantee by turning Medicare into a voucher program, so that, if you actually wanted to stay in traditional Medicare, you would be paying a whopping high premium.

That is not the way we should go, and that is all in a budget that continues to provide tax breaks to the very wealthy in this country. Those are not the right priorities for America.

Now, I would like to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlelady from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee and a Member who has focused on the right priorities for America and who recognizes that small business is the engine of growth and opportunity.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I thank the ranking member for yielding, for fighting, and for being a real fiscal leader for small businesses in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this budget. Far from being a path to prosperity, it is actually a path to the poorhouse. Sadly, just as it falls short in so many other ways, the Ryan budget clearly fails small businesses.

Under this budget, resources that help small companies launch, grow, and hire will be cut by nearly $11 billion. A wide range of resources will be gutted—from contracts, to access to capital, to international trade assistance, to job training.

This budget is not the right budget to help those businesses that are the backbone of the American economy at a time when this economy is still struggling.

Studies have shown that many of these small business programs generate more than $3 in Federal revenue for every dollar spent. What type of economic policy says that you cut programs that generate income for the Treasury?

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. We just held a press conference today with so many small business people who have benefited from these types of programs. They are businesses that opened up in 2006. Today, we had a lady who provides IT services to the DOD and to many Federal agencies. Her business has grown from six people to 130 employees. These are the types of programs that we need in place in order to grow our economy.

Republicans like to say that they are the champions of small businesses. They oppose the ACA, claiming it will harm small firms. They oppose Dodd-Frank, saying that it will hinder the ability of small businesses to get lending from traditional financial services; and yet they cut the very lending programs that provide, through the Federal Government, access to capital for small businesses.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has again expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. When we look at this budget, we know that the rhetoric does not match the reality. Rather than paying lip service to small businesses, we must invest in the programs that help them grow and create jobs. That is what we need, job creation in our country. We must do better.

Vote ''no'' on this budget.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank Chairman RYAN for engaging the House in this very important process.

Mr. Chairman, we are talking about real alternatives and routes we can take for the future of this country and for the future of our children.

As a father to a 17-year-old daughter and twin 13-year-old boys, writing the fiscal path of this country is the reason that I ran for the opportunity to serve in this institution. Part of serving in this institution is creating a vision for America's financial future. This budget balances.

Putting a budget on the floor of the House and putting forth a vision for America's fiscal future that balances is something that we need to do on a regular basis.

It is sad that I had to fight for a provision to be put into this bill called No Budget, No Pay. As we know, the Senate will not take this budget process up, and they shouldn't be paid. I fought for that proposal because, if Members of Congress are not willing to put in the work to help balance our country's checkbook and fulfill their constitutional duties, they should not be paid.

For hard-working taxpayers, this budget allows you to keep more of your paycheck while, again, balancing our budget. Compare that with the President's budget, which we will have a chance to vote on this week.

I would urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to vote ''yes'' on the President's budget if you think it is the future for America, but that budget raises taxes by more than $1 trillion, and it never balances.

We have got a clear choice here. For our seniors, this budget ends ObamaCare's raid on Medicare, and it puts seniors back in charge of their health care decisions. This budget also preserves Medicare for our current seniors, and it ensures that this vital program is available for all future generations.

□ 1400

For our students, this budget guarantees Pell grants for those who dream of going to college but need a little help. Right now, the program is estimated to become insolvent by 2016. Every year we don't have a plan, we risk the future of millions of students and contribute to the rising cost of tuition. As someone who represents nine universities and colleges and eight community colleges in my district, having no plan is unacceptable.

For our veterans, this budget maintains advanced appropriations to ensure veterans still receive their benefits, regardless of what happens in Washington. Additionally, this budget would dedicate another $400 million to veterans programs.

I did not come to Washington sit idly by and remain content with the current state of our Nation. I came here to make Washington work and provide the hardworking taxpayers of Illinois' 13th Congressional District with a better vision for America.

This is a better vision for America, Mr. Chairman.

And the attacks will come. Don't let the attacks get in the way of the facts.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.

Mrs. BLACK. I thank the distinguished chairman of the Budget Committee for yielding.

Mr. Chair, our Nation is $17.4 trillion in debt and out-of-control spending here in Washington has no end in sight. In fact, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that, on our current trajectory, we will return to $1 trillion annual budget deficits by the year 2022. This situation is untenable and threatens the Nation that we leave behind for our children and grandchildren.

As I stand here and look at these young adults, they are the ones that are going to have to pay for our lack of courage to do what we need to do to balance this budget and get our country and our spending under control.

The vast majority of Americans agree that the Federal Government should live within its means and that it should balance its budget the same way that American families do. That is why it was so disappointing that President Obama's FY 2015 budget proposal would increase Federal spending and never balance, despite calling for an additional $1.8 trillion in taxes from hardworking Americans. In fact, the President's budget proposal would add an additional $8.3 trillion to the national debt.

The American people and these children deserve better than this. That is why I am proud that my House Republican Budget colleagues and I have again acted where President Obama and the congressional Democrats failed to lead.

This Path to Prosperity is our vision to control Washington spending and to help get our economy moving again so Americans can get back to work. This responsible budget proposal would cut spending by $5.1 trillion, balance the budget in 10 years, and put us on a path to pay off our debt. We accomplish all of this without raising taxes on the hardworking American people.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this budget proposal.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished Democratic whip, who has focused on these important issues successfully for a long time.

Mr. HOYER. I have focused on them; how successfully is an item of debate with myself.

I thank the ranking member for yielding.

This Republican budget, as I have said before, is an exercise in how not to achieve fiscal sustainability.

Both the Bowles-Simpson and Rivlin-Domenici bipartisan commissions determined that the responsible approach to achieving fiscal sustainability is through a combination of balanced deficit reduction and strategic investments in long-term economic growth.

The Bowles-Simpson report says: ''We must invest in education, infrastructure, and high-value research and development to help our economy grow, keep us globally competitive, and make it easier for business to create jobs.''

The chairman of the Budget Committee voted against Bowles-Simpson.

This budget disinvests in those priorities, which will help us create jobs and grow our middle class. It undercuts our ability to invest in economic competitiveness and the growth we need to secure the goal of a sustainable fiscal future.

At the same time, the Republican budget does not follow the bipartisan commission's framework for achieving deficit savings: a balanced approach that combines new revenue with spending reductions.

There are no new revenues in this budget, and its spending cuts are severe and irresponsible, cutting even deeper than the painful sequester.

As I said yesterday, GOP Appropriations Committee Chairman HAL ROGERS called those sequester levels ''unrealistic and ill-conceived,'' to which the chairman then rose and said: He said that last year.

He may have said it last year, but the proposals you make are unchanged from last year, essentially; and this year, just a few days ago, he said your cuts were draconian.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I believe the gentleman is supposed to make his remarks to the chairman.

Mr. HOYER. He is correct.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is reminded to address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I regret the chairman was taking my remarks personally. Of course, they were meant simply from a policy perspective of how bad the policy is, not the chairman himself, who is a wonderful individual.

In closing, let me say I urge every one of my colleagues who is troubled about our deficits and debt and who is deeply concerned about creating jobs and growing our economy to do the right thing: oppose this budget.

The chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who has called the numbers in this budget draconian, apparently intends to vote for it. Mr. Chairman, I don't understand that. If I thought, as I do, that these numbers were draconian, the only alternative I would have is to vote ''no.''

I lament the fact that we are not addressing in a bipartisan, comprehensive way putting America on a fiscally sustainable path. That would be the best economic stimulus that we could do for America. What a shame that, again, we have wasted that opportunity.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me just pick up where Mr. HOYER left off and ask the question: Why would the Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee call this Republican budget draconian? After all, the chairman of the Budget Committee has said today: Don't worry. Actually, we're going to continue to grow the government just a little more slowly.

But what that ignores is the fact that the portion of the budget that the chairman of the Appropriations Committee has jurisdiction over is that portion of the budget that we have used historically in this country to make investments that help our economy grow. They are investments in our kids' education, from early education, to K–12, to college education.

That is the part of the budget that we have used to invest in research and development with discoveries at places like NASA that have had huge spinoff benefits for the rest of the country and the economy, investments that actually helped lead to the Internet, that have been hugely beneficial to our economy. That portion of the budget doesn't grow a little less slowly. They cut that portion of the budget. In fact, as a share of our economy, it is cut by 40 percent below the lowest level since the 1950s, since we have been keeping track.

And so that is why we are saying that our global economic competitors are going to be cheering this Republican budget. We are talking about we would like to see a Make It In America agenda. This is a ''make it everywhere except America'' agenda. This actually provides tax cuts for U.S. corporations that move jobs overseas, and yet it cuts investments in jobs and economic development right here at home. That is why it is so misguided. That is why the Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee says it is draconian.

What is worse, it makes those cuts in our kids' education, basic R&D, and makes the cut in the senior prescription drug benefit while protecting these tax breaks for the most powerful and the very wealthy.

The chairman has referred a number of times to tax expenditures. In fact, he mentioned the other day that, on an annual basis, tax expenditures are over a trillion dollars, in fact, more per year than Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Some of those tax expenditures have worthy policy goals, but a lot of them are there because very powerful special interests have gotten an

exemption for themselves to the kind of Tax Code that everybody else has to pay for.

What we have said is we should get rid of some of those tax breaks for the purpose of helping to reduce our deficit so we don't have to hit our kids' education so hard, so we don't have to disinvest from basic R&D, so we don't have to make the kind of cuts that the Republican chairman of the Appropriations Committee calls draconian. But, no, Republicans don't want to do that. They say every time you close a tax loophole, you have got to use it to reduce the tax rate for wealthier Americans. We don't say, if you identify a spending program that no longer makes sense, you have to go spend it somewhere else. But when it comes to special interest tax expenditures, that is exactly the Republican position. You can only use it to bring down tax rates for multimillionaires.

As a result, while the winners in this Republican budget are those folks at the very top, they sock it to everybody else. They sock it to seniors on Medicare; they sock it to our kids' education; and they sock it to the fundamental economic power of this country when they disinvest in the things that have helped make us a global power, and that is the wrong decision for America.

So I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this Washington Republican budget, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me try and translate for the viewer what is happening here.

Every time you hear the word ''invest,'' that means take from hardworking taxpayers and spend in Washington; and then when that is not enough, ''invest'' means borrow—nearly half of which is from other countries—from the next generation and spend in Washington.

Just so you know, when they keep saying invest, invest, invest, or you are not investing enough, disinvest, it means tax, borrow, and spend here in Washington, as if we know better how people should spend their money.

The analysis we hear about jobs lost and how this isn't going to work and it is going to cost all these jobs is the same analysis that said the stimulus was going to be a boon. It is the same analysis they said that if we just borrow and spend $780 billion in Washington on shovel-ready jobs, unemployment will never reach 10 percent and we will create millions of new jobs. It didn't work.

It all comes down to this. Rather than prioritize our spending, rather than holding the Federal Government accountable and more transparent to make sure that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely and prudently, rather than balancing the budget and paying off debts so the next generation has a debt-free inheritance, rather than taking on the bloated Tax Code that is mired with special interest giveaways and tax breaks and loopholes, rather than opening up this incredible store of oil and gas that could give us a huge renaissance of more jobs and lower gas and home heating prices and a better foreign policy, rather than preserving our military and giving our troops what they need, rather than growing our economy and creating what is estimated by the CBO to give each person an average of $1,100 more in take-home pay because of that faster economic growth, rather than doing any of that, just do more of the same. Stick with the status quo.

That is what this rhetoric is. It is a straw man argument. It is basically an argument that says let's affix certain views to our opponents so that we can defeat these awful views that we say they have and win the debate by default so that we can stick with the status quo and keep doing more of the same.

□ 1415

Mr. Chairman, here is where we are headed. This debt, this red line is the status quo. This is where America is going. It is not a Republican or a Democrat thing. It is a math thing.

What we are saying with this budget is, the status quo isn't working. We can't do more of the same because we are headed in the wrong direction. Everybody in this country knows this.

This is our plan. It is actually a plan. Pay off the debt, grow jobs, and challenge the status quo. And that is why I urge adoption of this budget.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 30 minutes on the subject of economic goals and policies.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

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

Good afternoon. The biggest challenge facing America today is a Federal Government that simply won't live within its means.

Now, spending cuts can get us back halfway to a balanced budget. But if we want to finish the job, we need to grow our economy so we can not only balance this budget, but begin paying down this dangerous $17 trillion national debt.

Under the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978, the Joint Economic Committee, which I chair, provides analysis and recommendations about the goals and policies set forth in the Economic Report of the President to assist the House of Representatives in its consideration of this budget resolution.

During the next few moments, the members of the Joint Economic Committee will answer three questions:

Why has the Obama recovery been so weak and disappointing, when compared with past recoveries?

How would a gradual reduction of Federal spending relative to the size of our economy, as envisioned in the budget resolution, help hardworking Americans by accelerating economic growth, accelerating job creation, and increasing real wages?

And finally, how would the reforms envisioned in the Republican budget help Congress to make better tax and spending decisions in the future?

To call the current recovery a disappointment to the American people, well, it is an understatement. The current recovery ranks either dead last or near the bottom on virtually every economic measure when compared to other recoveries of the past half a century. The economy's poor performance has left the United States with an enormous growth gap.

Real gross domestic product, our economy, our output, has grown at slightly more than half the average of other recoveries. Not surprisingly, given the recovery's anemic rate of economic growth, private sector payroll employment, that is, jobs along Main Street, have also increased by only more than half the average of other recoveries.

If you look at the paychecks, what people have in their budget at home after taxes, well, for middle class Americans, for middle class people, their wages have only increased by one-third of the average of other recoveries, and less than half of the next-worst recovery.

So the middle class is struggling. But Wall Street, it is roaring. The S&P 500 Total Return Index, adjusted for inflation, has more than doubled. This, Mr. Chairman, is the recovery that left Main Street and middle class families behind.

The Joint Economic Committee has compared this recovery to the average of other recoveries over the last 50 years and has identified this dangerous growth gap.

And what is missing from the economy because of this disappointing recovery?

Our economy should be $1.3 trillion larger today, over $1 trillion larger today, if this had just been an average economic recovery, rather than dead last.

And had the number of jobs along Main Street grown at the average rate of others, we would have 5.7 million more Americans working today than what they are under this disappointing recovery.

Last month, we reached a milestone. The number of jobs along Main Street finally matched its peak from when the recession began. This milestone would be good news, except that it comes about 4 years late.

So after all these years, now 6 years, we are just back to breaking even on the number of jobs along Main Street.

If you look at the economy, proportionately, there are fewer adults working today than when the recession ended. We have actually gone backwards as an economy since the recovery supposedly began.

So no matter how you try to slice and dice the numbers, there is no hiding the fact that a smaller percentage of Americans are working today than when the recession ended.

Turning from jobs to income that hardworking families receive, this recovery, regrettably, is even more disappointing. Since the recession ended, real personal income per person has barely edged up. I think it is 3.8 percent, barely noticeable. That is less than half what it should be in an average recovery.

But what does it mean to an average family?

What it means is that the average person in America is missing over $3,000 a year from their paycheck. And an average family of four in America today is missing $1,086 a month from their family budget. Imagine that.

Imagine, for every family in America having an extra $1,000 a month to pay utilities, to save for college, for which costs are exploding, to pay for the new health care costs under the Affordable Care Act, to invest maybe in that new washer, dryer, repair that car.

$1,000 a month is missing from the average family because of the slow growth policies of the White House and, regrettably, congressional Democrats.

That is why middle class families are being left behind. That is why we can no longer stay the course in America. Families like this are missing too much money for Washington to continue to do the same old things that leave them behind.

I could fill this entire hour with different statistics that make the same point, but by every measure the recovery is so disappointing. The question is, why? What is different about it?

Well, some blame the housing bubble, its collapse and the financial panic, for the persistent weakness in our labor markets. Recoveries following the collapse of a debt-financed asset price bubble like this are typically slower than our recovery. We know that.

While the collapse of the housing bubble undoubtedly has had some lingering effects, it is not the main factor, let alone the only factor for this disappointing recovery.

What is unique about this recovery is the combination of the slow growth economic policies that President Obama has pursued.

For example, looking back from 1982 to 2000, Federal spending declined as a percentage of the economy and the private sector boomed, creating more than 37 million jobs.

Under President Obama, the opposite happened. Federal spending exploded to a post-World War II high of 24 percent of the economy, and we lost jobs.

Presidents Kennedy and Reagan, they reduced the aftertax cost for new business investment. The Joint Economic Committee has shown that there is a strong correlation between when businesses invest in building equipment and software and the creation of real jobs along Main Street.

In contrast, President Obama increased taxes on successful small businesses, on capital gains, and dividends, and slowed this recovery.

Looking back, Presidents Clinton and Reagan took a balanced approach toward environmental, health, and safety regulations. By contrast, the Obama administration has launched a regulatory tsunami; red tape at the highest levels the last 3 years, historically high, and that slowed job creation along Main Street.

Presidents Kennedy, Reagan, and Clinton opened new markets for American sales through international trade agreements. Aside from completing the agreements left unfinished by President Bush, and despite having a first-rate trade team in place, opening new markets, tearing down the ''America Need Not Apply'' sign, allowing our companies' workers to compete on a level playing field, that is now stalled under this White House.

Presidents Kennedy, Reagan, and Clinton didn't burden a weak economy with costly new entitlement programs. By contrast, President Obama rammed the Affordable Care Act through Congress on party-line votes.

The controversial Affordable Care Act is heightening uncertainty, boosting taxes by more than $1 trillion, undermining key industries like medical devices and small businesses, and causing millions of Americans, including families in my community, to lose access to doctors and to health insurance plans that they liked.

Now they are paying more for a plan they didn't ask for, and are forced to do it or pay a tax.

Notice that these past approaches to taxes and regulations, international trade were taken by both Republican and Democrat Presidents, approaches that both parties have recognized as good for our economy. Yet President Obama's actions remain remarkably out of sync with those sound policies.

He continues to stay the course, while millions of Americans, they can't find full-time work. Millions more have just given up looking for work. Fewer and fewer people are in the workforce.

It is not the elderly who are retiring, it is younger people, college graduates who spent all that time and all that money, and now they are working behind a cash register.

You have got middle class Americans, again, missing over $1,000 from their monthly budget that could be helping them meet their needs because of the President's economic policies.

What we do know, and what is incorporated in the Republican budget, is an economic policy mix that would do the opposite. It would ignite a boom in our economy through simple and well-known policy, the sound dollar that protects families against inflation and losing their purchasing power.

Gradual decline of Federal spending as a percentage of the economy, that is a key one. Tax reform that lowers the aftertax cost for business investment, grows our economy; balanced regulation and opening new markets around the world for American companies and workers—that is the best way to strengthen our economy, create millions of new jobs, and get America back on the right track again.

The budget resolution proposed by Republicans in the House says no more slow growth. No more stay the course. We will not settle for a second-rate economy.

Our families deserve better. They deserve $1,000 more a month, and this is the path to get us there.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, the budget offered by our Republican colleagues is not, by any stretch of the imagination, the solution to our problems.

It is the problem, because this is not a budget; it is a retreat. It is a retreat from the high ideals, noble goals, and bold dreams that have made this country so great.

As the author and columnist Nicholas Kristof recently pointed out, a new ranking of livability in 132 countries shows that the United States has fallen to 16th, fallen. But apparently, our Republican friends think that is just a little too high.

We now rank 24th in inequality in the attainment of education. But the Republican budget would cut Pell grants that help low-income students afford college.

We rank 29th in life expectancy, and 24th in nutrition and basic medical care, and the Ryan budget would cut funding for food stamps and Medicaid, and raise the eligibility of Medicare.

□ 1430

We rank just 70th in health, and Republicans want to repeal the Affordable Care Act and snatch health care coverage away from millions who just received it.

This is not a budget, Mr. Chair. This is a call to Americans to dream small and aim low. This is an attempt to shift costs onto the shoulders of the middle class, the young, and the elderly in a way that would cripple our ability to compete.

I believe we are a better people than this and a greater Nation. Look at just about any poll on the subject these days, and you can see that Americans are most concerned about jobs and growing our American economy. What the American people want to see from the Congress is a plan that will help accelerate the growth of our economy and create good jobs, but the crushing austerity of the Ryan plan would do just the opposite.

This makes no sense because we know what actually works and what actually grows jobs and what doesn't. We have seen it, and we have lived it. The record speaks for itself. It shows

whose ideas actually work in the real world and whose don't.

Since 1961, the private sector has added a total of 66 million jobs. Twenty-four million of them were added under Republican Presidents, and a whopping 42 million were added under Democratic Presidents.

Let's take a look at this chart. Under President Clinton, this country grew a whopping 22.6 million jobs, and he left office running an annual surplus of over $128 billion projected to grow into the trillions. Then, under the 8 years of President Bush, we added only 1.2 million jobs—what a stark difference—and the budget surplus was turned into an annual $1.4 trillion deficit.

When President Obama took office, our economy was shedding over 800,000 jobs a month, and the Bush administration left office with the worst job creation record in 75 years. Nevertheless, in the 5 years since President Obama took office, we have created 4.7 million jobs, nearly four times what was created under President Bush, and we have more than halved the annual deficit.

The actions swiftly implemented by the President and Democratic Congress quickly turned the economy around, and job losses diminished; and, as this next chart shows, those actions have worked. We have been gaining jobs for the last 49 months.

In that time, the economy has added 8.9 million private sector jobs, regaining more than all of the jobs lost during the great recession.

This chart shows what I call the deep red Republican valley, where we were shedding over 800,000 jobs a month. Since President Obama took office with his economic plan, we have been growing jobs.

Democrats understand that, in order to maintain our leadership in the world economy, America needs to continually sharpen its competitive edge; and we understand that, while investing in the future may carry some risk, refusing to do so carries an iron-bound certainty, the certainty of a slow decline and crippling decay.

Instead of investing in the future and in the next generation, the Ryan budget guts funding for education, workforce training, critical infrastructure, scientific research, public health, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and public safety, all the investments needed to make the American economy of tomorrow competitive and put us on the cutting edge.

Instead of fully preparing the next generation for tomorrow's economy, the Ryan budget cuts funding for early childhood education, K–12 education, special education, and higher education. It slashes grants and charges students more interest on their college loans.

It lets the higher education tax cut expire, saddling our young people with even more student loan debt; and we know now that student loan debt is now larger than credit card debt in our country. It is a crippling concern.

Sadly, the cuts extend far beyond education. The Ryan budget proposes draconian cuts to nutrition assistance, home heating assistance, and rental assistance. SNAP, which provides food security for millions of American children, is cut more than $135 billion, and 200,000 fewer women and children would get basic nutrition through the WIC program.

We can all agree that the economic recovery has been too slow, and yet this Republican budget cuts critical investments to create jobs and enhance our competitiveness.

In 2015 alone, the budget cuts $52 billion from efforts to update our crumbling transportation infrastructure. That amounts to over 1.5 million jobs. The budget cuts the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, threatening our edge in medical and scientific innovation.

The Republican budget even eliminates funding for the arts, humanities, and public broadcasting, which support the institutions that enrich our lives and chronicle our cultural and artistic heritage.

Further, the Ryan budget would cut health care funding and increase costs for seniors. It would raise the age to qualify for Medicare to 67 and bring back the dreaded doughnut hole that leaves too many seniors to choose between their medication and putting food on the table.

After nearly a century of talking about doing it, we have finally expanded health care to cover more Americans. Yes, there have been bumps along the way, as there have been with the implementation of transformational social programs, like with Medicare and Part D prescription drugs; but the important thing is that it is working.

Already, 7 million people have signed up through the health insurance marketplaces, and another 3 million young adults have been able to remain on their parents' health plans until they turn 26.

Under the Ryan plan, these 10 million Americans who thought, at long last, they had reliable and affordable health care insurance would have it snatched away from them, but it is even worse than that.

By 2024, a staggering total of 40 million people would become uninsured under the Ryan plan. The CBO projects that 25 million people, who would have gained coverage under the Affordable Care Act, will, instead, have to go without it, and there are another 14 to 20 million people who would lose insurance as a result of the block granting and Medicaid cutting laid out in the Ryan budget.

After 53 failed attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the Ryan budget hopes to succeed in taking us backwards to those dark days when people with preexisting conditions couldn't get coverage, when protections against lifetime limits didn't exist.

No-cost preventive services, like mammograms and cervical cancer screenings, would be no more. It would take us back to a time when women were charged more just because they were women and when the insurance companies called the shots.

From the smallest children to the oldest seniors who rely on Medicaid for health care and to cover long-term health bills, the Ryan Medicaid cuts will negatively affect literally millions. Women who make up almost 70 percent of adult Medicaid beneficiaries will especially feel the sting. The most vulnerable will be hurt the most.

Mr. Chair, budgets are about choices, and we face a truly watershed choice now. We can choose to continue to do things that have lifted the hopes of millions, provided unparalleled opportunities, and made our country the envy of the world.

We can choose to continue to help those who need it the most and provide a measure of care to those who have the least; or we can choose to go down a radically different road, concede the future to the bold, defer to others, expect less, and turn our faces away from the downtrodden and the dispossessed.

Yes, we can make that choice; but please, Mr. Chair, let's stop referring to this as a budget and call it what it really is, a retreat, an act of surrender. It is giving up on the America we have always known.

This is not a blueprint. It is a black eye. We are a better people than this and a greater Nation. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.'' America does not retreat.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a key member of the Joint Economic Committee, a businessman who knows that more than half of Americans today believe we are still in a recession, that they have given up and feel like this country is surrendering, and he knows the impact.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I want to just speak for a few minutes in favor of the Republican budget resolution. This is a budget resolution that stands in stark contrast today compared to what the President has offered in his budget.

It is a budget that balances. It is a budget that is responsible. It is a budget that is thoughtful. It addresses the spending side of the ledger to be more fiscally responsible, and it also includes, Mr. Chair, a roadmap for progrowth tax reform to create a healthier economy.

Yes, we need to spend less, but our national debt and our budget imbalance have grown so big that we can't fix them alone by simply addressing spending. We have also got to grow our economy and put people back to work to bring in more revenue.

We are suffering from a growth gap. Normally, the economy doubles every 20 years; but because of excessive Washington spending, budget deficits,

high debt, these onerous regulations that come out of Washington, and higher taxes, the economy is now set to double every 30 years; so we have literally added 10 years onto our growth cycle.

What does that mean? The growth gap means this, Mr. Chair: it means, for disposable income, since the end of the recession nearly 5 years ago, every man, woman, and child has been robbed of almost $3,200 every year.

It means that a family of four has been robbed of about $13,000. That is an additional average of aftertax income and disposable income. That is real money to a family. What could you do with $13,000?

Our economy is performing way below average. We can do a lot better than performing below average. This budget expands opportunities for American workers by equipping them with the skills that they need to succeed in a 21st century economy.

It lays a path to reform a broken Tax Code by simplifying and lowering tax rates, by eliminating special interest loopholes, and by moving us to an internationally competitive tax system, so that U.S. employers can compete fairly in a global economy.

We need commonsense tax reform to keep American businesses headquartered here in the U.S., so that we can sell to customers overseas, bring the earnings back, keep our headquarter companies here, keep the innovation here, and keep the jobs here.

This budget also cuts cronyism, corporate welfare, and waste. It ends the Dodd-Frank bailouts of big banks. It eliminates billions in corporate welfare, and very importantly, it protects and strengthens important programs that our seniors rely on and ensures that these programs will be there for future generations.

It is time to stop spending money that we don't have. We can no longer borrow 40 cents of every dollar that we spend.

Finally, Mr. Chair, this budget not only balances by growing our economy and making government more efficient, it also puts the country back on a path to actually paying down the national debt because the longer we wait to address the drivers of our debt, the harder our choices will be later.

This is a budget proposal and a blueprint that puts the country back on track for a balanced and responsible path. I would ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of the Republican budget.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I now yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), who is a champion of working families.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Chair, since February of 2010, more than 8 million jobs have been create in the our Nation. Over the last year, the unemployment rate has fallen by four-fifths of a percentage point.

These numbers demonstrate the significant progress we have made in growing our economy and putting Americans back to work after the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

However, there is still far more we can do to strengthen our economy and begin to reduce the growing income inequality in our great Nation.

□ 1445

Sadly, instead of proposing a budget that would help us expand the middle class, Republicans have, again, offered a budget that seeks to help the wealthy at the expense of the many. Just as in the years past, the 2015 Ryan budget would slash nondefense discretionary spending without regard for the devastating consequences these cuts would have on the lives of Main Street Americans.

This year's Ryan budget would cut an additional $791 billion from the postsequester funding caps from fiscal year 2006 through fiscal year 2024. As in the past, the budget also offers an ideological wish list of policies that will increase the unemployment rate, hurt low-income families, and harm our seniors—all to protect the interests of the wealthiest among us.

The Ryan budget does not extend emergency unemployment benefits, even though these benefits would help our broader economy, as well as the millions of families that have suffered the devastating consequences of long-term unemployment.

Never before has Congress failed to provide Federal unemployment insurance when the unemployment rate—especially for the long-term unemployed—is as high as it is today.

This budget would also hit middle class families with thousands of dollars in additional taxes every year, while lowering the top tax rate for the rich.

The Ryan budget would repeal the Affordable Care Act, taking health care from millions of middle-income Americans. It would gut Medicaid, taking health care from millions of our poorest families, and it would destroy the commitments we have made to our Nation's seniors by turning Medicare into a voucher program.

This budget would also be devastating for our Federal workforce, the people who care for our veterans, who protect our homeland, who ensure the food we eat is safe, and who conduct the research on which we are relying to find new treatments for cancer and other devastating diseases.

Let me remind my colleagues that the Republicans have been attacking our Federal employees for years, treating them as if they were the piggybank for deficit reduction.

Federal workers have already sacrificed $140 billion towards reducing this Nation's deficit through a 3-year pay freeze and retirement contribution increases. Now, House Republicans want to squeeze another $125 billion out of these middle class workers. How will they do this?

The Ryan budget would increase Federal employee pension contributions to 6.53 percent, an increase of more than 5.5 percentage points for many current Federal workers, but it would not increase any benefits provided to these same workers.

Of course, proposals for increasing the contributions Federal employees make to their pension funds are not new. This year's budget also includes a provision prohibiting new Federal employees from enrolling in the retirement system that has served Federal employees since the 1920s.

Let me make this clear. Under the Ryan budget, one leg of the so-called three-legged stool on which Federal employees have relied for security in their retirement would be ripped out from under them. New Federal employees would be left to rely solely on the savings they accumulate in their Thrift Savings Plan and on Social Security.

As if that wasn't enough, the Ryan budget would also eliminate the student loan repayment program for Federal workers, even though this is a vital recruitment and retention incentive used to attract the best and brightest to serve the American people.

The budget also proposes to cut the Federal workforce by 10 percent. Contrary to the claims of some that our government is growing out of control, the Federal Government has actually cut 85,000 jobs in the last 12 months.

An additional arbitrary workforce reduction isn't likely to yield the savings the Republicans expect because much of the current work of the government would simply be shifted to more expensive contractors. Such a reduction would, however, impede the government's ability to provide needed services to the American people in a timely manner.

I agree that Congress must act to put our fiscal house in order, but we must do this in a balanced manner that increases economic stability and certainty in the marketplace. We must not do this on the backs of our neediest citizens, and we must not do this on the backs of the Federal employees who make government work for our Nation every day.

Republicans fail to understand that we simply cannot cut our way to prosperity. Expanding opportunity and investing in America today will increase government revenues in the years to come and put our economy back on the path to prosperity.

For the good of our Nation, I urge my colleagues to reject the Ryan budget.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, we hear all the votes and the claims from our Democrat friends about how great the economy is going and what great leadership they have shown from the White House to get people back to work. They claim millions and millions and millions of jobs, but Americans don't feel that way and for good reason.

Let's put all this job surge in perspective. Now, here is the average economy recoveries—because America does face tough times from time to time. We normally bounce back pretty strongly, but not this time and not under this President.

If you look at job creation in the last 4 years, this is the average of the other recoveries. This is the Reagan average. That was real economic growth, and as you can tell, only twice in the last 4 years or more has the Obama recovery even met average.

Only 2 months out of more than 4 years has this recovery even been merely average, and it has never reached the real strong growth of the Reagan recovery because unemployment, by the way, reached higher points in this recession.

So, clearly, by underperforming, by being so disappointing, what this chart really shows is the millions of Americans—middle class Americans—who have been left behind by this disappointing recovery. You look at this and you wonder: Well, so what does this mean to the economy?

In the next chart, I will show you what is missing. People back home and people all across America are saying that you have got to get this economy going, it is just hurting us so badly; but because, again, this President and our Democratic friends choose to slow the growth of America, we are now missing, gosh, almost $4 trillion—$3.7 trillion, to be exact, is missing from our economy.

That should be in our Main Street businesses. It ought to be in our small businesses. It ought to be driving our economy, instead of trailing China. Instead of being lectured by the rest of the world, America should have a strong economy by now. This is a disappointing recovery.

The Republican budget actually starts to restrain spending and has tax reform to grow the economy. While you have heard some claim that trillions of dollars of cuts will devastate the Federal safety net, the truth is that the Republican budget over the next 10 years grows by about 3 percent a year. That is because America's population is growing as well.

Only in Washington is growth and spending a cut. What it does is it cuts the waste, fraud, and abuse in this big, flat, bloated government, and it makes smart investments, though, in defense, in Medicare, and in infrastructure.

Our Democrat friends are crying today for more emergency unemployment benefits, but those benefits are for when the unemployment rate is going up and getting higher, but, today, in all 50 States, that rate is going down and going lower. What we should be focusing on is getting people back to work, not a check, but a good-paying job.

Instead, the White House has obstinately blocked the Keystone XL pipeline and those thousands of jobs. They have obsessively pushed the Affordable Care Act on our small businesses who are cutting hours, cutting workers, cutting wages, and hurting the economy—and then all the new regulation.

The Republican budget preserves Medicare and Medicaid, and for Medicaid, which is our health care for the poor, the budget grows for them, but it does an important thing. It gives back to the States the ability to tailor health care for their States to meet their patients in their communities and in their regions. That is the way it ought to be done.

The Democrats hollow out our defense, hollow out our intelligence system, and ignore our veterans. The Republican budget restores our military strength to the presequester levels. We focus on our veterans in America. They deserve no less.

The Republican budget saves Medicare both for those who are in or near retirement, but, more importantly, for those who wonder if Medicare will be there for them. It offers options for younger workers, including just staying in traditional Medicare or tailoring a plan that is right for them and their families.

The Democrats ignore the challenges facing America. They ignore this disappointing recovery. They say: just stay the course, the country is doing fine.

But the country isn't doing fine. Our families, they aren't doing fine at all, and they are missing $1,000 a month from their paychecks because this White House and this Democrat Senate continue to stay the course.

Let's change the course for America.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. May I inquire, Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining on this side?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York has 12 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield myself 1 minute.

Now, my good friend from Texas pointed out that the recovery has been slow, but at least it is a recovery. It is not a loss of jobs, as we see in this chart, the long, red valley of job loss, shedding over 800,000 jobs a month when President Obama took office, and we have job growth.

I would like to see it stronger and better, too, but at least it is job growth. The former President Bush left us with a $1.4 trillion deficit when he inherited a surplus and the worst job growth record in 75 years.

I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Maryland (Mr. DELANEY). He is a former CEO of a public company which has brought great expertise to the Joint Economic Committee.

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlelady from New York for yielding me this time to stand up, rise, and speak out against Mr. RYAN's budget.

While I have many significant policy objections that are embedded in Mr. RYAN's budget, my main objection is based on the fact that the budget is built upon a fundamentally flawed analytical framework. I think it is important to focus on that when we think about budgets, Mr. Chairman.

The fundamental driver—or the goal of the Ryan budget is to have our deficits at zero in 10 years. I believe Mr. RYAN does this because he thinks it is good political optics, and it sounds good. The problem with this goal is it is fundamentally, economically and fiscally, the wrong goal. It is unnecessary, and it is unrealistic.

It is unrealistic based on the fact of the demographics the country is facing. We are somewhere through the midway of this aging of the population that we like to talk about, Mr. Chairman, where the population of people over 65—our citizens over 65 will double from 1980 to 2020 to 2030. This puts tremendous burdens on the Federal Government.

But it is also an unnecessary goal. A zero deficit is an unnecessary goal if you think about the basic math of deficits and debt. The reason our debt has grown to such a significant level in this country is because, for the last several years, our deficits, as expressed as a percentage of the economy, have exceeded the economic growth on an annual basis for the economy. The math of that results in a growing debt, which is problematic.

Unless we change the direction of our debt, we will have very limited financial flexibility in the future, particularly if interest rates go up; but, in fact, if we get our deficits to a rate below the rate of growth in the economy, then definitionally, the debt in this country will go down.

Most experts agree that we should be targeting deficits of 1 to 2 percent and economic growth of at least 2 to 3 percent. That will cause our debt to go down to historical levels and give this country the financial flexibility that it needs.

So if you seek an unrealistic goal or if you seek the wrong goal in budgeting and forecasting, you are forced to overcorrect. There are two ways to overcorrect in budgets—or at least in the Federal budget. The first way you can overcorrect is to raise taxes to an excessive level. The second way you can overcorrect is to cut spending to unrealistic levels.

Mr. RYAN, obviously, doesn't choose to raise taxes. In fact, he cuts taxes which, again, is an unusual and puzzling conclusion, particularly based on the fact that our tax revenues as a percentage of the economy across the last several years have been lower than the historical 50-year average for this country.

So to think that we should be cutting taxes against that backdrop, again, is a puzzling decision, but since he chooses to cut taxes, he is then forced to overcorrect on the spending side.

To put this into perspective, in very, very simple perspective, the Ryan budget takes discretionary spending, things like education, infrastructure, and investments in basic medical research, to 1.7 percent of our economy.

□ 1500

This is in the context of a historical average for these same investments of 3 percent. We can't really talk about growing or shrinking numbers in absolute dollars; we always have to talk about these numbers, if we want any kind of budget integrity, in terms of a percentage of the economy.

He effectively cuts in half our investments in infrastructure, education, and basic medical research as a percentage of the economy as compared to the 50-year average. That is the overcorrection he does because he is trying to achieve a goal that is both unrealistic and unnecessary.

It is not clear to me, Mr. Chairman, someone who has spent his whole career in the private sector building companies, how anyone with reasonable cognitive abilities would think, in light of the challenges this country faces to create jobs, as we have discussed, to compete in a global economy and to transfer our economy based on what is happening with technology, that it is the right answer—that it is the right answer to cut our investments in research, in infrastructure and education by half.

That is the fundamental flaw in the analytical framework that is embedded behind Mr. RYAN's budget, which only reinforces my conclusion that this is a political document; this is not a substantive document.

This is not a document that was created by looking at the facts, thinking about economics, understanding how deficits and debt interrelate and what we need to actually make this country competitive, create jobs, and put ourselves on a long-term fiscally sound trajectory.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. May I inquire as to the time remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 11½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from New York has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Amid all the predictions of doom and gloom, the truth is the Republican budget grows by 3 percent a year over the next decade. It doesn't shrink; it grows. The population grows, and so that makes sense.

It does cut wasteful spending, and there is a lot of wasteful spending to cut. More importantly, it grows the economy and tackles the biggest challenge America has, which is a broken Tax Code. This resolution begins to rein in the IRS.

This budget begins to save Social Security and Medicare for families and younger generations so they can count on them, and it makes sure that we don't hollow out our defense. This is the only budget that balances. More importantly, it is the only budget that says that is not enough. It begins to pay down the national debt, and it says our goal in America will be to have a debt-free America. Think about that. After all these years of dangerous deficits, America could be debt free, economically the strongest in the world, and financially the strongest in the world.

But today, if we don't change course, look what happens. Today, a baby born in Woodlands, Texas, their share of the debt is almost $50,000. A new baby owes Uncle Sam a Lexus. If we don't change our ways, by the time that child is 13, that child will owe Uncle Sam a second Lexus. By the time that child is 22, finishing college and beginning to start their life and live their dreams, they will owe Uncle Sam another Lexus.

Now, the good news is young people don't actually buy luxury sedans for the Federal Government, but they pay the price in a very different way. All that debt slows the economy, so there will be fewer jobs for them to compete for; and all of that debt means higher taxes and higher interest rates, so there will be fewer jobs to compete for, and they will have less money in their paycheck as a result.

Our Democrat friends say: that is fine, let's stay the course; let's not change anything; the economy is great; our deficits are fantastic, and our country is going the right direction.

But that is not the truth in America today. We need to spend less as a government in a smart way. We need to grow the economy in a strong way. We can't ignore the challenges facing us. We have to save Medicare and Social Security. This is the budget that grows America's future and doesn't shrink it. This is the budget that America needs. We can't afford to stay the course.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

The gentleman from the great State of Texas says that the Republicans have been cutting the deficit, but the facts are different.

Under President Clinton, we created a stunning 22 million jobs, and he left this country with a surplus. Under George Bush, in 8 years, he only created 1.2 million jobs and left us with a $1.4 trillion deficit. And in the 5 years that President Obama has been in office, he has created 4.7 million jobs, which is 5 times more than his predecessor did, and cut the deficit in half. So the record of cutting deficits is on the side of the Democratic administrations and policies.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS), a newly elected Member and a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Chairman, I have owned a business and know what it is like to be a job creator in this country, and I am very proud of it.

This week, House Democrats introduced our budget alternative, a budget dedicated to the priorities of the American people: creating jobs, raising new ladders of opportunity, and building an economy that works for everyone. It is in stark contrast to the broken priorities of the Ryan budget. The Ryan budget will take $2,000 more in taxes away from American families—that is working class families—without closing one tax loophole for the corporate rich.

The Ryan budget is an attack on seniors, students, workers, and middle class families, all for the sake of protecting loopholes for the wealthy and special interests. The budget will have a devastating impact on jobs. Republicans would lay waste to our commitments to education, lifesaving medical research, clean energy, modern infrastructure, and high-tech manufacturing. The Ryan budget will cripple our growth and surrender the future jobs of American kids to other nations like China, India, and Russia. The Ryan budget devastates our middle class.

The Ryan budget even rejects comprehensive immigration reform. The Ryan budget denies people the important bipartisan legislation that would create 120,000 American jobs each year for the first 10 years should that legislation be passed and empower small businesses, spur innovation, supercharge the economy, and reduce the deficit by over $900 billion.

The Ryan budget is nothing less than a job-killing recipe. Democrats are strengthening the middle class, embracing economic growth, and we want responsible deficit reduction. Comprehensive immigration reform is investing in the future and creating jobs for our future, creating jobs for Americans.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

I might point out that President Bush did not leave this country with a deficit; Speaker NANCY PELOSI and her Democrat colleagues left this Nation with a deficit. And it continued to grow. The first year of their governance, the deficit doubled. The second year, it tripled. Then it went to a trillion dollars, trillion dollars, and trillion dollars. And only under a Republican House have we started to cut the growth in the deficit today.

The truth is, on immigration reform, Democrats held the Presidency, the House and the Senate, and they did nothing. When it comes to reducing the deficit, they held the House, the Senate, and the White House, and they did nothing. When it comes time to grow the economy and give the middle class a fighting chance, they held the House and the Senate and the Presidency and did nothing.

Let's not stay the course, because that has got us going the wrong direction. We need to change it. The Republican budget does that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. May I inquire how much time remains?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York has 3½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 8 minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I was sitting in my office downstairs, and I heard Mr. BRADY make the extraordinary claim that it was the Pelosi leadership that led to the doubling of deficits.

I would remind the gentleman, as he ought to know and I am sure he does know, not a single economic plan was passed in 2007 or 2008 that changed the Bush economic plan, not a single bill. And to make the assertion that the deepest recession he and I have experienced, Mr. Chairman, in our lifetimes, which occurred under the Bush administration with Bush economic policies was somehow the responsibility of a Pelosi-led Congress is absolutely absurd, incorrect, and the gentleman ought to know better.

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

You know, I know the facts hurt. I know they hurt, Mr. Whip. The deficit doubled the first year under Speaker PELOSI and your leadership.

Mr. HOYER. Does the gentleman refer to 2007?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. The deficit tripled under your leadership.

The CHAIR. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentleman from Texas has the time. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I know the facts hurt. I know these deficits hurt real people. And I know the Democrats now want to revise history: they didn't create the deficits; they didn't create this slow economic recovery; everything is going great. But it is not.

You created record deficits. You took what was turning into lower and lower deficits and a trend toward a balanced budget and you exploded it, and our American families are hurting today. Millions more can't find a job. Young people with college degrees are working behind a cash register. The deficits are frightening and scaring America. It came under Democrat leadership and it has continued under this Democrat Presidency. I know the facts hurt, but those are the facts.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield myself 30 seconds.

The facts speak for themselves. George Bush's administration left us with a $1.4 trillion deficit. They cut taxes, led us into two wars, and they blew the deficit.

Look at the Democratic deficit. We had a surplus from Bill Clinton, and President Obama halved the deficit.

I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I tell the gentleman from Texas, I do know the statistics: 800,000 jobs lost in the last month of the Bush administration; 800,000 jobs in 1 month, the worst job production since Herbert Hoover under the Bush administration.

Yes, this administration has had tough times because we inherited such a struggling, devastated economy from the Bush administration. The gentleman knows those figures are accurate, and he ought to admit those facts.

The budget deficit went up 87 percent under George Bush when he inherited a balanced budget. He inherited a balanced budget. The gentleman ought to be truthful with the American people, Mr. Chairman.

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

The President doesn't allocate funding. He doesn't spend one dime Congress doesn't give him. A Republican Congress balanced the budget for President Clinton. And under President Bush, a Democrat Congress doubled and tripled and then went to trillion-dollar deficits. This Congress, your legislative branch, you passed a nearly trillion-dollar stimulus without one Republican vote. You passed trillions of dollars with the Affordable Care Act that has continued to destroy the economy and drive deficits even higher. That is the truth. Those are the facts. I know they hurt, but we are not revising history today. We are talking about changing the course of this country away from deficits, away from this second-rate economy toward a country that actually can grow, and grow stronger.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The Chair again reminds Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, we don't have the time, but I would like to take the time at some point in time to discuss the facts with the gentleman from Texas, and I will take a Special Order out to do exactly that, to discuss the economic success of Democratic administrations and Republican administrations and bringing down the deficit.

And let me say further, I will repeat to the gentleman, no change in the Bush economic program was affected in 2007 and 2008 because George Bush was the President and would have vetoed anything we passed. So the representation to the contrary, Mr. Chairman, is inaccurate.

□ 1515

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Whip, I am your huckleberry. I will be glad to have the debate with you in a Special Order or anywhere else. The fact is this country is struggling. Your leadership has failed us as a Democrat governance in this White House. It is time to change course.

The CHAIR. Again, the Chair would remind Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to my friend from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would just say: When do you stop blaming the former President? For goodness' sake, we are in the fifth year of the Obama Presidency. Here is the problem. The first year of Ronald Reagan's second term, the growth rate, the economic growth rate, was 7½ percent. For goodness' sake. Ronald Reagan was able to turn things around that quickly. We are meandering along, bouncing along at a pathetic 2 percent growth rate. We could be so much better if we had the right policies in place and pass the right kind of budget and the right kind of vision for the country. That is the point the gentleman is making. Quit blaming George Bush. We are in the fifth year of the Obama Presidency. If you want to look to a comparison: the fifth year of Ronald Reagan's Presidency, a 7½ percent growth rate.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much is remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Our economy is recovering from the depths of the Great Recession, but too many Americans are still left behind. This budget kicks them even further back with draconian cuts. We were sent here to create jobs, not eliminate them.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Ryan austerity plan would slow our economy and cost us jobs over the next 3 years.

Mr. Chairman, the Republican budget would make life harder for the vulnerable Americans from cradle to grave. It represents a choice to be less competitive and less compassionate.

Voting for this budget is voting to slow our recovery, lower our hopes, and dim our dreams. It is not a budget; it is a retreat, and Americans deserve better.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this draconian Republican budget, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I would inquire of the gentlelady if you would like to make your concluding remarks, or have you done so?

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I have made mine within the timeframe we had.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I will close out as well, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, if you like the direction the country is going, I guess there is no reason to change. If we want young people who don't believe they will ever earn as much or have a standard of living as their parents do, let's just stay the course. If we want a Nation with a second-rate economy where millions of people have given up looking for work, where the average family is missing over $1,000 every month from their paycheck, let's just stay the course. If we want a Nation that continues that debt and debt and debt and debt—we are now becoming financially weaker each year rather than financially stronger—well then let's stay the course. If you want a Medicare and Social Security that a lot of younger people have given up hope will be there for them and many seniors are worried won't last for them either, well then let's just stay the course. And if we want a President who will hollow out our defense and our intelligence, who will continue to waste money the taxpayers have earned, then let's just stay that course.

Or we can take a different direction for this Nation. We can impose smart spending cuts that actually get us back toward a balanced budget. We can grow the economy through tax reform and balanced regulation that actually gets Main Street pumping again, gives people hope again.

We believe there is a brighter future for America, but first it starts with living within our means, it begins with growing this economy, and it concludes with increasing the wages of women and men and fathers and sons and young people and women and minorities who now today have given up hope.

The Republican budget is about opportunity. It is about not giving up on America, it is about not settling for a second-rate economy in a financially strapped Nation that can no longer compete against China, Brazil, Europe, and our other competitors around the world. It really is about changing the direction of this Nation in a way that gives power to people, that gives power to Main Street, gives power to middle class families rather than taking it all for Washington.

We know the path we are on isn't working. We can no longer stay the course. It is time to change so the Republican budget spends less, grows the economy, solves the biggest challenges in America, and gives us hope that America can continue to be the strongest economy in the world through the next 100 years.

That is the goal America should be setting, that is the direction the Republican budget puts in place. It uses two smart, I think, revolutionary ideas: dynamic scoring, so we know the real-life effect of this budget and our growth; it focuses on controllable spending as a percentage of the economy, that is the right way to measure how we are doing as a Nation; and it uses a number of innovative approaches, again, to grow the economy, to shrink the deficit, and what I like most of all, it doesn't merely balance the budget, it puts us on a path to a debt-free America. That is something that can give us hope, that can give us opportunity, that is the direction that we ought to go.

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

The CHAIR. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the concurrent resolution shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule and is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 96

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

(a) DECLARATION.—The Congress determines and declares that this concurrent resolution establishes the budget for fiscal year 2015 and sets forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

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

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Sec. 101. Recommended levels and amounts.
Sec. 102. Major functional categories.

TITLE II—RECOMMENDED LONG-TERM LEVELS

Sec. 201. Long-term budgeting.

TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

Sec. 301. Reserve fund for the repeal of the 2010 health care laws.
Sec. 302. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for the reform of the 2010 health care laws.
Sec. 303. Deficit-neutral reserve fund related to the Medicare provisions of the 2010 health care laws.
Sec. 304. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for the sustainable growth rate of the Medicare program.
Sec. 305. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for reforming the tax code.
Sec. 306. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for trade agreements.
Sec. 307. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for revenue measures.
Sec. 308. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for rural counties and schools.
Sec. 309. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for transportation.
Sec. 310. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility.

TITLE IV—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING

Sec. 401. Direct spending.

TITLE V—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 501. Limitation on advance appropriations.
Sec. 502. Concepts and definitions.
Sec. 503. Adjustments of aggregates, allocations, and appropriate budgetary levels.
Sec. 504. Limitation on long-term spending.
Sec. 505. Budgetary treatment of certain transactions.
Sec. 506. Application and effect of changes in allocations and aggregates.
Sec. 507. Congressional Budget Office estimates.
Sec. 508. Transfers from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund that increase public indebtedness.
Sec. 509. Separate allocation for overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism.
Sec. 510. Exercise of rulemaking powers.

TITLE VI—POLICY STATEMENTS

Sec. 601. Policy statement on economic growth and job creation.
Sec. 602. Policy statement on tax reform.
Sec. 603. Policy statement on replacing the President's health care law.
Sec. 604. Policy statement on Medicare.
Sec. 605. Policy statement on Social Security.
Sec. 606. Policy statement on higher education and workforce development opportunity.
Sec. 607. Policy statement on deficit reduction through the cancellation of unobligated balances.
Sec. 608. Policy statement on responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.
Sec. 609. Policy statement on deficit reduction through the reduction of unnecessary and wasteful spending.
Sec. 610. Policy statement on unauthorized spending.
Sec. 611. Policy statement on Federal regulatory policy.
Sec. 612. Policy statement on trade.
Sec. 613. No budget, no pay.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $2,533,841,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $2,676,038,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $2,789,423,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $2,890,308,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,014,685,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,148,637,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,294,650,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,456,346,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,626,518,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $3,807,452,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $0.
Fiscal year 2016: $0.
Fiscal year 2017: $0.
Fiscal year 2018: $0.
Fiscal year 2019: $0.
Fiscal year 2020: $0.
Fiscal year 2021: $0.
Fiscal year 2022: $0.
Fiscal year 2023: $0.
Fiscal year 2024: $0.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $2,842,226,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $2,858,059,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $2,957,321,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,059,410,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,210,987,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,360,435,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,460,524,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,587,380,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,660,151,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $3,706,695,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $2,920,026,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $2,889,484,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $2,949,261,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018: $3,034,773,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,185,472,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,320,927,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,433,392,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,577,963,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,632,642,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $3,676,374,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the amounts of the deficits (on-budget) are as follows:
Fiscal year 2015: -$386,186,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: -$213,446,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: -$159,838,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: -$144,466,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: -$170,787,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: -$172,290,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: -$138,741,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: -$121,617,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: -$6,124,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $131,078,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—The appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:
Fiscal year 2015: $18,304,357,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $18,627,533,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $19,172,590,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $19,411,553,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $19,773,917,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $20,227,349,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $20,449,374,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $20,822,448,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $20,981,807,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $21,089,365,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:
Fiscal year 2015: $13,213,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $13,419,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $13,800,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $13,860,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $14,080,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $14,427,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $14,579,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $14,940,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $15,080,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $15,176,000,000,000.

SEC. 102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

The Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2015 through 2024 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $528,927,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $566,503,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $573,792,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $573,064,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $597,895,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $584,252,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $611,146,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $593,795,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $624,416,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $611,902,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $638,697,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $626,175,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $653,001,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $640,499,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $669,967,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $661,181,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $687,393,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $672,922,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $706,218,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $685,796,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $38,695,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,029,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $39,734,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,976,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $40,642,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,229,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $41,589,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,822,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $42,513,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,553,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $43,497,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,114,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $44,004,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,701,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $45,271,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $41,749,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $46,287,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $42,667,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $47,349,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,624,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $27,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,927,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $28,493,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,240,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $29,113,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,750,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $29,764,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,350,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $30,413,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,938,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $31,096,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,589,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $31,782,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,174,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $32,493,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,870,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $33,210,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,576,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $33,955,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,304,000,000.

(4) Energy (270):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $4,228,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,751,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $3,820,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,416,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $2,048,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,400,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $1,762,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,192,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $1,788,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,278,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $1,851,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,384,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, -$16,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$346,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, -$1,018,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$1,283,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, -$1,914,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$2,188,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, -$6,113,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$6,699,000,000.

(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $34,289,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,311,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $34,491,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,747,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $35,077,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $36,204,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $33,047,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,316,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $36,859,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $36,779,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $38,169,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,877,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $36,428,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $36,379,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $38,979,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,749,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $39,927,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,733,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $40,592,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,752,000,000.

(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $19,042,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,556,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $22,506,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,313,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $20,527,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,992,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $18,506,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,883,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $18,654,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,970,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $19,008,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $18,440,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $19,263,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $18,763,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $19,764,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,249,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $20,017,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,516,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $20,635,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,131,000,000.

(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, -$3,239,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$14,762,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, -$4,518,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$18,633,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, -$7,672,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$23,217,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, -$7,385,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$24,136,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, -$6,658,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$28,258,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, -$3,937,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$26,052,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, -$4,034,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$20,982,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:

(A) New budget authority, -$4,794,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$23,197,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, -$5,073,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$24,597,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, -$5,118,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$25,793,000,000.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $34,713,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $80,659,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $68,529,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $69,907,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $74,454,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $75,199,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $75,978,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $77,558,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $77,501,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $78,163,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $78,373,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $79,056,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $79,369,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $80,231,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $80,529,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $81,409,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $81,829,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $82,872,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $83,353,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $84,024,000,000.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $14,556,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,608,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $15,303,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,425,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $15,269,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,292,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $15,414,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,840,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $15,387,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $16,841,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $15,283,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $16,008,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $15,421,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $14,679,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $15,658,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,408,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $15,954,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,490,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $16,302,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,910,000,000.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $73,908,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $91,759,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $82,372,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $84,521,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $86,699,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $87,137,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $89,536,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $89,808,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $85,278,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $86,074,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $86,555,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $87,130,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $87,749,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $88,403,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $89,167,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $89,839,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $90,661,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $91,360,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $92,094,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $92,926,000,000.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $419,799,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $416,573,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $367,238,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $370,205,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $377,752,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $375,839,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $376,732,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $377,346,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $390,437,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $390,404,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $415,814,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $405,309,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $419,124,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $418,298,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $433,512,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $432,149,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $449,181,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $447,991,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $472,300,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $471,312,000,000.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $519,196,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $519,407,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $558,895,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $558,964,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $570,144,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $570,341,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $590,695,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $591,117,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $651,579,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $651,878,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $692,307,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $692,644,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $737,455,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $738,042,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $815,257,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $817,195,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $836,296,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $837,883,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $859,011,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $866,262,000,000.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $505,729,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $505,032,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $487,645,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $490,122,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $489,766,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $487,105,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $492,129,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $484,280,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $493,996,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $490,014,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $512,717,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $508,689,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $520,016,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $515,475,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $529,438,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $529,111,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $530,839,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $525,624,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $525,701,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $515,225,000,000.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $31,442,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,517,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $34,245,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,283,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $37,133,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,133,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $40,138,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,138,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $43,383,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,383,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $46,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,747,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $50,255,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $53,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,941,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $57,800,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $58,441,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,441,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $153,027,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $152,978,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $164,961,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $164,807,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $163,858,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $163,269,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $162,388,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $161,646,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $174,305,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $173,499,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $179,269,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $178,380,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $183,571,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $182,676,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $195,680,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $194,719,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $192,458,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $191,491,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $189,292,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $188,262,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $54,011,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $54,250,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $56,932,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $56,298,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $56,770,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,319,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $58,405,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $59,095,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $60,239,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $60,501,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $62,146,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $61,649,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $64,263,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $63,734,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $66,967,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,411,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $69,031,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $68,455,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $71,166,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $70,568,000,000.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $23,710,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,618,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $23,064,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,826,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $21,587,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,674,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $23,269,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,973,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $24,040,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,582,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $24,759,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,331,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $25,556,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,139,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $26,353,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,939,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $27,097,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $26,691,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $27,912,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,491,000,000.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $365,987,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $365,987,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $416,238,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $416,238,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $482,228,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $482,228,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $553,820,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $553,820,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $611,852,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $611,852,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $659,310,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $659,310,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $693,159,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $693,159,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $723,805,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $723,805,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $751,215,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $751,215,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $770,124,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $770,124,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, -$36,364,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$22,676,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, -$47,825,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$36,706,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, -$51,416,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$45,014,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, -$54,566,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$49,571,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, -$56,672,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$53,542,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, -$61,825,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$58,102,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, -$64,552,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$61,040,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, -$66,871,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$63,946,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, -$68,992,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$66,322,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, -$65,972,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$64,338,000,000.
(20) Government-wide savings (930):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $25,904,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,052,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, -$14,151,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$1,701,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, -$30,525,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$17,482,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, -$38,302,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$27,789,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, -$46,446,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$35,547,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, -$55,559,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$44,608,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, -$63,060,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$53,317,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, -$75,189,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$64,007,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, -$87,334,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$75,209,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, -$117,125,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$96,353,000,000.
(21) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, -$78,632,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$78,632,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, -$83,652,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$83,652,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, -$83,974,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$83,974,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, -$84,602,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$84,602,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, -$91,824,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$91,824,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, -$93,787,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$93,787,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, -$98,176,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$98,176,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, -$101,529,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$101,529,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, -$105,731,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$105,731,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, -$113,422,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$113,422,000,000.
(22) Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism (970):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $85,357,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $29,946,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,823,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $29,946,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,585,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $29,946,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,893,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $29,946,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,032,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $29,946,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,647,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $29,946,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,647,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $11,200,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $4,402,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $1,827,000,000.

TITLE II—RECOMMENDED LONG-TERM LEVELS

SEC. 201. LONG-TERM BUDGETING.

The following are the recommended revenue, spending, and deficit levels for each of fiscal years 2030, 2035, and 2040 as a percent of the gross domestic product of the United States:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—The appropriate levels of Federal revenues are as follows:
Fiscal year 2030: 18.8 percent.
Fiscal year 2035: 19.0 percent.
Fiscal year 2040: 19.0 percent.

(2) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—The appropriate levels of total budget outlays are not to exceed:
Fiscal year 2030: 18.5 percent.
Fiscal year 2035: 17.9 percent.
Fiscal year 2040: 17.2 percent.

(3) DEFICITS.—The appropriate levels of deficits are not to exceed:
Fiscal year 2030: -0.3 percent.
Fiscal year 2035: -1.1 percent.
Fiscal year 2040: -1.8 percent.

(4) DEBT.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are not to exceed:
Fiscal year 2030: 43.0 percent.
Fiscal year 2035: 31.0 percent.
Fiscal year 2040: 18.0 percent.

TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

SEC. 301. RESERVE FUND FOR THE REPEAL OF THE 2010 HEALTH CARE LAWS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that only consists of a full repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the health care-related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

SEC. 302. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE REFORM OF THE 2010 HEALTH CARE LAWS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report

thereon, that reforms or replaces the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 303. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND RELATED TO THE MEDICARE PROVISIONS OF THE 2010 HEALTH CARE LAWS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that repeals all or part of the decreases in Medicare spending included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 304. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE OF THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that includes provisions amending or superseding the system for updating payments under section 1848 of the Social Security Act, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 305. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR REFORMING THE TAX CODE.

In the House, if the Committee on Ways and Means reports a bill or joint resolution that reforms the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any such bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 306. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TRADE AGREEMENTS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that implements a trade agreement, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 307. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR REVENUE MEASURES.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that decreases revenue, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 308. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR RURAL COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for the budgetary effects of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that makes changes to or provides for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–393) by the amounts provided by that legislation for those purposes, if such legislation requires sustained yield timber harvests obviating the need for funding under Public Law 106–393 in the future and would not increase the deficit or direct spending for the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, or the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 309. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR TRANSPORTATION.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure maintains the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund, but only if such measure would not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 310. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO REDUCE POVERTY AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITY AND UPWARD MOBILITY.

In the House, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, if such measure reforms policies and programs to reduce poverty and increase opportunity and upward mobility, but only if such measure would neither adversely impact job creation nor increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

TITLE IV—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING

SEC. 401. DIRECT SPENDING.

(a) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 6.8 percent.

(2) For means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for means-tested direct spending:

(A) In 1996, a Republican Congress and a Democratic president reformed welfare by limiting the duration of benefits, giving States more control over the program, and helping recipients find work. In the five years following passage, child-poverty rates fell, welfare caseloads fell, and workers' wages increased. This budget applies the lessons of welfare reform to both the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid.

(B) For Medicaid, this budget assumes the conversion of the Federal share of Medicaid spending into a flexible State allotment tailored to meet each State's needs, indexed for inflation and population growth. Such a reform would end the misguided one-size-fits-all approach that has tied the hands of State governments. Instead, each State would have the freedom and flexibility to tailor a Medicaid program that fits the needs of its unique population. Moreover, this budget assumes the repeal of the Medicaid expansions in the President's health care law, relieving State governments of its crippling one-size-fits-all enrollment mandates.

(C) For the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, this budget assumes the conversion of the program into a flexible State allotment tailored to meet each State's needs. The allotment would increase based on the Department of Agriculture Thrifty Food Plan index and beneficiary growth. Such a reform would provide incentives for States to ensure dollars will go towards those who need them most. Additionally, it requires that more stringent work requirements and time limits apply under the program.

(b) NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 5.7 percent.

(2) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for nonmeans-tested direct spending:

(A) For Medicare, this budget advances policies to put seniors, not the Federal Government, in control of their health care decisions. Those in or near retirement will see no changes, while future retirees would be given a choice of private plans competing alongside the traditional fee-for-service Medicare program. Medicare would provide a premium-support payment either to pay for or offset the premium of the plan chosen by the senior, depending on the plan's cost. The Medicare premium-support payment would be adjusted so that the sick would receive higher payments if their conditions worsened; lower-income seniors would receive additional assistance to help cover out-of-pocket costs; and wealthier seniors would assume responsibility for a greater share of their premiums. Putting seniors in charge of how their health care dollars are spent will force providers to compete against each other on price and quality. This market competition will act as a real check on widespread waste and skyrocketing health care costs.

(B) In keeping with a recommendation from the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, this budget calls for Federal employees—including Members of Congress and congressional staff—to make greater contributions toward their own retirement.

TITLE V—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 501. LIMITATION ON ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, except as provided for in subsection (b), any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, making a general appropriation or continuing appropriation may not provide for advance appropriations.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—An advance appropriation may be provided for programs, projects, activities, or accounts referred to in subsection (c)(1) or identified in the report to accompany this concurrent resolution or the joint explanatory statement of managers to accompany this concurrent resolution under the heading ''Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations''.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—For fiscal year 2016, the aggregate level of advance appropriations shall not exceed—

(1) $58,662,202,000 for the following programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(A) Medical Services;

(B) Medical Support and Compliance; and

(C) Medical Facilities accounts of the Veterans Health Administration; and

(2) $28,781,000,000 in new budget authority for all programs identified pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''advance appropriation'' means any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, making general appropriations or any new discretionary

budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 502. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.

Upon the enactment of any bill or joint resolution providing for a change in budgetary concepts or definitions, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust any allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this concurrent resolution accordingly.

SEC. 503. ADJUSTMENTS OF AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS, AND APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS.

(a) ADJUSTMENTS OF DISCRETIONARY AND DIRECT SPENDING LEVELS.—If a committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations) reports a bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, providing for a decrease in direct spending (budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom) for any fiscal year and also provides for an authorization of appropriations for the same purpose, upon the enactment of such measure, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may decrease the allocation to such committee and increase the allocation of discretionary spending (budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom) to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2015 by an amount equal to the new budget authority (and outlays flowing therefrom) provided for in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for the same purpose.

(b) ADJUSTMENTS TO FUND OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.—In order to take into account any new information included in the budget submission by the President for fiscal year 2015, the chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate budgetary levels for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or the section 302(a) allocation to the Committee on Appropriations set forth in the report of this concurrent resolution to conform with section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (as adjusted by section 251A of such Act).

(c) REVISED CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE BASELINE.—The chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate budgetary levels to reflect changes resulting from technical and economic assumptions in the most recent baseline published by the Congressional Budget Office.

(d) DETERMINATIONS.—For the purpose of enforcing this concurrent resolution on the budget in the House, the allocations and aggregate levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for fiscal year 2015 and the period of fiscal years 2015 through fiscal year 2024 shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the chair of the Committee on the Budget and such chair may adjust such applicable levels of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 504. LIMITATION ON LONG-TERM SPENDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, it shall not be in order to consider a bill or joint resolution reported by a committee (other than the Committee on Appropriations), or an amendment thereto or a conference report thereon, if the provisions of such measure have the net effect of increasing direct spending in excess of $5,000,000,000 for any period described in subsection (b).

(b) TIME PERIODS.—The applicable periods for purposes of this section are any of the four consecutive ten fiscal-year periods beginning with fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 505. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, and section 4001 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, the report accompanying this concurrent resolution on the budget or the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on any concurrent resolution on the budget shall include in its allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the Committee on Appropriations amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and the United States Postal Service.

(b) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of applying sections 302(f) and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, estimates of the level of total new budget authority and total outlays provided by a measure shall include any off-budget discretionary amounts.

(c) ADJUSTMENTS.—The chair of the Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels for legislation reported by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform that reforms the Federal retirement system, if such adjustments do not cause a net increase in the deficit for fiscal year 2015 and the period of fiscal years 2015 through 2024.

SEC. 506. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.

(a) APPLICATION.—Any adjustments of the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels made pursuant to this concurrent resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as allocations and aggregates included in this concurrent resolution.

(c) BUDGET COMPLIANCE.—The consideration of any bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, for which the chair of the Committee on the Budget makes adjustments or revisions in the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels of this concurrent resolution shall not be subject to the points of order set forth in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives or section 504.

SEC. 507. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Costs of Federal housing loans and loan guarantees are treated unequally in the budget. The Congressional Budget Office uses fair-value accounting to measure the costs of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but determines the cost of other Federal loan and loan-guarantee programs on the basis of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (''FCRA'').

(2) The fair-value accounting method uses discount rates which incorporate the risk inherent to the type of liability being estimated in addition to Treasury discount rates of the proper maturity length. In contrast, FCRA accounting solely uses the discount rates of the Treasury, failing to incorporate all of the risks attendant to these credit activities.

(3) The Congressional Budget Office estimates that if fair-value were used to estimate the cost of all new credit activity in 2014, the deficit would be approximately $50 billion higher than under the current methodology.

(b) FAIR VALUE ESTIMATES.—Upon the request of the chair or ranking member of the Committee on the Budget, any estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office for a measure under the terms of title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, ''credit reform'', as a supplement to such estimate shall, to the extent practicable, also provide an estimate of the current actual or estimated market values representing the ''fair value'' of assets and liabilities affected by such measure.

(c) FAIR VALUE ESTIMATES FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS.—Whenever the Director of the Congressional Budget Office prepares an estimate pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out any bill or joint resolution and if the Director determines that such bill or joint resolution has a cost related to a housing or residential mortgage program under the FCRA, then the Director shall also provide an estimate of the current actual or estimated market values representing the ''fair value'' of assets and liabilities affected by the provisions of such bill or joint resolution that result in such cost.

(d) ENFORCEMENT.—If the Director of the Congressional Budget Office provides an estimate pursuant to subsection (b) or (c), the chair of the Committee on the Budget may use such estimate to determine compliance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and other budgetary enforcement controls.

SEC. 508. TRANSFERS FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE TREASURY TO THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND THAT INCREASE PUBLIC INDEBTEDNESS.

For purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, or the rules or orders of the House of Representatives, a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that transfers funds from the general fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund shall be counted as new budget authority and outlays equal to the amount of the transfer in the fiscal year the transfer occurs.

SEC. 509. SEPARATE ALLOCATION FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.

(a) ALLOCATION.—In the House, there shall be a separate allocation to the Committee on Appropriations for overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism. For purposes of enforcing such separate allocation under section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the ''first fiscal year'' and the ''total of fiscal years'' shall be deemed to refer to fiscal year 2015. Such separate allocation shall be the exclusive allocation for overseas contingency operations/global war on terrorism under section 302(a) of such Act. Section 302(c) of such Act shall not apply to such separate allocation. The Committee on Appropriations may provide suballocations of such separate allocation under section 302(b) of such Act. Spending that counts toward the allocation established by this section shall be designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) ADJUSTMENT.—In the House, for purposes of subsection (a) for fiscal year 2015, no adjustment shall be made under section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if any adjustment would be made under section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 510. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

The House adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of the House of Representatives, and these

rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with other such rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the House of Representatives to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of the House of Representatives.

TITLE VI—POLICY STATEMENTS

SEC. 601. POLICY STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Although the United States economy technically emerged from recession nearly five years ago, the subsequent recovery has felt more like a malaise than a rebound. Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth over the past four years has averaged just over 2 percent, well below the 3 percent trend rate of growth in the United States.

(2) The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) did a study in late 2012 examining why the United States economy was growing so slowly after the recession. They found, among other things, that United States economic output was growing at less than half of the typical rate exhibited during other recoveries since World War II. CBO said that about two-thirds of this ''growth gap'' was due to a pronounced sluggishness in the growth of potential GDP—particularly in potential employment levels (such as people leaving the labor force) and the growth in productivity (which is in turn related to lower capital investment).

(3) The prolonged economic sluggishness is particularly troubling given the amount of fiscal and monetary policy actions taken in recent years to cushion the depth of the downturn and to spark higher rates of growth and employment. In addition to the large stimulus package passed in early 2009, many other initiatives have been taken to boost growth, such as the new homebuyer tax credit and the ''cash for clunkers'' program. These stimulus efforts may have led to various short term ''pops'' in activity but the economy and job market has since reverted back to a sub-par trend.

(4) The unemployment rate has declined in recent years, from a peak of nearly 10 percent in 2009-2010 to 6.7 percent in the latest month. However, a significant chunk of this decline has been due to people leaving the labor force (and therefore no longer being counted as ''unemployed'') and not from a surge in employment. The slow decline in the unemployment rate in recent years has occurred alongside a steep decline in the economy's labor force participation rate. The participation rate stands at 63.0 percent, close to the lowest level since 1978. The flipside of this is that over 90 million Americans are now ''on the sidelines'' and not in the labor force, representing a 10 million increase since early 2009.

(5) Real median household income declined for the fifth consecutive year in 2012 (latest data available) and, at just over $51,000, is currently at its lowest level since 1995. Weak wage and income growth as a result of a sub-par labor market not only means lower tax revenue coming in to the Treasury, it also means higher government spending on income support programs.

(6) A stronger economy is vital to lowering deficit levels and eventually balancing the budget. According to CBO, if annual real GDP growth is just 0.1 percentage point higher over the budget window, deficits would be reduced by $311 billion.

(7) This budget resolution therefore embraces pro-growth policies, such as fundamental tax reform, that will help foster a stronger economy and more job creation.

(8) Reining in government spending and lowering budget deficits has a positive long-term impact on the economy and the budget. According to CBO, a significant deficit reduction package (i.e. $4 trillion), would boost longer-term economic output by 1.7 percent. Their analysis concludes that deficit reduction creates long-term economic benefits because it increases the pool of national savings and boosts investment, thereby raising economic growth and job creation.

(9) The greater economic output that stems from a large deficit reduction package would have a sizeable impact on the Federal budget. For instance, higher output would lead to greater revenues through the increase in taxable incomes. Lower interest rates, and a reduction in the stock of debt, would lead to lower government spending on net interest expenses. According to CBO, this dynamic would reduce unified budget deficits by an amount sufficient to produce a surplus in fiscal year 2024.

(b) POLICY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION.—It is the policy of this resolution to promote faster economic growth and job creation. By putting the budget on a sustainable path, this resolution ends the debt-fueled uncertainty holding back job creators. Reforms to the tax code to put American businesses and workers in a better position to compete and thrive in the 21st century global economy. This resolution targets the regulatory red tape and cronyism that stack the deck in favor of special interests. All of the reforms in this resolution serve as means to the larger end of growing the economy and expanding opportunity for all Americans.

SEC. 602. POLICY STATEMENT ON TAX REFORM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) A world-class tax system should be simple, fair, and promote (rather than impede) economic growth. The United States tax code fails on all three counts – it is notoriously complex, patently unfair, and highly inefficient. The tax code's complexity distorts decisions to work, save, and invest, which leads to slower economic growth, lower wages, and less job creation.

(2) Over the past decade alone, there have been more than 4,400 changes to the tax code, more than one per day. Many of the major changes over the years have involved carving out special preferences, exclusions, or deductions for various activities or groups. These loopholes add up to more than $1 trillion per year and make the code unfair, inefficient, and highly complex.

(3) In addition, these tax preferences are disproportionately used by upper-income individuals.

(4) The large amount of tax preferences that pervade the code end up narrowing the tax base. A narrow tax base, in turn, requires much higher tax rates to raise a given amount of revenue.

(5) It is estimated that American taxpayers end up spending $160 billion and roughly 6 billion hours a year complying with the tax code – a waste of time and resources that could be used in more productive activities.

(6) Standard economic theory shows that high marginal tax rates dampen the incentives to work, save, and invest, which reduces economic output and job creation. Lower economic output, in turn, mutes the intended revenue gain from higher marginal tax rates.

(7) Roughly half of United States active business income and half of private sector employment are derived from business entities (such as partnerships, S corporations, and sole proprietorships) that are taxed on a ''pass-through'' basis, meaning the income flows through to the tax returns of the individual owners and is taxed at the individual rate structure rather than at the corporate rate. Small businesses, in particular, tend to choose this form for Federal tax purposes, and the top Federal rate on such small business income reaches 44.6 percent. For these reasons, sound economic policy requires lowering marginal rates on these pass-through entities.

(8) The United States corporate income tax rate (including Federal, State, and local taxes) sums to just over 39 percent, the highest rate in the industrialized world. Tax rates this high suppress wages and discourage investment and job creation, distort business activity, and put American businesses at a competitive disadvantage with foreign competitors.

(9) By deterring potential investment, the United States corporate tax restrains economic growth and job creation. The United States tax rate differential with other countries also fosters a variety of complicated multinational corporate behaviors intended to avoid the tax, which have the effect of moving the tax base offshore, destroying American jobs, and decreasing corporate revenue.

(10) The ''worldwide'' structure of United States international taxation essentially taxes earnings of United States firms twice, putting them at a significant competitive disadvantage with competitors with more competitive international tax systems.

(11) Reforming the United States tax code to a more competitive international system would boost the competitiveness of United States companies operating abroad and it would also greatly reduce tax avoidance.

(12) The tax code imposes costs on American workers through lower wages, on consumers in higher prices, and on investors in diminished returns.

(13) Revenues have averaged about 17.5 percent of the economy throughout modern American history. Revenues rise above this level under current law to 18.4 percent of the economy by the end of the 10-year budget window.

(14) Attempting to raise revenue through tax increases to meet out-of-control spending would damage the economy.

(15) This resolution also rejects the idea of instituting a carbon tax in the United States, which some have offered as a ''new'' source of revenue. Such a plan would damage the economy, cost jobs, and raise prices on American consumers.

(16) Closing tax loopholes to fund spending does not constitute fundamental tax reform.

(17) The goal of tax reform should be to curb or eliminate loopholes and use those savings to lower tax rates across the board—not to fund more wasteful Government spending. Tax reform should be revenue-neutral and should not be an excuse to raise taxes on the American people. Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

(b) POLICY ON TAX REFORM.—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should enact legislation that provides for a comprehensive reform of the United States tax code to promote economic growth, create American jobs, increase wages, and benefit American consumers, investors, and workers through revenue-neutral fundamental tax reform that—

(1) simplifies the tax code to make it fairer to American families and businesses and reduces the amount of time and resources necessary to comply with tax laws;

(2) substantially lowers tax rates for individuals, with a goal of achieving a top individual rate of 25 percent and consolidating the current seven individual income tax brackets into two brackets with a first bracket of 10 percent;

(3) repeals the Alternative Minimum Tax;

(4) reduces the corporate tax rate to 25 percent; and

(5) transitions the tax code to a more competitive system of international taxation.

SEC. 603. POLICY STATEMENT ON REPLACING THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) The President's health care law has failed to reduce health care premiums as promised. Health care premiums were supposed to decline by $2,500. Instead, according to the 2013 Employer Health Benefits Survey, health care premiums have increased by 5 percent for individual plans and 4 percent for family since 2012. Moreover, according to a report from the Energy and Commerce Committee, premiums for individual market plans may go up as much as 50 percent because of the law.

(2) The President pledged that Americans would be able to keep their health care plan if they liked it. But the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office now estimates 2 million Americans with employment-based health coverage will lose those plans.

(3) Then-Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, said that the President's health care law would create 4 million jobs over the life of the law and almost 400,000 jobs immediately. Instead, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the law will reduce full-time equivalent employment by about 2.0 million hours in 2017 and 2.5 million hours in 2024, ''compared with what would have occurred in the absence of the ACA.''.

(4) The implementation of the law has been a failure. The main website that Americans were supposed to use in purchasing new coverage was broken for over a month. Since the President's health care law was signed into law, the Administration has announced 23 delays. The President has also failed to submit any nominees to sit on the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a panel of bureaucrats that will cut Medicare by an additional $12.1 billion over the next ten years, according to the President's own budget.

(5) The President's health care law should be repealed and replaced with reforms that make affordable and quality health care coverage available to all Americans.

(b) POLICY ON REPLACING THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE LAW.—It is the policy of this resolution that the President's health care law must not only be repealed, but also replaced, for the following reasons:

(1) The President's health care law is a government-run system driving up health care costs and forcing Americans to lose their health care coverage and should be replaced with a reformed health care system that gives patients and their doctors more choice and control over their health care.

(2) Instead of a complex structure of subsidies, ''firewalls,'' mandates, and penalties, a reformed health care system should make health care coverage portable.

(3) Instead of stifling innovation in health care technologies, treatments, and medications through Federal mandates, taxes, and price controls, a reformed health care system should encourage research and development.

(4) Instead of instituting one-size-fits-all directives from Federal bureaucracies such as the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Independent Payment Advisory Board, individuals and families should be free to secure the health care coverage that best meets their needs.

(5) Instead of allowing fraudulent lawsuits, which are driving up health care costs, the medical liability system should be reformed while at the same time reaffirming that States should be free to implement the policies that best suit their needs.

(6) Instead of using Federal taxes, mandates, and bureaucracies to address those who have trouble securing health care coverage, high risk pools should be established.

(7) Instead of more than doubling spending on Medicaid, which is driving up Federal debt and will eventually bankrupt State budgets, Medicaid spending should be brought under control and States should be given more flexibility to provide quality, affordable care to those who are eligible.

(8) Instead of driving up health care costs and reducing employment, a reformed health care system should lower health care costs, which will increase economic growth an employment by lowering health care inflation.

SEC. 604. POLICY STATEMENT ON MEDICARE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) More than 50 million Americans depend on Medicare for their health security.

(2) The Medicare Trustees Report has repeatedly recommended that Medicare's long-term financial challenges be addressed soon. Each year without reform, the financial condition of Medicare becomes more precarious and the threat to those in or near retirement becomes more pronounced. According to the Congressional Budget Office—

(A) the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be exhausted in 2026 and unable to pay scheduled benefits; and

(B) Medicare spending is growing faster than the economy and Medicare outlays are currently rising at a rate of 6 percent per year over the next ten years, and according to the Congressional Budget Office's 2013 Long-Term Budget Outlook, spending on Medicare is projected to reach 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2040 and 9.4 percent of GDP by 2088.

(3) The President's health care law created a new Federal agency called the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) empowered with unilateral authority to cut Medicare spending. As a result of that law—

(A) IPAB will be tasked with keeping the Medicare per capita growth below a Medicare per capita target growth rate. Prior to 2018, the target growth rate is based on the five-year average of overall inflation and medical inflation. Beginning in 2018, the target growth rate will be the five-year average increase in the nominal GDP plus one percentage point, which the President has twice proposed to reduce to GDP plus one-half percentage point;

(B) the fifteen unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats of IPAB will make decisions that will reduce seniors access to care;

(C) the nonpartisan Office of the Medicare Chief Actuary estimates that the provider cuts already contained in the Affordable Care Act will force 15 percent of hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies to become unprofitable in 2019; and

(D) additional cuts from the IPAB board will force even more health care providers to close their doors, and the Board should be repealed.

(4) Failing to address this problem will leave millions of American seniors without adequate health security and younger generations burdened with enormous debt to pay for spending levels that cannot be sustained.

(b) POLICY ON MEDICARE REFORM.—It is the policy of this resolution to protect those in or near retirement from any disruptions to their Medicare benefits and offer future beneficiaries the same health care options available to Members of Congress.

(c) ASSUMPTIONS.—This resolution assumes reform of the Medicare program such that:

(1) Current Medicare benefits are preserved for those in or near retirement.

(2) For future generations, when they reach eligibility, Medicare is reformed to provide a premium support payment and a selection of guaranteed health coverage options from which recipients can choose a plan that best suits their needs.

(3) Medicare will maintain traditional fee-for-service as an option.

(4) Medicare will provide additional assistance for lower-income beneficiaries and those with greater health risks.

(5) Medicare spending is put on a sustainable path and the Medicare program becomes solvent over the long-term.

SEC. 605. POLICY STATEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) More than 55 million retirees, individuals with disabilities, and survivors depend on Social Security. Since enactment, Social Security has served as a vital leg on the ''three-legged stool'' of retirement security, which includes employer provided pensions as well as personal savings.

(2) The Social Security Trustees Report has repeatedly recommended that Social Security's long-term financial challenges be addressed soon. Each year without reform, the financial condition of Social Security becomes more precarious and the threat to seniors and those receiving Social Security disability benefits becomes more pronounced:

(A) In 2016, the Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be exhausted and program revenues will be unable to pay scheduled benefits.

(B) In 2033, the combined Old-Age and Survivors and Disability Trust Funds will be exhausted, and program revenues will be unable to pay scheduled benefits.

(C) With the exhaustion of the Trust Funds in 2033, benefits will be cut nearly 25 percent across the board, devastating those currently in or near retirement and those who rely on Social Security the most.

(3) The recession and continued low economic growth have exacerbated the looming fiscal crisis facing Social Security. The most recent CBO projections find that Social Security will run cash deficits of $1.7 trillion over the next 10 years.

(4) Lower-income Americans rely on Social Security for a larger proportion of their retirement income. Therefore, reforms should take into consideration the need to protect lower-income Americans' retirement security.

(5) The Disability Insurance program provides an essential income safety net for those with disabilities and their families. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), between 1970 and 2012, the number of people receiving disability benefits (both disabled workers and their dependent family members) has increased by over 300 percent from 2.7 million to over 10.9 million. This increase is not due strictly to population growth or decreases in health. David Autor and Mark Duggan have found that the increase in individuals on disability does not reflect a decrease in self-reported health. CBO attributes program growth to changes in demographics, changes in the composition of the labor force and compensation, as well as Federal policies.

(6) If this program is not reformed, families who rely on the lifeline that disability benefits provide will face benefit cuts of up to 25 percent in 2016, devastating individuals who need assistance the most.

(7) In the past, Social Security has been reformed on a bipartisan basis, most notably by the ''Greenspan Commission'' which helped to address Social Security shortfalls for over a generation.

(8) Americans deserve action by the President, the House, and the Senate to preserve

and strengthen Social Security. It is critical that bipartisan action be taken to address the looming insolvency of Social Security. In this spirit, this resolution creates a bipartisan opportunity to find solutions by requiring policymakers to ensure that Social Security remains a critical part of the safety net.

(b) POLICY ON SOCIAL SECURITY.—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should work on a bipartisan basis to make Social Security sustainably solvent. This resolution assumes reform of a current law trigger, such that:

(1) If in any year the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund annual Trustees Report determines that the 75-year actuarial balance of the Social Security Trust Funds is in deficit, and the annual balance of the Social Security Trust Funds in the 75th year is in deficit, the Board of Trustees shall, no later than September 30 of the same calendar year, submit to the President recommendations for statutory reforms necessary to achieve a positive 75-year actuarial balance and a positive annual balance in the 75th-year. Recommendations provided to the President must be agreed upon by both Public Trustees of the Board of Trustees.

(2) Not later than December 1 of the same calendar year in which the Board of Trustees submit their recommendations, the President shall promptly submit implementing legislation to both Houses of Congress including his recommendations necessary to achieve a positive 75-year actuarial balance and a positive annual balance in the 75th year. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Majority Leader of the House shall introduce the President's legislation upon receipt.

(3) Within 60 days of the President submitting legislation, the committees of jurisdiction to which the legislation has been referred shall report the bill which shall be considered by the full House or Senate under expedited procedures.

(4) Legislation submitted by the President shall—

(A) protect those in or near retirement;

(B) preserve the safety net for those who count on Social Security the most, including those with disabilities and survivors;

(C) improve fairness for participants;

(D) reduce the burden on, and provide certainty for, future generations; and

(E) secure the future of the Disability Insurance program while addressing the needs of those with disabilities today and improving the determination process.

(c) POLICY ON DISABILITY INSURANCE.—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress and the President should enact legislation on a bipartisan basis to reform the Disability Insurance program prior to its insolvency in 2016 and should not raid the Social Security retirement system without reforms to the Disability Insurance system.

SEC. 606. POLICY STATEMENT ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.

(a) FINDINGS ON HIGHER EDUCATION.—The House finds the following:

(1) A well-educated workforce is critical to economic, job, and wage growth.

(2) 19.5 million students are enrolled in American colleges and universities.

(3) Over the last decade, tuition and fees have been growing at an unsustainable rate. Between the 2002-2003 Academic Year and the 2012-2013 Academic Year—

(A) published tuition and fees for in-State students at public four-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 5.2 percent per year beyond the rate of general inflation;

(B) published tuition and fees for in-State students at public two-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 3.9 percent per year beyond the rate of general inflation; and

(C) published tuition and fees for in-State students at private four-year colleges and universities increased at an average rate of 2.4 percent per year beyond the rate of general inflation.

(4) Over that same period, Federal financial aid has increased 105 percent.

(5) This spending has failed to make college more affordable.

(6) In his 2012 State of the Union Address, President Obama noted that, ''We can't just keep subsidizing skyrocketing tuition; we'll run out of money.''.

(7) American students are chasing ever-increasing tuition with ever-increasing debt. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, student debt more than quadrupled between 2003 and 2013, and now stands at nearly $1.1 trillion. Student debt now has the second largest balance after mortgage debt.

(8) Students are carrying large debt loads and too many fail to complete college or end up defaulting on these loans due to their debt burden and a weak economy and job market.

(9) Based on estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, the Pell Grant Program will face a fiscal shortfall beginning in fiscal year 2016 and continuing in each subsequent year in the current budget window.

(10) Failing to address these problems will jeopardize access and affordability to higher education for America's young people.

(b) POLICY ON HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY.—It is the policy of this resolution to address the root drivers of tuition inflation, by—

(1) targeting Federal financial aid to those most in need;

(2) streamlining programs that provide aid to make them more effective;

(3) maintaining the maximum Pell grant award level at $5,730 in each year of the budget window; and

(4) removing regulatory barriers in higher education that act to restrict flexibility and innovative teaching, particularly as it relates to non-traditional models such as online coursework and competency-based learning.

(c) FINDINGS ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.—The House finds the following:

(1) Over ten million Americans are currently unemployed.

(2) Despite billions of dollars in spending, those looking for work are stymied by a broken workforce development system that fails to connect workers with assistance and employers with trained personnel.

(4) According to a 2011 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, in fiscal year 2009, the Federal Government spent $18 billion across 9 agencies to administer 47 Federal job training programs, almost all of which overlapped with another program in terms of offered services and targeted population.

(5) Since the release of that GAO report, the Education and Workforce Committee, which has done extensive work in this area, has identified more than 50 programs.

(3) Without changes, this flawed system will continue to fail those looking for work or to improve their skills, and jeopardize economic growth.

(d) POLICY ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.—It is the policy of this resolution to address the failings in the current workforce development system, by—

(1) streamlining and consolidating Federal job training programs as advanced by the House-passed Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act (SKILLS Act); and

(2) empowering states with the flexibility to tailor funding and programs to the specific needs of their workforce, including the development of career scholarships.

SEC. 607. POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE CANCELLATION OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) According to the most recent estimate from the Office of Management and Budget, Federal agencies were expected to hold $739 billion in unobligated balances at the close of fiscal year 2014.

(2) These funds represent direct and discretionary spending made available by Congress that remains available for expenditure beyond the fiscal year for which they are provided.

(3) In some cases, agencies are granted funding and it remains available for obligation indefinitely.

(4) The Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 requires the Office of Management and Budget to make funds available to agencies for obligation and prohibits the Administration from withholding or cancelling unobligated funds unless approved by an act of Congress.

(5) Greater congressional oversight is required to review and identify potential savings from unneeded balances of funds.

(b) POLICY ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE CANCELLATION OF UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.—Congressional committees shall through their oversight activities identify and achieve savings through the cancellation or rescission of unobligated balances that neither abrogate contractual obligations of the Government nor reduce or disrupt Federal commitments under programs such as Social Security, veterans' affairs, national security, and Treasury authority to finance the national debt.

(c) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Congress, with the assistance of the Government Accountability Office, the Inspectors General, and other appropriate agencies should continue to make it a high priority to review unobligated balances and identify savings for deficit reduction.

SEC. 608. POLICY STATEMENT ON RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) The budget for the House of Representatives is $188 million less than it was when Republicans became the majority in 2011.

(2) The House of Representatives has achieved significant savings by consolidating operations and renegotiating contracts.

(b) POLICY ON RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS.—It is the policy of this resolution that:

(1) The House of Representatives must be a model for the responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources and therefore must identify any savings that can be achieved through greater productivity and efficiency gains in the operation and maintenance of House services and resources like printing, conferences, utilities, telecommunications, furniture, grounds maintenance, postage, and rent. This should include a review of policies and procedures for acquisition of goods and services to eliminate any unnecessary spending. The Committee on House Administration should review the policies pertaining to the services provided to Members and committees of the House, and should identify ways to reduce any subsidies paid for the operation of the House gym, barber shop, salon, and the House dining room.

(2) No taxpayer funds may be used to purchase first class airfare or to lease corporate jets for Members of Congress.

(3) Retirement benefits for Members of Congress should not include free, taxpayer-funded health care for life.

SEC. 609. POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL SPENDING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) The Government Accountability Office (''GAO'') is required by law to identify examples of waste, duplication, and overlap in Federal programs, and has so identified dozens of such examples.

(2) In testimony before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Comptroller General has stated that addressing the identified waste, duplication, and overlap in Federal programs ''could potentially save tens of billions of dollars.''

(3) In 2011, 2012, and 2013 the Government Accountability Office issued reports showing excessive duplication and redundancy in Federal programs including—

(A) 209 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education programs in 13 different Federal agencies at a cost of $3 billion annually;

(B) 200 separate Department of Justice crime prevention and victim services grant programs with an annual cost of $3.9 billion in 2010;

(C) 20 different Federal entities administer 160 housing programs and other forms of Federal assistance for housing with a total cost of $170 billion in 2010;

(D) 17 separate Homeland Security preparedness grant programs that spent $37 billion between fiscal year 2011 and 2012;

(E) 14 grant and loan programs, and 3 tax benefits to reduce diesel emissions;

(F) 94 different initiatives run by 11 different agencies to encourage ''green building'' in the private sector; and

(G) 23 agencies implemented approximately 670 renewable energy initiatives in fiscal year 2010 at a cost of nearly $15 billion.

(4) The Federal Government spends about $80 billion each year for approximately 800 information technology investments. GAO has identified broad acquisition failures, waste, and unnecessary duplication in the Government's information technology infrastructure. Experts have estimated that eliminating these problems could save 25 percent – or $20 billion – of the Government's annual information technology budget.

(5) GAO has identified strategic sourcing as a potential source of spending reductions. In 2011 GAO estimated that saving 10 percent of the total or all Federal procurement could generate over $50 billion in savings annually.

(6) Federal agencies reported an estimated $108 billion in improper payments in fiscal year 2012.

(7) Under clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, each standing committee must hold at least one hearing during each 120 day period following its establishment on waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs.

(8) According to the Congressional Budget Office, by fiscal year 2015, 32 laws will expire, possibly resulting in $693 billion in unauthorized appropriations. Timely reauthorizations of these laws would ensure assessments of program justification and effectiveness.

(9) The findings resulting from congressional oversight of Federal Government programs should result in programmatic changes in both authorizing statutes and program funding levels.

(b) POLICY ON DEFICIT REDUCTION THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF UNNECESSARY AND WASTEFUL SPENDING.—Each authorizing committee annually shall include in its Views and Estimates letter required under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of programs within the jurisdiction of such committee whose funding should be reduced or eliminated.

SEC. 610. POLICY STATEMENT ON UNAUTHORIZED SPENDING.

It is the policy of this resolution that the committees of jurisdiction should review all unauthorized programs funded through annual appropriations to determine if the programs are operating efficiently and effectively. Committees should reauthorize those programs that in the committees' judgment should continue to receive funding.

SEC. 611. POLICY STATEMENT ON FEDERAL REGULATORY POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Excessive regulation at the Federal level has hurt job creation and dampened the economy, slowing our recovery from the economic recession.

(2) In the first two months of 2014 alone, the Administration issued 13,166 pages of regulations imposing more than $13 billion in compliance costs on job creators and adding more than 16 million hours of compliance paperwork.

(3) The Small Business Administration estimates that the total cost of regulations is as high as $1.75 trillion per year. Since 2009, the White House has generated over $494 billion in regulatory activity, with an additional $87.6 billion in regulatory costs currently pending.

(4) The Dodd-Frank financial services legislation (Public Law 111–203) resulted in more than $17 billion in compliance costs and saddled job creators with more than 58 million hours of compliance paperwork.

(5) Implementation of the Affordable Care Act to date has added 132.9 million annual hours of compliance paperwork, imposing $24.3 billion of compliance costs on the private sector and an $8 billion cost burden on the states.

(6) The highest regulatory costs come from rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); these regulations are primarily targeted at the coal industry. In September 2013, the EPA proposed a rule regulating greenhouse gas emissions from new coal-fired power plants. The proposed standards are unachievable with current commercially available technology, resulting in a de-facto ban on new coal-fired power plants. Additional regulations for existing coal plants are expected in the summer of 2014.

(7) Coal-fired power plants provide roughly forty percent of the United States electricity at a low cost. Unfairly targeting the coal industry with costly and unachievable regulations will increase energy prices, disproportionately disadvantaging energy-intensive industries like manufacturing and construction, and will make life more difficult for millions of low-income and middle class families already struggling to pay their bills.

(8) Three hundred and thirty coal units are being retired or converted as a result of EPA regulations. Combined with the de-facto prohibition on new plants, these retirements and conversions may further increase the cost of electricity.

(9) A recent study by Purdue University estimates that electricity prices in Indiana will rise 32 percent by 2023, due in part to EPA regulations.

(10) The Heritage Foundation recently found that a phase out of coal would cost 600,000 jobs by the end of 2023, resulting in an aggregate gross domestic product decrease of $2.23 trillion over the entire period and reducing the income of a family of four by $1200 per year. Of these jobs, 330,000 will come from the manufacturing sector, with California, Texas, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, Indiana, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Georgia seeing the highest job losses.

(b) POLICY ON FEDERAL REGULATION.—It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should, in consultation with the public burdened by excessive regulation, enact legislation that—

(1) seeks to promote economic growth and job creation by eliminating unnecessary red tape and streamlining and simplifying Federal regulations;

(2) pursues a cost-effective approach to regulation, without sacrificing environmental, health, safety benefits or other benefits, rejecting the premise that economic growth and environmental protection create an either/or proposition;

(3) ensures that regulations do not disproportionately disadvantage low-income Americans through a more rigorous cost-benefit analysis, which also considers who will be most affected by regulations and whether the harm caused is outweighed by the potential harm prevented;

(4) ensures that regulations are subject to an open and transparent process, rely on sound and publicly available scientific data, and that the data relied upon for any particular regulation is provided to Congress immediately upon request;

(5) frees the many commonsense energy and water projects currently trapped in complicated bureaucratic approval processes;

(6) maintains the benefits of landmark environmental, health safety, and other statutes while scaling back this administration's heavy-handed approach to regulation, which has added $494 billion in mostly ideological regulatory activity since 2009, much of which flies in the face of these statutes' intended purposes; and

(7) seeks to promote a limited government, which will unshackle our economy and create millions of new jobs, providing our Nation with a strong and prosperous future and expanding opportunities for the generations to come.

SEC. 612. POLICY STATEMENT ON TRADE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

(1) Opening foreign markets to American exports is vital to the United States economy and beneficial to American workers and consumers. The Commerce Department estimates that every $1 billion of United States exports supports more than 5,000 jobs here at home.

(2) A modern and competitive international tax system would facilitate global commerce for United States multinational companies and would encourage foreign business investment and job creation in the United States

(3) The United States currently has an antiquated system of international taxation whereby United States multinationals operating abroad pay both the foreign-country tax and United States corporate taxes. They are essentially taxed twice. This puts them at an obvious competitive disadvantage.

(4) The ability to defer United States taxes on their foreign operations, which some erroneously refer to as a ''tax loophole,'' cushions this disadvantage to a certain extent. Eliminating or restricting this provision (and others like it) would harm United States competitiveness.

(5) This budget resolution advocates fundamental tax reform that would lower the United States corporate rate, now the highest in the industrialized world, and switch to a more competitive system of international taxation. This would make the United States a much more attractive place to invest and station business activity and would chip away at the incentives for United States

companies to keep their profits overseas (because the United States corporate rate is so high).

(6) The status quo of the current tax code undermines the competitiveness of United States businesses and costs the United States economy investment and jobs.

(7) Global trade and commerce is not a zero-sum game. The idea that global expansion tends to ''hollow out'' United States operations is incorrect. Foreign-affiliate activity tends to complement, not substitute for, key parent activities in the United States such as employment, worker compensation, and capital investment. When United States headquartered multinationals invest and expand operations abroad it often leads to more jobs and economic growth at home.

(8) American businesses and workers have shown that, on a level playing field, they can excel and surpass the international competition.

(b) POLICY ON TRADE.—It is the policy of this resolution to pursue international trade, global commerce, and a modern and competitive United States international tax system in order to promote job creation in the United States.

SEC. 613. NO BUDGET, NO PAY.

It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should agree to a concurrent resolution on the budget every year pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. If by April 15, a House of Congress has not agreed to a concurrent resolution on the budget, the payroll administrator of that House should carry out this policy in the same manner as the provisions of Public Law 113-3, the No Budget, No Pay Act of 2013, and place in an escrow account all compensation otherwise required to be made for Members of that House of Congress. Withheld compensation should be released to Members of that House of Congress the earlier of the day on which that House of Congress agrees to a concurrent resolution on the budget, pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, or the last day of that Congress.

The CHAIR. No amendment shall be in order except those printed in House Report 113–405.

Each 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, and shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The adoption of an amendment in the nature of a substitute shall constitute the conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment.

After conclusion of consideration of the concurrent resolution for amendment, there shall be 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 113–405.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SEC. 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

(a) DECLARATION.—The Congress determines and declares that this concurrent resolution establishes the budget for fiscal year 2015 and sets forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

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

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Sec. 101. Recommended levels and amounts.

Sec. 102. Major functional categories.

TITLE II—DIRECT SPENDING

Sec. 201. Direct spending.

TITLE III—POLICY STATEMENT

Sec. 301. Policy statement on Presidential data and policies.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $2,579,425,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $2,756,952,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $2,960,779,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,131,856,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,281,119,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,465,278,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,663,729,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,860,286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $4,069,085,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,283,190,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $84,425,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $107,952,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $152,779,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $175,856,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $158,119,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $171,278,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $190,729,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $207,286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $231,085,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $249,190,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $3,207,329,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $3,269,270,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $3,415,383,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,577,619,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,782,980,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,978,461,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $4,151,262,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $4,341,912,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $4,509,701,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,671,785,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $3,143,368,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $3,291,521,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $3,409,079,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,527,332,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,752,609,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,923,372,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $4,103,804,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $4,309,637,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $4,443,476,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,580,858,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this concurrent resolution, the amounts of the deficits (on-budget) are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: -$563,943,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: -$534,569,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: -$448,300,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: -$395,476,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: -$471,490,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: -$458,094,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: -$440,075,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: -$449,351,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: -$374,391,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: -$297,668,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—The appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $18,686,049,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $19,486,596,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $20,239,159,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $20,940,631,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $21,652,866,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $22,361,537,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $23,052,216,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $23,737,820,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $24,380,608,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $24,980,565,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $13,591,802,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $14,256,587,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $14,843,459,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $15,370,490,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $15,981,956,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $16,602,649,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $17,213,324,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $17,849,633,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $18,440,724,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $18,986,039,000,000.

SEC. 102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

The Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2015 through 2024 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $636,642,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $631,280,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $569,176,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $592,448,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $577,059,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $578,212,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $586,290,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $578,662,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $594,400,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $585,786,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $603,536,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $591,358,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $612,309,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $601,232,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $622,294,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $610,434,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $637,407,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $623,036,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $654,543,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $638,219,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $38,992,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,086,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $35,823,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,886,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $38,001,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,463,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $40,630,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,938,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $44,175,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,842,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $46,619,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,245,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $47,691,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,372,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $49,552,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,482,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $52,257,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,661,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $53,605,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,735,000,000.
(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $29,307,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,839,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $29,872,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,098,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $30,517,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,296,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $31,190,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,797,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $31,886,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,268,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $32,590,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,032,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $33,287,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,119,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $34,110,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,829,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $34,963,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,516,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $35,824,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,174,000,000.
(4) Energy (270):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $7,276,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $8,620,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $5,493,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,232,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $4,362,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,540,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $4,039,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,634,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $3,848,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,838,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $4,139,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,149,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $4,689,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,557,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $4,599,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,711,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $2,046,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,134,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $4,218,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,274,000,000.
(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $37,224,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $41,349,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $39,041,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $41,809,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $40,483,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $42,070,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $40,921,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $41,775,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $41,844,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $42,713,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $43,070,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,728,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $43,865,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,241,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $44,866,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,120,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $46,030,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,209,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $46,831,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,031,000,000.
(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $16,805,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $16,953,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $22,774,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,937,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $26,050,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,883,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $24,721,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,482,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $18,284,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $18,017,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $18,460,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $18,045,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $18,265,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,791,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $18,019,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,719,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $18,297,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,775,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $18,363,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,773,000,000.
(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, -$5,597,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$30,472,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, -$2,488,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$31,493,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, -$5,541,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$32,398,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, -$5,966,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$34,779,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $649,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$26,473,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $9,876,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$23,010,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $4,504,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$19,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $5,518,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$24,415,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $7,237,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$26,709,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $8,411,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$28,684,000,000.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $103,036,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $97,825,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $104,006,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $102,309,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $105,507,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $105,642,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $107,134,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $105,375,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $90,760,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $104,156,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $92,607,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $100,883,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $94,486,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $99,026,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $96,516,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $98,836,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $98,600,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $99,558,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $102,274,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $102,224,000,000.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $43,452,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,865,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $11,931,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,755,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $11,975,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,398,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $12,834,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $18,147,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $13,110,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $14,197,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $13,374,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,958,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $13,767,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $14,394,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $14,079,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,981,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $14,408,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,946,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $14,598,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,897,000,000.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $119,387,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $117,350,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $112,886,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $113,357,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $118,248,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $114,847,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $123,214,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $120,107,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $126,460,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $124,328,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $129,820,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $127,679,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $132,667,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $130,395,000,000.

Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $135,231,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $133,499,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $136,338,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $135,037,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $136,157,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $135,733,000,000.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $522,827,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $512,193,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $547,922,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $549,421,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $571,302,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $578,542,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $596,443,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $597,459,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $626,796,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $627,997,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $668,279,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $657,048,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $690,729,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $689,115,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $727,139,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $724,669,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $765,608,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $763,167,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $804,072,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $802,627,000,000.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $532,454,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $532,324,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $574,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $574,888,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $581,535,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $581,436,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $595,126,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $594,983,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $654,304,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $654,127,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $696,643,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $696,478,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $743,885,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $743,717,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $824,172,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $823,992,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $850,147,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $849,958,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $870,141,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $869,945,000,000.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $537,399,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $535,963,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $546,350,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $549,292,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $551,622,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $548,598,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $558,261,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $547,955,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $577,957,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $570,240,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $590,235,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $582,713,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $603,845,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $595,615,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $622,482,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $619,967,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $631,837,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $623,391,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $639,900,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $625,245,000,000.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $32,246,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,388,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $35,273,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,274,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $38,811,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,811,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $42,391,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $42,391,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $46,076,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,076,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $49,867,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,867,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $53,720,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,720,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $57,794,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,794,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $62,181,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $62,181,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $66,591,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,591,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $161,189,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $158,524,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $169,322,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $174,653,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $175,705,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $174,046,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $184,423,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $174,971,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $192,648,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $190,186,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $201,063,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $198,298,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $209,647,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $206,741,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $218,987,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $224,679,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $228,415,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $225,132,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $238,094,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $224,121,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $54,036,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,843,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $56,559,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,934,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $59,250,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $59,223,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $58,535,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,192,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $59,776,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $59,331,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $60,986,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $62,208,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $62,190,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $61,734,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $63,635,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $63,109,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $65,118,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $64,549,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $69,616,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $69,171,000,000.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $26,563,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,706,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $27,247,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,464,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $29,181,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,610,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $31,550,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,139,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $34,077,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,798,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $36,392,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,459,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $38,843,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,679,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $41,472,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,316,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $44,131,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,007,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $46,638,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,944,000,000.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $348,074,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $348,074,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $410,576,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $410,576,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $483,679,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $483,679,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $565,227,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $565,227,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $641,890,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $641,890,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $705,785,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $705,785,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $759,722,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $759,722,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $807,961,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $807,961,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $855,812,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $855,812,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $894,074,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $894,074,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $45,644,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,285,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $60,200,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,315,000,000.

Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $64,251,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $61,795,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $66,398,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,619,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $66,843,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $68,095,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $58,284,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $62,613,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $68,761,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $68,499,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $41,563,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,051,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $49,470,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,717,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $60,662,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $60,591,000,000.
(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, -$79,627,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$79,627,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, -$87,634,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$87,634,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, -$86,614,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$86,614,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, -$85,742,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$85,742,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, -$82,803,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$82,803,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, -$83,164,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$83,164,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, -$85,610,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$85,610,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, -$88,097,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$88,097,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, -$90,601,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$90,601,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, -$92,827,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$92,827,000,000.

TITLE II—DIRECT SPENDING

SEC. 201. DIRECT SPENDING.

(a) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—
(1) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 6.8 percent.
(2) For means-tested direct spending, the estimate average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.
(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for means-tested direct spending:
(A) Earned Income Tax Credit Reforms:
(i) Expand EITC for workers without qualifying children.
(ii) Conform treatment of State and local government EITC and child tax credit (CTC) for SSI.
(B) Health-Related:
(i) Align Medicare drug payment policies with Medicaid policies for low income beneficiaries.
(ii) Increase income-related premium under Medicare Parts B and D.
(iii) Modify Part B deductible for new enrollees.
(iv) Introduce home health co-payments for new beneficiaries.
(v) Introduce a Part B premium surcharge for new beneficiaries who purchase near first-dollar Medigap coverage.
(vi) Encourage the use of generic drugs by low-income beneficiaries.
(vii) Limit Medicaid reimbursement of durable medical equipment based on Medicare rates.
(viii) Rebase future Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotments.
(ix) Reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicaid.
(x) Strengthen the Medicaid drug rebate program.
(xi) Exclude brand-name and authorized generic drug prices from Medicaid Federal upper limit (FUL).
(xii) Improve and extend the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration through 2020.
(xiii) Provide home and community-based services to children eligible for psychiatric residential treatment facilities.
(xiv) Create demonstration to address overprescription of psychotropic medications for children in foster care.
(xv) Permanently extend Express Lane Eligibility (ELE) option for children.
(xvi) Expand State flexibility to provide benchmark benefit packages.
(xvii) Extend the Qualified Individuals (QI) program through CY2015.
(xviii) Extend the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program through CY2015.
(xix) Prohibit brand and generic drug companies from delaying the availability of new generic drugs and biologics.
(xx) Modify length of exclusivity to facilitate faster development of generic biologics.
(xxi) Ensure retroactive Part D coverage of newly-eligible low-income beneficiaries.
(xxii) Establish integrated appeals process for Medicare-Medicaid enrollees.
(xxiii) Create pilot to expand PACE eligibility to individuals between ages 21 and 55.
(xxiv) Accelerate the issuance of State innovation waivers.
(b) NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—
(1) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 5.7 percent.
(2) For nonmeans-test direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.
(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for nonmeans-tested direct spending:
(A) Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative:
(i) Reduce subsidies for crop insurance companies and farmer premiums.
(ii) Reform the aviation passenger security user fee to more accurately reflect the costs of aviation security.
(iii) Offset Disability Insurance (DI) benefits for period of concurrent Unemployment Insurance (UI) receipt.
(iv) Enact Spectrum License User Fee and allow the FCC to auction predominantly domestic satellite services.
(v) Limit the total accrual of tax-favored retirement benefits.
(B) Surface Transportation Reauthorization:
(i) Invest in surface transportation reauthorization.
(C) Early Childhood Investments:
(i) Support Preschool for All.
(ii) Extend and expand voluntary home visiting.
(D) Agriculture:
(i) Reauthorize Secure Rural Schools.
(ii) Enact Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) fee.
(iii) Enact bio based labeling fee.
(iv) Enact Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) fee.
(v) Enact Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) fee Education.
(E) Education:
(i) Recognize Educational Success, Professional Excellence, and Collaborative Teaching (RESPECT).
(ii) Reform and expand Perkins loan program.
(iii) Provide mandatory appropriation to sustain recent Pell Grant increases.
(iv) Expand and reform student loan income-based repayment.
(v) Implement College Opportunity and Graduation Bonus Program.
(vi) Establish State Higher Education Performance Fund.
(F) Energy:
(i) Reauthorize special assessment from domestic nuclear utilities.
(ii) Establish Energy Security Trust Fund Enact nuclear waste management program.
(iii) Enact nuclear waste management program.
(G) Health and Human Services:
(i) Reduce Medicare coverage of bad debts.
(ii) Better align graduate medical education payments with patient care costs.
(iii) Reduce Critical Access Hospital (CAH) payments from 101 percent of reasonable costs to 100 percent of reasonable costs.
(iv) Prohibit CAH designation for facilities that are less than miles from the nearest hospital.
(v) Reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicare.
(vi) Accelerate manufacturer discounts for brand drugs to provide relief to Medicare beneficiaries in the coverage gap.
(vii) Suspend coverage and payment for questionable Part D prescriptions and incomplete clinical information.
(viii) Establish quality bonus payments for high-performing Part D plans.
(ix) Adjust payment updates for certain post-acute care providers.
(x) Equalize payments for certain conditions commonly treated in inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs) and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs).
(xi) Encourage appropriate use of inpatient rehabilitation hospitals by requiring that 75 percent of IRF patients require intensive rehabilitation services.
(xii) Adjust SNF payments to reduce hospital readmissions.
(xiii) Implement bundled payment for post-acute care.
(xiv) Exclude certain services from the in office ancillary services exception.
(xv) Modify the documentation requirement for face-to-face encounters for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) claims.
(xvi) Modify reimbursement of Part B drugs.
(xvii) Modernize payments for clinical laboratory services.
(xviii) Expand sharing Medicare data with qualified entities.
(xix) Clarify the Medicare Fraction in the Medicare DHS statue.
(xx) Implement Value-Based Purchasing for SNFs, Home Health Agencies (HHAs), Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs), and Hospital Outpatient Departments (HOPDs).
(xxi) Strengthen the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) to reduce long-term drivers of Medicare cost growth.
(xxii) Enact survey and certification revisit fees.
(xxiii) Invest in CMS Quality Measurement.
(xxiv) Increase the minimum MA coding intensity adjustment.
(xxv) Align employer group waiver plan payments with average MA plan bids.

(xxvi) Allow CMS to reinvest civil monetary penalties recovered from home health agencies.

(xxvii) Allow CMS to assess a fee on Medicare providers for payments subject to the Federal Payment Levy Program.

(xxviii) Extend special diabetes program at the National Institutes of Health and Indian Health Services.

(xxix) Permit HIS/Tribal/Urban Indian Health programs to pay Medicare like rates for outpatient services funded through the Purchased and Referred Care program.

(xxx) Extend Health Centers.

(xxxi) Create a competitive, value-based graduate medical education grant program funded through the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

(xxxii) Extend the Medicaid primary care payment increase through CY2015 with modifications to expand provider eligibility and better target primary care services.

(xxxiii) Invest in the National Health Services Corps.

(xxxiv) Program management implementation funding.

(xxxv) Provide dedicated, mandatory funding for Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program (HCFAC) program integrity.

(xxxvi) Continue funding for the Personal Responsibility Education Program and Health Profession Opportunity Grants.

(xxxvii) Repurpose Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Contingency Fund to support Pathways to Jobs initiative.

(xxxviii) Establish hold harmless for Federal poverty guidelines.

(xxxix) Expand access to quality child care.

(xl) Modernize child support.

(xli) Provide funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

(xlii) Reauthorize Family Connection Grants.

(xliii) Support demonstration to address over-prescription of psychothropic medications for children in foster care (funding in Adminstration for Children and Families).

(H) Homeland Security:

(i) Permanently extend and reallocate the travel promotion surcharge.

(I) Housing and Urban Development:

(i) Provide funding for Project Rebuild.

(ii) Provide funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

(J) Interior:

(i) Establish dedicated funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs.

(ii) Provide funding for a National Park Service Centennial Initiative.

(iii) Extend funding for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

(iv) Enact Federal oil and gas management reforms.

(v) Reform hard rock mining on public lands.

(vi) Repeal geothermal payments to counties.

(vii) Terminate Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) payments to certified States.

(viii) Establish an AML hard rock reclamation fund.

(ix) Increase coal AML fee to pre–2006 levels.

(x) Reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000 (FLTFA).

(xi) Permanently reauthorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA).

(xii) Increase duck stamp fees.

(xiii) Extend the Palau Compact of Free Association.

(K) Labor:

(i) Create Back to Work Partnerships for the long term unemployed.

(ii) Establish a New Career Pathways program for displaced workers.

(iii) Establish Summer Jobs Plus program for youth.

(iv) Support Bridge Work and other work-based UI program reforms.

(v) Enhance UI program integrity.

(vi) Extend Emergency Unemployment Compensation.

(vii) Implement cap adjustments for UI program integrity activities.

(viii) Strengthen UI system solvency.

(ix) Improve Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) solvency.

(x) Provide the Secretary of the Treasury authority to access and disclose prisoner data to prevent and identify improper payments.

(xi) Reform the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA).

(L) Transportation:

(i) Establish a mandatory surcharge for air traffic services.

(ii) Establish a co-insurance program for aviation war risk insurance.

(M) Treasury:

(i) Establish a Pay for Success Incentive Fund.

(ii) Reauthorize and reform the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program.

(iii) Authorize Treasury to locate and recover assets of the United States and to retain a portion of amounts collected to pay for the costs of recovery.

(iv) Increase delinquent Federal non-tax debt collections by authorizing administrative bank garnishment for non-tax debts.

(v) Increase levy authority for payments to Medicare providers with delinquent tax debt.

(vi) Allow offset of Federal income tax refunds to collect delinquent State income taxes for out-of-State residents.

(vii) Reduce costs for States collecting delinquent income tax obligations.

(viii) Implement tax enforcement program integrity cap adjustment.

(ix) Provide authority to contact delinquent debtors via their cellphones.

(x) Reauthorize the State Small Business Credit Initiative.

(N) Veterans Affairs:

(i) Establish Veterans Job Corps.

(ii) Extend round-down of cost of living adjustments (compensation).

(iii) Extend round-down of cost of living adjustments (education).

(iv) Provide burial receptacles for certain new casketed gravesites.

(v) Make permanent the pilot for certain work study activities.

(vi) Increase cap on vocational rehabilitation contract counseling.

(vii) Increase annual limitation on new Independent Living cases.

(viii) Improve housing grant program.

(ix) Extend supplemental service disabled veterans insurance coverage.

(O) Corps of Engineers:

(i) Reform inland waterways funding.

(P) Environmental Protection Agency:

(i) Enact pre-manufacture notice fee.

(ii) Establish Confidential Business Information management fee.

(Q) International Assistance Programs:

(i) Mandatory effects of discretionary proposal to implement 2010 International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement (non-scoreable).

(R) Other Defense—Civil Programs:

(i) Increase TRICARE pharmacy copayments.

(ii) Increase annual premiums for TRICARE-For- Life (TFL) enrollment.

(iii) Increase TRICARE pharmacy copayments.

(iv) Increase annual premiums for TFL enrollment.

(S) Office of Personnel Management:

(i) Streamline FEHBP pharmacy benefit contracting.

(ii) Provide FEHBP benefits to domestic partners.

(iii) Expand FEHBP plan types.

(iv) Adjust FEHBP premiums for wellness.

(T) Social Security Administration:

(i) Provide dedicated, mandatory funding for program integrity (benefit savings).

(ii) Allow SSA to electronically certify certain RRB payments.

(iii) Eliminate aggressive Social Security claiming strategies.

(iv) Establish Workers Compensation Information Reporting.

(v) Extend SSI time limits for qualified refugees.

(vi) Improve collection of pension information from States and localities.

(vii) Lower electronic wage reporting threshold to 25 employees.

(viii) Move from annual to quarterly wage reporting.

(ix) Reauthorize and expand demonstration authority for DI and SSI.

(x) Terminate step-child benefits in the same month as step-parent.

(xi) Use the Death Master File to prevent Federal improper payments.

(U) Other Independent Agencies:

(i) Dispose of unneeded real property.

(ii) Create infrastructure bank.

(iii) Enact Postal Service financial relief and reform.

(W) Multi-Agency:

(i) Enact immigration reform.

(ii) Auction or assign via fee 1675–1680 megahertz.

(iii) Reconcile OPM/SSA retroactive disability payments.

(iv) Establish a consolidated TRICARE program (mandatory effects in Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

(v) Special Immigrant Visa extension.

(c) IN GENERAL.—

(1) This section is required by section 3(e) of H. Res. 5 (113th Congress), which requires information related to Means-Tested and Nonmeans-Tested programs and is required to be included in a proposed concurrent resolution on the budget.

(2) The reforms of programs listed herein are derived from Table S-9 (page 177) included in the Budget Volume of the President's Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2015.

(3) All the reforms of both Means-Tested and Nonmeans-Tested programs are hereby incorporated into this section by reference as they are detailed in the President's Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2015.

TITLE III—POLICY STATEMENT

SEC. 1. POLICY STATEMENT ON PRESIDENTIAL DATA AND POLICIES.

The budgetary assumptions underlying this concurrent resolution are based on the data and policies contained in the ''Fiscal Year 2015 Budget of the U.S. Government'', prepared by the Office of Management and Budget on behalf of the President and submitted to Congress on March 4 and March 10, 2014, pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code. This concurrent resolution adopts and incorporates by reference all data, policy provisions and information contained therein.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 544, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is good to be back this year to once again offer the President's budget

as an amendment to the Republican budget. That is right; it is the President's budget that I will be offering again this year.

You may recall, Mr. Chairman, that I did this two years ago in an effort to try and drive a debate over what I thought was a misguided document, a document that the President had offered us that I thought offered bad ideas for the future of this country. I came in and offered an amendment—as none of my Democratic colleagues saw fit to do so—and for various reasons failed to get a single vote on that particular amendment.

My colleagues at that time, Mr. Chairman, took the position that my amendment really was not the President's budget. In hindsight, there were things that we could have tightened up, and we did. We tightened up all the loose ends. There is no question now we specifically reference the President's budget in this amendment. This is the President's budget.

Last year, I tried to come and do it again. Last year, I came in with a blank piece of paper. Last year I came in with a blank piece of paper because the President had not offered his budget in a timely fashion, as required by law. Perhaps rightly so, I was ruled out of order, and we did not have a chance to have a vote on that particular amendment last year.

The President has solved that problem for us this year. Still a little late, but at least we have the President's budget now in time to debate it here on the floor during budget week, and I am looking forward to doing that. I am looking forward to doing that, Mr. Chairman, because this budget does a lot of things that I disagree with. It does a lot of things that folks on the other side may agree with. But I think it merits a debate. Any time the President of the United States takes the time and the energy to produce a budget, I think it at least merits 20 minutes of debate on the floor of the House of Representatives.

I look forward to doing that today, and I look forward to having my friends defend a budget that does things such as continuing the Affordable Care Act, adopting immigration reform, supporting common core, creating a new infrastructure bank, creating a $1 billion climate fund, increasing airport fees on passengers, making Pell grants a mandatory spending program, creating a preschool program for everybody, increasing duck stamp fees, extending emergency unemployment compensation, increasing costs for TRICARE on our veterans, and extending the Federal health benefit programs to same sex partners.

I think it is a valid discussion that we should have every year. I was very glad to learn, by the way, that I am not the first person to do this. I was talking to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), who did this with President Reagan's budget back in the 1980s. I would like to see it become a regular feature in this House, and look forward to the debate as we go forward today.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, some things never change. As the gentleman from South Carolina said, he offered this political stunt 2 years ago, and it is no less of a political stunt today than it was 2 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, I am a strong supporter of the President's budget and of the President's policies. This is not a vote on the President's budget and his policies.

Do you know what I wish it were? I wish the Speaker of this House would bring up the President's proposal to shut down those tax incentives that actually encourage multinational corporations to ship American jobs overseas and instead use some of those savings to invest in jobs here at home. I wish the Speaker of this House would let us vote on that President's policy. I wish the Speaker of this House would bring up the bipartisan immigration bill. One has already passed the Senate. We have a version over here in the House. Mr. Chairman, let's vote on that President's policy. I wish the Speaker of the House would let us vote on the President's minimum wage proposal, to make sure that more people would be able to prosper in our economy. We haven't had a vote on that. Mr. Chairman, I wish that we could have a vote on the President's proposal to extend emergency unemployment compensation. The Senate has passed that. Let's have a vote over here.

This is a political stunt, just like it was before and, by the way, the White House sees it as a political stunt again this year, just as they were right to call it that the other year.

This is, in fact, the President's budget right here, right here. This is it, Mr. Chairman.

It is interesting to hear our Republican colleagues who claim to be in favor of transparency, accountability, saying that this is the President's budget and then allocating 10 minutes per side. I thought we didn't even want to take up thousand-plus page bills, we don't even want to take those up. Yet, now supposedly we are going to debate and vote on something that is over 2,000 pages, less time on the President's budget than on any of the other proposals before the House. Give me a break.

If this was serious, it would be a total abuse of process. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office hasn't even had a chance, Mr. Chairman, to evaluate and score the President's budget yet. So you have got the House Republican budget, and you have got the Democratic party, all those are written to CBO, but CBO hasn't had a chance to go through that this quickly. I am surprised to hear the gentleman thinks the House can go through this in 20 minutes. So let's not play games.

The White House has made clear if you want to support the President's priorities and the framework of the President's budget going forward, you should support the Democratic alternative, which I will offer tomorrow.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from South Carolina for bringing this budget forward. In fact, this is President Obama's budget.

I wouldn't be surprised if President Obama referred to his budget as a ''political stunt.'' If you look at the history of President Obama's budget, which he is legally required to file every year, he is in the sixth year of his Presidency. Do you know that 5 of those 6 years President Obama failed to meet the legal deadline to file his budget?

During that 5 out of 6-year period, every single year of those 6 years, President Obama made time to fill out his Final Four brackets.

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Now, if his Final Four brackets do about as good as his budget does for the country—because if you look at the President's budget, which we're here debating, and I am speaking against, as my colleague from South Carolina is, the President's budget shows his priorities for the country, just like we are lying about our priorities for the country to get our budget back into balance, to get our economy moving again.

What does President Obama do? President Obama raises over $1 trillion in new taxes, job-crushing taxes, that will pull our economy even further back than he has already brought it, but you would think, if you listen to liberal orthodoxy that that $1 trillion is going to get us to a balanced budget, right?

They always say they need more money and former taxes to balance the budget. Look what happens, Mr. Chair, the President's budget never, ever gets to balance, with over $1 trillion in new taxes that he takes out of this economy, killing jobs across America, never gets to balance.

Our budgets that we are bringing forward do not raise a dime in new taxes and, in fact, gets to balance within the 10-year window, which underscores the difference in our visions for the country. We show through real policy that actually controlling the spending in Washington, forcing Washington to live within its means, is what gets our economy moving again and what gets us to balance.

President Obama proves with his own budget that, with over $1 trillion in new job-crushing taxes he never, ever

gets to balance; but, again, 5 out of the President's 6 years in office, only one time has he actually met the legal deadline to file his budget.

He always met the deadline to make his Final Four picks. I think he's shown what his priorities are. We are showing ours.

I urge a ''no'' vote on President Obama's budget.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, the gentleman referred to the House Republican budget a couple times. Just to remind my colleagues that the House Republican budget claims to balance in 10 years. It also claims to get rid of all the Affordable Care Act, all of ObamaCare, but the reality is it has over $2 trillion in revenues and savings from the Affordable Care Act.

Here is what The Heritage Foundation had to say about the budget:

> Perhaps the biggest shortcoming of this budget is that it keeps the tax increases associated with ObamaCare.

So our Republican colleagues keep saying their budget balances in 10 years, then they keep saying they are repealing all of Affordable Care Act. Both things cannot be true.

Now, what is true about the House Republican budget is the priorities it reflects, and, once again, it protects and rigs special interests tax breaks for very powerful groups at the expense of the rest of the country.

Yes, as I indicated earlier, the President has proposed that we get rid of some of the tax breaks that actually have a perverse incentive for companies to ship jobs overseas, to close those tax breaks, use that revenue to invest in our infrastructure and help power our economy right here at home.

From a Republican colleague's perspective, oh, no, you can't cut one special interest tax break, not for hedge fund owners, not for Big Oil companies. No, no, you can't do that.

But you know what you can do? You can come after the senior prescription drug benefit by reopening the doughnut hole, costing seniors another $1,200 a month. You can come after our kid's education. You can charge college students higher interest to raise about $40 billion, higher interest while they are still in school, before they get a job.

You can do all that, but, hey, hands off the big special interests. So I am glad that the previous speaker reminded us exactly what this Republican budget does

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition, like I assume everyone who speaks on this amendment is going to do today. It is amazing the other party—everyone is opposed to it.

Here is what it does simply: you cut to the chase, it hollows out national defense, it raises trillions in new taxes over the next 10 years, add about $8 trillion to the national debt—from $17 trillion to approximately $25 trillion—it does all that, never, ever, ever getting to balance.

Sometimes, we talk about numbers. Here is why it matters. In the end, you think about what makes the country special, moms and dads making sacrifices, so their kids can have a life better than they did, that they can get to their goals.

With this kind of vision and this kind of budget, this kind of plan for where we are going to go, it will make it that much tougher for young people to get the opportunities they need to experience the American Dream.

That is why it is so important. All those policies that the ranking member mentioned in his opening statement, they are in this budget. This is not a political stunt. This is just putting up what the President says is actually going to make the country better. We know it is going to make the country worse. We are offering a chance for the Democrats to stand up and defend this, and they won't.

So I would urge a ''no'' vote on this. It is same old, same old; cut national defense, raise taxes, add to the debt, never ever balance, and continue to create this environment that is not conducive to economic growth.

Again, as I said to the minority whip in an earlier debate, in the fifth year of Ronald Reagan's Presidency, we were growing at 7½ percent. Here, we are in the fifth year of the Obama Presidency, meandering along, bumping along at 2 percent growth rate, that is the problem.

This budget will continue that same poor economic performance, and that is why we should vote against it.

I thank the gentleman for bringing it to the floor.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chair, we are finished with our speakers and reserve the balance and right to close.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has the right to close.

Mr. MULVANEY. Then I will yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Chair, my friend from Maryland made a couple of different points. He said that he wishes he could vote for the things in the President's budget. I will say to him again here, I'll say it to you, I will say to anyone listening the same thing I said to the Rules Committee, the same thing I have said the last 3 years: I keep waiting for one of my colleagues across the aisle to do exactly that.

You think I want to be here offering the President's budget? If my colleagues across the aisle would like the opportunity to vote on the President's budget and the items that are contained in it, they have the ability to do so by simply offering this particular amendment.

Failing that, they will have an opportunity to hear today because, if you look at our amendment, it specifically says that the budgetary assumptions underlying this current resolution are based on the data and the policies in the President's budget.

It goes on to say that the concurrent resolution adopts and incorporates by references all data, policy provisions, and information contained therein.

Everything that is in the President's budget is in this amendment. They have plenty of opportunity to vote on this. They can do it themselves. They can vote for what I have offered here today.

Lastly, I will address the point, and my good friend makes a point every single year that this is a political stunt. I want to tell a story as to why it is not this year. It is a real story. It happened to me. It happened to you. It happened to everybody here who represents folks back home.

I get a letter, Mr. Chairman, from the Social Security Administration, telling me that they were closing the field offices in my district.

By the way, they closed field offices in everybody's district. In the letter, they said they did that because we had cut their budget by $1 billion for 3 years in a row.

I am no longer on the Budget Committee, but as Mr. VAN HOLLEN knows, I used to serve on that committee, and I don't remember us cutting the Social Security Administration by $1 billion each of the last 3 years.

So I wrote them a letter and said: you said you are closing the field offices in my district because we cut your budget. Would you please provide me with evidence of that?

What they wrote back is a letter that said: we got $1 billion less from Congress than the President asked for in his budget.

They got more than they did the year the year before and more than they did the year before that. The actual money they had to spend went up, but because they didn't get what the President asked for in his budget, they closed the offices in our districts that serve our constituents.

This is a very important document. Clearly, the Social Security Administration thinks it is an important document. It is at least important enough for us to vote on in the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The gentleman just mentioned Social Security Administration funds for operations. Let me tell you, if you vote for the House Republican budget today, you are going to be decimating the funds available for those kind of ongoing operations because they cut that part of the budget that allows for the administration of the Social Security Administration and cut it big time.

So it is interesting to hear my colleague talk about the President's budget in that regard, but I would suggest he look at the impact from the House Republican budget.

Let me just say, Mr. Chair, I indicated earlier that we with like to vote on the President's policies. We have been waiting a very long time to vote on comprehensive immigration reform. In fact, we filed a discharge petition to do it.

We would like to vote on increasing the minimum wage. We filed a discharge petition to do it. We would like to vote on emergency unemployment insurance. We filed a discharge petition on that.

The Speaker of the House has refused to allow democracy to work. Now, we have what is clearly a stunt. As I said, I am a supporter of the President's budget; I support the President's policy. I think it is a stunt. The White House recognizes it as a stunt. We will have, tomorrow, the Democratic alternative that has the support of the White House.

I still find it incredulous that our colleagues are telling us that they really are giving 10 minutes per side of debate to what they claim is before us, which is 2,000 pages, right?

These are our colleagues that went around the country calling for transparency and accountability. They really want Members to vote on something that the Congressional Budget Office has not had a chance to score?

Apparently, they are going to do it next week because they are in the process of looking through the President's budget. So even if this were on the level, which it is not, you can't compare apples to apples without the Congressional Budget Office analysis.

So I am so glad our Republican colleagues were able to speed-read through this thing in 10 minutes and make judgments. The good news for them is that is not the President's budget either.

So let's not play games. Let's recognize that, as we debate these budgets, we are debating the country's priorities. We are debating very different priorities. Once again, the House Republican budget chooses to double down on rigging the rules for very powerful special interests.

If you are a millionaire, you are going to get a one-third cut in your tax rate under the House Republican budget. You know who is going to pay for it? Middle-income taxpayers will have to pay more to finance that tax break for the wealthy—in fact, $2,000 for a family with kids, on average.

You know who else is going to have to pay for that? Our kids' education, Early Head Start, Head Start, K–12, college kids.

You know what else is going to pay? Our competitiveness as a country because we are not going to make the investments that, historically, have helped power this country forward in the area of transportation and infrastructure.

Republican budget, you know when the trust fund goes insolvent? This summer. Nothing in there, nothing in the Republican budget to address that issue, just swoosh, down the tubes insolvent.

Hopefully, we will have an opportunity to actually vote on the President's proposal, as I said, to eliminate some of the special interests tax breaks that encourage companies to move jobs overseas, close those down, so we can invest in our transportation right here at home.

So let's not fall for this political stunt. I mean, I have to believe that if my colleagues seriously wanted a debate a 2,000-page document, that even they would agree that it merits more than 10 minutes, even they would agree that we should have the benefit of the Congressional Budget Office's analysis before we ask this body to take on that responsibility.

So let's not fall for sham. Let's reject the amendment by Mr. MULVANEY; and then, tomorrow, let's vote in support of the Democratic alternative.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MS. MOORE.

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 113–405.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

(a) DECLARATION.—The Congress determines and declares that this concurrent resolution establishes the budget for fiscal year 2015 and sets forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015.
Sec. 2. Recommended levels and amounts.
Sec. 3. Major functional categories.
Sec. 4. Direct spending.

SEC. 2. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $2,697,300,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $2,852,943,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $2,984,977,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,104,418,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,240,103,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,385,490,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,547,681,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,725,978,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,915,253,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,112,238,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $163,459,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $176,904,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $195,554,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $214,111,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $225,418,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $236,853,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $253,030,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $269,631,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $288,735,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $304,785,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $3,443,426,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $3,400,616,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $3,473,245,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,601,639,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,809,035,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $4,000,203,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $4,166,166,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $4,397,911,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $4,555,131,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,711,021,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $3,257,765,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $3,448,528,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $3,518,207,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,610,258,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,806,896,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,968,446,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $4,139,595,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $4,372,838,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $4,516,239,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,657,148,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits (on-budget) are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: -$560,465,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: -$595,585,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: -$533,230,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: -$505,840,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: -$566,793,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: -$582,956,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: -$591,914,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: -$646,860,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: -$600,986,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: -$544,910,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $18,429,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $19,181,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $19,926,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $20,661,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $21,438,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $22,222,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $23,007,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $23,827,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $24,633,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $25,419,000,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2015: $13,338,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $13,973,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $14,554,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $15,109,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $15,744,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $16,421,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $17,137,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $17,944,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $18,732,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $19,505,000,000,000.

SEC. 3. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

The Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2015 through 2024 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $529,658,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $567,234,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $569,522,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $570,714,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $577,616,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $570,915,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $586,874,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $573,937,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $595,151,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $586,488,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $604,440,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $595,519,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $613,753,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $604,662,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $624,066,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $619,436,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $639,335,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $627,590,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $656,669,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $637,835,000,000.
(2) International Affairs (150):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $50,508,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,984,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $47,680,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,034,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $48,736,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,276,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $49,838,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,793,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $50,917,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,826,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $52,065,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,328,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $52,734,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,044,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $54,172,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $55,361,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $51,339,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $56,602,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,465,000,000.
(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $37,883,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,551,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $32,476,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,333,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $32,138,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,622,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $32,836,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,627,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $33,535,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,294,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $34,272,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,693,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $35,014,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $35,782,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,036,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $36,556,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,797,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $37,360,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $36,582,000,000.
(4) Energy (270):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $11,560,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $9,834,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $7,636,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,312,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $6,012,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,137,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $5,816,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,870,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $5,902,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,285,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $5,994,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,407,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $6,111,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,656,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $6,226,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,841,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $6,445,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,048,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $6,982,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,270,000,000.
(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $45,712,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,218,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $43,251,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,709,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $41,598,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,697,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $42,276,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,266,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $43,392,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,648,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $44,969,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,622,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $44,848,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,846,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $46,092,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,734,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $47,264,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,919,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $48,610,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $47,617,000,000.
(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $18,881,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,632,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $23,171,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,772,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $22,822,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,023,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $22,707,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,904,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $21,743,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,344,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $21,887,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,443,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $22,392,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,851,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $22,590,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,080,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $23,081,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,553,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $23,457,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,932,000,000.
(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $12,072,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $150,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $13,392,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$832,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $11,227,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$4,423,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $11,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$5,165,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $11,383,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$10,430,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $13,715,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$8,647,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $13,025,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$4,179,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $14,142,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$4,528,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $14,326,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$5,476,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $14,798,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$6,172,000,000.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $224,774,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $162,667,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $156,720,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $167,973,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $111,700,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $140,956,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $101,705,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $120,192,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $100,697,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $115,763,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $101,764,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $110,317,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $102,870,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $109,213,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $104,030,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $110,557,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $105,210,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $112,416,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $106,439,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $114,299,000,000.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $49,327,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,739,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $28,387,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,053,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $18,337,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,410,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $14,462,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,759,000,000.

Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $14,408,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,822,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $14,275,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,720,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $14,498,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $16,953,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $14,532,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $14,787,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $14,775,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $14,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $15,068,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $14,704,000,000.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
(A) New budget authority, $216,018,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $162,097,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $158,111,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $167,376,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $125,492,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $143,292,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $118,800,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $129,483,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $115,816,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $125,274,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $117,265,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $120,183,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $118,614,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $119,104,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $120,472,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $119,992,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $122,325,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $121,611,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $124,279,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $123,548,000,000.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $507,449,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $497,501,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $556,738,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $561,299,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $614,352,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $613,019,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $634,932,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $635,653,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $666,537,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $666,783,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $710,614,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $700,055,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $737,724,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $736,844,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $776,912,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $775,495,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $816,381,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $815,137,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $858,300,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $857,258,000,000.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $523,538,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $523,428,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $570,723,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $570,644,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $585,270,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $585,194,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $610,478,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $610,392,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $672,921,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $672,827,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $720,722,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $720,624,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $771,048,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $770,949,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $854,586,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $854,479,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $883,245,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $883,135,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $913,236,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $913,119,000,000.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $548,028,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $537,560,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $552,594,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $551,208,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $555,223,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $551,226,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $552,717,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $547,180,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $572,561,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $569,575,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $585,693,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $581,811,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $599,700,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $595,008,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $618,433,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $617,739,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $627,486,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $621,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $635,068,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $624,020,000,000.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $31,442,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,517,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $34,245,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,283,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $37,133,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,133,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $40,138,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,138,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $43,383,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,383,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $46,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,747,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $50,255,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $53,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,941,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $57,800,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $58,441,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,441,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $158,993,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $155,978,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $170,961,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $169,517,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $168,858,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $168,150,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $167,388,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $166,463,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $179,305,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $178,471,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $184,269,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $183,317,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $188,571,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $187,569,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $200,680,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $199,612,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $197,458,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $196,384,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $194,292,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $193,155,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $71,342,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,338,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $62,293,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $62,627,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $61,045,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,242,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $61,594,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,704,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $63,347,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $64,367,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $65,273,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $64,951,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $67,423,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,906,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $70,160,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $69,530,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $72,257,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,603,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $77,968,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $77,291,000,000.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $27,402,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,605,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $27,946,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $26,804,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $28,521,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,925,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $29,309,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,836,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $30,142,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,612,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $30,952,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,430,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $31,842,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,326,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $32,741,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,227,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $33,585,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,079,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:

(A) New budget authority, $34,498,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,979,000,000.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $367,414,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $367,414,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $426,582,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $426,582,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $506,101,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $506,101,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $595,624,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $595,624,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $670,430,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $670,430,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $733,465,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $733,465,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $786,127,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $786,127,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $837,776,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $837,776,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $889,086,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $889,086,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $934,712,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $934,712,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $4,600,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,600,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $1,566,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,873,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $4,696,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,440,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $6,354,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $9,333,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $7,843,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $10,606,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $3,704,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,629,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $5,183,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $8,706,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $8,793,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $11,037,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $14,517,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $16,193,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $21,340,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,164,000,000.
(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, -$78,532,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$78,532,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, -$83,378,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$83,378,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, -$83,632,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$83,632,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, -$83,956,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$83,956,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, -$90,374,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$90,374,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, -$91,882,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$91,882,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, -$95,566,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$95,566,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, -$98,215,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$98,215,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, -$101,362,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$101,362,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, -$107,098,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$107,098,000,000.
(21) Overseas Contingency Operations (970):
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $85,357,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,250,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $25,625,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $6,504,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $2,225,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $902,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $714,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $35,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $27,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $27,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $0.
(B) Outlays, $27,000,000.

SEC. 4. DIRECT SPENDING.

(a) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 6.8 percent.

(2) For means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) This concurrent resolution retains the social safety net that has lifted millions of Americans out of poverty and protects both the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid from draconian spending cuts.

(b) NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For nonmeans-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 5.7 percent.

(2) For nonmeans-test direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015 is 5.4 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for nonmeans-tested direct spending:

(A) For Medicare, this budget rejects proposals to end the Medicare guarantee and shift rising health care costs onto seniors by replacing Medicare with vouchers or premium support for the purchase of private insurance. Such proposals will expose seniors and persons with disabilities on fixed incomes to unacceptable financial risks, and they will weaken the traditional Medicare program. Instead, this budget builds on the success of the Affordable Care Act, which made significant strides in health-care cost containment and put into place a framework for continuous innovation. This budget supports comprehensive reforms to give physicians and other care providers incentives to provide high-quality, coordinated, efficient care, in a manner consistent with the goals of fiscal sustainability. It makes no changes that reduce benefits available to seniors and individuals with disabilities in Medicare.

(B) Any savings derived from changes or reforms to Medicare and Social Security should be used to extend the solvency of these vital programs and not be used to offset the cost of cutting taxes.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 544, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I am so proud to be here with my distinguished colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus to present our budget for fiscal year 2015.

□ 1545

We have spent the last week, 2 weeks analyzing the House Republican budget, and you have heard here on this floor today the flaws in this budget: it doesn't reflect the needs of our Nation; it achieves deficit reduction by imposing more austerity provisions at the expense of our most vulnerable populations; and it stifles economic growth and our ability to compete on a global scale.

But instead of just criticizing the majority's budget, the Congressional Black Caucus once again has done the due diligence to put together a budget alternative which we believe meets the highest priorities of all Americans.

First of all, it reduces the deficit responsibly. Secondly, it constructs a meaningful job creation package, something Americans desperately need. It invests in our infrastructure and education so we can grow our economy. It ends the ongoing threat of spending cuts due to sequestration. It raises revenue through the Tax Code fairly. We just cannot cut our way to prosperity. And, finally, it extends a compassionate hand towards those who live in poverty, which is the signature and the heart of the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE), the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank you for yielding.

As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am proud to once again propose a fiscally sound and morally responsible alternative budget.

The CBC has a long history of introducing an alternative budget that protects and invests in programs that are vital to our communities. Our budget emphasizes the CBC's commitment to eradicating poverty in America by increasing economic opportunities through robust investments in education and infrastructure, affordable housing, domestic manufacturing, small businesses, and job training.

Though tough decisions are required to ensure our country's fiscal future, we do not believe the well-being of the most vulnerable in this Nation must be sacrificed for us to remain on the path

to economic recovery. The CBC alternative budget for fiscal year 2015 remains true to the principle of opportunity for all.

The Ryan budget, on the other hand, completely misses the mark. It disregards the fact that millions of Americans struggle to feed their families and find jobs. It requires sacrifices of the most vulnerable, including the youngest and eldest among us.

As reported by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, some 69 percent of the cuts in Chairman RYAN's budget come from programs that serve people of limited means. These disproportionate cuts, which account for $3.3 trillion of the budget's $4.8 trillion in nondefense cuts over the next decade, contrast sharply with the Ryan budget's rhetoric about helping the poor and promoting opportunity. Need I say more about that?

To my colleagues in the House, the CBC substitute budget is the best blueprint. Let's build a stronger, better, and more fiscally responsible America together. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 6 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, the budget substitute offered by the Congressional Black Caucus is a good faith effort to lift a growing portion of our population out of chronic poverty and despair, a goal all of us share. It attempts to do so over the next 10 years by raising $2.3 trillion of taxes on corporations and the wealthy and running up an additional $4.3 trillion of debt to increase overall Federal spending by $6.7 trillion to fund so-called stimulus spending relative to the Republican budget. My fear is that it will accomplish exactly the opposite of what it intends, harming the very people it is trying to help.

Let's start with some fundamentals on tax policy.

First, we need to understand that businesses do not pay business taxes. There are only three possible ways for business taxes to be paid: they are paid by consumers as higher prices; they are paid by employees as lower wages; and they are paid by investors as lower earnings—your 401(k) or pension plan, for example.

Secondly, we need to understand what a trillion dollars is. Divided by the number of U.S. households, it comes to about $8,200 for every family in America.

As much as we like talking about taxing the wealthy, there aren't enough wealthy people in this country to make more than a dent in these numbers. Indeed, many of the so-called wealthy are actually small businesses filing under subchapter S.

Raising taxes by $2.3 trillion ultimately, then, means that families, on average, will have $18,000 less to spend on their own needs that they will pay through higher prices in stores, through lower wages at work, or as lower retirement savings.

In addition, the CBC budget would plunge our Nation $4.3 trillion further into debt after 10 years relative to the House Republican budget. That is more than $35,000 per household. That is not a theoretical number. That amount, plus interest, will have to be paid back in future taxes just as surely as if it appeared on your credit card statement. In fact, families will be required to pay this debt back before they pay their credit card, and the IRS is quite insistent that they do.

Again, not all of that will be direct taxes. Much of it will be hidden in higher prices, lower wages, and lower retirement savings for families. But make no mistake; it must all be paid back, and families will bear that burden.

Let's look at the massive increase in spending designed to jump-start the economy. That policy has already failed us, and failed us miserably, and here is why:

Government cannot inject a single dollar into the economy until it has first taken that dollar out of the economy. If I take a dollar from Peter and give it to Paul, it is true Paul is going to have an extra dollar to spend. He is going to take it into a store. The storekeeper is going to order more inventory, the manufacturer is going to order more resources, and that dollar will ripple through the economy.

But we have completely forgotten the other half of that equation. Peter now has one less dollar to spend in that economy—one less dollar to ripple through it. So, in the end, we have not stimulated the economy at all. That is why the trillions of dollars we have already spent trying to stimulate the economy have not worked.

Indeed, this does great damage to the economy because we are transferring huge amounts of capital from the productive sector, which invests its money based on the highest economic return of a dollar, to the public sector, which invests based on the highest political return of the dollar. Those are two very different things. Indeed, that is the difference between FedEx and the post office; it is the difference between Apple Computer and Solyndra; it is the difference between the Reagan recovery and the Obama recovery.

So I beg my colleagues to reconsider. We have tried these policies and they do not work. Under this administration, we have seen record tax increases, record spending increases, and record debt. The result is tragic.

The poverty rate for Americans of African heritage has grown from 12 percent in 2008 to 16.1 percent today. Median income for White households has declined by 3.6 percent during this administration, but it has dropped by 10.9 percent for African American households. Compare that to the Reagan years, when median income increased for all Americans by 4.4 percent but grew by 4.5 percent for African American households.

No one doubts the sincerity of the Congressional Black Caucus in bringing this budget substitute to the floor, but there is an old saying: You can't fix a broken bucket by pouring more water in it; at some point, you have to fix the bucket.

The House Republican budget does this by reducing the tax and regulatory burdens that are choking investment in job creation and that are causing the long, cold winter that our country has endured. If we want to see morning again in America, we need to restore the policies that have produced it before.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the assistant minority leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlelady for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican budget and in support of the alternative put forth by the Congressional Black Caucus.

Put simply, the Republican budget is bad for seniors, bad for young people, and bad for America's economic future. It may be a path to prosperity for the investor class in our society, but it is a path to permanent struggle for America's working families.

The Republican budget is a disaster for our senior citizens. It brings back the doughnut hole for Medicare prescription drugs. We eliminated the doughnut hole with the Affordable Care Act, but this Republican budget brings it back.

The Republican budget ends the Medicare guarantee of earned benefits and replaces it with a risky voucher scheme. American workers deserve the guarantee of earned benefits. This Republican budget slashes $732 billion from Medicaid. Mr. Chairman, two-thirds of Medicaid's funds serve seniors and disabled Americans.

The Republican budget is a disaster for our children and young people. It guts Head Start and cuts school lunches and Pell grants.

This budget repeals the Affordable Care Act provision that allows young people to stay on their parents' health plans until their 26th birthday. It allows discrimination against people with preexisting conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and asthma.

This Republican budget rigs the system so that only the children of the well-off and well-connected can get ahead, while the children of the less well-off are consigned to a life of permanent struggle.

This budget rejects the one measure that could immediately unleash more economic activity and grow our economy: comprehensive immigration reform.

In contrast, the CBC budget continues our long history of fiscal soundness and moral responsibility. We

make tough choices to secure our financial future, but we do not believe that the most vulnerable in our Nation should be sacrificed on the altar of political expediency.

The CBC budget focuses on eradicating poverty in America through robust investments in education, infrastructure, affordable housing, manufacturing, and small business development. Our budget targets funds to needy communities.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MOORE. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CLYBURN. It contains our 10–20–30 initiative, requiring that at least 10 percent of Federal funds in certain accounts are directed to areas that have had a poverty rate of 20 percent or more for the last 30 years.

Mr. Chairman, our budgets should reflect our Nation's values and establish what kind of future we want for our citizens. It is fundamentally unfair that 69 percent of the cuts in the Republican budget come from services to low-income and hardworking Americans.

We can do better. We must do better. The CBC budget is better. We should support it and reject the Republican budget.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I am now pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), the former Governor.

Mr. SANFORD. I thank my colleague.

I rise in respectful opposition to the CBC budget for the reasons that my colleague from California just enumerated.

I have listened to this debate over the last few minutes, and the Ryan budget has been called a draconian budget, a phony budget, an extreme budget, a reckless budget, a heat-seeking missile aimed at the American public budget, but what it has not been recognized as is a brave budget. And I say that because it gets at what no other budget in this process gets at, which is entitlement spending. The President's budget doesn't. The CBC budget doesn't. The Democratic alternative doesn't. The Progressive budget doesn't. It's only this budget that really begins to address the elephant in the room.

Is it perfect? No.

Will I vote against some of the appropriations bills that come along in its wake? I suspect, yes.

□ 1600

But it has been said that a journey of a thousand miles begins with that first step. And to the credit of the Ryan—the Republican budget, it begins that first step at addressing entitlement reform in a way that has not been the case because, to do nothing would, indeed, be to launch a heat-seeking missile into the pocketbook, the wallet, the purse of every American as we wait for the day of reckoning to occur, which is 2025.

In 2025, there will only be enough money for interest and entitlements and nothing else. So we can talk about all these other worthy programs, but without addressing that terminal date of 2025, we are in real trouble.

I think that there are particular problems with this amendment. As you look at taxes going up by $2.3 trillion, you look at spending going up by $6.7 trillion, and you look at an additional $4.3 trillion of debt, it says we have real problems.

But, again, the operative number is what happens to the value of our currency, to future inflation, and to the value of our savings if we do nothing, which is, again, addressed in this Ryan budget with its address of entitlement spending. To do nothing is indeed extreme, and it is reckless.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I am very happy now to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the leader of the Congressional Black Caucus' Budget Task Force.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I rise in support of the Congressional Black Caucus budget, which is a more credible and responsible alternative than the underlying Republican budget.

Mr. Chairman, the Republican Committee budget starts off by cutting taxes by $4 trillion and claims this can be revenue neutral.

Simple arithmetic, therefore, requires a $4 trillion tax increase, and the budget doesn't mention a word about where that money is going to come from, not a loophole closing or any other tax increase. And therefore, the budget starts off with a $4 trillion hole in it.

Their budget then expects people to believe that they will make $4 trillion in cuts by repealing the Affordable Care Act provisions for tax credits and Medicaid changes that have resulted in millions of people getting insurance for the first time. They are going to lose that coverage.

Do they think that is going to happen?

Do they think they are going to be able to increase the age for Medicare recipients and reopen the doughnut hole?

Do they think they are going to be able to make the cuts in the budget to Medicaid, denying access to health care to millions of low-income Americans, requiring millions to lose their nursing home coverage?

We know that that is not credible. Neither is it credible that over $100 billion in cuts to supplemental food assistance—we know that is not credible. They tried to cut $40 billion last year, then $20 billion, couldn't do that. They ended up with 8. Now they are going to say, well, all of a sudden we can do 100.

The budget fails to say where the other cuts are going to come from, whether it is going to come from education or job training or research or transportation, or other.

You have unspecified cuts. And to the extent that they are unspecified, that $4 trillion isn't going to happen. So they have a $4 trillion hole in revenues. They have a $4 trillion hole in spending cuts, $8 trillion hole in their budget.

You can talk about it being balanced, but until you come up with the specifics of where that $8 trillion is going to come from, it is just not a serious budget.

In stark contrast, the Congressional Black Caucus budget puts numbers on the page. We show our math. We show not only that we can raise $2 trillion in revenues, we show where it can come from by laying out over $4 trillion in options, specifics, not $4 trillion unspecified, but $4 trillion specified, $2 trillion needed to make the budget.

We eliminate sequestration. We have proposed a $500 billion jobs package that will end the recession by putting millions back to work, and approximately $400 billion for an antipoverty initiative that will restore cuts to the social safety net and enable people to get job training and education to make them able to work their way out of poverty.

Mr. Chairman, this is simple, straightforward arithmetic.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 20 seconds.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Our budget calls for policy changes and comprehensive immigration reform, a public option for health care, and others, and it will be scored at $1.8 trillion, real live reduction in the deficit, compared to the CBO baseline.

Our budget is a credible, job-creating alternative to the unrealistic, draconian plan offered by our Republican colleagues, which has an $8 trillion hole in it.

I ask you to support the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, it has been the honor of a lifetime to serve on the Budget Committee under the leadership of our distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), to whom I yield such time as he may consume.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the gentleman. And I also want to thank the CBC for offering a budget. I think that is what is important that is happening here, people are coming to the floor of Congress offering their ideas, offering their solutions.

One of the things that they are so clearly concerned about, that they have their method of dealing with in the budget is, what do you do about poverty. This is something that we are also deeply concerned about.

A year ago we decided to look at our strategies from the Federal Government's perspective on fighting poverty because, after all, we are in the 50th year, the 50th anniversary of the so-called War on Poverty.

We wanted to say, is there a good accounting of all those Federal poverty programs that we can look at to see if they are working well, if they need updating, because, after all, they were put in place largely in the mid- to late part of the 20th century.

No such accounting occurred. So we spent the last year looking through all these programs, looking at all the audits and the Government Accountability Office reports and the inspector general reports and outside academics' opinions of these things. We took it all together, and we realized that the Federal Government has nearly 100 programs aimed at fighting poverty, spending about $800 billion a year doing so.

And look at the results. We have the highest poverty rate in a generation. Deep poverty is the highest, on record. Forty-six million people are living in poverty.

So we are asking ourselves, does one more program from the Department of Health and Human Services, is that going to do the trick all of a sudden?

It is not working. So our concern is that we have moved from a war on eradicating poverty to simply treating the symptoms of poverty to make it more tolerable, to manage poverty.

We are measuring our success—and this is how this debate always goes—based upon how much money we throw at programs, based on inputs, not based on outcomes.

How many people are we truly getting out of poverty?

As we look at these programs, the best thing we should do is go and listen to people who are fighting poverty; go listen to people who have successfully fought poverty.

I got up real early Monday morning in Martindale-Brightwood—it is a low-income neighborhood in Indianapolis, Indiana—to learn from people who are successfully fighting poverty, who are really doing amazing things, seeing potential and great lives realizing their potential.

We can learn a lot by getting out of this town, by finding out what works, and getting behind them and helping make sure what works continues.

But if we suffocate this debate with more one-size-fits-all, with more Washington knows best, with one more program, you know, the 93rd one is going to be the charm, then we are not going to get at the root cause of the problem.

The goal here is to get at the root cause of poverty to break the cycle of poverty, so I think there is a lot we all need to learn about this.

Hopefully, what we are accomplishing here, in our budget, is letting people who are closer to the problem have a little more flexibility, a little more discretion, so that they can customize and tailor solutions to meet the unique and particular needs of the people in their communities who are actually striving and fighting poverty.

One more point. When we stack all these programs on top of each other, we have done something inadvertently in this government, and that is, we have built barriers toward self-sufficiency. We have made it harder for a rational person to leave benefits and go into work because they lose more when they do that.

We have got tax rates, single moms making less than $40,000 a year with kids that are, like, 80 percent, meaning, you go to work, you lose more in benefits than you gain going to work. We have got to do something about that. That should not be a Republican, Democrat thing. That is just plain old economics.

So I think we need to rethink our approach, and not measure based on inputs, not measure based on how much money we can throw at programs, but measure based on what is working, who is doing a good job, how can we support them, how can we learn and listen from them.

Oh, and why don't we start measuring success based on outcomes?

That is what we are trying to achieve.

We have got a long ways to go, but I hope that that is the kind of conversation we can get to.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin has 4¾ minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I am so happy at this time to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), the chair of the Democratic whip's Task Force on Poverty and Opportunity, and also a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. LEE of California. First, let me thank Congresswoman MOORE for your very bold leadership on the Budget Committee, and also for leading us today in this debate.

And too, of course, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, the chair of our Congressional Black Caucus. Just want to thank you all for bringing forth really what is a very pro-American budget.

I rise in strong support of the Congressional Black Caucus budget. I just have to say, Chairman RYAN and I, we constantly talk about how to lift people out of poverty. I have to say that his poverty report, and I just have to respond to what he said because we know that the War on Poverty and the programs and the safety net, they have worked. They have saved millions and millions of people from falling into the ranks of the poor, and have lifted people out of poverty.

If we raised the minimum wage right now, these single moms that you talk about, who rely on food stamps and Medicaid because they can't get a decent living wage, yeah, they would be very happy. And I think the country would be a lot better, if, in fact, we raised the minimum wage, which, of course, the Congressional Black Caucus budget promotes and allows for and invests in in terms of job creation and in terms of ensuring that the safety net is preserved.

Instead of ending subsidies for Big Oil, tax breaks for corporate jets, tax breaks for companies that site offshore, the Republican budget cuts at least $125 million from SNAP.

In stark contrast, the CBC budget provides $388 billion to eradicate poverty in America, restoring cuts to SNAP, extending unemployment insurance, and targeting resources to those most in need.

Our budget also addresses health disparities and protects and strengthens Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, restoring the cuts the Ryan budget would make.

This budget provides $230 billion to revitalize our Nation's infrastructure and creates a $500 billion jobs program to our initiatives in our budget to accelerate the Nation's economic recovery, including $7 billion in a summer jobs program.

A budget is a moral document. It reflects who we are as a country. The CBC's budget reflects the best of American values.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on this balanced, pro-growth, pro-jobs budget.

Finally, it ends the overseas contingency account. This perpetual spending on war needs to end. Nation-building at home must begin.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, we are ready to close when the gentlelady has finished her presentation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I am so pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), a freshman on the Budget Committee.

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Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlelady, my good friend, from the Badger State for her leadership.

Mr. Chair, 50 years ago, President Lyndon Baines Johnson came to this very Chamber and declared a war on poverty, and as a result of the legislative efforts that were brought about in connection with the Great Society vision, tens of millions of Americans were lifted out of an impoverished condition and set on the trajectory toward the middle class.

The CBC is here today because we recognize that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done, particularly in the aftermath of the collapse of the economy, the Great Recession, the worst economic condition since the Great Depression.

That is why the CBC budget invests in the American economy, invests in job training and education, invests in transportation and infrastructure, invests in research and development, invests in affordable housing, invests in creating manufacturing jobs.

The CBC budget would renew unemployment compensation in order to make sure that the long-term unemployed, who are collateral damage of the Great Recession, can get back into the mainstream of our economy.

The CBC budget will give Americans a raise to $10.10 an hour by lifting the

minimum wage. By the way, that will help grow the economy because we have a consumer demand problem, and as a result of the increase in spending resulting from the minimum wage increase, everybody in America will benefit.

The CBC does this in a fiscally responsible way that will reduce the deficit, but it does it in a manner that does not balance the budget on the backs of working families, middle class folks, senior citizens, the poor, the sick, and the afflicted; and that is not even an exhaustive list of what the Ryan budget does.

So I am urging all of our colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the CBC alternative, invest in America, invest in our economy, and invest in our workers.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I thank all of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus who have worked hard on this budget.

I was so happy that the chair of the Budget Committee came to the floor. We, obviously, don't have time to continue this conversation on poverty, and I think that there is much to talk about since we shouldn't blame poverty programs or blame the poor; but we need to look at inequality, the state of our economy, and an unfair Tax Code.

Indeed, 2007 and 1928, 2 years that ushered in the Great Depression and the Great Recession, chronicled the highest inequality in our country, and that might, in fact, talk about where our budget priorities ought to be. I urge my colleagues to vote for the Congressional Black Caucus budget.

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, it is human nature, I think, to resist concluding that our beliefs have been disproven by experience. The more we invest in our mistakes, the less willing we often are to recognize and correct them; but sooner than later, we have to acknowledge from our own experience that certain policies work and certain policies don't, whether they are tried by Republicans or Democrats.

My Democratic colleagues are right to praise the Clinton administration's handling of the economy; but we must ask: What were those policies?

In 1995, he announced that the era of Big Government is over. Working in cooperation with the Republican Congress, they reduced Federal spending by a miraculous 4 percent of GDP. They enacted what amounted to the biggest capital gains tax cut in American history.

They reformed entitlement spending by abolishing the open-ended welfare system. They produced four budget surpluses in a row, and the economy flourished, and it expanded for all Americans.

My colleagues are also right to heap scorn on George W. Bush's handling of the economy; but we have to ask again: What were those policies?

Well, he increased Federal spending by 2 percent of GDP. He enacted the biggest expansion of entitlement spending since the Great Society. He began the era of stimulus spending. He ran up what, at the time, were record budget deficits. Don't my colleagues see that they are advocating the same policies that got us into this mess?

My objection to President Obama is not that he has changed Bush's policies, but, rather, that he has not changed them. He has taken the worst of them and doubled down on them. The CBC substitute takes us further down this path of debt and doubt and despair.

In 1862, Abraham Lincoln sent this message to the Congress—and I think that they are words meant for us today. He said:

> The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

I invite my friends to think anew and act anew; to disenthrall ourselves from the policies that have failed; and to return to the policies of individual liberty, constitutionally limited government, and personal responsibility that produced the most prosperous, happy, and free society in the history of civilization. In short, freedom works, and it is time that we put it and our country back to work.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Congressional Black Caucus's budget alternative to the extreme Republican-led Ryan budget. Congressional Republicans have offered up a budget that continues their legislative reign of terror completely undermining our Nation's future by protecting the wealthiest.

The CBC has put forth a ''real'' budget that finds responsible ways to reduce our Nation's deficit and recommits the Federal Government to eradicating poverty. In Los Angeles County, where my district is located, we have the highest poverty rate among all of the Californian counties. The CBC budget works to help districts like mine by making a $500 billion investment over three years into jobs to accelerate our Nation's economic recovery and put Americans back to work.

Many Californians find it difficult to make ends meet without the support of Federal safety net programs. Our budget strengthens and protects the social safety net by restoring cuts to the SNAP program, extending emergency unemployment insurance and increasing economic opportunities through targeted investments in education, infrastructure, affordable housing, domestic manufacturing, small businesses, and scientific research.

Mr. Chair, it is clear that the Republican Leadership is not serious about putting our Nation back on the track to prosperity. It is time for a change. Therefore, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the right thing and make a true investment into our Nation's future by voting for the Congressional Black Caucus's budget alternative.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chair, on January 8, 1964, President Johnson came before the nation to deliver his State of the Union address and declared a war on poverty. It has been 60 years since President Johnson gave us that charge, but we have yet to achieve a country free from the burdens of poverty. As President Johnson said all those years ago, ''It will not be a short or easy struggle, no single weapon or strategy will suffice, but we shall not rest until that war is won. The richest nation on earth can afford to win it. We cannot afford to lose it.''

Well, Mr. Chair, President Johnson was correct. The struggle has been neither short nor easy, but he was also right when he said we would not rest until the war on poverty was won. There is no silver bullet, no single weapon or strategy for confronting something as complex as our nation's struggle with poverty. That is why I rise today in support of the budget put forth by the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). This budget is neither a single weapon nor a single strategy, but rather a multi-faceted dynamic approach to responsible governing that will strengthen our economy and reduce our deficit by approximately $1.8 trillion over the next ten years.

Mr. Chair, a budget can act as a mirror; a mirror that reflects the priorities, ideals and morality of a nation. When we hold the budget proposed by Chairman RYAN up to the mirror, we see an image that distorts the ideals that provide the foundation for this country. We see an image that prioritizes protecting the wealthy over championing middle class families, small businesses and the poor. We know what we need to do to help those Americans who are struggling. We need to extend emergency unemployment insurance; we need to raise the minimum wage; we need to support the Affordable Care Act; invest in education; invest in job training; and we certainly have to invest in our infrastructure. We need a plan to create jobs. Mr. Chair, the dynamic budget proposed by the CBC addresses all of these issues and more. Under Mr. RYAN's Path to Poverty, these critical issues are not addressed. In fact, they are purposely ignored.

Mr. Chair, our tax code is hurting many Americans. It is a code that rewards and protects the rich at the expense of middle class families and the poor. Taken together, the ideas proposed by the CBC would equal roughly $4.3 trillion in revenue enhancement over the next decade in ways that are fairer to more Americans. The CBC only directs the appropriate committees in the House and Senate to find $2.0 trillion in revenue enhancements.

Those of us who champion the CBC budget provide a number of ways to reach that $2.0 trillion mark. For instance, we could end special tax breaks and close tax loopholes available only to the wealthiest Americans. This alone could get us $1 trillion over the next ten years. We could also stop the wealthiest among us from using overseas tax havens to avoid paying their fair share. Along these same lines, let us rid our tax code of ridiculous loopholes like deductions for yachts and the loophole for corporate jets. Additionally, we could find $880 billion over the next decade if we taxed capital gains and dividends as ordinary income. We all have constituents back home who work hard all week. They put in their 40 hours, often times more, to provide for their families. At the end of the week they get a check from which taxes have been withheld at rates for ordinary income. This amount is

taxed higher than the gains made in from stocks. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has said that these rates are ''the single greatest driver of income inequality over a recent 15 year period was runaway income from capital gains and dividends.'' It does not seem to me, Mr. Chair, unreasonable to ask that the Wall Street banker sitting on a stock portfolio, to pay the same tax rates as a teacher in Florida or a factory worker in Maine.

Mr. Chair, we have a truly disturbing income inequality situation in this country. Such inequality is unfair to those who work diligently to create growth for this country, but who do not get to reap the benefits there from. This inequality is bad for the social fabric that binds this country together. While corporations and top level executives make record profits and payout larger and larger bonuses, middle class Americans are left further and further behind as they struggle through this jobless recovery.

Additionally, sequestration did not do any favors for the middle class or poor. Sequestration was the brutal swing of a cudgel of despair aimed right at the hopes and dreams of poor and middle class families. Head Start programs were scaled back, summer sessions were cut, instructors were cut, and students were put on waitlists rather than in classrooms. Seniors were placed in danger of facing food insecurities when Meals on Wheels had to cut down on their deliveries. Sequestration led to federal funding being cut for education including science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This was done at the K–12 level and the college level. It will be absolutely impossible for this country to maintain its advantage in an increasingly advanced and complex world economy if we do not invest in STEM education at all levels. These are but a few reasons the CBC Budget responsibly puts an end to Sequestration.

Mr. Chair, our country cries out for a jobs bill that will accelerate economic recovery and helps Americans across this nation. The CBC budget answers these cries by proposing a jobs program totaling $500 billion. This responsible approach to governing will grow our economy by establishing a National Direct Job Creation Program that puts people to work repairing our schools, community centers, parks and playgrounds. This program will add 2.8 million jobs. This responsible approach to growing our economy also includes a plan to modernize our schools. Many of the schools around this country were built decades ago. These schools are approaching the point where we cannot adequately train our young people for the challenges ahead. In order to meet the demands and challenges of the future, our students need facilities that can handle the cutting edge technologies that will undoubtedly form the basis of any decent job of the future.

Mr. Chair, the CBC's responsible approach to governing calls for an immediate investment in our country's infrastructure. Not only will an immediate investment in our infrastructure lead to hundreds of thousands of jobs dedicated to upgrading this country's crumbling roads, bridges and railways, but by strengthening our infrastructure, we help businesses small and large alike grow by giving them access to the tools they need to ship goods throughout the country.

The CBC's responsible approach to governing also acknowledges the fact that the housing crisis continues to ripple throughout many of our neighborhoods. That is why the budget calls for significant funding to help communities rebuild and helps families facing foreclosures remain in their homes. Furthermore, the CBC budget, acknowledges the fact that a person may come into this economy with one set of skills, but through no fault of their own, find that they need a new set of skills to be competitive in a rapidly changing economy. The budget makes sure that these hard working Americans are not left behind by giving them access to technical training, career services, graduate and certificate programs and other job training programs.

Mr. Chair, every day, homeless Americans face constant instability and must cope with difficult and often unhealthy lifestyles. For those living without permanent housing, everyday life is extremely difficult. Storing and preparing food is nearly impossible, and much of the homeless population relies on temporary shelters and soup kitchens to survive. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides working poor Americans with badly needed nourishment. Cutting funding for this program will only add to the difficulties so many are facing. The CBC budget recognizes this reality, and uses the program savings that will come from raising the minimum wage to help improve and streamline the benefits and ensure that this critical lifeline remain available for those who need it most.

The budget proposed here today is a budget that protects the poor, while providing security for middle class families. It is a budget that protects the social fabric holding together the greatest experiment in democracy the world has ever known. It is a budget that responsibly rewards innovation, while closing gross inequalities in wealth. It is a budget that helps teachers instill in our young people a thirst for knowledge. It is a budget that invests in this country's roads and bridges to help our small businesses. It is a budget that will bring us further down the road towards ending the War on Poverty, not further down the Road to Ruin that the Republicans want to take us.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC) Budget because it would replace H. Con. Res. 96, the ''Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2015,'' with a rational approach for budgetary reform and address the needs of real people.

I oppose H. Con. Res. 96, in its current form because it is irresponsible and a reckless approach to fiscal policy that the House majority has championed for years, with disastrous results.

The CPC's ''Better Off Budget'' would raise enough new revenue to provide $3.7 trillion for major new investments in education, infrastructure, state and local aid, nutrition, housing and research. It is estimated to create 8.8 million new jobs and to reduce the deficit by $4 trillion.

The CPC budget asks the wealthy to contribute their fair share of taxes.

Millions of American adults remain under- or unemployed, while millions more youth are desperately seeking their first work experience.

We have millions of people living in our Nation, paying taxes and contributing to the success of this nation, but are denied an opportunity to earn citizenship.

The CPC's budget reflects the reality of everyday working America—but it sees working people as worthy of dignity and recognition for what they do every day to keep this nation strong.

The CPC's Budget is pro-worker, pro-family, pro-women, pro-education, pro-healthcare, and pro-senior which are the values that are missing in the current language of H. Con. Res. 96.

Members of the Progressive Caucus understand that the devastating cuts to federal budgets by House Republicans coupled with Sequestration have significantly hampered our Nation's economic recovery.

The country was under the control of Republicans when the economy crashed in 1929 and then they wholeheartedly embraced austerity measures which pushed the nation into the ''Great Depression.''

Eighty years later the House Republicans still have not learned the lessons regarding austerity during dire economic times.

The nation continues to struggle after the collapse in 2008 as the results of the Great Recession continue.

In 2013, on December 28, three days after Christmas, 1.3 million people nationwide lost their federal unemployment insurance due to House Republicans refusing to extend unemployment benefits.

Connecting the dots on the economic damage done to the nation by that decision is easy.

Nationally 72,000 unemployment insurance recipients will lose their benefits each week during the first half of 2014.

According to the White House Council of Economic Advisers and the Department of Labor–3.6 million additional people will lose their unemployment insurance benefits by the end of 2014 if nothing is done to restore benefits.

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64,294 unemployed Texas residents lost their unemployment insurance benefits.

Each week an additional 4,112 Texans will lose their unemployment insurance benefits.

Unemployment insurance payments provide partial income replacement to unemployed workers who meet the requirements of state law.

According to the White House Council of Economic Advisers and the Department of Labor, Texas will lose 11,766 jobs if unemployment insurance payments are not reinstated.

To compound this economic reality the nation's families and workers are struggling to make it in a weak private sector economy that is recovering, while federal, state and local government jobs are going unfilled.

Public sector hiring is at its lowest point in 47 years, when the nation's population was over 146 million. In 2013, the U.S. population was over 317 million.

The need for public services is greater than they were in 1947, and the generation of public jobs should keep pace with domestic population growth.

The government shutdown last year was a direct result of the majority not believing that public employees make contributions to the quality of life in the United States or make a significant contribution to the nation's overall economic wellbeing.

The Better Off Budget rectifies this inaccurate view of the role of government at all levels, by ending the ill advised austerity measures enacted by the Budget Control Act,

sequestration, and SNAP benefit cuts, and replacing them with solutions to create 8.8 million jobs by 2017.

The CPC budget would enact comprehensive immigration reform and at the same time reduce the federal budget deficit by $700 billion over the next 20 years.

The CPC budget would also enact a tax code that makes sense for all Americans by introducing tax fairness and implementing a ''Hard Work Tax Credit,'' expanding EITC, and stronger regulatory measures to reduce the incidence of extreme volatility in financial markets with the introduction of a Financial Speculation Tax.

The CPC's Better Off Budget outlines a viable alternative to H. Con. Res. 96 with a perspective on the future that allows for an improving economy to be factored into how spending and appropriations decisions should be made.

America's economy at this point could be said to be in the early recovery phase of a very bad case of the flu, the Ryan Budget would turn it into the early stages of pneumonia.

The CPC budget makes a clear and unambiguous commitment to our nation's children and their future that H. Con. Res 96 does not.

The CPC budget understands that children are our nation's greatest asset. Children are not small adults, they are growing and their bodies must have certain things that are nonnegotiable.

Children need safe, correctly prepared, nutritious food; clean drinking water, adequate shelter, seasonal clothing, safe toys, excellent education, healthcare, and safe environments to grow and learn so that they have a good chance of reaching their full potential.

In addition, children with disabilities must also have competent caregivers who are knowledgeable on how to best help them successfully engage the world during their day to day lives in preparation of them living independently.

Children with chronic conditions like asthma, sickle cell anemia, autism, respiratory disorders, cognitive disorders, brain injuries, physical disabilities, muscular dystrophy or other serious medical conditions should not be robbed of a childhood or their independence as adults.

All children can benefit from efforts that are aimed at keeping them safe from preventable injury, illness, and death.

Parents and families fill an indispensible role in the lives of children, and the CPC budget recognizes that there is a strong public interest in ensuring that children have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

It is in the public interest that children are free of disease, illness, injury, violence, consume sufficient amounts of foods with high nutritional value that support health growth, arrive to the learning environment ready to learn. Parents, teachers, communities and students should be empowered to decide for themselves how best to build strong collaborative relationships to reach these basic goals in support of their children.

The interconnectedness of economies makes the welfare of children in the United States critical to the future of our nation. If we are to remain globally relevant we must understand that our nation's ability to remain first in the areas of innovation, commerce, science, engineering, and global relevance is tied to how well the next generation is physically, mentally and emotionally prepared to lead, support, or engage their futures.

We are at a point where children receive less than 8 percent of the federal budget. Since the peak in 2010, totaling $35 billion in spending on children there has been a 16 percent drop. Total spending on children has declined for three years in a row according to First Focus, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families.

The CPC Budget plan will protect and strengthen programs that support children and their families as well as address the needs of our recovering economy, reduce the deficit in a responsible way, while continuing to invest in the things that make our country strong like education, health care, innovation, and clean energy.

Mr. Chair, this Republican budget is bad for America but the CPC's budget is the cure.

1. If the Republican budget resolution were to become the basis of federal fiscal policy, 3,435,336 Texas seniors would be forced out of traditional Medicare and into a voucher program. Under the Republican plan to end Medicare as we know it, Texas seniors will receive a voucher instead of guaranteed benefits under traditional Medicare.

2. For the 3,435,336 Texans aged 45–54, the value of their vouchers would be capped at growth levels that are lower than the projected increases in health care costs. Previous analyses showed that this type of plan would cut future spending by $5,900 per senior, forcing them to spend more out of pocket and diminishing their access to quality care.

3. Additionally, private insurance plans will aggressively pursue the healthiest, least expensive enrollees, thereby allowing Medicare—currently the lifeline for 3,187,332 Texas seniors—to ''wither on the vine.''

4. If the Republican budget resolution were to be adopted by Congress, 206,304 Texas seniors would pay more for prescription drugs next year.

5. The Republican plan would re-open the ''donut hole,'' forcing seniors to pay the full cost of their prescription drugs if their yearly drug expenses are more than $2,970 for the year.

6. Seniors reaching the prescription drug ''donut hole'' would pay an average of $828 more in prescription drug costs in 2014 and approximately $13,000 more from now through 2022.

7. Under the Republican budget, the 2,445,462 Texas seniors who utilized free preventive services currently covered by Medicare in 2012 will face increased costs in the form of higher deductibles, co-insurance, and copayments for certain services, including even cancer screenings and annual wellness visits.

8. The Republican budget slashes $31.71 billion in nursing home care and other health care services for 754,500 Texas seniors and disabled who currently rely on Medicaid for their long-term care needs.

9. The draconian cuts included in the Republican budget would have a devastating impact on the 1,191 certified nursing homes in Texas that serve 91,717 seniors, with more than half relying on Medicaid as their primary payer. As a result, nursing homes would be forced to slash services, turn away seniors, or close their doors.

Mr. Chair, the Better Off Budget enhances programs that close the growing wealth gap, including ensuring equal access to job opportunities, properly funding public education and enhancing programs that allow American families to get through tough times. Women and communities of color have been disproportionately impacted by recent budget cuts, particularly at the state and local levels.

The CPC budget increases the Education, Training and Social Services budget function by $243 billion and the Income Security budget function by $323 billion over 10 years.

Specifically, the Alternative Budgets proposed by the CPC: help create more jobs now; replace the sequester; make key education investments; invest in research and development and clean energy; invest in long-term infrastructure; preserve Medicare as we know it; protect health reform's benefits for seniors; protect Medicaid for seniors in nursing homes; preserve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP); reduce the deficit through a smart, targeted, and steady approach provides tax relief for working families and ends tax breaks for the wealthy; take a balanced approach to reducing the long-term deficits and debt; and put the budget on a sustainable path.

It is said often, Mr. Chair, but is no less true, that the federal budget is more than a financial document; it is an expression of the nation's most cherished values. As the late and great former senator and Vice-President Hubert Humphrey said:

''The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.''

For that reason that in evaluating the merits of a budget resolution, it is not enough to subject it only to the test of fiscal responsibility. To keep faith with the nation's past, to be fair to the nation's present, and to safeguard the nation's future, the budget must also pass a ''moral test.''

The Republican budget resolution fails both of these standards. The Democratic alternatives do not. For these compelling reasons, I stand in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 96 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this ill-conceived and unwise measure.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 113–405.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) to offer amendment No. 3, the Congressional Progressive Caucus' Better Off Budget substitute.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

(a) DECLARATION.—Congress declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015 and that this resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2014 and for fiscal years 2016 through 2024.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2015.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Sec. 101. Recommended levels and amounts.
Sec. 102. Major functional categories.

TITLE II—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING

Sec. 201. Direct spending.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 301. Point of order against advance appropriations.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2024:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: $2,267,180,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: $2,831,675,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $3,212,240,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $3,374,939,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,506,794,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,641,750,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,802,349,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,981,657,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $4,177,945,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $4,381,636,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,601,863,000,000

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: -$18,146,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: $297,834,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $536,201,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $585,516,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $616,487,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $627,065,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $653,712,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $687,006,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $721,598,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $755,118,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $794,410,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: $3,247,639,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: $3,519,727,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $3,641,609,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $3,702,936,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,807,478,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,993,030,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $4,179,140,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $4,345,383,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $4,582,988,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $4,737,205,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,885,880,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: $3,208,699,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: $3,501,527,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $3,620,608,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $3,679,942,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $3,783,105,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $3,959,198,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $4,128,470,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $4,307,080,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $4,545,882,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $4,687,974,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $4,823,437,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits (on-budget) are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: −$941,519,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: −$669,852,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: −$408,368,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: −$305,003,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: −$276,311,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: −$317,448,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: −$326,121,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: −$325,423,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: −$367,937,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: −306,338,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: −$221,574,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: $18,065,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: $18,906,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $19,464,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $19,967,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $20,459,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $20,980,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $21,501,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $22,019,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $22,553,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $23,061,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $23,520,000,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2014: $13,106,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015: $13,815,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016: $14,256,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017: $14,594,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018: $14,908,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019: $15,287,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $15,701,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $16,148,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $16,671,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $17,159,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $17,607,000,000,000.

SEC. 102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

The Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2014 through 2024 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $613,587,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $611,778,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $529,658,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $567,234,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $531,585,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $547,345,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $544,671,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $541,996,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $557,935,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $545,358,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $571,220,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $560,986,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $585,516,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $573,804,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $599,838,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $587,870,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $615,493,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $607,783,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $631,503,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $618,343,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $647,988,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $628,997,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $60,107,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,493,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $60,508,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $54,815,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $66,680,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $60,110,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $65,236,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $62,027,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $63,838,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $61,630,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $64,917,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $61,946,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $66,065,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $62,410,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $66,734,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $62,985,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $68,857,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $64,511,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $70,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,177,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $72,711,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $67,968,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):

Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $33,098,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,940,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $37,383,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,702,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $40,476,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,056,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $39,888,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,209,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $39,336,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $40,035,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,606,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $40,772,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,200,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $41,514,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,767,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $42,624,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $41,674,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $43,749,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $42,726,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $44,914,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,844,000,000.

(4) Energy (270):

Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $16,109,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $13,037,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $22,548,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $18,159,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $26,624,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,660,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $22,500,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,988,000,000.

Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $19,807,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,731,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $19,893,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,438,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $19,994,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,484,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $20,111,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,597,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $20,911,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,097,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $21,831,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,886,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $23,091,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,773,000,000.
(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $39,106,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,209,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $45,088,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,190,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $48,317,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,928,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $48,577,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,147,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $49,247,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,695,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $50,492,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,342,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $52,108,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $51,635,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $52,553,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,274,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $54,222,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,583,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $55,858,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,217,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $57,664,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $56,347,000,000.
(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $21,350,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,773,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $19,017,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,270,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $21,950,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,496,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $20,389,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,718,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $20,113,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,415,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $20,261,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,583,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $20,529,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,981,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $20,899,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,364,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $21,166,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,648,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $21,544,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,025,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $21,932,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,418,000,000.
(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority,- $78,271,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$90,740,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $19,572,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,323,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $23,392,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,166,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $19,977,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,125,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $19,247,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,793,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $18,883,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$2,792,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $21,215,000,000.
(B) Outlays, -$1,117,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $20,525,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,281,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $21,984,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,089,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $22,519,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,432,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $23,352,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,069,000,000.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $160,476,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $167,686,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $201,774,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $208,281,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $172,720,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $179,129,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $173,700,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $179,443,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $164,705,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $169,945,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $160,697,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $166,142,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $151,764,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $157,221,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $154,327,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $160,238,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $156,968,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $163,623,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $159,648,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $167,073,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $162,424,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $170,501,000,000.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $20,813,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,424,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $25,850,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,910,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $29,178,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,400,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $28,026,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,876,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $27,005,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,952,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $27,079,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,189,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $27,062,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,496,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $27,287,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $26,342,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $27,955,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,319,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $28,692,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,781,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $29,495,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $26,623,000,000.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $261,153,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $258,064,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $230,723,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $230,478,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $160,800,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $159,280,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $135,667,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $132,191,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $131,300,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $131,549,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $127,945,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $127,648,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $129,527,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $129,101,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $130,966,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $130,596,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $133,923,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $132,653,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $136,966,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $135,505,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $140,110,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $138,546,000,000.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $424,420,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $419,542,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $513,727,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $504,096,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $579,270,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $578,234,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $632,324,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $630,006,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $653,338,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $654,868,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $688,193,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $688,436,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $734,634,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $724,190,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $765,783,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $764,877,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $807,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $806,128,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $850,655,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $848,896,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $897,725,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $896,110,000,000.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2014:

(A) New budget authority, $525,635,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $525,132,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $537,777,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $537,667,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $578,698,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $578,619,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $584,606,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $584,530,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $607,547,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $607,461,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $668,007,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $667,913,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $713,427,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $713,329,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $761,672,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $761,573,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $844,700,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $844,593,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $870,769,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $870,659,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $894,893,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $894,776,000,000.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $609,097,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $601,095,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $679,289,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $667,543,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $698,462,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $691,417,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $650,569,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $645,904,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $636,789,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $630,050,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $643,578,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $639,657,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $660,956,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $656,666,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $679,518,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $674,485,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $704,717,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $703,166,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $721,635,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $714,933,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $737,608,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $725,532,000,000.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $28,711,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,821,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $31,442,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,517,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $34,245,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,283,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $37,133,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,133,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $40,138,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,138,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $43,383,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,383,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $46,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $46,747,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $50,255,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $53,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,941,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $57,800,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $58,441,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,441,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $155,374,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $150,436,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $167,617,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $163,117,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $184,961,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $180,688,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $181,358,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $180,318,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $177,388,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $177,547,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $189,305,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $188,757,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $194,269,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $193,441,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $198,571,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $197,596,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $211,365,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $209,954,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $208,844,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $207,308,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $206,401,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $204,744,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $56,658,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,538,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $74,842,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $60,500,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $69,293,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $67,982,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $67,795,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $72,488,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $68,094,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $73,113,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $69,843,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $70,709,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $71,773,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,377,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $73,923,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $73,343,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $77,002,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $76,168,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $79,450,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $78,532,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $85,522,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $84,553,000,000.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $24,250,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,405,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $25,042,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,955,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $25,605,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,162,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $26,202,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,925,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $27,013,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $26,736,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $27,870,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,426,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $28,705,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,228,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $29,620,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,150,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $30,545,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,078,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $31,416,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,002,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $32,356,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,886,000,000.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $337,021,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $337,021,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $372,402,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $372,402,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $431,031,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $431,031,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $506,850,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $506,850,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $587,294,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $587,294,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $651,403,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $651,403,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $704,759,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $704,759,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $745,853,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $745,853,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $785,189,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $785,189,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $822,741,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $822,741,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $854,052,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $854,052,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $11,300,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,400,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, $4,000,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,900,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, $1,700,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, $1,100,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,700,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, $1,300,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,500,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $400,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $1,200,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,400,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $1,000,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,200,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $1,700,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $2,200,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,300,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $2,299,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,355,000,000.
(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, −$72,355,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$72,355,000,000.
Fiscal year 2015:
(A) New budget authority, −$78,532,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$78,532,000,000.
Fiscal year 2016:
(A) New budget authority, −$83,378,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$83,378,000,000.
Fiscal year 2017:
(A) New budget authority, −$83,632,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$83,632,000,000.
Fiscal year 2018:
(A) New budget authority, −83,956,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$83,956,000,000.
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, −90,374,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$90,374,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, −$91,882,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$91,882,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, −$95,566,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −95,566,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, −$98,215,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$98,215,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, −$101,362,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$101,362,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, −$107,098,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$107,098,000,000.

TITLE II—ESTIMATES OF DIRECT SPENDING

SEC. 201. DIRECT SPENDING.

(a) MEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 6.8 percent.

(2) For means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 11-year period beginning with fiscal year 2014 is 5.8 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for means-tested direct spending:

(A) The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act expanded a number of tax credits targeted at working families to boost relief during hard economic times. The Better Off Budget retains the improvements made to the Earned Income Tax Credit (qualifying children and phase-out range), Child and Dependent Care Credit, and the American Opportunity Tax Credit. These credits fuel demand for American businesses by putting money in the hands of families. The Better Off Budget also adopts the EITC improvements proposed in President Obama's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request, which would double the maximum credit and increase the income level at which the credit is fully phased out. The proposal would also make the credit available to young adult workers and raise the upper age to 67, which harmonizes it with recent increases in the Social Security full retirement age. With this reform, the Better Off Budget would help reduce poverty for childless households and provide substantial relief to approximately 13.5 million low-income workers.

(B) As a part of its response to the recent financial crisis, Congress wisely enacted tax provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and subsequent job creation legislative packages that provided direct assistance to working individuals. The expiration of both the Making Work Pay tax credit and the temporary cut to the payroll tax have slowed our country's economic recovery and taken money out of the pockets of hard-working Americans. The Better Off Budget implements a new Hard Work Tax Credit to reward Americans for their hard work. This policy would provide a refundable tax credit for 2014 and 2015 for up to $600 for working individuals earning less than $95,000 and up to $1,200 for households earning less than $190,000. The credit would be continued in 2016 with the maximum amount of $300 for individuals and $600 for households. Through the enactment of the Hard Work Tax Credit, the Better Off Budget would immediately increase the disposable income of low and middle income families.

(C) The unemployment rate is still far higher than it was when President George W. Bush signed the emergency benefits program into law. Cutting unemployment benefits has damaged our economic recovery. The Better Off Budget extends Emergency Unemployment Compensation to allows those who have lost a job through no fault of their own to claim up to 99 weeks of unemployment benefits in high-unemployment states for up to two years. According to the Economic Policy Institute, this would boost real GDP growth by 0.4 percentage points and increase employment by 539,000 jobs in 2014.

(D) The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act temporarily increased benefit levels for beneficiaries of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Better Off Budget would reverse recent SNAP cuts adopted in the Agricultural Act of 2014 and return benefits to ARRA levels. These reforms will help combat hunger and boost economic growth.

(b) NONMEANS-TESTED DIRECT SPENDING.—

(1) For non means-tested direct spending, the average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 10-year period preceding fiscal year 2015 is 5.7 percent.

(2) For non means-tested direct spending, the estimated average rate of growth in the total level of outlays during the 11-year period beginning with fiscal year 2014 is 5.0 percent under current law.

(3) The following reforms are proposed in this concurrent resolution for non means-tested direct spending:

(A) Medicare is a cornerstone of the American health care system for more than 45 million American seniors. It is an exemplary program that provides the most efficient care to a segment of the population that costs more to treat. The Better Off Budget protects beneficiaries and makes the system even more efficient. It amends Part D of Medicare to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate prescription drug prices with pharmaceutical manufacturers, as the Department of Veterans Affairs currently does, which will save Medicare $157 billion over 10 years and will reduce costs for seniors. The budget adopts policies to prohibit ''pay for delay'' agreements that reduce competition and modifies periods of exclusivity to increase availability of needed therapies. The budget also accelerates the use of bundling payments as an alternative to fee-for-service payments. It builds on Affordable Care Act efficiencies in administration of information and payments. Using standardized electronic systems of administration information such as claims, billing payments and eligibility creates a more efficient and less fragmented health care system.

(B) The Better Off Budget recognizes that the economic security of veterans, retirees, and the disabled has eroded during the recent economic recession. The Better Off Budget would reverse this trend by expanding benefits for these Americans by adopting the Experimental Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) to calculate cost-of-living adjustments for federal retirement programs other than Social Security. Affected programs include civil service retirement, military retirement, Supplemental Security Income, veteran's pensions and compensations. CPI-E is the most sensible and accurate measure of the real costs that seniors face in retirement. Other measures do not adequately take into account rising expenditures in retirement, such as health care costs, and amount to cutting benefits for those on fixed incomes.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 301. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, except as provided in subsection (b), any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making a general appropriation or continuing appropriation may not provide for advance appropriations.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Advance appropriations may be provided for all programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''advance appropriation'' means any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making general appropriations or any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015 that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2015.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 544, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, the Congressional Progressive Caucus brings to the House a budget that is a blueprint for economic growth and opportunity for all Americans.

In the course of the last few weeks and certainly the last few days, we have heard over and over from our colleagues in various hearings and here on the floor about the growth gap in America, and the policies that are being reinforced in the Ryan budget, in my estimation, created that growth gap.

We are here today with a budget that assures that we deal with all the gaps that the American people have, income inequality gap, wage disparity gap, education gap, the minimum wage gap, the gender pay gap between men and women, and the jobs gap that is present in our country at this point.

The best way to get out of poverty is to go to work. Everybody knows that. Our budget, within 3 years, creates 8.8 million jobs.

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, the abbreviated remarks by my friend, the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, belie the challenge before us with this budget. The Congressional Progressives, the far left in the House,

don't disappoint with the budget that they bring to the floor today.

What is the top line? Taxes, increasing taxes by $6.6 trillion over current policy; spending, increasing spending by $3.3 trillion dollars over current policy.

What about that all-important issue of defense in a very dangerous world? A $7 billion increase—a $7 billion increase at a time when our Nation is seeing significant and increasing threats.

Does it ever come into balance? Never—never does this budget come into balance.

One would think that, given the challenges that we have from the debt—the $17 trillion-plus in debt—that this would be an irresponsible budget, and one would be correct in saying so.

Let's look at some of the particulars here. Taxes, relative to the Republican budget, this alternative increases taxes by roughly $6.6 trillion over 10 years. This caucus budget contains trillions of dollars in new tax increases focused on penalizing those who are creating wealth and creating jobs in this country.

This budget that is being proposed today would actually decrease the number of jobs available. These are tax policies that are motivated out of a notion of ''fairness,'' but a warped notion of fairness, where the Tax Code's primary purpose is to redistribute income and equalize outcome. These policies clearly end up hampering growth and job creation.

What about spending? Mr. Chairman, this budget that is being proposed spends a whopping $8.4 trillion more than the Republican budget—$8.4 trillion, as if we had it growing on trees.

It doubles down on the Obama administration's failed economic policies and stimulus program by calling for trillions of dollars of new domestic spending, borrowing more and more money from overseas, compromising our kids' and our grandkids' future.

In the area of health—people look at the budget of the United States. They recognize that the biggest challenges that we have are in the area of health care spending, particularly Medicare and Medicaid, both of those programs going broke. Both of them going broke, bankrupt.

What does that mean? It means that those programs, in a relatively short period of time, won't have the resources to be able to provide the services to seniors and those on Medicaid that have been promised to them, unless something is done.

What does this budget do? It further increases the overreach of the Federal Government in the area of health care, putting the government in charge of health care, as opposed to individuals. It embraces a policy that would lead directly—directly—to completing the government takeover of health care.

However, I do want to mention a bright light in this budget. The Progressive budget actually recognizes that the alternative, utilizing a block grant of Federal funding to the States, is a wise idea. We call it State flexibility, giving States greater flexibility with the use of resources; and I want to commend the Progressive Caucus for recognizing that that is a reasonable method of proceeding.

What about job training? This budget expands the current broken Federal job training system by calling for more spending, despite the GAO's findings that dozens of Federal programs that already exist overlap and are duplicative. In fact, they harm the ability of jobs to be created.

In January of 2011, the Government Accountability Office issued a report that found 47 overlapping Federal job training programs that spent approximately $18 billion in 2009. Does this budget do anything to decrease that duplication and redundant efforts? No, not a doggone thing.

Then defense, as I mentioned at the beginning, Mr. Chairman, this substitute fails in the Federal Government's first responsibility, providing for the common defense. This substitute guts the defense budget by calling for $569 billion in cuts to the Pentagon, compared to the Republican budget. These are levels that would reduce military readiness and hollow out our forces.

This is a very dangerous world, Mr. Chairman. You don't have to take my word for it. Listen to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, who recently testified:

> Our current security challenges are more formidable and complex than those we faced in downturns following war in Korea, Vietnam, and the cold war. There is no foreseeable ''peace dividend'' on our horizon. The security environment is increasingly competitive and dangerous.

Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that decreasing the ability of our men and women standing in harm's way and defending our liberty and freedom at this time is an absolutely reckless and irresponsible move.

I know that our colleagues in the House of Representatives recognize that it is important to have all sorts of alternatives being proposed.

I commend the Progressive Caucus for proposing this alternative, but any review of this budget recognizes that it spends more than it should, it taxes more than it should, it expands the role of government more than it should, and it doesn't address the real challenges of the day in a way that brings about positive and real solutions.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, at this point, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chair, we hear over and over again from Republicans about how we can't afford to make investments in education and infrastructure and science and medical research, and we can't keep our promises to seniors; but at the same time, over the past 5 years, we have raised less Federal revenue, as a percent of GDP, than in any 5-year period since 1941.

But this country, my colleagues, has never been richer. The Wall Street Journal said last month:

> U.S. wealth rises, but not all benefit.

The top 1 percent of earners have received 95 percent of the income gains in this country since 2009, and at least eight Americans earned more than $5 billion in income last year.

So what is the disconnect? Why are we richer than ever before, but unable to invest in basic priorities?

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The answer is that PAUL RYAN and the House Republicans refuse to raise a dime from the millionaires, billionaires, and multinational corporations that dodge their fair share of taxes. It would even pad the pockets of the wealthiest Americans. The Ryan budget says, if you make $1 million next year, that budget would give you a $200,000 tax break.

Our budget presents a stark contrast to the austerity proposals peddled by this Republican Congress. In order to add 8.8 million jobs to the economy over the next 3 years and provide Americans an opportunity to get a good education, find a job, live in a safe and secure home, and afford decent food, we raise revenue that is needed. We do so by asking millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share—yes, we do—and by closing egregious corporate loopholes, including incentives to ship jobs overseas. We would also cut $4 trillion from the deficit over the next decade.

Look, we can't build the economy for the many—not just the monied—unless we make significant investments in our future. Those investments can and should be made by raising revenue and growing our economy.

I urge my colleagues to support the Better Off Budget.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased now to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE), a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, the Congressional Progressive Caucus' Better Off Budget is really a bigger government budget. The Progressive Caucus substitute increases total spending relative to the Republican budget by $8.4 trillion over the next 10 years. American families, and particularly our children and our grandchildren, cannot afford this next year, and absolutely not for the next 10 years. This bigger government budget creates new taxes, more regulation, duplicative Federal programs, and will stifle progress across the board.

People, this is not complicated. We need a budget that will grow our economy. Higher taxes, higher deficits, and bigger regulation will never grow the economy. If we put folks back to work,

we solve a lot of problems. We solve unemployment problems, deficit problems, poverty problems, income inequality problems, crime problems, drug problems, and problems across the board.

The number one issue in my district, and I believe the number one issue in this Nation, is jobs. Five years after the Great Recession, the economy continues to struggle, and far too many Americans remain out of work. Mr. Obama's Big Government economy has failed.

We can solve this problem. It is not rocket science. We can build our economy and put hardworking Americans back to work if only we will take a few steps to make America more competitive. Just like counties across the country compete for jobs, just like States lower tax rates and streamline regulations to attract industry and jobs—and you can look at States and see what they are doing and how they are successful—we must adopt an attitude here in Washington that we will compete in the world if we expect to stop sending our jobs overseas and bring American jobs back home.

If we retain the world's highest corporate tax rate, how can we expect to compete in the world? If Washington continues to spend more than we take in, threatening our entire economy, how can we expect to compete in the world? If we continue to build upon our already oppressive regulatory burden, how can we expect to compete in the world?

This is where I believe my friends across the aisle miss the mark. They seem to believe and preach that somehow making this country competitive benefits only the wealthy. But the truth is that people with high assets and high skills do well in a global environment. They can compete from anywhere.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. But the longer we wait to enter the global competition for jobs, the more we damage the hardworking folks in the middle class. We will not grow our economy or put people back to work by expanding entitlements. We will never solve the problems of poverty and inequality through bigger government.

If America will enter the global competition for jobs, our economy will accelerate and the sky is the limit. This is not a Republican issue. This is not a Democrat issue. This is an American issue. We are so blessed that if we simply decide to compete, no one can stop us.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, it should be noted for my colleague that the Republican budget, according to the Economic Policy Institute, will slow the recovery, costing 1.1 million jobs in fiscal year 2015, rising to costing nearly 3 million jobs the next year. That is not a budget of growth.

I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), the cochair.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, our Republican colleagues have been saying for maybe 100 years that if we don't regulate and have fair, good rules for health and safety and financial markets and in other areas of our economy, and if we don't tax people, the wealthy and corporations, then our economy will take off. They have been saying this for years. They didn't just start saying it with Bush or Reagan. They were saying it back in the thirties.

Thank God the American people did not listen to them, because it was in the thirties that we put up the SEC, we put regulations on banks, and we put other sorts of health, safety, and commonsense regulations in place. Because of that, between 1948 and about 1975, we had an expanding economy. Sometimes tax rates were way higher than they are now.

They are wrong. They don't know economic history, and so they continue to repeat Herbert Hoover-type myths that were dispelled decades ago. Oh, but they came back and they deregulated the economy in the late 1990s, and then in the early 2000s they cut taxes on the wealthy, and we have had a dismal jobs economy since that time.

The Better Off Budget is here to present a better alternative that involves investment in our Nation's economy to put Americans back to work. The Better Off Budget puts 8.8 million Americans back to work by doing something that everyone—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—agrees that everyone needs: we invest in infrastructure. We put $820 billion into fixing our roads, our bridges, and our smart grids, into our transit systems and our wastewater treatment systems. We invest in our Nation's infrastructure.

Just like under the great Republican President Dwight Eisenhower, as we invest in infrastructure, we put people to work building it, and we make our economy more productive as we use it. This is exactly what this version of Republicans—my goodness—doesn't understand, that you have got to invest in the economy in order to reap benefits from the economy.

The Better Off Budget puts 8.8 million people back to work. The Ryan budget puts 3 million people out of work. Vote ''yes'' on the Better Off Budget today.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, may I request the remaining time on each side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia has 5¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Arizona has 9¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from California, Ms. BARBARA LEE, the leader in the Progressive Caucus.

Ms. LEE of California. I want to thank our cochairs, Congressmen GRIJALVA and ELLISON, for their very hard work on this budget, which is a better-off budget. As former cochair of the Progressive Caucus, I rise in proud support of this budget because each year this budget continues to get better and better.

As a member of the Budget and the Appropriations Committees, I was really, once again, appalled by the devastating cuts that the Ryan Republican budget makes to the safety net.

The number one priority of our budget is fixing the jobs crisis, and that is exactly what the CPC budget would do. The Progressive Caucus budget asks the wealthiest 1 percent—Big Oil and huge corporations—to pay a little more, just a little more, so that we can afford to invest in the American people and create over 8 million jobs over the next 3 years alone. The CPC budget replaces the disastrous sequester by supporting critical spending in education, infrastructure, and rejecting benefit cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

While the Republican budget continues to keep the American Dream out of reach for all Americans, it would increase spending for the already-bloated Pentagon budget.

Chairman RYAN's report on poverty refuses to acknowledge the fact that Head Start and all of the Great Society initiatives have kept millions out of poverty. They have worked. Raising the minimum wage for single mothers provides a pathway out of poverty. Mr. RYAN's report does not acknowledge the facts. Taxpayers, for example, subsidize corporations to the tune of over $200 billion just to keep people in the ranks of the working poor.

The CPC budget eliminates the Overseas Contingency Operations slush fund and supports a modern military able to face real, 21st-century threats. Once again, we provide economic growth and jobs in our budget, and we require the Pentagon—the largest single Federal agency with the highest waste, fraud, and abuse—to pass an audit and to pass it now.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield the gentlelady an additional 10 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. I just want to conclude by saying that we simply can't continue to write a blank check for spending on war if we are really going to have any chance of getting our fiscal house in order. We can't do this to America's struggling families and the working poor. That is what the American people deserve. With our budget, the Better Off Budget, our country will be better off.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA).

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, many of our Democratic colleagues have already spoken about what is wrong with the House Republican budget and how it slashes our investments in education, infrastructure, research and development, job training, and medical research; how it repeals all the benefits of the Affordable Care Act; how it leaves 7 million Americans without health insurance, ends the Medicare guarantee, and institutes massive cuts to our most vulnerable populations; how it pays for new tax cuts for millionaires by taking away tax breaks that help the working poor and the middle class—and that is all true. But I want to talk about the alternative vision for this country that we in the Progressive Caucus have crafted.

The Better Off Budget meets the challenges that our communities face head-on. It expresses our belief that America's future is bright and worth investing in.

One of the pieces I am most proud of is the application of the CPI-E to all Federal retirement programs. The CPI-E uses the most accurate and sensible measure of the real costs that seniors face for programs like civil service retirement, military retirement, Supplemental Security Income, and the veterans' pensions.

Seniors deserve a cost of living that accounts for the rising costs of retirement, such as health care. I urge my colleagues to support a better deal for our seniors, support a better future for our middle class, and support a vision that will leave us all better off. The Better Off Budget offers all of this.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE), a productive and active member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Chairman, they call it the Better Off Budget, but I am wondering who is really better off?

It is certainly not the small business woman from California who, under this plan, maybe she is earning $260,000 a year—not a billionaire and millionaire like they claim—and she will see her combined taxes, Federal taxes and State taxes, exceed 51 percent. She is certainly not better off.

How about the people she might have hired if she didn't have this tax increase? Well, they are not better off. Or maybe the people who work for her now who can't get a raise because she now is extended here? They are not better off. It is certainly not the businessowner who might provide a piece of equipment that this small business woman might buy but she no longer can afford. He is no longer better off. I can't see anybody who is better off under this system.

Here I would ask—and I want to talk a little bit about freedom in this last minute. Imagine this same businesswoman getting up on January 1, going to work and working all of January. She gets her paycheck, and it is zero because 100 percent was sent to Washington, D.C. she does it again in February, and it is zero because 100 percent gets sent to Washington, D.C.

□ 1645

She does it again in March and April and May, 100 percent of all her effort comes here. She doesn't get to keep a penny of it. All of the month of June, it all goes to government. This is not a free person. Mr. Chairman, I ask, is that free or is it indentured servitude?

We have a free country where people should, in fact, be better off, and the way to make them better off is to let them keep what they earn, and that is what the House Republican budget does, and that is why I encourage my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the Progressive budget and vote ''yes'' on the House Budget Committee's budget.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, it should be noted the Republican budget, the Ryan budget, raises taxes for middle class families with kids by an average of $2,000 in order to coddle, I guess, the very wealthy in this country. They are better off; that middle class family is not.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), a member of the Budget Committee and the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, the Better Off Budget will make our country more competitive and will create 8.8 million jobs through investments, repairing our roads and bridges, modernizing our waterways, and educating our young people. It is the only budget that gets America back to full employment, and does it within 3 years.

The Better Off Budget puts an end to a system where CEOs pay a lower tax rate than their secretaries and corporations get unneeded tax breaks. This budget restores full funding to food stamps and strengthens Medicare and Medicaid. It makes a clear choice to support working and middle class families, seniors and those in need, and to reinstate fairness in our economy.

For the fourth year in a row, Republicans choose to hurt the many while lavishing benefits on the wealthy few. They choose to slash 3 million jobs and destroy the safety net. They choose to dismantle Medicare and Medicaid and slash aide to college students. They choose huge tax cuts for billionaires and tax increases for the middle class. The Republican budget makes a clear choice—billionaires before working Americans and seniors.

The Better Off Budget is about building an economy that creates jobs and supports working and middle class families, not just the richest 1 percent. I urge my colleagues to invest in this country and support the Better Off Budget.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. May I inquire as to the time remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Arizona has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, the House has put out a responsible budget under the Budget Committee that balances in 10 years. But this is an opportunity for us to actually see the vision, the ideas of the Democratic Party. If they were in control, what would they give us to try to bring America to a more sustainable path?

What they give us, Mr. Chairman, is $6.6 trillion in new taxes. If I had $1 for every time I hear, ''If we just had a balanced approach and we could raise taxes on a millionaires and billionaires,'' if I had $1 for each one of those comments, I think we would balance the budget.

If that were the case, raise taxes on millionaires and billionaires, you would think that they would come up with a budget that actually balances. The bottom line, my friends across the aisle, even raising taxes on millionaires and billionaires, their budget never balances. In their ideal budget, the Medicare trust fund still goes bankrupt in 12 years. If you are going to raise taxes, let's fix the problems. This is rife with huge issues.

Listen, I think the real secret here that my friends on the other side of the aisle are not telling the American people is that they do have a way to pay for this, and the way to pay for it is not through millionaires and billionaires. They are going to pay it by taxing hardworking middle class families, raising their taxes in a way to pay for greater government spending. It is a budget that actually looks to government programs, government giveaways, instead of looking to the private sector to actually grow our economy.

Listen, I think you couldn't have a better example of two different views about what direction you take the country: one of big government and big taxes on millionaires and billionaires and middle class Americans, or a responsible budget that reforms the way we spend, makes government responsible, and actually keeps our promises to the American people.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, budgets are about choices. We choose investment. We choose not to cut Medicare benefits to give tax breaks to the very wealthy, millionaires and billionaires in the country. It is a choice.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), a member of the caucus.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, the Better Off Budget would create 8.8 million jobs over its first 3 years by investing in infrastructure, education, training, and research. It would invest $100 billion in teachers and schools and $81 billion in science.

A person or a country invests with the hope and expectation that investing some resources now will give us a better future, give us savings, give us a better quality of life so that we will be better off. America's optimistic outlook has made America great and strong.

The Ryan budget is a very pessimistic document. It is based on the premise that we cannot afford to invest in infrastructure and in science and education. We have to cut, we have to shrink, we have to reduce our efforts and hunker down. We can't afford to do things, anything.

The wealthiest Nation on Earth should invest as if we have a future. Quite simply, the Better Off Budget invests as if we will have a tomorrow. It ends the absurd, pessimistic cuts of the Budget Control Act and the pessimistic Ryan budget.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona has 3¼ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 2 minutes remaining and the right to close.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, the Progressive Caucus' Better Off Budget is optimistic. It is about investing in America in job growth by investing in infrastructure, public works, and education. By repealing sequestration cuts, restoring funding for SNAP benefits and unemployment insurance and investing in programs to hire police, firefighters, and health care workers, the Better Off Budget will create 8.8 million good jobs by 2017. It also embodies our American values by implementing comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship and protects our environment by addressing climate change. The Better Off Budget stands for our Nation's commitments by supporting veterans, protecting Medicare and Social Security, and implementing a fair tax system.

I urge my colleagues, be optimistic about America. Make America better off by voting for the Progressive Caucus budget.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), a member of the caucus and the Budget Committee.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I think the gentleman from northwest Wisconsin is right: let's put the budgets side by side.

The Better Off Budget will create 8.8 million jobs. The Republican PAUL RYAN budget will cut 3 million jobs. That is equivalent to the entire workforce of the State of Wisconsin.

If you have family with kids going to school, the Better Off Budget invests into hiring more teachers, invests in our schools and pre-K, invests in our college students. The PAUL RYAN Republican budget, it cuts $18 billion in early education, $89 billion in K–12 education, and $205 billion in higher education. Oh, and if you get Pell grants, another $145 billion cut.

Senior citizens, we invest in Medicare and Medicaid and we make sure you can negotiate for your drug prices. Seniors under the Republican budget, you voucherize Medicare and you will lose $732 billion in Medicaid. And, oh, yeah, we are going to open up the doughnut hole and you will pay more for prescription drugs.

Finally, on taxes, we close corporate loopholes for gas and oil companies. We make sure that companies sending jobs overseas don't get tax breaks. The Republican budget, it cuts taxes on millionaires on average $200,000 each. And you know how it gets paid for? On the backs of the middle class, $2,000 per family.

The head of the Budget Committee said it is a win/win budget. It is a win for the top 1 percent. It is a win for the second percentile, and the other 98 percent of us pay the difference.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, this budget is about choice. The Better Off Budget believes in the American people. It believes in investing in the American people and in their future. It is the best road to economic health and full economic opportunity in this country.

Our budget does not look at government or the American people with disdain. We feel that government has a role, quite frankly, to stimulate, to support, and to take care of the American people as we grow our economy. We can't cut our way out of what we are in; we need to grow our way out. The Ryan budget continues the same pattern of austerity that is sinking us deeper into unemployment, lack of jobs, and lack of investment in the American people.

I urge Members to vote ''yes'' on the Congressional Progressive Better Off Budget. We feel it is a strong budget and that it represents the ideals of the American people. We trust the American people, and we invest in the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, we have heard a lot about this budget, a lot of information, and a lot of numbers have been tossed around. My friends on the other side say that their budget will create 8.8 million jobs; where does that come from? It was made up. They say that our budget slashes 3 million jobs; where does that come from? It was made up. They say our budget will increase taxes on the middle class; where does that come from? It was made up.

What is a fact about jobs? A fact about jobs is the President's health care law, the Congressional Budget Office has said, will decrease the equivalent of 2.5 million jobs. That is a fact. That is a fact.

So if my friends, my colleagues in the House here, if you want to increase taxes by $6.6 trillion, vote for their budget. If you want $8.4 trillion in more spending over the next decade, vote for their budget. If you want to increase debt by $8.2 trillion more than the Republican budget, vote for that budget.

We believe there is a better way, that there are real solutions. We recognize this is a dangerous world; therefore, we increase spending on defense and making certain that our men and women who stand in harm's way have the resources they need. We believe that opportunity needs to be expanded and pro-growth tax policies are the things that get the economy rolling again and get jobs being created.

We understand that Medicare and Medicaid are in difficult straits financially, something that our friends on the other side of the aisle bury their heads in the sand about, so we put in place in our budget a program to save and strengthen and secure Medicare and Medicaid, recognizing that patients need to be in charge of health care, not the Federal Government.

We recognize that energy policy needs to be expanded so that we responsibly utilize the blessing and the resources that have been provided so that we can become energy independent as a country and not rely on nations that don't like us.

We also recognize that balancing the budget is imperative if we are going to get our fiscal house in order and get our economy back on track. Our budget is the only budget that is being presented on the floor of this House, compared to the other side of the aisle, that gets to balance. Our budget, compared to the other side of the aisle, not only gets to balance, gets us on a path to paying off our entire debt. It is a positive, optimistic budget. I urge support of the Republican budget and defeat of the Progressive budget.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 113–405 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. MULVANEY of South Carolina.

Amendment No. 2 by Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 2, noes 413, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 171]

AYES—2

Kaptur
Moran

NOES—413

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—16

Bass
Burgess
Carter
Farenthold
Flores
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Jackson Lee
Lewis
McAllister
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Ross
Runyan
Schwartz
Williams

□ 1724

Messrs. BROUN of Georgia and ROKITA changed their votes from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 116, noes 300, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 172]

AYES—116

Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Crowley
Cummings
Davis, Danny
DeLauro
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Grayson
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meeks
Meng
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Takano
Thompson (MS)
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—300

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Carney
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Enyart
Esty
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy

Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—15

Bass
Carter
Farenthold
Flores
Green, Al
Jackson Lee
Lewis
McAllister
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Ross
Runyan
Schwartz
Tiberi
Williams

□ 1731

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 89, noes 327, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 173]

AYES—89

Beatty
Becerra
Blumenauer
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cummings
Davis, Danny
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Farr
Fattah
Fudge
Grayson
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Higgins
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Huffman
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Lee (CA)
Lowenthal
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meeks
Meng
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
Pallone
Payne
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Takano
Thompson (MS)
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—327

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Carney
Cassidy
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Holding
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Keating
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—15

Bass
Carter
Farenthold
Flores
Green, Al
Jackson Lee
Lewis
McAllister
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Ross
Runyan
Schwartz
Valadao
Williams

□ 1743

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (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, had come to no resolution thereon.

EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4414) 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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 257, nays 159, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 174]

YEAS—257

Aderholt
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clay
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothfus
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—159

Amash
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Eshoo
Farr
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Labrador
Langevin
Lee (CA)
Levin
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Price (NC)
Rangel
Roe (TN)
Rokita
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Bass
Carter
Farenthold
Flores
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Jackson Lee
Lewis
McAllister
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Ross
Runyan
Schwartz
Williams

□ 1753

Messrs. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and BROOKS of Alabama changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes:

1. Mulvaney Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

2. Moore Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

3. Grijalva Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

4. H.R. 4414—Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourns to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

Mr. DENT, Pennsylvania

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 786

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 786, a bill originally introduced by Representative MARKEY of Massachusetts, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRIDENSTINE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

LET'S TALK TAX

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk tax. Every year, Americans approach April 15 with a dread as they are reminded of just how burdensome our tax structure really is.

But there is a group of Americans that have been focused on taxes long before April 15 arises, and that is our small businesses, the backbone of our economy. While individuals prepare their taxes once a year, business owners have a different story to tell.

By the time July arrives, my companies have prepared taxes four times. With hours spent on tax preparation and regulation compliance, small businesses are missing prime opportunities to focus their energy on business expansion and job creation.

Over the past year, I have heard a recurring message from small businesses across this country: Taxes and overregulation are killing our businesses.

At what point, Mr. Speaker, will this administration listen to the business owners of America?

The success of small businesses sets the tone for our Nation's economy, and

it is my hope that their countless stories will soon be heard.

CELEBRATING THE 114TH AMERICAN SAMOA FLAG DAY

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Governor Lolo Moliga and the people of American Samoa, for next week we will be celebrating 114 years for the commemoration of the raising of the American flag on April 17, 1900.

Madam Speaker, it was at this historic occasion when our Samoan traditional leaders had the foresight to sign the Treaty of Cession with the representatives of the United States. Our bond and relation as part of the ''American family'' today is stronger than ever.

As we celebrate this year, we must reflect on the sacrifices that were made by our sons and daughters, past and present, who served honorably and valiantly in our Nation's military forces. Our Samoan sons and daughters have been an important part of our military forces, both here and throughout the world.

(English translation of the statement made in Samoan is as follows.)

May the relationship between the United States and the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a continue to prosper. Farewell.

Ila sao ma uli le alo faiva le faigamalo a Tutuila ma Manua ma le Malo Tele o Amerika. Soifua.

TREATY OF CESSION

Chief of Tutuila

to

United States Government

April 17, 1900

Translation in the English language:

To all to whom these presents shall come: Greeting.

Whereas the Governments of Germany, Great Britain, and of the United States of America have on divers occasions recognized the sovereignty of the government and people of Samoa and the Samoan group of islands as an independent State; and whereas owing to dissensions, internal disturbances and civil war, the said governments have deemed it necessary to assume the control of the legislation and administration of said state of Samoa; and whereas the said governments have on the sixteenth day of February, by mutual agreement, determined to partition said State; and whereas the islands hereinafter described being part of the said State have by said arrangements amongst the said governments, been severed from the parent State, and the Governments of Great Britain and of Germany have withdrawn all rights hitherto acquired, claimed or possessed by both or either of them by treaty or otherwise, to the said islands in favor of the government of the United States of America;

And whereas for the promotion of the peace and welfare of the people of said islands, for the establishment of a good and sound government, and for the preservation of the rights and property of the inhabitants of said islands, the Chiefs, rulers and people thereof are desirous of granting unto the said government of the United States full powers and authority to enact proper legislation for and to control the said islands, and are further desirous or removing all disabilities that may be existing in connection therewith and to ratini and to confirm the grant of the rule of said islands heretofore granted on the 2nd day of April, 1990.

Now know Ye.-

1. That we, the Chiefs whose names are hereunder subscribed by virtue of our office as the hereditaty representatives of the people of said islands, in consideration of the premises hereinbefore recited and for divers good considerations us hereunto moving, have ceded, transferred, and yielded up unto Commander B.F. Tilley of the US. ''Abarenda,'' the duly accredited representative of the Government of the United States of America, in the islands hereinafter mentioned or described for and on behalf of the said government. All these the islands of Tutuila and Aunu'u and all other islands, rocks, reefs, foreshores and waters lying between the 13th degree and the 15th degree of south latitude and between the 171st degree and 167th degree of west longitude from the meridian of Greenwich, together with all sovereign rights thereunto belonging and possessed by us, to hold the said ceded territory unto the Government of the United States of America; to erect the same into a separate District to be annexed to the said Government, to be known and designated as the District of ''Tutuila''.

2. The Government of the United States of America shall respect and protect the individual rights of all people dwelling in Tutuila to their lands and other property in said district; but if the said Government shall require any land or any other thing for Government uses, the government may take the same upon payment of a fair consideration for the land, or other thing, to those whom may be deprived of their property on account of the desire of the Government.

3. The Chiefs of the towns will be entitled to retain their individual control of the separate towns, if that control is in accordance with the laws of the United States of America concerning Tutuila, and if not obstructive to the peace of the people and the advancement of civilization of the people, subject also to the supervision and instruction of the said Government. But the enactment of legislation and the general control shall remain firm with the United States of America.

4. An investigation and settlement of all claims to title to lands in the different divisions or districts of Tutuila shall be made by the Government.

5. We, whose names are subscribed below, do hereby declare with truth for ourselves, our heirs and representatives by Samoan Custom, that we will obey and owe allegiance to the Government of the United States of America. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed our seals on this 17th day of April, 1900 A.D.

Fofo and Aitulagi

Tuitele of Leone, Faiivae of Leone, Letuli of Iiiiii, Fuimaono of Aoloau, Satele of Vailoa, Leoso of Leone, Olo of Leone, Namoa of Aitulagi, Malota of Aitulagi, Tuana'itau of Pava'ia'i, Lualemaga of Aasu, Amituana'i of Ituau.

Sua and Vatfanua

Pele, Mauga, Leiato, Faumuina, Masaniai, Tupuola, Soliai, Mauga.

The foregoing instrument of Cession (pages 1, 2 and 3) was duly signed by Leoso in the presence of, and at the request of, the Chiefs and Representatives of the Division of Fofo and Aitulagi, and by Pele in the presence of, and at the request of, the Chiefs and Representatives of Sua and Vaifanua in Tutuila in conformity with Samoan customs as to signatures to documents, in my presence at Pago Pago on the 17th day of April, 1900 A.D. immediately prior to the Raising of the United States Flag at the United States Naval Station, Tutuila.

/s/E.W. Gurr

Barrister of the Supreme Court of Samoa.

Acceptance of Cessions

The Judge Advocate General of the Navy in 1921, referring to the above cessions, said: ''These cessions were accepted by the President of the United States, and full information with respect thereto was communicated to Congress and the action of the Chief Executive relative thereto adopted and approved in a number of separate statutory enactments.'' (File 3931–1429.36, Dec. 23, 1921, LRNA, Supp. 25.

□ 1800

EQUAL PAY DAY

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during this week, we sadly recognize and commiserate Equal Pay Day, which marks the number of extra days in 2014 the average woman has to work to earn as much as her male counterpart did in 2013, so I rise for the women who are not here today because they are working hard to take care of themselves and their families.

I am going to keep it simple, Mr. Speaker. Equal pay is about fairness, and as important, it is about survival. Equal pay means safe, secure housing. Equal pay means saving for a child's college education. Equal pay means building a pension that allows for a dignified retirement. Equal pay means that everyone, regardless of their gender, gets a fair shot at living their American Dream.

THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

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

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Week of the Young Child. The National Association for the Education of Young Children started the Week of the Young Child in 1971; and since that time, this week has focused public attention on young children and young parents, two groups that don't have high-priced lobbyists to advocate for them here in Washington.

For this reason, I cofounded the Congressional Kids Safety Caucus, where we seek to raise awareness on preventable child injury. Additionally, assisting in the care and education of our youngest are amongst the highest yielding and most just investments our government can make.

So I call today on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recommit themselves to working toward high-quality early childhood education for all.

MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, with the tragic shooting at Fort Hood this past week, our country has once again been ravaged by the convergence of mental instability and gun rampages.

As President Obama did today, let us honor those lost to this terrible tragedy—Sergeant First Class Danny Ferguson, Sergeant Timothy Owens, and soldier Carlos Lazaney—and continue to pray for the injured as they recover, as well as all those in uniform who serve our Nation.

As this is now the second shooting at Fort Hood in recent years, Americans and we, in Congress, must again ask ourselves: Isn't it time for a national conversation on untreated mental illness?

As a member of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, we must use this moment to support early diagnosis, as well as pathbreaking neurological research, building on the President's BRAIN Initiative. We must probe the undiscovered functions of the human mind and human performance.

Advanced research and treatment will benefit both our deserving veterans and all Americans who struggle with the unknown reaches of the unquiet mind.

Again, I lend my support to honor the heroes lost at Fort Hood, and I implore my colleagues to make certain this latest tragedy is, indeed, the last tragedy. Let us measure up to this worthy challenge.

THE RYAN BUDGET

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the 2015 Ryan budget, a budget that will hurt middle class Americans while, at the same time, giving breaks to some of the wealthiest people in this country.

Early childhood education is important, but the Ryan budget cuts Head Start. Millions of Americans are still struggling to find work in a changing economy. Instead of investing in programs to prepare the unemployed for new careers, this budget cuts job training.

Nearly 16 million children are food-insecure, and we know that growing up hungry is directly correlated to a child's academic success. This budget guts the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and for millions of young people with dreams of attending college, this budget offers them no hope; instead, it cuts Pell grant aid.

We must do more to invest in this great Nation if we want to continue our economic recovery and create a brighter future, and instead of robust investments in infrastructure and transportation, the Ryan budget takes us backward. Mr. Speaker, we can and we should and we must do better.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE TAYLOR

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with an extremely heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of our beloved Anne Louise Taylor who passed away last week.

Words cannot really express my sadness as we mourn Anne's untimely death. She served as my district director for more than 5 years, but more importantly, she was a trusted and loving friend.

Anne's contributions to the residents of the East Bay were enormous. With true compassion and commitment, she touched the lives of thousands of people. Prior to joining my office, Anne's accomplished public career included working for California Assembly Member and California State Board of Equalization Member Johan Klehs; was district director for Assembly Member Ellen Corbett; and was head of government relations at California State East Bay during the administration of President Mo Qayoumi.

Not only was she a true public servant and a phenomenal woman, but she was deeply passionate about her community of Alameda, California, where she attended high school and loved the Fourth of July parade and the Alameda Point Antique Faire.

Our deepest condolences from my office, my community, and my staff. Our condolences go out to Anne's two exceptional daughters, Eleanore and Grace Guenon, and to her entire family, whom she loved deeply.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with them during these very difficult days. May her spirit continue to soar and her memory stay very close to our hearts. She touched so many lives. We know that her soul is resting in peace.

HONORING KRISTIN FULFORD

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kristin Fulford, a member of my 12th District staff for the past 9 years. Kristin has been an invaluable part of our team, handling thousands of casework issues for folks all over my district.

Kristin has made sure that folks received their Social Security and Medicare payments, helped high school students prepare to enter one of our Nation's military institutions, and has done almost everything else in between.

You would be hard-pressed to find anyone in the 12th District who doesn't know someone that Kristin has helped. She has been a team player who, for nearly a decade, has taken pride in helping the folks in our communities.

All of us in Congress know how hard our staffs work, and we know we wouldn't be here if it weren't for people like Kristin, who are our eyes, ears, and helping hands when we can't be home.

I wish Kristin, her husband, Edward, and their daughter, Wren, all the best as she begins her new journey, and I know the folks in my district will miss her as much as I will.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ''THE GRAPES OF WRATH''

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of one of the greatest pieces of American literature, John Steinbeck's ''The Grapes of Wrath.'' The National Steinbeck Center in his hometown of Salinas, California, is celebrating all year, with events throughout the country.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel was published on April 14, 1939. Set during the Great Depression, the novel captured the brutal honesty, the story of migrant farmworkers fleeing Oklahoma's Dust Bowl in search of new opportunity in California. Steinbeck wanted to shine a light on the social injustices that plagued the working poor.

Sparking controversy, it quickly rose to the top of the bestsellers list. It was banned and burned in many parts of the country.

Inspired by the novel, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt helped pass new labor laws after touring the shocking conditions of the California camps. ''The Grapes of Wrath'' changed the way we viewed poverty in this country.

This is why it figured prominently in the decision to award Steinbeck the Nobel Prize. Even today, the novel still offers us hope—hope that our best days lie before us. Steinbeck's words resonate just as true today as they did 75 years ago.

THE RYAN BUDGET

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

Mr. RUIZ. Once again, through the Ryan budget, House leadership is seeking to balance the budget on the backs of hard-working American families and seniors, undermining the economic recovery, and ending the Medicare guarantee.

As an emergency medicine physician, I know firsthand that many of the seniors I care for rely on the Medicare they have earned. In fact, in Riverside County, California, alone over 250,000 seniors rely on Medicare.

Our priority should be reducing health care costs in order to make Medicare stronger and more sustainable, but this budget transforms Medicare into a voucher program, shifting

the costs of health care to our seniors and ending Medicare as we know it.

We must work together to protect and preserve Medicare, reduce our deficit, and decrease health care costs. The Ryan budget is not the way to do that. This proposal has the wrong priorities for Riverside County, California, and our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to end the partisan political gamesmanship and put American families and our seniors first.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BASKETBALL

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a great sense of pride on behalf of the entire delegation of the State of Connecticut who are, indeed, honored again to be national champions. Our entire delegation will have an extended period of time in which we can amplify the great accomplishments of the University of Connecticut.

For an unprecedented second time, first and foremost, our women's basketball team went undefeated and was perfect, as they are; and of course, the men's team down in RALPH HALL's great State of Texas, where we have won the national championship three times, again, was able to win the national championship in Kevin Ollie's first year as the coach when the team was eligible for it.

This is remarkable. Fourteen national championships in the game of basketball. We are very proud not only of our coaches and our student athletes, but of all the hard work and effort that goes into this.

Our delegation will be down here at another time to further extoll the virtues of the University of Connecticut and the great State it represents.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CAREER OF KENT HANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise tonight to recognize a great friend and great public servant and a great chancellor at Texas Tech University.

When Chancellor Hance was first appointed to be the third chancellor of Texas Tech University, his motto was ''Dream no little dreams.'' I think this is a perfect motto for the chancellor to use because that really expresses the way he has lived his life.

Kent Hance was born to Raymond and Beral Cole Hance on November 14, 1942, in the great city of Dimmitt, Texas, which is in my congressional district, a town known for grit and determination, which clearly was passed along to Hance.

He enrolled in Texas Tech University in 1961 and joined the fraternity Delta Tau Delta, where he often mentioned that he became friends with a guy named John Deutschendorf, who later became a guy by the name of John Denver.

Now, I think, sometimes, Kent Hance claims that he helped John Denver with some of his material, but we have not been able to actually verify that.

Hance graduated from Texas Tech in 1965 with a business degree, and despite his better judgment, he entered law school at the University of Texas. While he was at that school, they named him president of the Student Bar Association and, of course, in the true Red Raider spirit.

After graduating with his law degree, he returned to west Texas to practice law and teach business law at Texas Tech. While teaching, undoubtedly, the most momentous meeting in his career was when he had this student by the name of RANDY NEUGEBAUER in his business law class.

Now, what was kind of unique about that class, with Professor Hance and his student RANDY NEUGEBAUER, was that little did either one of us know that both of us would go on to be congressmen for the 19th District of Texas.

In 1974, Kent Hance decided to run for the Texas Senate and won in that west Texas seat. He served in the senate from 1974 through 1978, when he decided to run for Congress for the 19th Congressional District.

□ 1815

Interestingly enough, in that race, he defeated a young man in Midland, Texas, by the name of George W. Bush. Many of us know that he became the future President of the United States.

One of the things that President Bush would occasionally say is that, Mr. Hance and I accomplished something he was not able to accomplish, and that was being elected to Congress, but then he would smile and say, but I guess it worked out, and it work out indeed.

While serving the House of Representatives from 1979 to 1985, he was known for his conservative voting record and was a member of the Boll Weevil Conservatives. Congressman Hance became one of President Reagan's closest allies when he was working on his 1981 tax package. In 1984, Hance decided to run for the Senate in Texas, a seat that ultimately was won by Phil Gramm.

In 1987, Texas Governor Bill Clements appointed Hance to a vacancy on the Texas Railroad Commission. Upon doing so, he became the first Republican to ever serve on the railroad commission in Texas.

Due to his successes on the commission, he was reelected in 1988, and in 1989, he was elected chairman of the railroad commission. After stepping down in 1990 from his commission, he continued to practice law. In 2006, Kent Hance was chosen to become the third chancellor of the Texas Tech University System.

When appointed to the position of chancellor to begin implementing the motto, as I mentioned earlier, ''Dream no little dreams,'' and no little dreams did Kent Hance have for Texas Tech University. He said that he was going to raise a billion dollars and began a fundraising campaign to do that, the largest one in the school's history.

Additionally, Hance decided to grow the university to 40,000 students by 2020 to meet the demands of a growing State. Not only has his fundraising campaign exceeded a billion dollar mark, but under his leadership, Chancellor Hance has grown the university system and about doubled it by adding Angelo State and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso.

Texas Tech University, the flagship institution of the Texas Tech system, has also increased in the number of degrees by 46 percent between 2006 and 2012 and added a chapter of the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa to the campus. All together, it is quite easy to see why in 1985, even though Kent Hance had not accomplished all of this, that people recognized early his talents and named him Distinguished Alumni of Texas Tech.

On October 11, 2013, unfortunately, Kent Hance announced that he would be stepping down as chancellor. While Texas Tech and west Texas would be losing one of its best advocates, we are extremely grateful for the services that he offered as he served and will continue to serve as chairman emeritus. Future students of Texas Tech will also benefit from his decisions to continue teaching his seminar classes on leadership.

Before handing over the floor to some of my colleagues who would like to say some things about Chancellor Hance, I wanted to read a quick quote from President George W. Bush. Upon his announcement for retirement, George Bush was quoted saying:

> Texas Tech was fortunate to have Kent in a leadership position. He loves the Red Raiders and he leaves behind a better university, and I wish all the best to my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of my dear friend and former colleague Kent Hance, a man who spent his life in public service for the benefit of Texas, our country, and certainly for 8 years at the Texas Tech University

System, where he currently serves as chancellor.

I am especially proud to speak for Kent. He was and is a very successful attorney; he was a great member of the Texas Senate; he was a real leader in the United States Congress; and, important to me, he is and was and will always be a super friend.

Kent and I served in the Texas State Senate at different times so our paths did not cross until I was first elected to Congress, where he was already serving as Congressman for the 19th District of Texas.

We are both conservatives, and we worked together with President Reagan to carry out his tax cut in 1981, along with other conservative thrusts.

Tonight, we recognized Kent for his efforts on behalf of Texas education. For the last 8 years, Kent has served his alma mater, Texas Tech University, and he certainly has worked with the school to make tremendous strides in furthering the prestigious school's advances for students.

During his time as chancellor, Texas Tech has far surpassed previous fundraising goals and enrollment records at all four institutions. Kent has also worked to put Texas Tech on track to becoming a tier one research institution. I was also pleased to support the legislation that spawned the law school at Texas Tech.

I come from a family of teachers and value quality education for our Nation's students, as I know Kent does. Education is directly tied to our children's future opportunities as well American innovation and competitiveness. That is why we look for leaders like Kent Hance who will work tirelessly to ensure that students receive the best education possible, because I agree, as he agrees, that children are 25 percent of our population and 100 percent of our future.

I thank Kent for his friendship and for his service to our great State of Texas and our country. I congratulate him on his success as chancellor for Texas Tech University System. And I wish him all the very best in his future endeavors.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

I now will yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

(Mr. BARTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, we are here to honor a Texas legend in his own time, the Honorable Kent Hance of Dimmitt, Texas, some of us Aggies would put an ''a'' instead of an ''i.'' But Kent was born in west Texas and he, as has already been pointed out, got elected to the Texas Senate at a very young age. Then I got elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, along with such stalwarts as Phil Gramm of College Station. I think Charlie Stenholm was already here. RALPH HALL came a little bit later. Marvin Leath of Waco came a little bit later.

He became what was known as a Boll Weevil Democrat. When Ronald Reagan got elected, President Reagan called a number of the Boll Weevils to the White House and asked if they would support his economic plan, but he only asked one to carry the Reagan tax cut which really began the renaissance of America, and that young man was Congressman Kent Hance of the 19th Congressional District. He was on the Ways and Means Committee as a Democrat. He carried the Reagan tax cut in the Ways and Means Committee and prevailed. I would assume the chairman then was Dan Rostenkowski. I am not sure, but I think that's right.

Well, in 1984, he decided to go back to Texas. He relinquished his seat and Larry Combest replaced him, and five other young Texans came in as part of the Texas Six Pack: Dick Armey, JOE BARTON, Larry Combest, Beau Boulter, I believe, and Mac Sweeney. He switched parties, became a Republican, and got appointed to the railroad commission. He was the first Republican to be named chairman of the railroad commission.

He did run for Governor a time or two in that time span and did not have the same luck for Governor. He went into the private sector, became a consultant and an attorney and helped me politically on a number of issues, then, as has been pointed out, became chancellor of Texas Tech. And the students hardly know what a chancellor is, most universities not only know Ken Hance, they affectionately call him the ''Hancellor'' at Texas Tech.

The thing that impresses me the most about Kent is that, when people are in elected office and we are successful, we have lots of friends, and they call us and pat us on the back and offer to do things and help us and support us. When we lose or are not successful, normally the only people that try to raise our spirits are our family and sometimes people that we owe money to.

On one particular occasion, I had had a political setback and I was really down and I was kind of moping around my house in Ennis, Texas. And one morning about, I want to say, 9:30, my cell phone rang and it was Kent Hance, and I will never forget that.

So we're here to honor you for your public service, but I am also here to thank you for your personal friendship. You are a great man. I wish you well, and I hope you stay involved in the public sector, because people of your caliber are in short supply and are always needed.

God bless you and God bless your family.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

I think what the gentleman said about Mr. Hance was he dedicated himself to a life of public service and education. I think when you ask people, Kent Hance was always available to be your friend, and I think that is a unique characteristic for someone who led a very busy schedule like that. He'd always take time out to be a good friend to folks.

Mr. Speaker, now I will yield to a gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is nice to have our friend and former Member of the House down here on the floor with us tonight, Kent Hance.

Well, today we honor Texas Tech University Chancellor Kent Hance, who is about to enjoy a well-earned retirement. He has served as chancellor for over 7 years.

Texas Tech is the only campus in Texas that is home to a major university, a law school, and a medical school. The university continues to expand to other parts of Texas outside Lubbock. For example, there is a satellite campus in my home district in the town of Fredericksburg.

Under Kent Hance's tenure, Texas Tech set new student enrollment records and research expenditures have almost tripled. It so happens that I have more Red Raiders in my D.C. office than graduates of any other college, so I know the quality of students who come from Texas Tech.

Fortunately for Tech, Chancellor Hance will not be far away. He will continue to serve as chancellor emeritus of the university and teach a course in political leadership—no surprise there.

This should not come as a great surprise since Kent Hance has loved the university ever since he set foot on its campus as a student in 1961. Chancellor Hance likes to say, ''Dream no little dreams.'' His leadership in turning Texas Tech into one of the top higher learning institutions in America reflects that motto.

Thank you, Chancellor Hance, for all you have done for Texas Tech University and all you have done for the great State of Texas.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY.)

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, Kent Hance was headed for a life of crime and waywardness before he attended Texas Tech University. Texas Tech would not be where it is today without Kent Hance, but Chancellor Hance wouldn't be who he is today without having attended Texas Tech in 1961.

A storied career as a political servant, one of Kent Hance's political accomplishments, as it has been said, was that he was the only person to defeat President George W. Bush in an election. He won Texas' 19th Congressional District seat with his folksy humor, quick wit, and good old-fashioned hard work. Kent Hance once remarked that had President Bush defeated him in that congressional race, Bush would have wound up as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee instead of Governor and President of the United States.

Everyone has a Kent Hance story. Some of us have even been the victims of his punch line. But his ability to weave experiences, real and imagined, to make a point or disarm an opponent, is legendary.

Kent Hance has been known as many things—an attorney, a professor, a State senator, a railroad commissioner, a Congressman, and friend—but I believe his best role has been as chancellor of Texas Tech University.

We thank you for your service at Texas and our Nation. Your leadership and legacy will shine bright for years to come. And I wish Kent Hance and his family Godspeed in the next chapters of their lives.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

□ 1830

Mr. OLSON. I thank my colleague from Lubbock for hosting this Special Order to celebrate another Texan from Lubbock, our good friend, Kent Hance. Kent and I became friends in 1998. I was working at the time for United States Senator Phil Gramm.

My friends have talked about Kent's achievements. I plan to be like the Wizard of Oz and pull back the curtain and show the real Kent Hance.

The real Kent Hance joined us on November 14, 1942, in Dimmitt, Texas. He is now 71 years young.

Before Kent was born, Dimmitt had grown from J.W. Carter's Hotel, Miss Lou Belsher's School, and Uncle Buck Tate's Lumber and Wagon Yard to the county seat of Castro County with a population of 943. Kent went to Dimmitt High School, graduating in 1961. Dimmitt High School has two mascots—the Bobcats for the boys and the Bobbies for the girls.

Kent and his best buddy, Spider, spent a lot of time at the Carlile Theater trying to find the love of their lives. Spider found his love in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Kent sought optimism from Spider's dad. Movies, charm, and yes, a 1970 Camaro couldn't get the job done. Nothing happened in Dimmitt.

Kent met his true love, Susie, and they both were lawyers. They worked hard and they played hard, and they loved races at the track. After 1 hard week of working hard and playing hard, they popped down to El Paso, Texas, and crossed the river into Juarez to go to races at the track. The cab driver had very poor English and took them to a very special track—monkey jockeys riding greyhounds. Kent learned two things that night: Susie will follow him anywhere in the world; and he needed to learn more Spanish, especially the word ''horse'' in Spanish.

One more personal story about Kent Hance. We spent 24 hours together on an aircraft carrier underway. To come aboard a carrier, you fly a very different approach—a controlled crash. There are wires across the back of the deck which hook onto the aircraft to catch it. The plane goes to full power before it is hooked. To take off, you have a catapult shot, zero to 140 miles in 300 feet. I have never heard a human being scream so loudly with terror and joy than Kent Hance on that aircraft.

I will close by talking about Kent's tenure at Texas Tech University, the institute that gave him his education and his love of life in the business world. Because of Kent Hance, Texas Tech has a medical school in El Paso, Texas. Kent chased this down doggedly, getting a big donation, $50 million from alumni, to make this dream happen. Red Raider Nation is thrilled to have this building on campus, the Kent Hance Chapel. It gives students a place when they are struggling, a place of peace, a place of prayer, and a place to have a wedding after they leave Texas Tech.

As Kent leaves Texas Tech behind, some are already talking about is he the greatest chancellor we have ever had. To paraphrase Bum Phillips: Kent Hance may not be in a class by himself, but whatever class he is in, it don't take long to call the roll.

Kent, my friend, as you move on to your next challenge, you have my best. It is not very good, but it is my best. God bless you.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman for bringing up a point. While Chancellor Hance was out raising all of this money for the university, over a billion dollars, I think it exemplifies who Kent Hance is. He put his money up, too, contributing and building that chapel. Whereas the gentleman mentioned that a lot of weddings have been held, but students also go over there and spend time for prayer, and I think that says a lot about the character of the man we honor today.

It is now my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), my neighbor to the west.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman from Lubbock for yielding.

Many would ask: What does a former Representative from Texas have to do with New Mexico? Well, New Mexico's Second District is bordered on two sides by Texas. In those days growing up 3 miles from Texas, often we New Mexico guys slid across the State line in the middle of the night. We found things to entertain us there, and we would be back home by daylight. So west Texas and eastern New Mexico have a lot in common.

I had an opportunity to meet Mr. Hance when he was in Congress. I was flying as the corporate pilot for the Congressman from the Second District of New Mexico, at that time a gentleman named Mud Runnels, and during that association, I had the opportunity to meet the Congressman from Lubbock. I started watching him from a distance there. Many people are going to recount the good things, the titles and positions that he has had, but I would like to recount as someone watching Kent Hance from a distance as he made his way through Congress and later became chancellor of Texas Tech, a university that is host to many students from New Mexico. Watching from a distance, I can say that Mr. Hance did the things that all leaders are called to do. He served with honor and distinction, but he made tough choices when they were called for.

A couple of years ago, a high-profile employee of Texas Tech needed the firm hand of discipline on his shoulder, and Kent Hance made the tough calls. Texas Tech has been better off because he was there as a strong person in times when they needed strong leadership.

So again, from the New Mexico side of the border, we would like to say thank you for guiding an institution that has been home to so many New Mexicans. Thank you for your distinguished service, your commitment to principle and honor and duty. We all from New Mexico say God bless you, Godspeed to you, and thanks for your years of service.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman, and I now yield to the gentleman from Dallas, Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. NEUGEBAUER, thank you for inviting the Texas delegation and our friends from New Mexico to come and honor our dear friend, Kent Hance, tonight.

Kent Hance, as you have heard the stories, he is not just a living legend, he is a man who served not just the State of Texas but our great Nation with honor and distinction. Kent Hance, as chancellor of Texas Tech, has done the same thing for thousands of young people who came not only to Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas, for a great education, he helped make their experiences and their education even better.

As RANDY NEUGEBAUER knows as the Member of Congress from the 19th Congressional District of Texas, the high plains of Texas offers a unique opportunity not only for the kind of people who live there, the kinds of circumstances as God rolls thunder and sandstorms and rainstorms across Texas, but it provides the kind of unique experiences that people who live there love it. They love where they are from, and it builds the kind of person who has spirit and opportunity, but who sees themselves not just as a proud Texan but as an American, and Kent Hance truly has lived up to that.

There has been a discussion tonight about Susie, Kent's beloved Susie, this beautiful young woman who, albeit from Dallas, Texas, who was stolen away by the marauding Kent Hance and taken up to Lubbock, Texas; and we still miss Susie as she lives in Lubbock and enjoys her life there with the girls. But I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that tonight the Texas delegation and so many others are here on the floor to talk about the life and times of a young man who came to Congress, who served the State of Texas, his Nation, and has now served

in providing education that is superior second to none, building not just a medical school that is second to none, but a law school and an undergraduate degree, engineering and other areas that have made Texas Tech not just on the map literally, but has made it better because of his personal commitment to excellence.

So I want to join the Texas delegation and Chairman NEUGEBAUER tonight as we give a big Texas salute and a thank-you to the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas, the gentleman Kent Hance.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman, and I yield to another gentleman from Texas, Mr. STOCKMAN.

Mr. STOCKMAN. I have to tell you, when I first got elected, it was none other than Kent Hance who came down. I was a young guy, and he gave me a lot of advice, but I knew him before he knew me because Ronald Reagan was in trouble, and Kent Hance stepped forward against a lot of his party's wishes and took the bull by the horns and really changed the United States, which is amazing. But one of the things that, Kent, you have always done is you have reached out to me when you didn't have to.

But the most important thing is that you have your birthday on the proper day, November 14, which is also my birthday.

Everybody talked about you raising a billion dollars, but the thing that I liked the most is you ran and beat somebody, and that person you beat was none other than the next President of the United States, George Bush. And yet you reached across after you beat George Bush, you became his number one fan. I am just amazed, and I wish we could do this more often where we reach across the aisle and demonstrate love beyond partisanship. That, to me, is what speaks volumes about you.

And what also touches my heart is that you are Texas. I mean, when you think about your life story, I don't know if you are going to write a book, if you have written a book, you need to write a book. We have mutual friends, and I hear your story is phenomenal.

The one thing I do ask, and you have always been very gracious to me, but you have to teach me how to raise money, because you raised a billion dollars. That is phenomenal. And you did it for good causes.

I think I had a dream once that you are going to give me $250 million. A mutual friend of ours in Dallas told me that story. You called him up and you said you had a dream, and I thought that was the cleverest thing to do.

Again, I want to express my friendship to you and how much you have helped me throughout the years. You have been very gracious to me. I thank you.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman. Now another great Texan, I yield to Dr. BURGESS from Dallas.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for the recognition, and I am pleased to come to the floor of the House tonight to offer my congratulations to a great Texan, chancellor of Texas Tech University and former Member of Congress and former State senator.

I have had the good fortune to know Mr. Hance since I arrived here, and I know firsthand of his commitment to education. And the reason I know this is there is hardly a semester that goes by that I don't have at least one Tech intern working in my office.

Mr. Hance understands the value of education for young people, and he also understands the value of placing them in situations where they may have an opportunity to do something that they would probably never have an opportunity to do again, working with a Member of Congress' office. Yes, sometimes it is unglamorous, sorting mail or helping organize letters for a reply, but sometimes going to a congressional hearing, sometimes going to a congressional hearing that is of significant importance. Certainly I want to thank Kent for always having the foresight to have your students in the offices here in the capital of the United States because I think it makes a big difference not just to us, not just to Texas Tech, but it makes a big difference to Texas and the Nation.

On a personal note, I want to acknowledge that I was not someone who was in political life all my life. I ran a medical practice for a number of years, and then rather unexpectedly won a race for Congress. Shortly after winning the nomination prior to the fall election, Mr. Hance and I crossed paths, and he has provided me life counsel and guidance from time to time. Of that I am certainly appreciative.

□ 1845

The one thing I will never forget—I don't even remember the trouble that was going on here in Washington, but it was something and it affected a lot of us and it affected a lot of us personally—I woke up one morning and there was a letter to the editor of The Dallas Morning News from Ken Hance thanking me for my service. It certainly got my attention that day and it certainly lifted by spirits. Whenever I get down with the things that are going on here in Washington, I think back to that day when Ken Hance reached out a hand and helped lift me up, and hope I have been able to return the favor to others along the way. Mr. Hance, you have certainly showed me the way, and I am grateful, again, for your wise counsel and leadership through the years.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things about this evening, we had some other Members that were planning to be here tonight to honor the chancellor. But, as you know, there was a memorial service in Texas at Fort Hood today, so some of our Members have flown to Texas to participate in that. I have letters from some of those folks, and remarks, that I want to enter for the RECORD.

I have a very special letter here from the Speaker of the House, which I am going to put a part of in the RECORD. I won't read the whole letter. It is a very nice letter. It talks about all the many accomplishments of Chancellor Hance and his service here in Congress.

He closes that letter by saying:

> Congratulations to Chancellor Hance as he moves on to a new chapter. I thank him for his leadership, his vision, and his lifetime of public service.

Here is another letter from the Governor of the State of Texas, Rick Perry, and I quote part of that. He says:

> It is my pleasure to join your friends and colleagues in recognizing the remarkable job you have done as a leader of the Texas Tech University system.
>
> You have presided over an incredible era for the Texas Tech system, highlighted by profound growth and positive change. With the addition of Angelo State University and the creation of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center—El Paso, the system has literally doubled in size since 2007. Enrollment has also increased dramatically, and students are graduating and joining the workforce at a faster rate, too. Nearly 10,000 degrees were earned in 2012, almost double the number that were awarded a decade ago.
>
> Many students have passed through Texas Tech's institutions during your tenure. These men and women will make incredible contributions to our communities, to our State, and to our Nation; some of them probably already have. You have furthered both individual success and collective achievement—and it is quite a legacy.
>
> Anita and I thank you for your service to the State of Texas and wish you an enjoyable, fulfilling retirement.
>
> Governor Rick Perry

Randy Sanders, who is a former editor at the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal in Lubbock, wrote these remarks:

> During the 6 years that I was editor of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal I would frequently call Hance when I was in the dilemma about an important editorial decision. Many times without taking a breath he would tell me: Well, let me tell you what I would do if I were in your shoes. Every time I would follow his advice and our editorial position would be spot on.
>
> No one knows west Texas and west Texans better than Ken Hance. He knows how to cut to the chase and develop a plan that will serve west Texas and its citizens in the most beneficial possible manner.

One of the regents at Texas Tech, Regent Tim Lancaster, writes:

> No matter where you start, how you prioritize, or how inclusive you become in including the vast number of accomplishments of Kent Hance, it has been a great and impactful career. There are few people that can be included in the same category as Kent Hance. Unfortunately, individuals like Kent do not come along often enough.
>
> What a pleasure it has been for me to get to know and observe the impact of this great man.

One of our Senators, Senator JOHN CORNYN, says this about Ken Hance:

> I send my greetings and best wishes on the occasion of your retirement as chancellor after more than 8 years with Texas Tech University.

From your early career in the Texas senate, three terms in the U.S. Congress, chairmanship of the Texas Railroad Commission, and your current role as chancellor, you have dedicated your life and service to the betterment of Texas and its citizens. Your energy and experience have been an important force in ensuring access to quality higher education and expansion of research and innovation in Texas.

Our other Senator, Mr. CRUZ, says:

On behalf of a grateful State, thank you for your service to the great State of Texas and Texas Tech University. As a native of Dimmitt, your west Texas roots, strong moral character, and entrepreneurial spirit have created a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

The mayor of Lubbock writes:

On behalf of the city of Lubbock, let me offer my congratulations on your retirement as chancellor, and thank you for your service to west Texas, Lubbock, and Texas Tech.

Your love and dedication to Texas Tech has brought the university to new heights. From your graduation in 1965 to leading the way in raising over $1 billion, the time you have spent at Tech has left a lasting impression on the university. You strengthened ties between Texas Tech and the city of Lubbock, and your efforts to increase enrollment have led to new students and families now calling Lubbock home.

You are a true servant of the State, having served as a Texas senator, U.S. Congressman, and chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. Thank you for the years of service you dedicated to making Lubbock and west Texas a better place to live.

Congressman ROGER WILLIAMS is one of the Members that I mentioned who said he was originally going to be here, wanted to be here, is a good friend of Chancellor Hance, but he went down to be at the memorial service today at Fort Hood. He says:

Today I rise to recognize a good friend of mine, a great friend of Texas, and one of the finest examples of public servant, Texas Tech University System Chancellor Ken Hance.

In his nearly 8 years as head of Texas Tech, Chancellor Hance has become a staple in the community and beloved figure on the campus. Famous for knowing every Texas mascot, a trait that he and I share, students are often greeted by him with a fist bump and a quiz on high school mascots while on their way to class. From Itasca Wampus Cats to the Hamlin Pied Pipers, there is not a student on campus he hasn't won over with his down-to-Earth demeanor and palpable dedication to the students.

His quit wit, famous stories, and steadfast dedication to his alma mater will certainly be missed upon his retirement.

I wish my friend Ken Hance the best of luck in his next endeavor and thank him for his tremendous legacy he is still creating. From his early days in Texas politics to his service in the U.S. Congress to a successful law firm, Chancellor Hance makes a difference everywhere he goes. He lives by his own motto: Dream no little dreams, and I look forward to seeing what his dreams have in store for him next.

Another Member that went down to the Fort Hood memorial service was Congressman JOHN CARTER. He says:

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the distinguished career of Texas Tech University Chancellor Kent Hance. With his retirement approaching, he will soon close his incredible service to my alma mater and begin the next chapter of his life.

Congressman Carter is a Red Raider.

Chancellor Hance's dedication to public service began in politics with stints in the Texas senate, house, U.S. Congress, and eventually serving as chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission.

Since becoming chancellor in 2006, he has made incredible achievements at Texas Tech and the university continues to thrive because of the impacts he has made.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It's not the end of a career but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I speak for myself, as well as all of the Red Raider family, when I say Chancellor Hance's unconditional love for Texas Tech combined with his exceptional leadership leaves behind a legacy that will never be forgotten. I commend him for his dedication to Texas Tech and wish him the best in the years ahead.

One of the things is that Chancellor Hance is very hands-on and he gets involved with the students at Texas Tech. He greets them one-on-one and, in fact, teaches a leadership class there. So I think it is kind of fitting we asked some of the students that had known the chancellor. These are the people that he is working for and worked tirelessly for.

John Esparza, who is a Texas Tech Board of Regents 1997 graduate, said:

Let it be said that Chancellor Kent Hance has a deep and abiding love for the institution he has devoted the last 8 years of his life to. In reality, Chancellor Hance has given so much more than just those 8 years. Those who know him know his love affair with Texas Tech University began shortly after his parents dropped him off there in 1961. Since that time he has served his family and his constituents with honor, going all the way back to the late 1970s, when he served in this hallowed body.

As he is well known for saying to freshmen during their orientation, and to seniors at their graduation, ''I love Texas Tech.''

And truly Ken Hance loves Texas Tech.

I wanted to read a few quotes from Stephanie Addison, who interned in our office and works now in the chancellor's office. She says this about Chancellor Hance:

Chancellor Hance is dedicated to excellence in every area of his life. His enthusiasm is very evident in the impact that he has left on Texas Tech University, as well as everyone he meets. His passion for investing in the students and the alumni is second to none. It is hard to imagine Texas Tech without the chancellor. It has been a pleasure serving his office as student assistant, and I will carry this experience with me the rest of our lives.

Pat Campbell said:

You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him. Chancellor Hance definitely goes above and beyond the call of duty as an administrator, and I am proud to call him a friend. When Chancellor Hance says he loves Texas Tech, he truly means it.

Lee Bobbitt, a former Student Government Association president at Texas Tech, writes this:

He had high expectations, not just for himself but all those who worked around him. In his time at Texas Tech, he devoted himself to improving the university, and through his work taught me and many others to be servant leaders, to be good listeners, and, more importantly, how to connect with people through the fine art of storytelling. Ken Hance is one of a kind, and I am lucky to have called him mentor and friend.

Mr. Speaker, I have many other letters here in testimony, which we will be glad to enter into the RECORD.

We have talked about Chancellor Hance as a former Member of Congress, a former State senator, and a former railroad commissioner. In his life of public service, obviously, he dreamed no little dream.

But just for a minute, I would like to talk about the Ken Hance that I know. It is not the one that I call chancellor; it is the Ken Hance that I call friend.

Over the years, Kent and I have had an opportunity to mentor and to talk to each other, and I consider his advice to be a treasure in my life. I can always call him up when there is an issue or something that I want to get his reflection on. He is always quick to take my call.

But it is not just what Ken Hance says. I think what we have heard tonight and what we have seen tonight, it is about how he lived his life. A lot of people out in west Texas, we say some people talk the talk, but some people that you really pay attention to are the people that walk the walk. What I would say about my friend Ken Hance is he dreamed no little dream, and he walked the walk. So it has been my pleasure tonight to recognize a good friend, a great American, a great Texan and a great Red Raider—go Tech.

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

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE KENT HANCE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from Texas have set aside time on the House floor during special orders to honor a former Member and the out-going Chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, the Honorable Kent Hance. I rise with my colleagues to recognize his accomplishments and exceptional leadership.

Kent Hance was elected to the People's House in 1978, then re-elected twice. He served in the 96th, 97th, and 98th Congresses during a time of great change in the direction of America's governance and leadership. As a ''Boll Weevil'' Democrat, Kent worked across the aisle with a Republican president, Ronald W. Reagan, to enact some of the most sweeping and successful tax reforms in American history.

Bipartisan passage of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 set the stage for an incredible two-decade period of economic expansion. According to a 2001 Heritage Foundation report, the tax cuts Kent Hance and others supported led to the creation of more than 35 million jobs, an 80 percent growth in the overall economy, a 78 percent growth in industrial production, and a doubling of federal revenue from 1983 through 1999.

After his time in Congress Kent returned to the law and eventually assumed a leadership role in the world of Texas academics, becoming the third chancellor of the Texas Tech University system in 2006.

Under his direction, the TTU system has grown by leaps and bounds. Enrollment has expanded 45 percent overall, with minority enrollment up 70 percent. From 2006 to 2012, the number of degrees awarded went up 46 percent. The system's endowment has grown by 80 percent and now tops $1 billion; more than $700 million has been invested in campus construction.

In 2012, Texas Tech established the Center for the Study of Western Civilization as well as the Free Market Institute. Both of these programs seek to research and advance the core virtues that have set America apart as the world's freest and most productive society—things no other major university systems are doing.

In nine years as chancellor Kent Hance has built the TTU system into a leader in engineering, medicine, health sciences, emerging technologies, and research. By any measure, the TTU system is one of the nation's premier higher learning institutions.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, the man in middle of all this growth and success would be one of the last to promote his own personal contribution. Kent Hance, beyond the accolades and awards, is a decent man who has served the people of West Texas with honor and distinction his whole life—and I am proud to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Chancellor Hance as he moves on to a new chapter. I thank him for his leadership, his vision, and his lifetime of public service.

HONORING CHANCELLOR KENT HANCE

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the distinguished career of Texas Tech University Chancellor Kent Hance. With his retirement approaching, he will soon close his incredible service to my alma mater and begin the next chapter of his life.

Since becoming Chancellor in 2006, he has made incredible achievements at Texas Tech and the university continues to thrive because of the impacts he has made. Quickly after he took leadership, Texas Tech doubled in size with its addition of Angelo State University and the creation of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso. In a matter of eight years, Chancellor Hance's forward-thinking approach helped Texas Tech grow exponentially. With more than 33,000 students enrolled in the fall 2013 class, Texas Tech has increased its enrollment by 16% over the last decade and is on target to meet its goal to enroll 40,000 students by 2020.

''Dream no little dream.'' Chancellor Hance's famous four words have proven no truer than for himself. Under his leadership, Texas Tech surpassed Hance's goal to raise an astonishing $1 billion for its capital campaign placing Tech in an elite group of universities. Because of his commitment to higher education, more students have had an opportunity to obtain a college degree and Texas Tech continues to be ranked in the top 20 universities for producing the best graduates.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It's not the end of a career but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I speak for myself, as well as all of the Red Raider family, when I say Chancellor Hance's unconditional love for Texas Tech combined with his exceptional leadership leaves behind a legacy that will never be forgotten. I commend him for his dedication to Texas Tech and wish him the best in the years ahead.

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Austin, TX, April 7, 2014.

Hon. KENT R. HANCE,
Chancellor, Texas Tech University System, Lubbock, TX.

DEAR CHANCELLOR HANCE: It is my pleasure to join your friends and colleagues in recognizing the remarkable job you have done as a leader of the Texas Tech University System.

You have presided over an incredible era for the Texas Tech system, highlighted by profound growth and positive change. With the addition of Angelo State University and the creation of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center—El Paso, the system has literally doubled in size since 2007. Enrollment has also increased dramatically, and students are graduating and joining the workforce at a faster rate, too. Nearly 10,000 degrees were earned in 2012, almost double the number that were awarded a decade ago.

You have embraced the challenges that come with such exceptional growth, and the Texas Tech system is thriving. Under your leadership, the system's Vision & Tradition campaign raised an astonishing $1 billion in the most successful capital campaign in its history. You have skillfully navigated the line between your core missions of educating students and conducting world-changing research. And you haven't been afraid to embrace fresh ideas. It's no surprise that Angelo State was one of the first universities to answer my call to develop a $10,000 degree program or that the system has consistently been a leader in focusing on student outcomes and using their feedback to help determine the best ways to teach and structure programs.

Of course, your career has been about more than new facilities or modified degree programs. It has been about helping people better their lives.

It's important to remember what a college degree means on an individual level. A college degree opens a doorway to more success, broader opportunities and bigger dreams for people of all backgrounds. Whether you're from a small town or big city, no matter what your parents might do or what your goals may be, a quality, affordable college education is a valuable step toward being the very best you can be.

Many students have passed through Texas Tech's institutions during your tenure. These men and women will make incredible contributions to our communities, to our state and to our nation; some of them probably already have. You have furthered both individual success and collective achievement—and that is quite a legacy.

Anita and I thank you for your service to the State of Texas and wish you an enjoyable, fulfilling retirement.

Sincerely,

RICK PERRY,
Governor.

HENDRICK HEALTH SYSTEM,
Abilene, TX, April 9, 2014.

KENT HANCE,
Office of Chancellor, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

Chancellor Kent Hance has been good for Texas Tech and he has been good for Texas!

If you were to prioritize his accomplishments, would you begin with his fundraising success, the growth in the number of students enrolled at Texas Tech or would you begin with the economic impact through expansion of educational services he has had on the western part of our great state. You could even begin with the individual lives he often talked about that have been changed as a result of a first generation family to attend college. Or would you begin with the lasting impact of the power of leadership training he has provided to a vast number of students through the classes taught on leadership. It would be appropriate to begin with the lessons he continuously taught alumni of the importance of giving back to an institution that provided an outstanding foundation for thousands of Texas Tech alumni that have moved around the world. You could even begin with the hundreds of business students that were impacted early in Kent's career through the business law classes he taught with humor, enthusiasm, and exciting legal concepts to ponder.

No matter where you start, how you prioritize, or how inclusive you become in including the vast number of accomplishments of Kent Hance, it has been a great and impactful career. There are few people that can be included in the same category as Kent Hance. Unfortunately, individuals like Kent do not come along often enough.

What a pleasure it has been for me to get to know and observe the impact of this great man.

TIM LANCASTER,
Hendrick Health System.

April 9, 2014.

KENT HANCE,
Chancellor, Texas Tech University.

DEAR CHANCELLOR HANCE: I send my greetings and best wishes on the occasion of your retirement as Chancellor after more than eight years with Texas Tech University.

From your early career in the Texas Senate, three terms in the U.S. Congress, Chairmanship of the Texas Railroad Commission, and your current role as Chancellor, you have dedicated your life and service to the betterment of Texas and its citizens. Your energy and experience have been an important force in ensuring access to quality higher education and expansion of research and innovation in Texas. Under your leadership, the Texas Tech University System has experienced growth in both size and academic stature. Your legacy will continue to benefit the Texas Tech community and our state for years to come.

I join with your family, friends, and coworkers in commemorating your distinguished career in public service, and applaud your commitment to dreaming big dreams and seeking to make them a reality. Best wishes to you and Susie as you begin a new chapter in your life.

Sincerely,

JOHN CORNYN,
United States Senator.

April 9, 2014.

KENT HANCE,
Chancellor, Texas Tech University.

DEAR CHANCELLOR HANCE: On behalf of a grateful state, thank you for your service to the Great State of Texas and Texas Tech University. As a native of Dimmitt, your West Texas roots, strong moral character, and entrepreneurial spirit have created a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

In a career that has spanned many years and both public and private service, you have created an impressive record of expanding growth and opportunity. Your contributions have touched the lives of countless Texans, and they have produced plentiful economic benefits to the entire state.

Under your direction, the Texas Tech University System has doubled in size, with the additions of Angelo State University and the Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso. You set out to grow enrollment, increase research, and increase commercial technology opportunities, and you have achieved all these goals with great success.

Thank you for your outstanding leadership. You are an exemplary Texan, and I hope that we will continue to build upon the strong educational foundations you have nurtured.

TED CRUZ,
United States Senator.

April 9, 2014.

DEAR CHANCELLOR HANCE: On behalf of the City of Lubbock, let me offer my congratulations on your retirement as Chancellor, and thank you for your service to West Texas, Lubbock, and Texas Tech.

Your love and dedication to Texas Tech have brought the university to new heights.

From your graduation in 1965 to leading the way in raising over $1 billion, the time you have spent at Tech has left a lasting impression on the university. You strengthened ties between Texas Tech and the City of Lubbock, and your efforts to increase enrollment have led to new students and families now calling Lubbock home.

You are a true servant of the state, having served as a Texas State Senator, U.S. Congressman, and Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. Thank you for the years of service you dedicated to making Lubbock and West Texas a better place to live and work.

Sincerest congratulations,

GLEN C. ROBERTSON,
Mayor.

TXTA,
TEXAS TRUCKING ASSOCIATION,
Austin, TX, April 9, 2014.

HON. MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION: Let it be said that Chancellor Kent Hance has a deep and abiding love for the institution he has devoted the last eight years of his life to. In reality, Chancellor Hance has given so much more than just those eight years. Those who know him, know that his love affair with Texas Tech University began shortly after his parents dropped him off there in 1961. Since that time he has served his family and his constituents with honor, going all the way back to the late 1970's when he served in this hallowed body.

As he is well known for saying to freshman during their orientation, and to seniors at their graduation, ''I love Texas Tech.'' It also goes without saying that Texas Tech loves Kent Hance. And while his time in service as its Chancellor will soon end, the love shared will be without end. I am proud to have been a part of the Hance Administration.

On behalf of The Rivers and my wife, Leah, we wish him all the success in retirement that he has realized in service Texas Tech. All very well deserved, all with loyalty and honor.

JOHN D. ESPARZA,
Texas Tech Board of Regents,
Texas Tech Class of 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to direct their remarks to former Members on the House floor.

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be here on behalf of the Progressive Caucus Special Order hour. We are going to be talking about the budget. Everyone is talking about the budget, the Paul Ryan Republican budget, the Democratic budget, the Progressive Caucus budget, and other budgets that we have had before us.

We have our own version of a budget. The Progressive Caucus has the Better Off Budget. It is a budget that invests in the economy, creates 8.8 million jobs, and does a tremendous job of dealing with issues that are at the forefront of what America needs to deal with.

But we have a huge contrast in the budget that we have in this body before us that the Republicans have introduced that we will be voting on this week, tomorrow, in this very body. Tonight we would like to have a little talk about that.

As you look at the Better Off Budget in blue versus the GOP budget, the Better Off Budget creates 8.8 million jobs by investing in infrastructure, investing in our schools, and investing in energy, and a number of programs across the country.

On the contrast, the Republican budget actually costs the economy 3.1 million jobs. That is as many people as the entire workforce of the State of Wisconsin getting fired in a simple budget.

One of the biggest issues about the budget is what we are doing about jobs and the economy. We have been told by the Congressional Budget Office that the number one issue this year, the number one thing that causes our deficit, three-quarters of the deficit in 2014, is caused by economic weakness, in other words, unemployment and underemployment. Our budget directly addresses that, and the GOP budget does just the opposite. It is an austerity budget.

I would like to yield some time to one of my colleagues, a strong member of the Progressive Caucus, an outstanding Member of our California delegation. I would like to yield some time to Mr. ALAN LOWENTHAL.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his work on the Congressional Progressive Caucus budget, the CPC budget, and for just being an all-around good guy.

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The nondefense discretionary side of the budget has taken a beating in recent years with extreme cuts to its programs. The Ryan budget continues this damage with even deeper cuts to discretionary programs.

Now, what do I mean by discretionary programs? We are talking about education, public safety, clean drinking water, food safety, roads, bridges—our transportation system—air traffic controllers, medical research to find cures for diseases, among others.

The question I ask is: What is discretionary about any of these basic needs? What is discretionary about making sure that children can read or about making sure that drinking water is safe or that bridges don't collapse? There is nothing discretionary about these programs.

I think part of the problem is simply the word ''discretionary.'' We need to stop calling this discretionary, and we need to start calling this beleaguered side of the budget what it is, essential. These are the essential non-defense programs.

My dear friend, the main difference between the Ryan budget proposal and the CPC budget proposal is that Mr. RYAN believes that the government funding of these essential programs is a drain on the economy and a drain on taxpayers.

The CPC, however, recognizes that the investment in these essential programs is fundamental to the vitality of our country. It moves us forward, and as you pointed out, it creates millions of jobs—over 4.6 million jobs in the year 2014, almost 3 million in the year 2015 and close to 1.3 million in the year 2016.

It moves us forward, this investment in essential programs. It drives innovation. It creates jobs. It stimulates the economy. It puts our government and our country on a sustainable path to prosperity.

My friend Mr. RYAN's economic model of austerity contrasts sharply with our model of investment and progress in a fiscally responsible way. We believe that educating our workforce, building our infrastructure, ensuring access to a safe and healthy environment, which includes water and food safeguards, is the ticket to a secure future for our country. That is the difference between the Ryan budget and the CPC budget.

Mr. POCAN. Thank you, Mr. LOWENTHAL, for those wise comments about the word ''discretionary.'' I think, all too often, people don't understand what we mean when we talk about discretionary. Those are hardly discretionary programs.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. That is exactly right. They think that you can cut these because these are nonessential. These are not nonessential. If you tell a child that his education is nonessential or if you tell a family that public health or health research to those families is discretionary or if you tell those scientists who are trying to find cures for some of the worst diseases that they are just discretionary, we will lose the momentum that this country has, and we will no longer be the world leader in democracy and also no longer in innovation and job creation.

No, these are not discretionary programs. These are essential programs that are different than defense programs. To call them discretionary does a great disservice to the great importance and to the centerpiece of our budget that they really occupy and should occupy and that all Americans should understand.

Mr. POCAN. Again, thank you, Mr. LOWENTHAL, for your service, for your hard work on this budget, and for all you do for the people of California.

When we talk about those discretionary funds, it is interesting because, when we had the sequester that made a huge cut to these programs and that affected people in all of our States, the Paul Ryan Republican budget doubles down on these sequester cuts, and it makes even deeper cuts in a number of areas.

I just want to go through a little bit of a chart. Unfortunately, I found out

that I can't use a marker on the House floor because that is against the rules, so we are going to use this in a little bit of a different way, to try to have you take a look at this and decide where the difference is and who winds up winning on the side of the GOP Paul Ryan budget and the Congressional Progressive Caucus Better Off Budget. I just want to go through a few examples of programs that would matter.

Let's start with unemployed workers. Let's take a look at the two budgets. When you look at the Better Off Budget, as I showed before, 8.8 million jobs are created by the Better Off Budget. In the Republican budget, according to the Economic Policy Institute, it would cut 3 million jobs by the year 2016.

If you are someone who is unemployed, the Better Off Budget would make sure we extend emergency unemployment benefits. The GOP budget is silent—crickets. There is absolutely nothing to help people who—in a tough economy and who have worked hard all of their lives and who have played by the rules—have lost their benefits.

SNAP, for people who are getting help on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps, by and large, two-thirds of those people are children, seniors, and people with severe disabilities.

If you add the working poor, you are at 92 percent of the people who receive these benefits. The Democrats restore the cuts that happened this year in the farm bill and previous cuts to the program. $31.50 a week is what someone was making on the SNAP program to help him in getting by with food. We know this program is one of the best programs to help lift people out of poverty, and we restore that funding.

What does the Paul Ryan budget do? You may remember the debate that we had on the farm bill. Originally, the Republicans wanted to cut the SNAP program by about $20 billion, and they couldn't get enough votes because Republicans wanted to cut it even more, so they finally cut it by $39 billion.

Now, when we got to the conference committee with the Senate, we were able to get that down to $8 billion of cuts, but these are cuts to, as I mentioned, children, seniors, people with severe disabilities, and the working poor—two-thirds of whom are seniors, children, and people with severe disabilities.

What does the Paul Ryan budget do? Does it cut the $20 billion that they couldn't pass originally? No. Does it cut the $39 billion like the Republicans ultimately passed? Oh, no, as it was not nearly enough.

There is a $125 billion cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the Paul Ryan Republican budget.

Let's take a look at that for jobs. It costs 3 million jobs. It does nothing for the long-term unemployment extension, and it cuts assistance to the needy by $125 billion. I would say that the Progressive Caucus Democratic budget, by far, would win out in that category.

Let's next look at education. We have got pre-K, K–12, and college students. Let's look at each of these areas. The Better Off Budget invests $100 million into a stimulus for teachers and schools, so that we can help do what we need to in order to be competitive globally.

We need to be investing in our students through our teachers and our schools. We provide funding to rehire teachers who have lost their jobs through the bad economy in the last several years. We invest in early childhood development, which is crucial for someone to get a fair start in life, and we invest in job training. That is what the Congressional Progressive Caucus Better Off Budget includes.

What does the Republican budget include? Let's start with pre-K. In pre-K, there is an $18 billion cut to early education programs. Right off the bat, are they investing more? There is an $18 billion cut. Once again, the Progressive Caucus budget leads us.

Next, on K–12, in which we invest in the hiring of teachers and invest in our schools, what does the Republican budget do? In the Republican budget, if you have a child in K–12 public education in this country, there is an $89 billion cut.

Again, $89 billion in cuts or investing in our teachers and schools? Once again, the Congressional Progressive Caucus budget outdoes the Republican budget.

How about college students? This is where you are going to see some really big differences. We invest in the very financial aid programs that people need. We invest in higher education because, in order to be competitive in a global economy, we have to have the most talented, the smartest, the most innovative people we can possibly have in the economy to create the jobs we need to for the future.

What does the Republican budget do? It cuts $205 billion in higher education services—$205 billion—and I am not even counting Pell grants. Pell grants, which help some of our neediest students get access to higher education, get a $145 billion cut. We are talking, overall, just in higher education, almost $350 billion.

We invest more in those educational opportunities, and the Republican budget cuts over $350 billion. Overall, in those three areas in education alone, the Republicans cut $871 billion to education. That is what we do for middle class families and those aspiring to be in the middle class in the budget that this House will very likely pass tomorrow.

Let's look at the next category, seniors. Seniors, you have put your entire lives into this country, and you have worked all of your lives. You expect to have a retirement that you have invested in, and you have put your hours in.

What is the difference in the budgets? The Congressional Progressive Caucus budget does a number of things. One, we protect Social Security and Medicare. We make future investments in those programs. We protect funding in the Medicaid program.

We allow Medicare to negotiate for better prescription drug prices, so that seniors can pay less on drugs that they have to pay a larger percent of their income on, so that they can get by in those years, and we help, overall, in putting America on a path towards offering a single-payer option.

What does the Republican budget do when it comes to seniors? First of all, they end Medicare as we know it. Under the Republican budget, you now have a voucher program. You don't get Medicare. You get a voucher, something you can trade in, hopefully, for something in the future, which will very likely be a cut in the very health care that you have now and that you receive.

They increase the costs for seniors on prescription drugs by reopening the doughnut hole, which is going to cost seniors $4.1 billion extra on prescription drugs. Seniors are going to pay more for the prescription drugs they need.

They raise the Medicare eligibility age to 67, and they put seniors who rely on Medicaid at risk because they are making big cuts to the Medicaid program, $732 billion in cuts to the Medicaid program.

Once again, for seniors, it is cuts, it is paying more for prescription drugs, and it is putting you at risk through the Medicaid and Medicare program. The Democrats and the Progressive Caucus protect all of those programs that the seniors rely on so very much.

Our next group, the vets; they have served our country with distinction. If it weren't for the veterans we have, we wouldn't be able to protect the very liberties and freedoms that we have as a citizenry.

What does the Progressive Caucus budget do? We adopt a cost-of-living adjustment that takes into account realistic retiree expenses, and we fully fund veterans programs in advance.

We are protecting the programs, so that they have the guarantee to the veterans, the guarantee that they have promised to them, as they have put their time in for this country. We protect those very programs to ensure that they will have those programs in the future.

With the Republicans, we hear a lot of lip service about veterans and about protecting veterans, especially around Memorial Day and Veterans' Day, but the proof is in the budget.

What do the Republicans do? By 2016, the Republicans actually cut funding for veterans by $1.7 billion. Now, we saw what they did back in the budget in December when they cut the pensions for families who are in the military, but now, in their budget in 2016, there is an additional $1.7 billion cut to veterans.

This is the sort of lip service that you get when a holiday comes up and when we show up. The reality is when we vote on it on this floor.

Once again, for veterans, they lose money under the Republican budget, and in our budget, we protect programs that veterans deserve.

The middle class, what does our budget have for the middle class, and what does the Republican budget have for the middle class?

There are a couple of things around taxes. One of the things that we have been very careful to do is to get rid of some of the tax loopholes that benefit special interests.

There are tax breaks for Big Oil and Big Gas and tax breaks that go to companies that send jobs overseas, which doesn't even make any sense, yet we incentivize those very companies that send those jobs overseas rather than create jobs in America.

□ 1915

We protect middle class taxpayers by going back to the Clinton-era tax rates for households who make more than $250,000, and we add new brackets at $1 million. That allows us to bring in revenues from those who can most afford to, but protecting the very middle class that are the backbone of this economy.

By doing that—and protecting health care, seniors, education, investing in infrastructure for the very roads and services that people count on—we are doing everything we can to protect the middle class. This is one area where the distinction could not be more clear.

The Republicans have given a lot of lip service about trying to protect the middle class. Once again, the proof is in their budget. The budget shows their real values.

What does it do? It lowers the top tax rate down to 25 percent. Do you know what percent of taxpayers are in that top bracket? Less than one-half of 1 percent.

So when Chairman RYAN described the budget in the Budget Committee, which I serve on—we spent 10½ hours last Wednesday debating the budget—he said the budget was a win-win.

Well, if he meant it was a win for the top 1 percent and a win for the second percentile, I will agree. The other 98 percent of us pay for those two wins that are out there.

By lowering that rate to 25 percent, that gives the average millionaire a $200,000 tax break. Millionaires get big, big tax breaks.

How do you pay for that? Well, there is only one way: you are going to have to put the taxes onto the backs of the middle class. It is estimated it would be about $2,000 per middle class family to pay for those wealthiest few in the Nation.

So when it comes to the middle class, there is no question our budget does more for the middle class, and the Republican budget is a direct attack on the middle class by what we are able to do by making them pay for the very tax breaks that the wealthiest have put out there.

When you look at all this, there is one group that wins at the very bottom. I mentioned millionaires and billionaires. I have to give that edge to the Republican budget. You are going to get a great tax break—a great big check from Uncle Sam—at the courtesy of the middle class taxpayers in this country.

That is the only winner under the Republican budget. Clearly, in every other category, the Progressive Caucus and the Democratic budgets are superior to that budget introduced by the Republicans.

You are going to hear how it balances the budget in 10 years. That is the only talking point the Republicans have. They don't want to talk about the specifics because they lose in every single category, but the one thing that they claim they have is that they balance the budget in 10 years.

They don't mention it is on the backs of the middle class, but they say they are going to balance the budget in 10 years. Well, I wish their math were only as accurate as their rhetoric because the math simply doesn't add up. Let me tell you why. Let me give you one big glaring example of why the budget doesn't add up.

The Republican budget repeals the benefits of the Affordable Care Act, so it repeals all the positive things like the fact that, when you go to get insurance, if you have a preexisting condition, you now can get access.

You have got preventive care provided, so we can save long-term health costs. You don't have a lifetime cap on your insurance. Your children can stay on your policy until they are 26.

All these benefits were incorporated in the Affordable Care Act, and we just saw the success from the enrollment numbers. Millions of more people have access to health care.

It repeals those benefits, but get this: it keeps the revenues and the savings of the Affordable Care Act in order to make the numbers balance out for that allegedly 10-year balancing of the budget.

It doesn't take much more than a fourth-grader to understand that doesn't work out. You can't repeal a program, but still keep the revenue and the savings from that program, but the Republicans are trying to pass that off. They are trying to sell you a bill of goods.

Do you know how much that bill of goods is, that fuzzy math? Two trillion dollars is the amount that they are using in fuzzy math to try to claim their budget balances in 10 years. It doesn't take a lot to poke the holes in the fact that their budget doesn't balance out.

If their budget doesn't balance out, it doesn't benefit the middle class, and it only benefits the wealthiest, we have a really bad budget that this House will be voting on tomorrow. We are going to do everything we can to make sure that that budget doesn't pass.

I think one really important note that people have to realize from all that we describe that is in that budget is, even if it doesn't become the law of the land—thankfully, we have the Senate and the President still—it is the roadmap that the Republicans have if they were to take control.

If they were to keep the House of Representatives, if they were to take the U.S. Senate, if they were to take the Presidency, this is the fourth year in a row they have laid out this essential roadmap—this roadmap that benefits the top 1 or 2 percent and that every other person—every other American has to pay to subsidize those people.

We lose those important programs in health care and education, for veterans and for the unemployed and those struggling to get by in our society.

There is a very clear distinction between what the Democrats and the Progressive Caucus have put out as our budget that we have put forth to the American people and what the Republicans are actually offering.

They have warmed over austerity. Again, cuts, cuts, cuts will somehow make the economy work, and that is simply impossible to happen.

What I would like to do, at this time, is introduce another Member of the Progressive Caucus who has been a very hard worker on behalf of the middle class, not just in his district in the State of Pennsylvania, but across the country.

I yield to Representative MATT CARTWRIGHT from the great State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Thank you, Mr. POCAN.

Madam Speaker, I rise not only in support of the Congressional Progressive Caucus budget, but in opposition to the abomination that is this Ryan budget.

I am from Scranton, Pennsylvania. I represent the great northeast part of Pennsylvania in the 17th Congressional District.

I wanted to talk this evening a little bit about a couple of guys that came from Scranton. The first one is the Vice President of the United States, JOSEPH BIDEN.

I mention Vice President BIDEN tonight because it was Vice President BIDEN who intoned the phrase—and continues to do so—that there are a lot of people out there that love to talk about their values.

They will tell you all day about their values—their values on this, their values on that. They will wear you out. They will give you a good ear beating about their values; but Vice President BIDEN says: look, don't tell me about your values. Show me your budget, and let me read it, and I will tell you about what your values are.

Because that is what a budget is, it is a statement of your values. It is a statement of your principles and priorities.

When we see something like this Ryan budget that cuts everything, like

pre-K education, what does it say? That says you don't care that much about educating young kids, even though you know that, if you start kids off behind all the other kids, they are going to be struggling the rest of their academic careers.

It is going to affect their self-confidence in their academic lives, and they are not going to go far in school. It has ripple effects. A higher percentage of them will get in trouble with the law. How much do we end up paying for all of those things?

If you don't devote money to pre-K, it says you don't care about those things. Those things are not included in your set of values.

I also want to talk about another fellow because, when you go and slash pre-K and K–12 and Pell grants for colleges and you turn your back on seniors and veterans and you favor the haves against the have-nots—and even the middle class—when you do those things, you do that all in the name of austerity and cutting because you are worried about the deficit and you are worried about $16 trillion—$17 trillion is higher than anybody has ever counted in the history of mankind; and so therefore, we have to cut, cut, cut.

A lot of that is well-intentioned—it really is—because people are afraid, but you have to look at the current debt of this Nation in the context of what the gross domestic product is.

The truth is our national debt is not the highest it has ever been in connection with and comparison to the gross domestic product. It is not anywhere near the highest it has ever been. That is something pointed out by another fellow from Scranton, former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich.

Robert Reich is all of about 5 feet tall on his tiptoes, but he is a giant when it comes to labor policy and economics. He points out forcefully, time and time again, that if you compare the national debt to the gross domestic product, the highest it ever was in that ratio was after World War II.

It was after we defeated the Nazis, after we defeated the Axis powers, and after we had engineered the New Deal and brought this Nation out of the Great Depression, where upwards of 25 percent of people were unemployed, and we had done all of that.

Robert Reich remembers vividly his father saying to him in the late forties, into the early fifties:

> It's this Roosevelt debt we have been left with. You are going to be paying this off the rest of your life, and your children will be paying that Roosevelt debt off the rest of your life and your grandchildren, too.

That is not what happened, though. Robert Reich happily tells the way it played out. The way it played out, what did we do? We believed in ourselves. We believed in the strength and the vision of Americans and we did things like the Marshall Plan, and we rebuilt Europe and Japan and built the interstate highway system in this country.

We sent the GIs to college under the GI Bill. For crying out loud, we sent a man to the Moon. We did all those things because we were bullish on America. We need to continue that approach, which is something that Robert Reich likes to point out.

He says that, by the late sixties, nobody could mention the Roosevelt debt with a straight face. So I am here to say, Madam Speaker and Mr. POCAN, that we need to do that again. We need to grow our way out of the debt.

It is nowhere near as bad as it was after World War II, but we still have to grow our way out of it by believing in ourselves by being bullish on America.

Mr. POCAN. Thank you, again, Mr. CARTWRIGHT. The work you have done on behalf of the people not just of Scranton—I have heard you mention Scranton many times on the floor—but for all of Pennsylvania and the entire country, thank you for all your efforts. I really appreciate that.

In closing, for this part of the Progressive Caucus Special Order hour, I just want to hit the main point again when it comes to the budget.

We all know that the top three issues facing this country are jobs, jobs, jobs. There is such a difference between what the Democrats and the Progressives have proposed and what the Republicans have proposed.

Again, the Better Off Budget for the Progressive Caucus shows an 8.8 million increase in the number of jobs in this country. We invest in our infrastructure. We invest in our schools. We invest in job training. We create 8.8 million jobs.

The Republican budget, according to the Economic Policy Institute, would cost this country 3.1 million jobs. Those 3.1 million jobs are as many people as we have working in the entire State of Wisconsin. Think about firing every single person in the State of Wisconsin. That is the job loss that would come out of the Republican budget.

So it is an honor tonight to talk on behalf of the Progressive Caucus and our budget and to highlight the many problems that we are going to have tomorrow when this body votes on the Republican budget.

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

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THE IMPACT OF THE RYAN BUDGET ON AMERICA'S WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana) Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) for 27 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. EDWARDS. I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Madam Speaker, I want to rise this evening to discuss our annual budget. Congress has a number of responsibilities, but a big one is that Congress is tasked annually with developing a budget that lays out our Nation's priorities in spending and lays out a budget that reflects our values.

Democrats have been working to provide a fair shot for everyone to succeed by creating good-paying jobs and an opportunity for working families. Our country is, in fact, strongest when our economy grows from the middle out, and not from the top down.

Unfortunately the fiscal year 2015 Republican budget introduced by PAUL RYAN takes the opposite approach. It benefits the few at the top by showering tax breaks on millionaires and corporate special interests, while shifting the burden of the Federal budget to middle class families.

Once again, Mr. RYAN and Republicans have been convinced that the best way to help working families is to stop helping working families. Unfortunately, the Ryan budget resolution would actually harm families, most especially, women and children.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, the Ryan budget would cost jobs and slow our recovery, costing 1.1 million jobs in fiscal year 2015, and rising to about 3 million in the following year.

Republicans are raising taxes on middle class families with children by an average of at least $2,000 a year in order to cut taxes for millionaires.

Now, let's just take a look at that, Madam Speaker. A recent analysis by Citizens for Tax Justice finds that, under the Ryan plan, taxpayers with income exceeding $1 million in 2015 would receive an average net tax decrease of over $200,000 in that fiscal year.

Now, let's balance this. Families with children would have to pay an additional $2,000, and millionaires would get the benefit of a decrease in their taxes of $200,000. $2,000 for working families, and $200,000 for millionaires.

Now, of course, the Ryan budget doesn't touch tax breaks for big oil and gas companies that ship jobs overseas. After all, you have to have priorities, priorities and budgets that are a statement of values.

So it is very clear that the Ryan priorities and the Ryan budget priorities benefit millionaires. It is very clear, unsurprisingly, that the Ryan budget also repeals, yet again, the Affordable Care Act, despite the fact that 9.3 million people now have health care as a result of the Affordable Care Act, that according to a Rand Corporation study.

Now, repealing the Affordable Care Act would allow insurance companies, once again, to treat a woman and being a woman as a preexisting condition, would once again enable insurance companies to charge women more than men.

Insurance companies would also be able to deny women coverage because of preexisting conditions, including a history of domestic violence, breast and cervical cancer, and C-sections.

Under this budget, millions of women and their families would be stripped of

the private marketplace health plans and expanded Medicaid coverage that they have obtained under the Affordable Care Act.

In fact, more than 47 million woman would again have to pay out-of-pocket-costs for lifesaving preventive health services like mammograms and cervical cancer screenings. Up to 4 million women seniors, that is right, 4 million women seniors would fall, once again, into the prescription drug doughnut hole, and they would have to start reaching back into their pockets once again to pay for their prescription drugs because the Ryan budget reopens the doughnut hole.

I want to repeat that for the American people. The Ryan budget reopens the doughnut hole that Democrats closed. As a result, seniors in the doughnut hole will pay an additional $18,000 over 10 years, on average, for their prescription drugs.

Look, women make up about 55 percent of Medicare enrollees, and they would suffer the most, frankly, when the Medicare guarantee is replaced, under the Ryan budget, with a voucher in 2024.

That is right. The Ryan budget wants to change the Medicare system, take away the Medicare guarantee for the 55 percent of the enrollees who are women, for all enrollees, with premiums for traditional Medicare going up about 50 percent on average. Think what that means for America's women who are seniors.

Indeed, the Republican plan would draw traditional Medicare into a death spiral. It would end it as we know it.

Not just that, but the Ryan budget also slashes Medicaid by $732 billion over 10 years, or nearly 25 percent in 2024, with the largest impact on women.

I will continue, because the Ryan budget does such devastation to America's women, that it bears repeating. But with that, I will yield some time to my colleague from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my friend, DONNA EDWARDS for organizing tonight's important colloquy and Special Order to talk about the Ryan Republican budget and its unacceptable impact on women.

For the fourth year in a row, Chairman RYAN has proposed an uncompromising budget plan that is out of touch with Nevada's priorities and the country's vision for the future.

Chairman RYAN has used a lot of gimmicks in this budget, but no amount of chicanery can hide what it means for women.

Instead of laying out a plan to strengthen and grow the middle class, Representative RYAN's budget disproportionately harms low-income women and the families they struggle to support. It also undermines the health and economic security of the elderly and the disabled, most of whom are women, as you have just pointed out.

It would repeal the Affordable Care Act and the critical protections and benefits this landmark legislation offers to women. Millions of women and their families would have to pay out of pocket for lifesaving preventive health services such as mammograms and cervical cancer screenings.

Insurance companies would be allowed, once again, to treat being a woman as a preexisting condition. And over 200,000 women in Nevada alone would lose access to affordable health insurance that is provided by the ACA.

The Ryan budget also threatens a laundry list of vital programs that help southern Nevada women and children, such as SNAP, WIC, Head Start, TANF, and Pell grants, just to name a few.

Currently, over 75,000 Nevada women and children rely on WIC, and 358,000 Nevadans depend on SNAP, 154,000 of whom are children. In addition, nearly 5,000 children in Nevada participate in Head Start, and 33,000 Nevada students benefit from Pell grants.

Under the Ryan budget, women could lose access to these critical programs, programs that help them put food on the table and give their children access to the education they need to succeed.

The Ryan budget also eliminates the Brand USA program, which fosters international tourism, an industry that employs many women in service jobs in Nevada and around the country.

Instead of protecting women and children, Representative RYAN and the Republican Party would rather provide the richest one-tenth of 1 percent, those households making more than $3.3 million a year, with a $1.2 million tax cut.

Now, the Federal budget is a blueprint for our Nation's future. It is a statement of our priorities as a Nation, and it should provide a path forward that we can all be proud of.

My constituents in Las Vegas, and our constituents all around the country, deserve better than this rehashed Ryan budget which slashes programs for children, dismantles health care, eliminates the safety net for seniors, and defunds education and needed research and development.

This budget is not a road to prosperity, as Representative RYAN calls it; it is a road to ruin. And as someone said recently, it is like giving the middle finger to the middle class.

Instead, we need a balanced plan that protects women and their families while making investments in our future. Let's work on that kind of budget.

So, again, I want to thank my friends who have come to the floor tonight to point out these problems.

I yield back to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. I thank the gentlewoman from Nevada for pointing out the many ways in which the Ryan budget impacts the women of Nevada and impacts the women of this country.

The gentlewoman mentioned something that I think, again, bears repeating. The Ryan budget cuts food stamps by $137 billion over the next 10 years, which would, in fact, be devastating for millions of America's women, because 62 percent of adult food stamp recipients, in fact, are women.

And at least 200,000 women and children would be dropped from the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, if the 15 percent cut in 2016 non-defense appropriations was applied across the board.

The Ryan budget calls for at least $500 billion in cuts to income support programs like the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit, unemployment insurance, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and child nutrition programs, including school lunches. That is right: taking food right out of the mouths of our youngest children who need that nutrition in order to learn and be 21st century learners.

Sixty-six percent of individuals who depend on senior meals like Meals on Wheels are women. Those senior meals would be cut by 15 percent in 2016, if the GOP cut in non-defense appropriations was applied proportionately.

Up to 5.6 million women students would find college less affordable due to $145 billion in cuts to Pell grants under the Ryan budget.

Up to 170,000 children would lose access to Head Start, and up to 3.4 million disadvantaged children at 8,000 schools would lose vital Title I education programs.

I keep going on, and it seems incredibly devastating to America's families and, particularly, to America's women. It is almost as though the Ryan budget were a Mack truck just running right over top of America's women.

Now, Democrats have an agenda and a budget that, in fact, reflects our values of strengthening the middle class, of closing the opportunity gap, of enabling women and their families to succeed. It is a budget that helps women and families address some of the biggest economic challenges facing them.

It calls for raising the Federal minimum wage, for ensuring equal pay for equal work, for expanding family and medical leave, and for making child care more affordable.

In my home State of Maryland, child care costs for an infant can run to $12,936 a year for child care for one infant. In a lot of cases, that is more than you pay for a 4-year institution, or a community college, just to have your child in child care.

These are devastating for America's families. In fact, America's families are spending 35 percent of their income, of their family's income, in child care. That is more than we are spending on mortgages. It is certainly more than we are saving, Madam Speaker.

As we know, women make on average just 77 cents on a dollar a man makes. For African American women and Latinas, the gap is even larger. African American women earn just 64 cents,

and Latinas earn only 54 cents for every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men.

Two-thirds of the minimum wage earners in this country are women, and family and leave protections fail to cover nearly half of full-time employees.

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The Democrats' budget, in fact, takes a look at these things and says, you know what, people are working hard, and they are trying to take care of themselves and their families; and, in fact, in this country, with so many women who are either principal breadwinners or, certainly, partner breadwinners in their families, the cuts envisioned by the Ryan budget would be devastating for America's women.

We know that child care expenses, for example, that are important to men and women are consuming so much of American families' income, and yet the Ryan budget would take $2,000 away from working families and enable millionaires to get the benefit of $200,000. Think about that—your average family, $2,000; millionaires, $200,000.

According to the Ryan budget, the budget actually fails to call for bills promoting equal pay for equal work for women. It fails to increase the minimum wage. It fails to provide for paid sick days for workers. The Ryan budget fails to help working families afford the cost of child care.

We do have solutions, as Democrats, to these challenges. I mean, after all, it is really true that, when women succeed, America succeeds. Our agenda ensures that women will have the tools they need to fully participate in the 21st century economy.

Madam Speaker, Republican priorities are making tax cuts for the wealthy permanent, and they are shrinking the size of government, regardless of the damage that it would cause.

As I have detailed, the Ryan budget doubles down on policies that, in fact, hurt working families. I think that it is time, Madam Speaker, for us to pay attention to what is happening to women—to women who are increasingly in the workplace, but are saddled with the burden of incomes that are not keeping pace, needing assistance to help them get by, not because they are not working, not because they are not contributing; and the Ryan budget does more devastation to America's women.

So I would urge my colleagues to, once again, take a look at this and to say, you know, in a country that has so much and that promises so much and where there really should be more opportunity for all, that we don't need a budget that just rips apart the lives of women and children and families, and the Ryan budget does just that.

I look today at the Congressional Progressive Caucus alternative budget. I voted for that because it is good for America. I looked at this Congressional Black Caucus budget. I voted for that because it is good for America.

I will look at the Democratic alternative to the devastating Ryan budget because it is good for America. It is good for America's families. It is good for America's women.

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

THE NEED FOR GENERIC DRUG PRICING IN MEDICARE PART D

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to always come to this floor and especially talk about needs, and I think this Republican majority speaks to the needs of our families, our moms and dads, and the struggles that they go through every day.

One of those areas that I have been concerned about since coming to Congress and finding out about it deals with our independent pharmacies, deals with the contracts, and deals with the pharmacy benefit managers.

These are things that need to be fixed because they are destroying some of the very fabric of our communities, and these community pharmacists are just asking for a chance, and right now, they seem to be on the outside looking in, when it comes to dealing with these.

Tonight, I am pleased to be joined by not only my good friend who I served with not only in Georgia, but up here in Washington as well, Congressman AUSTIN SCOTT, who is a cochair of the Congressional Pharmacy Caucus; and I would love to have him be a part of this tonight.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Well, thank you, Mr. COLLINS. As you know, you and I served together and had a great relationship there in Georgia, where Democrats and Republicans worked together to balance the budget and solve the problems, and I sure wish we could get to that up here.

Tonight, we are here to talk about an issue that affects us all as well, and that is transparency in pharmacy pricing and highlighting the need for our rural pharmacist, our community pharmacist, and the challenges that they face with Medicare Part D programs.

Just recently, I met with a pharmacist from my district, Mr. Daryl Reynolds; and like many other pharmacists from the Eighth District, he runs a small store and has been hurt by the lack of transparency and pricing. Ultimately, that hurts his patients because it makes it hard for him to stay in business.

While the big pharmacy chains want to operate in the metropolitan areas—and that is wonderful—we in the rural parts of the country need our rural and community pharmacists, and pharmacists like Daryl are a vital component of our national health care system, for those of us who live great distances from the metropolitan areas.

They know us by name. They know our drug interactions. They are able to work with us and our physicians. They make sure that we are taken care of and that we are taking the right medications for the problems that we may have.

In order to continue these relationships, we need to make sure that the Medicare Part D plans that they work through to help our seniors have the pricing transparency with pharmacy benefit managers.

In many cases, our community pharmacists—because of the way the pharmacy benefit managers operate—are reimbursed at less than what the drug actually costs the small community pharmacy. These contracts are nonnegotiable. They are vague and opaque, and most of the time, it puts a small community independent businessman up against a multibillion dollar company.

These PBMs and their maximum allowable cost prices, they don't update them when the prices go up, and that leaves the pharmacist paying more, again, for the drug than they actually get reimbursed for the drug, and these are the pricing practices that need to be fixed for our community pharmacists.

I am here tonight with my colleague from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to bring light to this issue. CMS recently proposed rules that would take an important step in addressing this need for generic drug pricing transparency.

How can transparency be a bad thing for Medicare Part D? The rule simply requires that Medicare Part D sponsors should agree in, their contracts with CMS, to update the prices in a timely manner to reflect the current market price.

In rural districts like mine, access to a community pharmacist is critical for people to receive the medications they need. It is imperative for the health and wellness of our rural communities.

I want to commend you, Mr. COLLINS, for your legislation. I look forward to working with you to pass that and thank you for being here tonight on behalf of community pharmacists.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I appreciate that, to my good friend from south Georgia.

You know, it is amazing. In those communities that you just spoke of, they need the help—not that they are asking for a handout. They are just asking for fairness, and I think that is what we miss so often today in our debates here on this floor, and they should be on this floor.

We talk about one group against the other, and really, Madam Speaker, this is about fairness. This is a simple issue of fairness and saying we in the government need to be in our proper constitutional role and to look at it in the framework of not tilting the scale one way or another, but saying what are we doing that helps the American people and also looking ahead to—especially in an area such as health care in which

we can find common ground; and I believe we will as we go forward here.

So when we are talking about Medicare Part D and some of the proposed changes of CMS to Part D, it is really the need for generic drug reimbursement limits, known as maximum allowable costs, or MACs.

Generic drugs account for nearly 80 percent of prescriptions, but a community pharmacist is kept in the dark as to how pharmacy benefit managers determine MAC rates for these medications.

You see, Congress and CMS must step in to give pharmacists more transparency into this process, so they are empowered to evaluate if specific contracts would help them better serve our neighborhoods and families.

I am a big believer, Madam Speaker, that transparency is important, that one of the reasons in the basic underlying trust today, when you look out among the country and you see the unfortunateness of the low esteem that Congress is held in, I believe it goes back to a matter of trust.

It goes back to a matter of trust, of believing that what goes on here does not have their best interests at heart, and I think this is sort of what we are talking about tonight with our pharmacists.

Pharmacists, no matter where they work, are wonderful individuals who truly, I believe, have the best interest of the folks who come to see them at heart.

The problem is in the system, especially when it deals with pharmacy benefit managers and the inherent falseness and the inherent problems that are faced with the pharmacy benefit managers and our independent pharmacists.

Pharmacists need an appeals process when disputes over MACs arise and timely adjustments of MAC lists by PBMs to reflect rising drug costs and ensure consumers have the information they need regarding copays.

The status quo cannot continue because, right now, an amount a pharmacy is paid in the morning for a particular medication can change to a different rate for the same medication in the same afternoon.

For those who may be watching tonight or who will be watching: Can you believe this? We are not talking the price of OPEC here. This is not an oil commodity. This is a drug cost, and yet they can't get the help that they need just for simple transparency.

The uncertainty is devastating to pharmacies and the patients they serve. This process is further complicated by the fact that PBMs frequently maintain multiple MAC lists for the same health plan, one for the health plan and one for the pharmacy; one behind the mirror, one in front of the mirror; one outside, one inside.

Where is this going to stop? I have come to this floor many times, and it just still boggles the mind for me. How can you do this?

You know, I am concerned that this provides PBMs with the power to obtain significant revenues through deceptive practices without consumers being any the wiser.

My independent community pharmacies and chain pharmacies in northeast Georgia work long hours each and every day to provide care and advice to our families and our seniors, but they are frustrated and tired by the lack of transparency in generic drug pricing.

PBMs have a track record of refusing to divulge the method they use to determine generic prescription drug price reimbursements in the take-it-or-leave-it contracts pharmacists must sign to assist patients.

In addition, PBMs often fail to update MAC prices in a timely fashion. Conveniently, this often occurs when there is a price spike, wouldn't you guess. Oops, we forgot to update it, and by the way, the price went up.

When you consider that generic prescription drugs make up approximately 80 percent of all dispensed drugs, you can understand why pharmacies of all sizes and affiliations are frustrated.

I was pleased when CMS released its proposed rule for Part D on January 7 of this year because it included several positive provisions. Even though I did not support the rule in its entirety, I did support key provisions that would give independent community pharmacists the ability to try to compete in preferred pharmacy networks; provide important generic drug pricing transparency reforms, although they were not as strong as I would have liked to have seen them.

The proposed rule also contained measures documenting problems with mail order delivery delays and the difficulties beneficiaries have when trying to change their prescriptions over an automated telephone hotline.

Unfortunately, on March 10, CMS announced that it would be holding off on finalizing certain provisions in the rule, one of those provisions being the any willing clarification regarding preferred pharmacy networks.

This was a devastating blow to northeast Georgia pharmacies and the families that rely on them and, to be frank, to anyone listening, not just northeast Georgia, Madam Speaker. It is all over the country, and this is something that is disturbing to me and many others.

I continue to remain hopeful that the provisions on generic drug pricing transparency will be finalized when the rule is published. However, I don't believe simply hoping is enough. In this country, I think we have found out, over the past few years, that hope is not a plan and hope is not something I am going to sit by and watch when we look at this issue.

So this evening, along with my colleague from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK), I introduced H.R. 4437, the Generic Drug Pricing Fairness Act. This legislation will provide much-needed, although reasonable transparency, by doing a few things. Let me list those.

It will provide clarity to plan sponsors and pharmacies regarding how MAC pricing is determined. It will establish an appeals process in which a dispensing provider can contest a listed MAC price. It provides standardization for how products are selected for inclusion on MAC list, and it compels PBM disclosures about the use of multiple MAC lists and whether or not MAC pricing is utilized for mail order products.

More than 80 percent of the prescriptions that community pharmacists dispense that we talked about are generic, and that is good for both beneficiaries and for the solvency of the Part D program.

Pharmacies deserve to know what they will be reimbursed for when providing a service. When market factors cause the price of generics to change, pharmacies should also be informed of that change in a timely and efficient fashion.

Again, I started this conversation with my dear friend from Georgia about fairness, about simple fairness; and when there is a system set up in which a problem exists in which basically the system is picking winners and losers, the system is causing these unhealthy problems for our independent pharmacies, then that is when we need to act.

That is the government's role, is to remove the impediments toward a free market and be able to compete, and those pharmacists need to know that Washington cares.

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When you understand what people are looking for, then you can begin to act as I think we were all elected to do, Madam Speaker, and that is to listen to our communities, that is to listen to our folks and understand that many times these kinds of situations affect the everyday lives of people getting up and just trying to make a living, just trying to get the drugs and the necessities that they need.

What they are not understanding is why their independent pharmacists are struggling to stay afloat, for one, and also struggling every day just to be able to provide basic care to them because they are under a system in which transparency is just not there.

You see, the additional topic that I would like to talk about not only concerns the transparency issues and the MAC pricing; it is what I hear from pharmacists back home, and that is the readiness of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, to finalize the Medicaid drug reimbursement changes in July 2014 immediately upon implementing average manufacturer price-based, Federal upper limits for Medicaid drugs, as required under the act.

CMS expects States to view Medicaid reimbursement as a two-part formula where the movement toward cost-based drug reimbursement should also correspond with changes to dispensing fees

based on pharmacy costs. I believe that these dual goals are overly ambitious for July 2014.

A side note here, I think the entire ACA, or ObamaCare, is not only too optimistic but wrong for America, but that is another Special Order for another night.

When we look at this, the thing that I want to look at is that most States must take several time-consuming steps before implementation and corresponding dispensing fee changes.

First, many States require legislative or regulatory changes to implement the new Federal upper limits. For States that require legislative changes, there simply is not enough time to pass the necessary legislation. Moreover, in most States, budgets will be finalized before these Federal upper limits are scheduled to be published.

In November 2013, CMS stated that if States shift their Medicaid reimbursement methodologies, they either should or must conduct cost-of-dispensing fee surveys to determine fair and equitable total Medicaid drug reimbursement rates.

Finally, most States will need to file a State Plan Amendment with CMS prior to implementing the Medicaid reimbursement methodology changes. And again, this just adds extra and additional time to the process.

At the end of the day, it seems clear that most States will be unable to meet CMS' expectations by the July 2014 deadline. Accordingly, I joined with several of my colleagues here in the House to write a letter encouraging CMS to give States a 1-year transition period for implementation. States need to have more time to effectively transition to these new rates. As my colleagues and I wrote in the letter:

> This change will likely represent immediate and significant cuts to Federal matching funds to the States for Medicaid drug product reimbursement and/or cuts to pharmacy Medicaid drug reimbursement.
>
> Ultimately, such an instantaneous change could result in an unnecessary strain on State Medicaid budgets and Medicaid drug access problems for low-income Americans. Fair reimbursement for pharmacies is critical to ensuring that Medicaid beneficiaries and others maintain access to prescription drugs and pharmacy services.

Now, I want to take that for just a second, and as my friend from Georgia talked about when we actually had to pass a balanced budget in Georgia—what a unique concept. Most families do it every year. Governments ought to have to do that as well. In the State of Georgia, we just couldn't go out and print more money or borrow more money from foreign governments or anywhere else we are borrowing it from these days. We actually had to do an actual budget. We had to do actual spending plans that actually balanced. And for most States, this is an issue that often goes untalked about because no one wants to talk about the perceived costs and the changes in the costs when State governments, who have to balance their budget—Madam Speaker, I know in many other States they have to do this as well. You have to plan for this. You actually have to put money in the budget to do this. And we are not going to simply have time here, and to do so on States is just inherently, again—here is this word again—it is unfair. Fairness for all.

I am often struck—before I continue here, I look at this, and I talk to many of my independent pharmacists who went to pharmacy school, and they had opportunities to do a lot of things. Many of them went back to smaller communities to open up their local pharmacy, little, small pharmacies or medium-size pharmacies they may have taken over for a family member, or they bought a pharmacy out and they love the small town atmosphere, they love the rural atmosphere. They could have gone anywhere and done a lot of things, but they chose to serve these communities in medium cities and small cities all across the Ninth District and all across the country. And when they do so, I think they were living up to our Founders' belief when it was stated that we come here in this country for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The pursuit of happiness is what we have to look at. Pursuit of happiness actually is not the guaranty of happiness. There are some in this Chamber who believe that the government ought to guaranty happiness. That is not what the Founders asked for. They said the pursuit of happiness. Life and liberty comes from that pursuit of happiness. And we have to provide those independent pharmacies and all who live in this arena fair and equitable transparency in reimbursement and time. It is about the pursuit of happiness that we look for.

But also there is another important issue that I look forward to hearing back from CMS on. At this point, we are waiting patiently to hear from CMS.

I also recently sent a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius concerning the Medicare Part D rule proposed in January. As CMS makes their final decision as to the contents in the rule, we reiterated our support for the provisions of the rule that would make prescription drugs more affordable and preserve beneficiary access to Medicare Part D.

Specifically, our letter supported the proposal to: maintain pharmacy access by allowing any willing pharmacy to participate in plan networks and utilize preferred cost sharing; expand access to and eligibility for medication therapy management, leading to improved patient health outcomes and decreased health care spending; ensure prescription drug pricing transparency by providing pricing updates on a regular basis, allowing pharmacies to plan their business operations more efficiently.

As our letter stated:

> Patients should be free to select a health plan that best fits their personal health needs and allows them to utilize accessible pharmacies.
>
> At the same time, pharmacists deserve the clarity necessary to plan their business operations more efficiently to help achieve a more effective Part D program for beneficiaries.

It is my hope that CMS will adopt these proposals in their final rule. However, again, I don't live on hope. I do not believe hope is a plan. So if they do not, I believe Congress needs to act, and we will continue to look for solutions there.

I believe that, further, these changes that I have talked about will further strengthen the Medicare Part D program and make it even more successful than it is today. There are cost issues among everything. Medicare Part D is no exception. But we have got to make it in a way in which our local independent pharmacies and the health care system in general is helped by these pharmacists who simply want to help the people who walk in their door.

They want to be able to give them treatment. They want to be able to help in the eligibility and access to the medication therapy management programs. They want to be able to talk to their patients and be able to help them get the best pricing and the best plans for them. And they don't want to be locked out from a system in which pharmacy benefit managers are basically keeping them out.

As I have shared from this floor before, if we don't make changes and we don't start looking to our independent pharmacies all across this country, the sad part is one of the independent pharmacies told me, if we can't get some help, if we can't be allowed to participate in the program, then we are looking forward to a time in which independent pharmacies may disappear from the business landscape and the medical community landscape.

For me, as I look and as I think about those who serve me and my family, I can't think of a place in the Ninth District of Georgia or Hall County and the places that I serve or really anywhere else, Madam Speaker, in which our communities would be better off without these local men and women who run businesses, who get up every morning because they want to serve and they want to help.

When we look at that, is that not what America is about? Is that not what we were founded on, that pursuit of happiness, that getting up and doing something that fulfills us and that gives us the knowledge that we can go and do something that makes a difference? But, unfortunately, the position of our government in some of these programs right now is telling the independent pharmacist: you are not valued.

I will tell you this. This Member of Congress values them, and I believe there are a lot of other Members of this Congress that value them as well, and we are going to continue to fight hard for the changes that I spoke to tonight. As we look back on what we talked

about, I do appreciate my friend from Georgia coming, and I do ask that all of our Members look at H.R. 4437, the Generic Drug Pricing Fairness Act, and I would encourage them to be original cosponsors and be a part of the bill that has just been dropped. We want them to be a part of this because this is a conversation that both sides of the aisle can have when it comes to dealing with our folks back home and all across this country.

Fairness is what it is all about.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARTER (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for April 7, 8, and today on account of him attending the memorial services for the victims of the April 2 shooting at Fort Hood, Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and April 10 on account of official business in the district.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and April 10.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 10, 2014, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

5328. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Extension of Pilot Program on Acquisition of Military-Purpose Nondevelopmental Items (DFARS Case 2014-D007) (RIN: 0750-AI28) received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5329. A letter from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Equal Access to Justice Act Implementation Rule [Docket No.: CFPB-2012-0020] (RIN: 3170-AA27) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5330. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Dearborn County, IN, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8325] received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5331. A letter from the Program Specialist, LRA, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Amendments: Removal of Rules Transferred to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; OCC Address Change [Docket ID: OCC-2014-0005] (RIN: 1557-AD76) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5332. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examinations Counsel, transmitting the Council's Annual Report for 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

5333. A letter from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Waivers of Rights and Claims in Settlement of a Charge or Lawsuit under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; Corrections (RIN: 3046-AA58) received March 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5334. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Premium Rates; Payment of Premiums; Reducing Regulatory Burden (RIN: 1212-AB26) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5335. A letter from the Attorney, Regulatory Affairs Divisions, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Safety Standard for Carriages and Strollers [Docket No.: CPSC-2013-0019] received March 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5336. 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; Delaware; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0408; FRL-9909-11-Region 3] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5337. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Thiram; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0143; FRL-9909-02] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5338. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Proquinazid; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0164; FRL-9903-11] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5339. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to Test Methods and Testing Regulations; Technical Amendment [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0114; FRL-9908-99-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AQ01) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5340. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Metaflumizone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0258; FRL-9907-67] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5341. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Manufacturing (Import) Exemption for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) [EPA-HQ-RCRA-2013-0396; FRL-9908-98-OSWER] (RIN: 2050-AG79) received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5342. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Imazapic; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0110; FRL-9400-3] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5343. 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; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0413; FRL-9909-10-Region 3] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5344. 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; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0299; FRL-9909-09-Region 3] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5345. 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; Illinois; 10-Year FESOP Amendments [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-0117; FRL-9907-50- Region 5] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5346. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Hawaii; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R09-OAR-2013-0681; FRL-9909-07-Region 9] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5347. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Ohio; ''Infrastructure'' SIP State Board Requirements for the 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0805; FRL-9908-70-Region 5] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5348. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Imazapyr; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0957; FRL-9907-82] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5349. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agnecy, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Final Enforceable Consent Agreement and Testing Consent Order for Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane (D4); Export Notification [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2012-0209; FRL-9907-36] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5350. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the National Emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order

13224 of September 23, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5351. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementation of the Understandings Reached at the June 2013 Australia Group (AG) Plenary Meeting and the December 2012 AG Intersessional Decisions [Docket No.: 131211999-3999-01] (RIN: 0694-AG04) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5352. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Updated Statements of Legal Authority for the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No.: 140227183-4183-01] (RIN: 0694-AG07) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5353. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on ''Overseas Surplus Property'' for disposal within fiscal years 2014 through 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5354. A letter from the Assistant Directory for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5355. A letter from the Associate Director for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Syrian Sanctions Regulations received April 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5356. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the sixty-seventh Semiannual Report to Congress of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5357. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's 2013 Freedom of Information Act Litigation and Compliance Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5358. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — List of Fisheries for 2014 [Docket No.: 131017871-4175-02] (RIN: 0648-BD72) received March 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5359. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report detailing activities under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act during Fiscal Year 2013, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1997f; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5360. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded $5 million for the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3366-EM in the State of West Virginia; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5361. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0694; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-097-AD; Amendment 39-17775; AD 2014-05-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5362. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Georgetown, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0592; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASW-13] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5363. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Wheeling, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0955; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-36] received April 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5364. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Arms, Ammunition and Defense Articles--Removal of Certain Defense Articles Currently on the U.S. Munitions Import List That No Longer Warrant Import Control Under the Arms Export Control Act (2011R-25P) [Docket No.: AFT-25I; AG Order No. 3423-2014] received March 27, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5365. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Designation of Payor to Perform Acts Required of an Employer [TD 9662] (RIN: 1545-BJ31) received March 31, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1378. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the ''James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse''; with amendments (Rept. 113–406). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3786. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; with an amendment (Rept. 113–407). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3998. A bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation; with an amendment (Rept. 113–408). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 4093. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to raise the prime and subcontract goals, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–409). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 4094. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to develop and implement a plan to improve the quality of data reported on bundled and consolidated contracts, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–410). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H.R. 4431. A bill to provide that, if emergency unemployment compensation is extended, prospective benefits shall be subject to gradual reduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MATHESON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 4432. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to food produced from, containing, or consisting of a bioengineered organism, the labeling of natural foods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. MCKEON):

H.R. 4433. A bill to provide military assistance to Ukraine, to enhance the presence and capabilities of the United States military in Europe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. NUNES (for himself, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COOK, Mr. JONES, Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. LATHAM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. COSTA, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. COLE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. HOLDING):

H.R. 4434. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to move United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) back to the continental United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MCKEON (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Washington) (both by request):

H.R. 4435. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETRI:

H.R. 4436. A bill to provide the legal framework necessary for the growth of innovative private financing options for students to fund postsecondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and

Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 4437. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for pharmacy benefits manager standards under the Medicare prescription drug program to further transparency of payment methodologies to pharmacies, and for other purposes; 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. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. PAULSEN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. SCHOCK):

H.R. 4438. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 4439. A bill to ensure that minority-owned and women-owned businesses have a full and fair opportunity to compete in covered rail projects and contracts, and that the Federal Government does not subsidize discrimination in covered rail projects; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 4440. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4441. A bill to require pipelines regulated by the Secretary of Transportation to be made of steel that is produced in the United States and originates from iron ore and taconite mined and processed in the United States, for safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 4442. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all political committees to notify the Federal Election Commission within 48 hours of receiving cumulative contributions of $1,000 or more from any contributor during a calendar year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4443. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue, in New York, New York as the ''Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RIBBLE (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 4444. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to require that the Congressional Budget Office prepare long-term scoring estimates for reported bills and joint resolutions that could have significant economic and fiscal effects outside of the normal scoring periods; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

183. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Iowa, relative to House Resolution No. 102 requesting that the Congress enact a new food, farm, and jobs bill; to the Committee on Agriculture.

184. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Wyoming, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 requesting Congress to require the federal Environmental Protection Agency to respect the primacy of Wyoming in developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

185. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Ohio, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 10 memorializing the Congress to seek the withdrawal of the Preventive Services Task Force recommendation against prostate-specific antigen-based screening for prostate cancer for men in all age groups; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

186. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 urging the President, Congress, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to take prompt action to reduce the processing time for veterans' disability benefit claims; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

187. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Washington, relative to Senate Joint Memorial 8007 asking the Congress and the President to sign legislation reforming the harbor maintenance tax; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

188. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Wyoming, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 1 requesting the Congress to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means.

189. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, relative to House Resolution No. 524 urging the Congress to pass H.R. 875; jointly to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. BENTIVOLIO:

H.R. 4431.

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

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

ARTICLE I, SECTION 9, CLAUSE 7

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 4432.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 4433.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress ''to provide for the common Defence'', ''to raise and support Armies'', and ''to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces'' as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 4434.

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

Article I, Section, 8 Clause 14

By Mr. McKEON:

H.R. 4435.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress ''to provide for the common Defence'', ''to raise and support Armies'', ''to provide and maintain a Navy'' and ''to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces'' as enumerated in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PETRI:

H.R. 4436.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 4437.

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

The constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, as applied to healthcare.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 4438.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution: ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises. . .''

By Ms. BROWN of Florida:

H.R. 4439.

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

Article I Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4440.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. NOLAN:

H.R. 4441.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 4442.

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

April 9, 2014

Legislation introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. O'Rourke

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 4443.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7, The Congress shall have Power * * * To establish Post Offices and post roads.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 4444.

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

Article I, section 9, clause 7 of the United States Constitution which provides that, ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law, and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.''

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. WOMACK and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 12: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 24: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 100: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 139: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 270: Mr. MORAN and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 312: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 352: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 389: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H.R. 498: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 543: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 578: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 647: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 794: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 808: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 921: Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 963: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 988: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 1020: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1037: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 1072: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 1074: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COBLE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 1078: Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 1129: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1199: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 1209: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 1226: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 1286: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1466: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1507: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. REED, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1528: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1563: Mr. WALZ, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1734: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1755: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1812: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1830: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 1852: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 1877: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1907: Mr. PETERS of California, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 2028: Mr. PETERS of California.

H.R. 2144: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 2146: Mr. RUSH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 2305: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 2415: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 2452: Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. VARGAS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2548: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 2663: Mr. KILMER and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 2672: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2692: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2741: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 2780: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 2805: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 2939: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WOODALL, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 2945: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 3040: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 3112: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3135: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 3371: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 3374: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3377: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 3410: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 3461: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 3471: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3482: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 3505: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 3530: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 3544: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 3580: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 3610: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ELLISON and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 3655: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3658: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. DENT, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 3712: Ms. KUSTER and Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 3717: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 3723: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3836: Mr. JONES, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 3852: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 3896: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 3963: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 3991: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 3992: Ms. Velázquez, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 4006: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 4069: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 4079: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 4104: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 4120: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 4143: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 4157: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 4178: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 4188: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4217: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. VELA, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 4225: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 4234: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CHU, and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 4270: Mr. CAMPBELL.

H.R. 4284: Mr. THORNBERRY and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 4299: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia and Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H.R. 4304: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 4305: Mr. CRAMER, Mr. PERRY, and Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 4310: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 4317: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 4325: Mrs. CAPPS and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 4336: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4342: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 4347: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 4351: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 4357: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. COTTON.

H.R. 4364: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 4382: Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 4414: Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 4415: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENYART, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIND, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H. Con. Res. 86: Mr. WESTMORELAND and Mr. COBLE.

H. Res. 169: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. CHU, Mr. COBLE, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H. Res. 190: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 417: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. HOLT.

H. Res. 418: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. NUGENT.

H. Res. 456: Mr. LONG.

H. Res. 503: Mr. ELLISON.

H. Res. 519: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 525: Mr. FARR, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H. Res. 527: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H. Res. 545: Mr. PETERSON.

H. Res. 549: Mr. CARTER.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

75. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors, New York, relative to Resolution No. 56 urging the Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to veterans who served on the inland waterways, in the territorial waters, and the airspace over the combat zone; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

76. Also, a petition of the National Federation of Republican Women, Virginia, relative to a resolution urging the federal government to expedite the resources necessary to finally secure United States borders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014 No. 58

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who transforms common days into transfiguring and redemptive moments, hallowed be Your Name. Make our lawmakers great enough for these momentous times as they seek to live worthy of Your great Name. Lord, cleanse the fountains of their hearts from all that defiles, so that they may be fit vessels to be used for Your glory. Let Your peace be within them as Your spirit inspires them to glorify You in their thoughts, words, and actions.

We pray in Your sacred 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2223

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told S. 2223 is due for a second reading; is that right?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for a second time.

The legislative clerk read the bill by title as follows:

A bill, S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to this legislation at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 345, S. 2199, the Paycheck Fairness Act.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to 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.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, the time will be equally divided and controlled until 11 a.m., and at that time there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed with the legislation now before us.

Additional votes are expected today on confirmation of nominations. Floor staff is working to come up with convenient times for everyone in that regard and will notify Senators when we have those votes scheduled.

Mr. President, today the Senate will vote on whether to end debate on the paycheck fairness legislation. This much needed legislation provides important protections for women. It addresses wage disparity, helping women negotiate for equal pay, and it empowers workers to fight back against wage discrimination—women in particular.

It is a good and important bill, and it helps American women in many different ways, but for reasons known only to them, Senate Republicans don't appear to be interested in closing the wage gap for working women, such as my daughter and my grandchildren, the Presiding Officer's wife and daughter, friends and neighbors.

Four years ago the Republicans filibustered this exact same legislation. Two years later the Republicans filibustered this legislation. Now for a third time the Paycheck Fairness Act is before us and it appears it is going to be filibustered again. They have indicated that they will likely not let us begin work on this important piece of legislation or this debate.

If they are ideologically opposed to equal pay for equal work, they are free to vote against paycheck fairness, come down here and give speeches as to why it is such a bad idea, but we haven't heard any.

Today's vote is simply to begin debate on the bill. Are they so repulsed by equal pay for hard-working American women they again will not debate equal pay for equal work, but they will obstruct equal pay for equal work?

The Republicans come to the floor and try to offer amendments that have

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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nothing to do with equal pay—nothing. I am at a loss as to why anyone would decline to debate this important issue or, if you don't like it, come and tell us why. Debate is what this institution is all about. It is the U.S. Senate.

Hubert Humphrey said once: ''Freedom is hammered out on the anvil of discussion, dissent and debate.'' That is what he said. So we should debate this bill. Together we can find a solution to this unfair wage disparity that costs average working women $464,324 over a lifetime, on average.

American families want us to debate and hopefully pass this legislation. This legislation overwhelmingly is supported by the American people. People in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act are calling on us to pass this legislation. They are writing letters, they are posting on social media, and they are attending rallies. Our constituents have made their feelings known, but the Republicans have not gotten the message.

Henry David Thoreau said:

It takes two to speak the truth. One to speak and another to listen.

The Senate Democrats have heard the truth about giving women a fair shot at equal pay for equal work. The truth is that working women make an average of 77 cents for every dollar their male colleagues make for doing the exact same work. That is not fair.

Today we will see if Republicans will give working women and their families a fair shot when voting on debate for this important legislation. Millions of American women and men—everyone in America—are hoping that a third time will be the charm for Senate Republicans.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. MCCONNELL. The Obama economy has had a devastating impact on the people we represent. It has hurt millions in the middle class and people from every region of the country in almost every walk of life. When we consider the debate in the Senate, a few statistics jump out in particular.

Under this President's watch more than 3.7 million American women have fallen into poverty. The average American woman now makes about $730 less than when the President took office. If she is a college graduate, she has actually seen her income shrink by about double that amount. In other words, when it comes to American women overall, what we have seen over the past 5½ years is less income and more poverty. That is the story Senate Democrats don't want to talk about.

Perhaps that is why for weeks now they have blocked the efforts Republicans have made to improve the picture. Senate Democrats want to control this debate from start to finish and basically do nothing to help with our efforts to expand opportunity and jobs for women and for men. It would appear, as some have put it, they have no interest in solutions or any concern for the consequences of their actions. We see that in how uninterested they seem to be in the statistics I just mentioned, and we can see it in some other policies they have been defending literally for months.

Take Obama's 30-hour workweek rule, which is basically forcing employers to slash workers' hours. Who is impacted the most by it? As one study pointed out, it is women. Nearly two-thirds of those adversely impacted by this arbitrary provision of ObamaCare are women, but Washington Democrats don't seem to care about that. They don't seem to care about the ways people we represent are being hurt by their policies.

As I said, they continue to block all the innovative ideas that Republicans have been offering to turn the tide. Just look at what happened on the Senate floor yesterday. I, along with several other Republican colleagues, offered a series of measures that would not only have helped the jobs picture in our country, it would have provided greater opportunities for men, women, and families desperate to get ahead. Had Democratic Senators not blocked these ideas, they would have passed.

Why did Senate Democrats object to Senator COLLINS' proposal to restore the 40-hour workweek? Do they think it is fair that Obama's 30-hour workweek discriminates against working women? Do Democrats think it is fair to protect the rules that disproportionately reduce their wages?

Why do they object to the workplace flexibility proposal that Senator AYOTTE and I offered? Here is legislation that would have given working moms and dads the option to take time off to help them find a better work-life balance—flexibility that is more critical than ever now that ObamaCare's 30-hour work rule is forcing people to pick up a second or third job just to scrape by.

Why are Democrats so opposed to a policy that a lot of working women say they want, a policy that is tailored to the needs of the modern workforce and that many government employees already enjoy?

Why do Senate Democrats object to our job creation legislation, which includes so many smart ideas from so many different Senators? Here is a bill that strikes right at the heart of what has ailed our country for 5½ years, a lack of jobs and opportunity. Passing it should have been a no-brainer.

But Senate Democrats blocked all of it, every last one of our proposals, just like they shut down the proworker legislation Senator PAUL and I offered last week. The Right to Work Act is smart policy that promises to boost competitiveness while advancing workers' rights, ensuring they are not limited by the dictates of a union.

It is similar to another bill I am proud to cosponsor: Senator RUBIO's RAISE Act, which would allow workers to get a raise even if union bosses didn't want them to. Take for instance a worker who outperforms her colleagues and then is told by a union boss to sit down and accept less pay than she deserves—not a dime more than the coworker she is outperforming. It is completely and totally unfair, and workers such as she shouldn't be penalized by some archaic rule dreamt up before the age of ''Mad Men.''

These are the ideas that everyone who claims to stand for workplace fairness should want to help us pass. Yet Washington Democrats always seem to find some excuse not to. Maybe the Big Labor bosses they are answering to are telling them they cannot. Who knows. Or maybe it is the trial lawyers they seem to be so attentive to these days.

It makes sense when we consider what Senate Democrats have been talking about this week, a bill that even publications such as the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, and the Boston Globe have said is bad policy. At a time when the Obama economy is already hurting women so much, this legislation would double down on job loss, all while lining the pockets of trial lawyers. In other words, it is just another Democratic idea that threatens to hurt the very people it claims to help.

It is time for Washington Democrats to stop protecting trial lawyers and start focusing on actually helping the people we were sent to represent. We have already seen what 5½ years of Washington Democratic control has meant: more poverty and lower wages for women. So they need to stop blocking innovative ideas that would move us further along the path to opportunity because, look, the college graduate who has seen her annual paycheck decline by $1,400 over the past several years is counting on Senate Democrats to change their game plan. The part-time worker who cannot imagine how she is going to make ends meet under ObamaCare's 30-hour work rule is counting on Democrats to think outside the box.

The American people are tired of Washington Democrats' 5½ years of failed policies and all the political games that helped us get here in the first place. Americans actually want solutions and they want them now and we owe it to them to start passing the kinds of innovative ideas Republicans are committed to pursuing, no matter how many times the majority tries to shut us down.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. 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.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this week President Obama has been holding what appear to be made-for-TV events to talk about the economy. He has been talking about the policies he wants Congress to enact, policies that he says will finally get America's economy going again.

President Obama has been in the White House now for more than 5 years, so I think it is fair to ask: What has this administration—the Obama administration—been doing for the economy over the past 5 years? We know that the recession actually ended almost 5 years ago. Since then, our economy has not bounced back the way it should have or the way it typically does after a deep recession.

The Obama administration has spent a lot of money on failed ideas such as the so-called stimulus package. Since the recession ended, Washington has racked up more than $6 trillion worth of additional debt, and it has not gotten us nearly the kind of growth we should have had as a result of this spending.

Now the President has come out with a budget in which he has asked for tax increases of over $1.7 trillion—nearly $2 trillion in higher taxes over the next decade. Taxes are already too high. When I go home to talk to my constituents—as I would think most Members of this body hear from their folks at home—they say taxes are already too high.

Americans are now preparing to file their taxes. Income tax day is coming—April 15. As Americans prepare to file their taxes, they are getting a reminder of just how much of their hard-earned money Washington is taking from them. Next Tuesday, April 15, is the deadline for most of us to fill out the forms and send everything off to the Internal Revenue Service, the IRS. According to the Tax Foundation, Americans will spend more on taxes this year than they spend on food, clothing, and housing combined.

We now know how much President Obama is spending, but what kind of effect have his policies been having on our American economy? We know that the economy is still not producing the number of jobs we need for a real recovery. We know if we want to look for the reasons why that seems to be the case, we could talk about the two million jobs Democrats are blocking with their restrictive energy policies.

We could talk about the minimum wage bill that Democrats are pushing right now. The Congressional Budget Office says that would reduce employment in the United States by one-half million jobs—they say maybe as many as 1 million jobs. Yet the majority leader comes here and says it is the best thing we can do for the economy. Again, according to the Congressional Budget Office, it will cost the economy one-half million jobs and maybe up to 1 million jobs.

But probably the largest and most harmful thing the administration has done—not just with regard to the economy, but to other factors, including the lives of the American public—is the President's health care law. This law is hitting people across the country. There are folks who are seeing their premiums go up, losing access to their doctor, getting cancellation notices from their insurance companies, and it is also having an effect on our economy.

Today we had our usual Wyoming Wednesday where people from around the State of Wyoming come to Washington and meet with their two Senators from Wyoming so we can talk to people from our communities. Today I heard another horror story related to the President's health care law. A family had insurance that worked for them, and it worked for them for a long time. It fit their budget, and it fit their needs as a family. But, of course, it was canceled as a result of the President's health care law and the mandates where the President believes he has a better idea of what works for their family than they know in terms of their family.

This husband and wife have a couple of young children, and they lost their insurance. They tried and tried again to get reinsured through the exchange. It took them months. They finally went with paper forms to apply. The stories go on and on, and it is horrible to listen to what American families have had to go through as a result of the President's health care law. This is a family that was hurt as a result of the President's health care law in terms of what they are paying for insurance, in terms of the deductibles that are now in place, and in terms of not being able to go to the doctor of their choice.

We have the effect on the family and the effect on the economy. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the health care law is going to lead to 2½ million fewer people working over the next decade. These are not my numbers. These are the Congressional Budget Office's numbers. Because of the warped incentives that are built into this law, some people will have to choose between working more and getting higher wages or working less so they can collect government subsidies.

Remember NANCY PELOSI, the Speaker of the House on the Democratic side. When this law was jammed through and down the throats of the American people, she was saying: First you have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it.

I actually read the whole thing, and it continues to astonish me how few Members of this body and the body across the way actually read it and instead just took her for her word. Now what we are seeing are these unintended consequences continuing to show up.

Even some Democrats have had to admit as much about this issue of people having to work more and getting higher wages or choosing to work less so they can collect greater government subsidies.

One liberal columnist wrote in the Washington Post back in February that ObamaCare is ''a drag on economic growth.'' He said it was ''a drag on economic growth.'' It is a drag on economic growth ''as more people decide government handouts are more attractive than working more and paying higher taxes.'' The President wants higher taxes, but he sets into place a health care law that discourages the work and additional income because the government subsidies get greater if you work less and have a lower income.

That is one way that the President's health care law has been harmful, and there is another way as well. Remember, this law requires employers to pay for insurance for anyone working 30 hours per week or more. Thirty hours per week or more is considered a full-time job. There is bipartisan legislation in an effort to try to actually overturn that and get that back to the 40-hour workweek, which is what most Americans think of as a full-time job.

How do people have to respond to the health care law that is out there? What are towns doing with their town budgets? What are counties doing in States all across the country? What are school districts doing? We see what they are doing, and they are talking about it. Towns, communities, counties, school districts, and universities are cutting back on the hours of their part-time bus drivers, librarians, coaches, and other middle-class workers. They are cutting back to get them below 30 hours a week so they don't fall into the mandates of the President's expensive health care law.

What does that mean? It means it hurts people's take-home pay. If someone is working 32 or 33 hours a week and finds that their hours have been cut to 29 hours—regardless of what the majority leader wants to do with minimum wage—their paycheck is going to get smaller. Their paycheck is going to be smaller because of the health care law. Their paycheck will be smaller because of policies that Democrats have voted for—many of whom never read it in the first place.

Is this just a Republican versus a Democratic idea? Not necessarily, because a group of labor union leaders who supported the law initially have said that this health care law will ''destroy the foundation of the 40-hour workweek that is the backbone of the American middle class.''

The House of Representatives voted last week to do something about it. They passed—in a bipartisan vote—a

bill that would change the definition of full-time work under the health care law from 30 hours to 40 hours.

Senator SUSAN COLLINS introduced a bill to do the same thing here in the Senate. So what has happened with it? Well, the Democratic majority leader isn't allowing a vote on that bill.

This is a commonsense way to reverse some of the harm the President's health care law is doing to hard-working Americans—how it is impacting their take-home pay, how they are seeing smaller paychecks and impacting their quality of life. But the Senate majority leader has blocked the vote. So the health care law hurts patients, it hurts health care providers, and is hurting the economy.

It is interesting, because the President said all he wanted to do was insure the people who didn't have insurance. So we have an exchange. We have turned the whole health care system upside down. We have impacted one-sixth of the economy. And the whole purpose: to take people who didn't have insurance and get them insured.

What does the Wall Street Journal say about it today in the headline talking about the newest statistics in the RAND study? They say most who bought policies through the new exchanges—most who bought policies through the new exchanges—already had insurance. They weren't uninsured. These people had insurance already.

Many lost their insurance because of the President's health care law. Yet we have turned upside down one-sixth of the economy in an effort to help some but have hurt so many in the process. That is one of the fundamental flaws and problems of a health care law where the President promised, if you like your coverage, you can keep it; if you like your doctor, you can keep him or her. Now we have millions of people whose coverage has been canceled. We have many people who can't keep their doctor, can't go to their hospital. They are seeing higher premiums, higher copays, higher deductibles, more pain because of what the President and the Democrats have forced through the Congress, forced through the House, forced through the Senate.

The American people wanted to change the health care system in this country and they knew what they wanted. They wanted the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower cost. They didn't get that in this health care law. Many Americans have seen their costs go up—their initial out-of-pocket costs—to buy the insurance on the exchange. They have seen their copays go up. They have seen their deductibles go up. And they can't keep the doctor of their choice. So they know what they wanted, and this is not what they wanted, but it is what they have gotten instead. People understand that.

That is why this health care law is still so very unpopular across the country. People see how bad this health care law is in terms of their own lives and how bad it is for the American economy. They see how 5 years of this administration and the policies have held back our economic recovery.

Tax day, April 15, coming next week, will be another opportunity for Americans to reflect on how much of their money Washington has been taking from them and what they have gotten in return. I would say, as they reflect upon that, they will continue to say they are not getting value for their money. They are not getting value for their money.

Polling shows that—and I hear this at home in Wyoming—for every dollar people send to the government, they think they are getting less than 50 cents on the dollar in value. They don't like it because it means when the government takes more, they have less to spend.

The government is deciding where the money is spent, not families. And it is families who want to make decisions for themselves about their freedoms, about their health care, about their financial choices—what they want, what they need, and what works best for them.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. What is now the pending business on the floor?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion to proceed to S. 2199.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I believe the number of that bill refers to the paycheck fairness bill; is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, what a bloodless way to talk about such an important public policy issue—to use the motion to proceed—and very few people realize this. To simply get a bill on the Senate floor, we have to vote on a motion to proceed on whether we are going to take it up. And because this is now going to require a 60-vote majority, because of the invocation of this fog of filibuster, we can't even get to a majority vote on how to make sure women get equal pay for equal work.

No wonder people are fed up with us. They wonder why, when all is said and done, more gets said than gets done. I travel the State of Maryland in the United States of America, and people want us to do our job, to work on a bipartisan basis, hands across the aisle, work across the dome, to solve national problems.

We heard this morning the talk about the economy. One way to help the economy is for people to make more money. Do we know what is one of the best ways to make more money? Pay women equal pay for equal work. Also, enforce the law, the Equal Pay Act, that was passed in 1963. But we haven't been able to do it for several reasons, and this is what the paycheck fairness bill deals with.

Right now, there is a veil of secrecy in businesses all over America—a veil of secrecy about the fact that an employee cannot ask a fellow employee what they are making. An employee is not supposed to talk about their salary. They can talk about anything, but they can't talk about what the person next to them is making.

The second issue is if an employee in any way, particularly if that employee is a woman, tries to speak up for their rights to get equal pay for the same job—same pay, same job—an employee is often retaliated against. Then, businesses come up with lots of loopholes, which are bad. They use business explanations as bad excuses to avoid paying equal pay for equal work.

We want to pass this legislation to end the retaliation, close the loopholes, and lift the veil of secrecy. This, in many ways, will give American women not a raise but what justice demands.

I am here this morning to keep up the momentum which we have been able to maintain in this Senate. I am very proud of the fact that in 2009 we passed the Lilly Ledbetter Act which opened the courthouse doors to women. Now, as we continue 5 years later, we are listening to stories—terrible stories—about what has happened.

There was Kerri Sleeman—a mechanical engineer in Michigan—who was told that men had to be paid more in her company because they were breadwinners. She was a mechanical engineer doing the same job.

Latoya Weaver, a Marylander who wrote me, learned that the males at the hotel where she worked were being paid $2 more an hour than she was, which meant a total of several hundred dollars a year.

We want to end that discrimination—no retaliation, no loopholes, no veil of secrecy.

This has been going on a long time. In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson, as part of the great civil rights movement that was sweeping our country, wanted to pass three civil rights bills: the Equal Pay Act, the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act.

He started with the Equal Pay Act because he thought it would be the easiest to pass and the easiest to enforce. Fifty years later, we are still fighting the battles on all three of those pieces of legislation, and today we are talking about equal pay.

(Ms. HEITKAMP assumed the Chair.)

Right now women are an emerging force in the workplace. Way back in the 1950s, only 11 percent of women were in the workplace, although many had been there during World War II as Rosies and kept our economy going.

Now they are the breadwinners in 40 percent of households. Women make up 40 percent of the households in which she is the head of the house or the prime or the breadwinner, and it is time to make the labor market reflect that—most of all the pay market.

When the Equal Pay Act was signed in 1963, guess what women made. Five cents for every $1 men made. Everybody said: We have to fight that. Fifty years later—now—women make 77 cents for every $1 men make. Over a 50-year period we closed the gap by 18 cents. Now what do you think about that? I think that is pretty unjust. I do not think it is even American.

We like to say: If you work hard and play by the rules, America will work for you. Well, women work hard. They play by the rules. Yet they work but America does not work for them.

For women of color, it is even worse. If you are an African-American woman, you earn 64 cents for every $1 a man earns. If you are an Hispanic woman, you earn 54 cents for every $1 a man earns.

You like to hear: Oh, you've come a long way. But I do not think we have come a long way with an 18-cent improvement in a 50-year period. Who in this Chamber thinks that earning 1 cent more every 5 years counts as ''coming a long way''? Maybe if we made 1 cent more every year since 1964 we would not think it is so terrific.

My constituents do not go for this—either men or women. Women want to stand up for their rights, and men want to stand up for the women they love. There are men all over this country, right this minute, who are in jobs they hate so their daughters could have the job they love, working hard so they can help them go to school, get the education, get the skills to be able to take care of themselves. This is why they have spoken up for dads.

Every week, in every month, as families sit down to pay their bills, husbands are looking at their wives and saying: Tell me about the pay. It doesn't seem right. I heard that George is making—I heard that Tom is making—but what about us? So men are outraged about this too. They see it as a fundamental fairness issue. They see it as a fundamental justice issue. And guess what. It is a family pocketbook issue.

We want change, and we want change today by voting for this bill. This way we will change the Federal lawbooks so we can help change the family checkbooks. This bill, as I said, will close the loopholes in the law which allow pay discrimination to continue to occur.

I will repeat, paycheck secrecy—making it harder to uncover pay differences—is hard to fight when you are prohibited from even talking about it. Businesses are under a gag rule. Then there is the retaliation. And then there are the loopholes.

The Paycheck Fairness Act is quite simple. They say: Well, didn't you deal with this with Lilly Ledbetter? Well, Lilly Ledbetter dealt with the statute of limitations. This bill is dealing with other issues. No longer can workers be retaliated against for sharing wages.

For years, Lilly—and she tells her own story, but it is the story of many—was harassed and humiliated for asking questions about coworkers' salaries. She found out that the guys were making more because of an anonymous note that was sent to her. Somewhere in the vast corporation of Goodyear, for whom she worked, a contractor—a Federal contractor, by the way—there was somebody, probably a wonderful man who worked with her, who wanted to help her out and told her.

But then she went on to try to do something. Well, guess what. She faced retaliation. First she faced verbal harassment. She faced threats to her very safety. She faced sexual intimidation. She really got it thrown right back in her face, and every day it became a torture in the workplace. But she pressed on.

That happens to women all over America. We cannot allow that. When you stand up for your rights in America, you should not be harassed.

There is much said about the First Amendment. Yes. There is much said about the Second Amendment—the right to carry a gun. Women would like to be able to carry a law to be able to fight for themselves.

No longer will employers also be able to use just any reason to justify paying a woman less. Oh, he is the breadwinner. Oh, they do a harder job. Well, when you talk to Kerri, the mechanical engineer, they were doing the same job. In fact, in some instances she was the actual supervisor. For Latoya, working in the hotel, they were doing exactly the same job, and the EEOC verified that. So this is why it is important.

The other thing is, no longer will women be limited just to backpay. They will be able to get punitive damages. Because in many businesses, when they are caught, the current law catches up with them, they just pay a fine and see it as a cost of doing business. Well, that is not fine with us. We want to make sure if you feel you have suffered these injustices, you will be able to seek redress through punitive damages. And no longer will women be on their own.

The consequences of the pay gap are significant. Let's take a college graduate—a woman who has had the benefit of an education. For women between ages 25 and 29, the annual pay gap now is about $1,700 a year. For women closer to retirement age, it is more like $14,000 a year. Over a lifetime, for many women, it is $400,000.

This has enormous consequences. When you are paid less—when you are paid less—it affects not only your paycheck that you take home, but it will affect your retirement because Social Security is pegged to earnings. So when you pay women less, they are going to get less in retirement. This is not fair.

Now, I will tell you what I am tired of hearing—that somehow or another we are too emotional when we talk. When we raise an issue, we are too emotional. Well, I am emotional. I am so emotional about this. I am telling you, if we do not pass this bill, I am so emotional I am going to press on. It brings tears to my eyes to know how women, every single day, are working so hard and are getting paid less. It makes me emotional to hear that.

Then, when I hear all of these phony reasons—some are mean and some are meaningless—I do get emotional; I get angry; I get outraged; I get volcanic. And the way I want to channel my emotions is by doing everything we can do to be able to pass this bill.

There are those who say: This is a lawyer's dream. It is not a lawyer's dream; it is a family's dream. If they are afraid of lawsuits, they ought to follow the law. The best way not to have a lawsuit is to follow the law. So do not retaliate against a worker, because if you do, you are going to have to pay up. If you have loopholes that are mean or meaningless, yes, that employee might sue. But guess what. The way to avoid the lawsuit is do not be mean, do not be cruel, do not be unfair, do not be unjust. And if you think we are emotional, wait until you see what happens if this bill fails. We are pretty emotional about this.

Madam President, you and I have talked about this. Whether it is in North Dakota or north Baltimore, we feel the same, that when you work hard, play by the rules, do the same job, you want the same pay. American women need a fair shot at equal pay for equal work—the same pay for the same job. We need to pass this legislation today.

Let us adopt the motion to proceed so we can get actually on the bill to discuss it, offer amendments. There are those, I know, who have other ideas and suggestions. We look forward to that. And then, at the end of the day and the end of the week, let's pass it.

I think today is a day of reckoning: Do you want equal pay for equal work? And I want men and women all across America to be emotional about it.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I would like to take a few minutes to speak on the bill being considered today, the Paycheck Fairness Act. The proponents of the Paycheck Fairness Act argue that many women continue to earn significantly less pay than men for equal work. I am afraid the effort to consider this bill is nothing more than election-year politics aimed at scoring political points.

Equally unfortunate, the bill will do nothing to address our Nation's anemic economic growth. It will not create a single job for the more than 10 million unemployed Americans. This bill does nothing for the millions of Americans who have become so discouraged with this economy that they have completely given up on looking for work. This political show-vote will not help the millions of women who have lost their jobs or who are now living in poverty as a result of the Obama economy.

Let me be clear: I strongly support equal pay for equal work. I support equal employment opportunities. I abhor discrimination of any kind. Discrimination in the workplace is unacceptable, and must not be tolerated. Workers have been protected against sex-based pay discrimination since the passage of the Equal Pay Act in 1963. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides additional protections and remedies for discrimination.

Many have concerns that the Paycheck Fairness Act would undermine a business's defense even when the pay disparity is legitimate. The bill would allow unlimited punitive and compensatory damages, while also automatically including employees in a class-action lawsuit unless they specifically choose to opt out. This bill would be a boon to trial lawyers at the expense of job creators and job seekers.

A Washington Post Editorial from September 28, 2010, stated, '' the proposal, which builds on the existing Equal Pay Act, would allow employees and courts to intrude too far into core business decisions.'' It further stated, ''Discrimination is abhorrent, but the Paycheck Fairness Act is not the right fix.''

Rather than consider a politically motivated measure, we should be working together to create good-paying jobs and grow the economy. Instead, the Democratic leadership has chosen to disregard the welfare of struggling Americans and pursue messaging bills. If the majority in the Senate truly cared about helping the middle class, they would allow consideration of Republican amendments that would actually help workers, help the unemployed find work, and grow the economy.

But just like consideration of the unemployment insurance extension bill, the Senate majority has no interest in considering amendments that would actually grow the economy and create jobs. During consideration of that bill, Republicans offered a job-creating amendment that would have repealed provisions of ObamaCare that are proven job killers. It would have spurred job creation through energy development, including authorizing the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline. It would have provided small businesses, who are responsible for creating 70 percent of jobs in our economy, with permanent tax relief aimed at incentivizing new investments. A version of this amendment has been filed to this bill. Unfortunately, the majority leader is again blocking consideration of any amendments.

While the majority leader pushes ahead with his political agenda, Republicans continue to propose measures that will create jobs and grow the economy. Senator MCCONNELL and Senator AYOTTE have put forward an amendment to allow voluntary flexible workplace arrangements such as compensatory time and flexible credit hour agreements for hourly workers. This amendment would provide much needed flexibility for working moms, but was immediately blocked by the majority leader. Why would the majority leader block consideration of such a reasonable proposal?

Senator ALEXANDER has also proposed an amendment that seeks to provide working parents more flexibility in the workplace. Senator RUBIO has proposed an amendment to allow employees to seek fair wage increases and remove obstacles for employees to earn merit-based pay raises. In addition, Senators FISCHER, COLLINS and AYOTTE have filed an amendment to reaffirm existing laws prohibiting pay discrimination and would prohibit retaliation against employees who inquire about, discuss or disclose their salaries.

Sadly, none of these reasonable, thoughtful amendments to address job creation and workplace flexibility will be considered because the majority leader has already signaled that this debate is not about legislating. It's about political messaging. For these reasons, I must vote against the procedural motion to proceed.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, today we will decide whether to begin debate on the Paycheck Fairness Act. I am an original cosponsor of this bill, I strongly support it and the ideals that motivate it, and I hope that someday we can pass this legislation. But today's vote is not on final passage. It is not even a vote on whether to end debate on this measure. It is a vote on whether to begin the debate. Those who vote against cloture on this motion to proceed are not just saying they oppose equal pay for women; they are saying they do not even want to discuss it.

But a refusal to debate this measure will not make this issue go away. The fact remains that in our country today, women make 77 cents for every dollar men earn. Some of our Republican colleagues suggest there's nothing we can do about it.

As a Democrat I believe that our prosperity rests on a principle—the idea that if you work hard and play by the rules, you should have a fair shot to provide for your family, your future and your children's future. The promise of that better future is part of what gets us up every morning, gets us on the bus or in the car, and gets us to the office or the shop or the factory floor. It is the promise that our work will be rewarded.

The obvious and persistent pay gap between men and women does violence to that promise. Under current conditions, the message we send to women is this: ''Work hard, play by the rules, and you'll get three quarters for every dollar's worth of work you do.'' Democrats believe that is unfair—unfair to the women it shortchanges and to the families they support. And we believe that even those of us who are not working women lose something when we do not live up to the principles of fairness and opportunity that give all of us hope for that better future.

And we Democrats want to do something about it. When you think about it, what we want to do should not be that controversial. Here is all this bill does: It requires employers to ensure that when men and women are paid differently, that the difference is related to factors such as education, training and experience, and not merely based on gender; and it strengthens protections against retaliation by employers for women who file discrimination complaints.

Surely we can all agree that pay differences should be limited to factors that truly reflect qualification and performance, and not determined by gender. Surely we can all agree that when an employee believes she or he is being treated unfairly, or that their employer has violated the law, they have the right to seek redress without fear of retribution.

Those who care about the 60 percent of American households that depend partly or entirely on a woman's income should support this bill. Those who care about the 6.9 million women trying to raise a family on what is now three-quarters of what they have worked for should support this bill. Those who care about making this a society that lives up to our professed goals of equal opportunity should support this bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, 5 years ago, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law by President Obama. That bill—necessary because of a divided decision by the Supreme Court to strike a blow to the rights of working families in Vermont and across the country—was a first step in closing the still-existing gender wage gap. Today, one day after commemorating Equal Pay Day, Senators will once again have the opportunity to stand with working families and support equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender.

I am proud to cosponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act, which Senator MIKULSKI—a trailblazer herself—has once again introduced to close loopholes that allow employers to unfairly discriminate workers based on gender. Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of earlier generations, working women today have career and business opportunities never before available. Yet, despite the gains we have made, there remains a troubling constant—women continue to earn less than men. According to the Census Bureau, women still only earn 77 cents for

every dollar a man earns. This disparity has real-world, financial consequences: on average, women are paid more than $11,000 per year less than men. And of American households with children under the age of 18, 40 percent list women as their sole or primary earners. The wage gap based on gender is hurting low- and middle-income families who, in today's economy, still wrestle with putting food on the table, heating their homes, paying the mortgage, and saving for college.

Vermont has been a national leader in addressing equal pay for equal work. In 2002, Vermont adopted its own Equal Pay Act, making it illegal for employers to offer anything less than equal pay for equal work. Still, in Vermont, where 22,000 households are headed by women, the yearly gender pay gap is nearly $6,000. More needs to be done, and we can do better.

Our national march toward equality continues. The Paycheck Fairness Act builds on efforts that date back more than 50 years to ensure a balanced and equal playing field in the workplace for both men and women. The Paycheck Fairness Act will require employers to show a difference in pay is truly linked to job performance and not to gender. It will protect employees from being retaliated against by their employers for discussing salaries with colleagues, and remove obstacles to challenging pay discrimination in a court of law. It will provide employers with assistance to create equal pay practices and recognize those who already adhere to such practices. These are commonsense provisions we can all support.

The Paycheck Fairness Act has twice before been filibustered in the Senate. Meanwhile, hard-working families across the country, anchored by the incomes of hard-working women, continue to struggle. Equal pay for equal work is a matter of simple fairness, and the Paycheck Fairness Act is an important step towards just that. I urge all Senators to support this bill.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the 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.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to 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, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''nay.''

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 103 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rockefeller
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Boxer	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Landrieu	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Levin	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	

NAYS—44

Alexander	Graham	Murkowski
Ayotte	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heller	Reid
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Burr	Inhofe	Roberts
Chambliss	Isakson	Rubio
Coats	Johanns	Scott
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Collins	King	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker
Flake	Moran	

NOT VOTING—3

Coburn	Cornyn	Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 53, the nays are 44. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I enter a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that at 2:30 p.m. this afternoon the Senate proceed to the Felton nomination under the previous order; further, that following the disposition of the Felton nomination, the Senate proceed to the McSweeny nomination, also under the previous order; further, that following the disposition of the McSweeny nomination, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 506, 619, and 522; that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order I have listed; that any rollcall votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; that 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 these nominations be printed in the RECORD; that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, under the agreement we just had approved, there will be as many as five rollcall votes starting at 3:30 p.m. this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, we just lost the vote today on a cloture vote to proceed to the Paycheck Fairness Act, but I want everyone to know—everyone in the Senate and everyone in the United States of America—although we lost the vote, we refuse to lose the battle. We are going to continue the fight. We are going to continue the fight to get equal pay for equal work, to lift the veil of secrecy on pay in the workplace, to end the retaliation if you fight for your rights, and to close loopholes that are mean or meaningless.

We have been here before. I remember when we had the first vote on the Lilly Ledbetter bill. We lost that vote, but we pressed on. Women all over America expressed their frustration and their outrage. In 2009 we were able to right that wrong and pass the Lilly Ledbetter bill and open the courthouse doors.

So here we are again. We are ready to continue that fight. We are ready to turn our biggest noes into our biggest yeses. We will continue the war against the wage gap and wage discrimination against women.

Women of America, I say to you, join us in this fight. Make your voices heard if you want to change the Federal lawbooks so we can make a change in your family checkbook.

We are going to finish what we started with Lilly Ledbetter and bring the Paycheck Fairness Act back to the

floor. When Senator REID voted no, it was so that he could bring up another vote on the motion to proceed. But this is not about parliamentary procedure; this is about how we will press the fight.

When we lost Lilly Ledbetter, I came to the floor then, and I come to the floor now, to say that when we continue this fight, I will remind my colleagues about what Abigail Adams once said to her husband: As you are making those laws down there, she said, ''do not forget the ladies. For we will foment a revolution of our own.''

So women of America—and the good men who support us—keep the revolution going. I said then, as I say now, let's suit up, let's square our shoulders. For the women, put on your lipstick and let's fight on. We will be back another day for another vote.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I applaud my colleague Senator MIKULSKI for her great work, in spite of the result today.

CONGRATULATING THE UCONN HUSKIES

I am here on the floor, however, to congratulate my UConn Huskies for a double national championship. It has only been done once before in the history of college basketball—the men winning a national championship and the women winning a national championship in the same year—and the last time it was us too, in 2004 and now in 2014. So, very briefly, I wish to add my congratulations to those offered by Senator BLUMENTHAL.

Our new coach, Kevin Ollie, when he took the job, went on TV and said that despite some of the tough times surrounding the UConn program, his intent was for UConn basketball to take the stairs and not the elevator.

He said elevators were for cowards, and they were going to walk one step at a time towards a national championship.

Given the fact our long-time Hall of Fame coach had just left, we had sanctions which didn't allow our team to play for a year in the postseason. People thought it just wasn't possible that UConn was ever going to be able to return to the greatness we have seen over the last 20 years. But in Coach Ollie's first tournament, he brought his team to a victory led, of course, by our great point guard Shabazz Napier—another Connecticut first and second. There are only two players who were national champions in the men's tournament who scored 125 points, had 25 assists and 25 rebounds. Shabazz Napier is the second because Kemba Walker was the first in UConn's last national championship.

The women, of course, are even more impressive in what they have done because they managed to win their national championship this year by going undefeated and beating another undefeated team in the national championship game. Of course, that has become kind of old hat for the UConn women. This is the third time they have gone undefeated in the past 6 years, and it is their fourth title in 6 years—Geno Auriemma's ninth title overall, now eclipsing the great Pat Summitt.

Watching the game last night, we saw Coach Auriemma in an uncommon display of emotion at the end of the game. He is a very emotional guy, but he very rarely breaks down in tears—which he did, talking about a couple of his seniors, Stefanie Dolson and also Bria Hartley. He has a love for those players.

We saw Kevin Ollie's love for his players, especially the guys who stuck it out who could have transferred to other programs but decided to stay with him and stay with the program.

What Geno said after the game is he is flattered: ''I'm flattered and grateful, and all the things that have come with this kind of accomplishment . . .'' But he also said: ''I'm more proud of the legacy that exists and what Connecticut basketball is as opposed to the number of championships.

When we watch these championship games that now add up for both the men and the women, we see throughout the stands former players by the dozens—maybe even by the hundreds—who come back because of the legacy that has been created in 20 years of nine national championships for the women and four national championships for the men.

Even though, as Kevin Ollie said, UConn got there the hard way. We don't have the 100-year legacy of basketball such as Kansas or Kentucky has. We have built this over the past couple of decades. Just as Kevin Ollie has done over the last 2 years, UConn over the course of the last the 2 decades, in registering 13 national championships, has always taken the stairs rather than the elevator.

Congratulations, as a diehard Husky fan, to our twin national championship teams.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

CONGRATULATING UCONN

Mr. COATS. Madam President, this is not easy for me to do, but I am going to do it in good grace here. I congratulate my colleague from Connecticut on The University of Connecticut's victory over the University of Notre Dame last night.

He watched in joy and exuberance, and I watched in dismay. But I do want to congratulate the Senator and those from Connecticut for the singular achievement of having both men's and women's basketball championships.

Those of us in Indiana are deeply immersed in the basketball culture. Statewide, we didn't have the best year or the kind of year we would have liked. But we were very proud of the University of Notre Dame women and the accomplishments they made—in an undefeated season until last evening.

It probably is not politic for me to say this, but it is unfortunate that our all-American center, who was one of the keys to the success of the team, unfortunately had a knee injury which prevented her from playing. I am not saying we would have won had she played because I don't want to take anything away from the Huskies. On the other hand, I think it could have been a more contested contest had she been able to be a part of that.

Either way, both teams deserve congratulations for the phenomenal seasons they had. It was a joy to watch from Indiana our Notre Dame women do so well, just as it was a joy for Senator MURPHY to watch his men and women do so well. So I congratulate him for that.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

Madam President, I rise to advocate for something obviously far more serious and threatening to us than basketball contests, and that is our response to Russia's recent unlawful takeover of Crimea. I urge, and continue to urge, the President as well as our colleagues in the Senate to take more vigorous action to deter further Russian aggression.

As I speak, anxieties are building that Vladimir Putin's first big bite out of Ukraine has not satisfied him and he hungers for more. Many signs indicate Russian aggression threatens further incursions into Eastern Ukraine and possibly beyond.

Troops are positioned on the border, logistics for an invasion are arranged, and the Russian propaganda machine is once again ginning up the excuses needed to justify unjustifiable actions. The only thing I can conclude is that the lack of an effective, forceful response by the United States and by our allies—particularly our European allies—has given President Putin reason to expect that further aggression will not be punished. Despite all the rhetoric, despite all the tough talk, very little has been done, and—with what little has been done—there has been no effect to deter and to condemn what has taken place and deter further aggression.

From the beginning of this blatant act, I have waited for the administration to impose real costs on Russia for its illegal territorial aggression. So far, I have waited in vain.

For the past month, in two separate resolutions which I have offered on the floor, several speeches, and numerous opinion columns I have written in the media, I have consistently attempted to make the case for hard-hitting sanctions on Russia. I joined Senator DURBIN, my colleague from Illinois, to achieve a unanimous bipartisan passage of an initial list of sanctions which would signal to Putin that the Senate was unified in condemning and sanctioning Russia for its blatant takeover of Crimea.

I stated at the time that this was an initial list and much tougher sanctions needed to come. But I wanted to give

the administration time to fashion those, to work with our allies across the ocean and to stand strong for the type of hard-hitting, hard-biting economic sanctions which would make Russia pay a real price, as we had said we were going to do.

The administration has to take the lead on economic sanctions because to implement the steps needed to ensure maximum effectiveness we need to coordinate with our friends and our allies. But I have seen little evidence that the administration is leading our European friends in the direction of such sanctions. I have not seen evidence that our European allies are willing to take the lead. I am therefore wondering if anyone is willing to take a lead in this effort.

More needs to be done—and more needs to be done now. With Russian troops mounting their vehicles on the Ukrainian border, the United States should be using every means available to press for firm measures, and our European allies should be joining us in this cause. Those measures should include imposing serious costs so such behavior will not be repeated.

Further, we should defend our allies and reassure them that we have their backs. We need to isolate Russia and prevent it from participating in organizations that give Putin credibility and strength. We should impose obstacles to prevent Russia from taking material advantage of their conquest, and we should convince other nations, businesses, and individuals to follow our lead.

I think recent history shows that in conflict issues around the world, if the United States does not take a firm and a strong lead, other nations simply do not feel they have the strength or the backing to take that lead. So it is imperative the United States takes that lead, steered by our President, and supported by a bipartisan Congress to send a unified message that we are willing to address egregious breaches of international law and lead the way in doing so.

The first task, as I see it, is to make sure we and others do not accept this aggression and annexation—what some others are already calling a fait accompli. Since the United States' refusal to recognize Soviet annexation of the three Baltic states 74 years ago, we have firmly and consistently refused to recognize such annexations. We must do the same in this case.

Unfortunately, words and actions from this administration and from many of our European allies continue to focus on threatening consequences for future Russian incursions, rather than on the illegal annexation that has already taken place. It is exactly this reluctance to impose costs for the annexation of a portion of the Ukraine that paves the way for further Russian aggression.

I sadly note that some of our best European friends are downplaying the importance of the invasion and annexation which have already taken place.

Just as Chancellor Merkel from Germany was showing signs of a more forceful German foreign policy in defense of European territorial integrity, it now appears Germany is showing more interest in dialogue and restraint, backing down from the tough talk about making Russia pay a price for the actions it has taken. I am convinced there is very little reason to believe that further aggression will be adequately discouraged or punished.

In this policy vacuum, if we don't find leadership from our administration or from the Europeans, I believe it is imperative that Congress act—and act now. So today, I am introducing yet another response in addition to those I have previously introduced addressing this situation in Ukraine.

I will be introducing to the Senate the Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act—legislation which would mandate an official policy of not recognizing Russian sovereignty over Crimea, its land, airspace, waters, and resources.

The purpose of this act is to ensure the United States will not recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea nor take any action which would imply such recognition. Further, my bill imposes obstacles to Russian exploitation of Crimean resources by taking greater legal certainty about investing in Crimea, and it restricts foreign aid to countries which recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea.

I will illustrate some of the specific proposals I have introduced.

First, establish firm policy that the United States Government does not recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea, its territory, airspace, and territorial waters, and may take no action that implies any recognition of Russian sovereignty.

Second, prohibit the United States from financing or guaranteeing investments in Crimea with Russia as an intermediary.

Third, oppose international financial institutions' assistance programs for Crimea that go through Russia as an intermediary.

Fourth, require the Department of Justice to affirm this nonrecognition policy upon request, in order to create greater legal uncertainty for those who hope to contract with Russia for exploitation of Crimean resources.

Fifth, deny entry to vessels sailing from Crimea with Russian customs documentation.

Sixth, prohibit U.S. ships and aircraft from taking action that imply Russian sovereignty over Crimea, its airspace or territorial waters.

And, seventh, prohibit some forms of foreign assistance to countries that recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea.

There are very few precedents in postwar history where a state has so boldly and aggressively used force against a neighbor for the purpose of territorial acquisition. What has happened in Crimea is a crime left over from an earlier age. We, together with our European friends, must move aggressively to oppose it before it becomes repetitive.

At a time when so much depends on Vladmir Putin's unspoken plans, it is not hard to guess how he will respond to meekness. The American response must be much greater if we want Putin to understand that his actions in Ukraine are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. At a minimum, I would suggest, Congress must refuse to recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea by passing my legislation. I have proposed a number of sanctions which were added to other measures I have introduced and hopefully will convince this administration and our European allies to take a much tougher stance and provide much more of a penalty to Russia over the actions it has taken. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I wish to speak a little bit about the letters I have received and the emails and the calls over the last few days about the health care plan.

The numbers signed up or whether the Web site worked—and I have said repeatedly—aren't the test here. The test is, is this a better plan? Does it allow more people to have better coverage or does it allow more people to have lesser coverage? I am becoming more and more convinced that the latter might be the case: the high deductibles, the increase in premiums, the benefit of a couple of years, actually, where the trajectory of health care costs were still going up but were beginning to flatten out, and now they are projected to go up pretty dramatically over the next few years based on the recent projections.

So the real test is, is this plan a better plan, not does the Web site work. The fact that the Web site doesn't work sort of shows the ineptitude of government. The easiest thing in the world to do today—or should have been in 4 years—would be to figure out how to develop a Web site. So I would say the Web site shouldn't be the test of whether the health care plan works because the Web site will work. Apparently a number of States are having a problem, the Federal Government had a very obvious problem, but the Web site will eventually work. Surely that can't be a long-term problem. Given no other alternatives, people are going to eventually sign up in some numbers.

I am not interested even in finding out whether the numbers are real. I did

notice that the President, as with most of the people I work for, in his announcing the numbers the other day, referred to the plan as ObamaCare again. I noticed he quit doing that since the election. He said he kind of liked ''ObamaCare''—in one of the Presidential debates in 2012 he said he liked the term—and then he pretty well quit using it. But with the signup numbers, he said some people call it ObamaCare, in his announcement the other day. So I guess if he can call it that, the people I work for can call it that as well.

So we have premiums rising, deductibles going up, and hospitals seeing, in many cases, their fastest growing column of unpaid debt is people with insurance. Not too long ago, we said: That doesn't make any sense. How did people with insurance wind up in the fastest growing column of unpaid debt? It is because people's deductibles are, for many families now, well beyond a deductible they can pay. If a person had a $500 deductible a few years ago and they have a $3,000 deductible today—if they had a hospital bill, they might be able to put $500 together and think that gets this bill paid. Nobody is going to call me anymore. I am not going to get this repeated notice. But if a person has a $3,000 deductible, they might decide: I can never pay that, so I am going to let them do whatever they are going to have to do, and hopefully my insurance company pays enough of the bill that the hospital decides they are not going to bother me. But that is the fastest growing debt in many hospital accounting offices right now—people who have insurance, who aren't paying their part of the bill.

But whether it is increases in premiums or increases in deductibles or they can't see their doctor, the people I work for in Missouri tell me every week a series of stories that I absolutely believe are true. I basically verify with people before I come to the floor, before pulling a few of these stories out: Do you mind, Timothy from Kirksville, if I mention that you have contacted us? I am not going to give your last name or put that on the record, but I would like to show that there is some dispersing around our State of this problem. They say, yes, this is absolutely true, and I told you because I want people to know about this.

Timothy from Kirksville, MO, said his premiums went up drastically in 2013. If premiums continue to rise, he says his family will have to make sacrifices elsewhere in their budget.

Kim from Frankford, MO, said she and her husband's deductible recently increased dramatically to $6,000. So far, she says, it feels like we don't have insurance because we have such a high deductible. We couldn't pay it if we ever had to use it, so do you really have insurance? Kim's parents recently tried to find a plan on the exchange and were shocked to learn that the cheapest plan they could find offered premiums of $1,200 a month with a $12,000 deductible. Yearly premiums were equal to 20 percent of their income.

Mike from Columbia, MO, said his health insurance premiums shot up by $1,000 this year—and $1,000 matters to families. Based on the letters I get, there would be some temptation to contact Mike and say, if you want to look at a whole stack of letters here, $1,000 is not the worst story people have to tell, but for a working family it is almost $100 a month. It is whatever you were going to do with that $100 a month that you are not able to do because your insurance just went up $100 a month. Mike doesn't say anything about his deductible or what his premiums are, but he just says it is $1,000 more than it was last year.

Lisa from Jefferson City, MO, the State capital, said she and her husband own a small business, and even though they don't have to provide health insurance for their employees, they have done so and they have chosen to pay 100 percent of the cost up until now.

Actually, until January of this year, no employer had to provide insurance for their employees but most employers did. Eighty-five percent of everybody who had insurance got insurance at work. Ninety percent of them thought what they had at work was great for what they needed to have for themselves and their family. We had a system that was working pretty good, where almost everybody had it. Instead of figuring out how to expand that system so other people could get in, I am afraid we have made it more difficult for everybody involved.

Lisa, the business owner, says her premiums went up 35 percent last year, and they have been told already that they will go up even higher next year. She says if the premiums continue to increase, they will soon not be able to cover their employees.

Carol from Cameron, MO, said her coverage has gone down and her out-of-pocket costs have increased significantly. Her deductible is now $3,500 and she has to pay $65 every time she goes to see a doctor. She worries she will never be able to use the coverage she is paying for because the out-of-pocket costs are too high, and if she ever actually got sick or had to go to the hospital or had a significant condition, she is worried she can't pay the deductible, even though she is paying every month to have this coverage and feels as though the coverage is not truly insurance for her at all.

Merl and his wife in Cape Girardeau, MO, are in their late sixties. They have Medicare and a supplemental policy, but their copays have increased. One of their primary doctors has stopped taking Medicare. He and his wife are concerned they can't see the doctor they would like to see, that their copays have increased, and their doctor left the program.

By the way, the administration, I guess the day before yesterday, announced we weren't going to have the reductions in Medicare Advantage next year as we had this year. We will still have this year's increase, but we will not have next year's increase. Whoever thought that paying for a new health care program out of Medicare was a good idea anyway? So $500 billion out of Medicare, which has bigger and bigger problems all the time as more and more people enter Medicare—$500 billion out of Medicare to pay for yet another new system. Apparently, even the administration, at least between now and the election, doesn't think that is a good idea because they just suspended one of the pay-fors. They said: We did that once, and that was kind of painful because people could see what was going to happen to their Medicare Advantage, so we don't want to do that between now and election day—although I think in fairness they didn't mention election day in the rule, they just mentioned it wasn't going to happen in this even-numbered year.

Mike from Kansas City, MO, says his premiums went from $600 a month to $700 for him and his wife. The deductible went from $5,000 to $7,500—he says all because of the new requirements and what has to be covered.

Mark from Columbia, MO, says the doctor he has had for 18 years joined a network of concierge doctors because he is afraid of the President's health care plan limiting his ability to provide quality care to his patients. Unfortunately, now that his doctor is part of a private network, Mark is no longer able to afford him—or to afford to see him, and the doctor does not accept the insurance Mark is covered by.

All kinds of unintended consequences appear to be happening when the government decides not only can it begin to involve itself in 17 percent of the economy of the country but in virtually everybody's health care decisionmaking process. This would be a big job for a very efficient government in a very small country. In a federalist system where we have 50 States and territories to deal with, in a big country, this is very hard to do. It is unfortunate that all of the warnings about the unintended consequences about people in the workplace will begin to have part-time jobs instead of full-time jobs or people who had less than 50 employees wouldn't want to go to 51 because they would then be covered by a law they were not initially covered by—all of those warnings have turned out to be at least as bad as those people saying this could happen were saying they could be.

John in Overly, MO, went to healthcare.Gov to find a plan. The cheapest quote he could find for his family of four was $750 a month, and in John's case that is almost 30 percent of his income. He has looked at the numbers and has decided it would be more affordable to go uninsured. He said:

> I am self-employed, married, and have two children, and though I am self-employed, I never had any trouble affording health insurance for me and my family [until now].

Richard is from Stoutsville, MO. His wife's premium last year was $359 a month, with a $5,000 deductible. This year it is $800 a month, and since they are on a fixed income, they have just decided they can no longer afford to pay for her individual insurance because they had to buy it as individuals.

I would just say that we need to look at these cases. Surely somebody out there has benefited from the system. There are people who were able to stay on their family policies longer. A piece of legislation I wrote when I was a Member of the House—it was 3¼ pages long—apparently it would have added about as many people as any other single thing did, and it would have added those people whether you had the rest of this health care bill or not, at no cost to any taxpayer anywhere and no disruption of anybody else's insurance coverage.

Those are the kinds of things we should have looked at. But we need to look at what it takes now to be sure we have a system that is not measured by whether the Web site works and not measured by an argument about whether people who signed up paid but is measured by whether this really does provide better health care.

Health care is critical to families. Somebody told me one time: When everybody in your family is well, you have lots of problems; when somebody in your family is sick, you have one problem. That is how important health care is. We need to be sure this is a system that does not meet some numerical or technical ''check the box'' but really does provide access to what was the greatest health care system in the world.

There are ways to encourage more access to that system and more choices, not fewer choices and less access and more people who feel as though they are paying a premium every month but if they ever really get sick, they really will not have insurance.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in the morning hour.

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

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Mr. MORAN. I thank the Chair.

Madam President, nearly every minute someone in America develops Alzheimer's disease. More than 5 million Americans suffer from this disease and more than 35 million individuals worldwide. If trends continue, the number of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease after the age of 65 is expected to double every 5 years, while the number of people 85 years and older with this disease will triple by 2050.

Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and there is currently no cure, no diagnostic test, and no treatment for this terrible disease.

As a nation, we must remain committed to defeating one of the greatest health threats to the health and well-being of all Americans. Caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementia is expected to cost $214 billion this year—$214 billion this year alone, with $150 billion covered by the Federal Government through Medicare and Medicaid.

A recent study outlined that the cost of care for those struggling with dementia is projected to double over the next 30 years, surpassing health care expenses for both heart disease and cancer. Without a way to prevent, cure, or effectively treat Alzheimer's, costs will only continue to climb.

Alzheimer's has become a disease to define our generation. But if we focus and prioritize our research capabilities, it need not remain an inevitable part of aging. There is reason for newfound hope. Over the last 5 years, significant strides have been made in understanding how Alzheimer's disease affects the brain and body. This new understanding has the potential to lead to new research opportunities and to better management of the disease.

In February, the Senate Appropriations health subcommittee held a hearing on the impact of Alzheimer's—both economic and personal—and the state of these current research initiatives. I am the ranking member of that subcommittee. Chairman HARKIN and I held this hearing to raise awareness of the threat to America's health, the impact on the financial well-being of our country, and to highlight the groundbreaking research initiatives currently taking place.

For example, until 2009, only one genetic variant was known to increase the risk of late-onset Alzheimer's disease. However, through advances in genome studies and other technologies, the list of known gene risk factors has grown substantially. Now researchers have identified 11 genetic risk factors.

The National Institutes of Health is supporting research that has established methods and standards for testing for biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease. Changes in these biomarkers may precede the onset of the disease and could be a key to unlocking the causes and progression of the disease.

NIH has also made significant progress over the last several years and we continue to support them moving more aggressively toward developing new treatments for Alzheimer's and related dementia. Several innovative studies, ranging from research on the most basic underpinnings of the disease to early-stage clinical trial of promising agents, are now underway.

A sustained Federal commitment to research for Alzheimer's will improve health outcomes for people living with the disease both today and in the future, and it will also lower health care costs. I have been and remain committed to prioritizing the funding for Alzheimer's research.

Recently, I and other members of the Appropriations Committee worked to include a $1 billion funding increase for the National Institutes of Health in the 2014 Omnibus appropriations bill. This amount includes a $100 million increase in funding for the National Institutes of Aging within NIH, as well as the initial year of funding for the new BRAIN initiative to map the human brain. These research investments are critically important because they will increase our understanding of the underlying causes of Alzheimer's, help unlock the mysteries of the brain, help bring us closer to an effective treatment and one day a cure.

Alzheimer's is a defining challenge of our generation. We must together commit to defeat this devastating disease by supporting the critical research carried out by scientists and researchers across our Nation. The health and financial future of our Nation are at stake, and the United States cannot afford to ignore such a threat. Together, we can make a sustained commitment to Alzheimer's research that will benefit our Nation and bring hope to future generation of Americans. The challenge is ours and the moment for us to act is now.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

OLIGARCHY

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I hear more and more from people in my own State of Vermont and from people, in fact, all over the country via email, through my Web site, who are wondering whether this great country is evolving into an oligarchic society.

Historically, as I think most people know, the United States was the envy of the world for so many reasons. But one of the reasons, economically, is that in our country there was always the belief that regardless of your income you have the opportunity to move up the economic ladder. There was the reality—not just the belief—that we had a great and expanding middle class; that if your dad and your mom didn't go to college—which, in fact, was the case in my family—you would have that opportunity to go to college and move up the educational ladder or the business ladder or professional field. There was the feeling that economically what America was about, and what we celebrated, was the great middle class. People today, both from an economic perspective and from a political perspective, are beginning in a

very serious way to question that reality.

What they are looking at is that today in our country we have the most unequal distribution of wealth and income of any major country on Earth. I think a lot of young people say, well, how could that be? In England you have the Queen of England, all the lords, all the royalty all over Europe, and we don't have that in the United States.

Yet the truth is that over the years we have moved to a situation where in terms of wealth and income, we are now the most unequal society of any major industrialized nation on Earth.

I keep mentioning one statistic, because I don't hear too many other people talking about it, but we need to talk about it. That is, in terms of wealth. Wealth is what we own. Wealth is what we have accumulated over a lifetime of work. In terms of wealth, the top 1 percent in our Nation owns 38 percent of the financial wealth of America.

I would ask those people back home who might be listening, what does the bottom 60 percent own? The top 1 percent owns 38 percent of the wealth. What do you think the bottom 60 percent owns? They own 25 percent, 20 percent, 10 percent? What do they own? The answer is they own all of 2.3 percent—all of 2.3 percent is what the bottom 60 percent of Americans owns in terms of total wealth.

If you had a big pizza with 100 slices in it, 1 person would get 38 percent of those pieces of pizza if we looked at wealth, and the bottom 60 percent of the people would have to share 2.3 percent of the pizza. I don't think that is what America is supposed to be about and that situation is getting even worse.

In terms of income now—all right, everybody goes out and works—we have millions of people today who are working longer hours and their income is going down. Their wages are going down. Maybe they are paying more for health care. Their pensions are going down.

But in terms of all new income—new income generated in this country—from the last statistics we saw, which were from 2009 to 2012, in terms of all new income, 95 percent of all new income went to the top 1 percent. So more and more income goes to the millionaires and billionaires while millions of people are working longer hours for lower wages, and while we have the highest rate of childhood poverty, at 22 percent, of any major country on Earth.

Since 1999, the typical middle-class family has seen its income go down by more than $5,000. Do you want to know why people are angry, why people are concerned, and why people are worried what is going to happen to their kids? It is because the median family income has gone down by $5,000 since 1999.

Let me break it down even further. The typical male worker, that guy right in the middle, made $283 less last year than he did 44 years ago. Imagine that. In the last 44 years, with all of the increase in productivity, with all of the robotics, with all of the space technology, all of the iPhones, iPads, and everything else where people are now producing much more, the typical male worker made $283 less last year than he did 44 years ago. The typical female worker earned $1,775 less last year than she did in 2007.

Today in America we have more people living in poverty than ever before, and that is 46.5 million people. Here is a fact that should frighten everybody; that is, half of Americans have less than $10,000 in their savings account right now. Can you imagine that? That means if your car breaks down and you need that car to get to work or you have a serious health problem and you don't have particularly good health insurance, there it goes. It goes.

Then you talk about people who are older who have to retire. How do you retire with dignity if you have less than $10,000 in the bank? Well, you are going to get Social Security. Thank God, you, I, and other Members have fought hard to make sure there were not cuts in Social Security that many people wanted. But is Social Security alone enough? No. The answer is it is not.

What is happening in this country is that while the middle class shrinks, there is another reality; that is, the people on top are doing phenomenally well. Today we see a situation in which some of the wealthiest families in America—the Koch brothers come to mind, and I will talk about them in another context. They are now worth $80 billion. In the last year alone their wealth went from $68 billion to $80 billion—in 1 year a $12 billion increase in their wealth.

Sheldon Adelson—another billionaire who has had his name in the paper a whole lot recently by bringing prospective Republican candidates for the Presidency to Las Vegas to talk to them and see what they have to offer him and how much money he will contribute to their campaign—also saw a huge increase in his wealth over the last year.

What is the face of oligarchy? The face of oligarchy is what we see in Russia. When many people refer to oligarchy, they think of Russia. In Russia, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a small number of bureaucrats were able to steal a lot of public property, and they became multibillionaires. They controlled oil companies, banks, gold mines, aluminum companies, television stations, and other state-owned companies, and that is how they became oligarchs.

By 2001 5 oligarchs controlled 95 percent of Russia's aluminum production, 40 percent of its copper, and on and on it goes. People may say: Oligarchy has to do with Russia; what does it have to do with the United States of America? Well, it has everything to do with the United States of America because that is the direction in which we are moving.

Now, let me cite some examples of what oligarchs do. When we think of oligarchies we might want to think of a gentleman named Hank McKinnel, Jr., who was the CEO of Pfizer—a major drug company—from 2001 to 2006. When he retired, he received a $188 million golden parachute—$188 million—at the same time as the people in our country are paying the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs. That is oligarchy.

When we think about oligarchy, we may want to think about a gentleman named Lee Raymond who served as the CEO of ExxonMobil from 1993 to 2005. When he retired—and remember, this is at a time when the vast majority of the American people did not have the resources to retire with a shred of dignity—Mr. Raymond received from ExxonMobil a golden parachute, retirement benefits, of more than $320 million—$320 million. That is at the same time as people in Vermont and all over this country are finding it harder and harder to pay for gas at the pump.

What oligarchy is also about is that in 2009 ExxonMobil, maybe the most profitable corporation in the history of America, did not pay any Federal income taxes, even though in that year it earned $19 billion in profits.

When we talk about oligarchy we might want to think about somebody like Jamie Dimon, who is the CEO of JPMorgan Chase. He recently received a 74-percent increase in pay—more than $20 million in total compensation. Interestingly enough, that is a pretty big salary—$20 million—but what did he do to earn it? During that same period, over the last year, the bank he runs, JPMorgan Chase, paid out over $20 billion in penalties to the Federal Government for financial fraud. So after paying out $20 billion to the Federal Government in penalties for financial fraud, he still got a $20 million compensation package. That is called oligarchy. No matter what you do, if you are at the head of a large financial institution, you are going to get rewarded for that.

Oligarchy has a lot to do with a gentleman named William Mcguire, the CEO of UnitedHealth Group from 1991 to 2006. Everybody knows of the crisis we are facing in health care. Everybody knows that tens of millions of Americans today, despite the Affordable Care Act, are still uninsured. Everybody knows we spend more per capita on health care than do the people of any other nation. Yet when this gentleman retired from UnitedHealth Group in 2006, he received a $285 million golden parachute. So here we have the most dysfunctional health care system in the world, the most expensive health care system, with tens of millions of people uninsured, yet the head of a major insurance company gets $285 million in retirement benefits. That is called oligarchy.

Let me take oligarchy away from the economic realm and turn it into an area that I am—and many Americans are—very concerned about. Recently, we saw an interesting spectacle relating to politics that took place in Las Vegas. A gentleman named Sheldon Adelson—who is worth some $38 billion, and who is maybe the world's largest casino magnate not only in Las Vegas but off the shores of China as well—held a meeting in Las Vegas in which he brought forth Republican candidates who are interested in running for President. Now, here is the point. In the last Presidential election, both President Obama and Mitt Romney spent a little over $1 billion in their campaigns. Sheldon Adelson, if he provided more money into a campaign than both Obama and Romney spent, would still have $9 billion more in wealth than he did in 2013.

What am I saying? What I am saying is that we are moving toward a situation where people such as the Koch brothers and Sheldon Adelson have so much money it would hardly matter to them to write a check for more than both Obama and Romney spent in the last Presidential election. They could write out a check for $2 billion, and it would be insignificant, a fraction of their increase in wealth over a 1-year period.

As bad as that situation is, because of the disastrous Citizens United Supreme Court decision, we may not have seen the worst yet. Judge Thomas, of the Supreme Court, the most conservative member of a very conservative Supreme Court, wrote an opinion which said: Maybe we should look at doing away with all limitations on campaign finance. Many Republicans think that is a great idea. Let us do away with all limitations.

In the real world, what does that mean? It means that billionaires—people who are worth $20 billion and, in the case of the Koch brothers, $80 billion—if we moved in that direction and ended all limitations on campaign spending, could sit in a room—and the Presiding Officer comes from the State of Wisconsin, a moderate-sized State—and they could write a check for $50 million or $100 million for a candidate for Senate or Congress or Governor of Wisconsin or of Vermont or anyplace else, and it would not matter at all.

So I want people to take a deep breath and think about whether that is what we believe American democracy is supposed to be. When I grew up, we believed what American democracy was about—and we still practice it to a large degree in the State of Vermont, where we have town meetings. On the first Tuesday in March people come out, and they argue about the school budget, and they argue about other budgetary items, and every person has a say and every person has a vote. In my career, I have done hundreds and hundreds of town meetings, where people from any walk of life can walk in the door and can ask any question they want. I think democracy is about elected officials talking and communicating with people, regardless of their income, and listening to their comments and answering their questions. That is what democracy is about.

I do not believe democracy is about a handful of billionaires, such as the Koch brothers or Sheldon Adelson, being in a position in which they can spend as much money as they want on any political race in this country. It is very hard for me to imagine how anybody could defend that as being democracy. It is not. It is oligarchy. It is the power of a handful of billionaires to control the political process.

So both in terms of economics, where so few own so much and so many have so little, and in terms of politics, where a handful of billionaires increasingly are able to determine the nature of politics in America and who is elected and who is defeated, I think we as a nation have a lot of hard thinking in front of us. We have to ask ourselves: Are we going to fight for our democracy and an expanded middle class? Are we going to fight for a democracy where one person has one vote and billionaires cannot fight elections? To my mind, that is the most important issue we face as a nation.

I hope the American people become engaged in that struggle and are prepared to take on the billionaires, who, apparently, are not content to have $10 billion or $20 billion in wealth. They feel the need to have more and more and more and to take that money out of the hides of working families, the elderly, the children, the sick, and the poor. They want more tax breaks for billionaires, and then they want to cut Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education, and every other program that is of importance to working families.

So we need a very serious debate about these issues. We need millions of Americans to stand and fight with us to defend American democracy and to stop this country from evolving into an oligarchic form of society.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I come to the floor about an hour or so after a vote on a motion to proceed to take up the Paycheck Fairness Act. I struggled with my decision as to whether to move to this measure that I feel was flawed in terms of its approach to a solution or to recognize that perhaps this measure was more of an exercise in political messaging rather than an effort to resolve what I believe is an issue.

In sorting through all aspects of not only the merits of the legislation, but also the facts as they exist back home, the facts as they exist around this country, where we see pay disparity between men and women, I had a lot on my mind. I had a lot to weigh. I did not come to the floor yesterday to speak with the many who rose to either offer proposed amendments to the Paycheck Fairness Act or those who rose to speak to defend the act. I don't want my silence yesterday to be construed that I don't think there is an issue here; that I don't think this is something that needs to be addressed.

Yesterday was national Equal Pay Day, the day when, according to the Department of Labor, women's wages supposedly catch up to men's wages. We can argue and we can debate what that gap is—whether it is 77 cents, whether those statistics are outdated, whether it is closer to 82 cents or what the raw statistics are. We can debate that. But the fact is—and I think the Presiding Officer and I would agree—if there is any discrepancy there, it is worth looking at. Why does a discrepancy exist? Is there disparity that stems from discrimination? Because if it stems from discrimination, it should not be allowed—pretty simply.

In Alaska, the statistics are a little bit different than what we have on the national level. In my State, Equal Pay Day is not going to occur until May 5.

As an Alaskan, as a woman, and as one who has been in the Alaska job market, I want to know: Why the greater disparity in my State?

We had a women's summit in Anchorage, AK, last October. I worked with a former colleague in the Alaska State legislature to host a summit designed to look at many of the issues women face in Alaska, whether it is pay disparity, childcare affordability, access to health care—so many of the issues and concerns women all over the country deal with day to day. We relied on a study from the state Legislative Research Services. A portion of the research tried to drill down into some of the pay disparities we have in the State.

In 2010 our State Department of Labor reported a wage gap of 67 cents or 33 percent. This statistic is different from the overall national averages because that review conducted by Legislative Research Services included part-time as well as full-time workers and part-time workers generally receive lower salaries. That may be one reason for the disparity.

But when we look at some of the areas where there are discrepancies, it really does cause one to say: Wait a minute. In areas where occupations are significantly male-dominated—crab fishermen, for instance, welders on the pipeline—occupations where the pay is really quite substantial, we might look at that and say, OK, I understand why there might be a discrepancy. But there are other occupations that have some surprising statistics. For example, back in 2010 the average earnings for a male physician were $229,312, but the average for a woman physician was $166,000. It doesn't make sense.

In certain areas, women out-earn men—dietitians, for instance. The ratio of women's to men's earnings is 170 percent, according to the raw numbers. For legal secretaries, the ratio of women's to men's earnings is 132 percent.

For teachers, the ratio of women's to men's earnings is 125 percent.

We need to peel back the onion to understand what we are dealing with—is this a situation where it is the difference in the career choice that has made the distinction with the pay disparity? If that is the case, what are we doing to encourage women to go into areas where, quite clearly, earning opportunities are better?

When we look at occupations, I think it is something that needs to be considered. When we talk about a wage disparity, a pay disparity, I think we need to look very critically at whether there are other factors that come into play. Is it a career choice? Is it the need or desire for flexibility?

Starting out as a young lawyer in Anchorage, I was making what the young men in the firm were making. But when my husband and I decided that I wanted to spend more time at home with our boys, I negotiated for that level of flexibility. That put me behind my male counterparts in the firm. I was good with that. That was a choice I made. I wanted that flexibility.

Are there other nonmonetary forms of compensation that perhaps the wage gap statistics don't necessarily respect? We don't know. So this is where I came down in my decision process as to which direction to take on the Paycheck Fairness Act vote that we had just an hour or so ago. Do we want to try to address what I believe is an issue in that we do have a disparity but how we understand what causes that disparity and, then, what we do with that going forward is an important consideration.

We have the Equal Pay Act of 1963 that imposes strict liability for wage disparity based on gender. It is in law. We have title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that protects against all forms of employment discrimination, including on the basis of sex. But maybe we are not enforcing these Federal laws as we need to. If after all these years we are still seeing areas of disparity that we cannot reconcile based on occupation or based on desire for flexibility, does there continue to be discrimination? That is what we need to get to.

That is why I and many of my colleagues supported some of the amendments that were presented yesterday and I think were important to present—to make sure there is no retaliation for a woman when she inquires as to what others are making to determine whether there is discrimination, so making sure we are able to access that information. However, when we take a proposal like the Paycheck Fairness Act that has an initial presumption that the employer has unlawfully discriminated against an employee if there is a difference in pay—if we start off with a presumption of discrimination, it is pretty hard for an employer—particularly a small employer—to deal with that, to defend that, to present the case, to really work through this issue.

The solution should not be more litigation as the Paycheck Fairness Act response is here. The solution needs to be more all-encompassing because we have laws on the books that already say it is illegal to discriminate. If we are still seeing instances of discrimination—and, again, let's figure out where and why and how—then let's honestly try to address that rather than through messaging efforts that are designed to elevate the issue, which is fair, but then not be pragmatic about how we approach the solutions.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from this morning's Washington Post titled ''President Obama's persistent '77-cent' claim on wage gap gets a new Pinocchio rating.''

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

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 9, 2014]

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PERSISTENT '77 CENT' CLAIM ON THE WAGE GAP GETS A NEW PINOCCHIO RATING

(By Glenn Kessler)

''Today, the average full-time working woman earns just 77 cents for every dollar a man earns . . . in 2014, that's an embarrassment. It is wrong.''

—President Obama, remarks on equal pay for equal work, April 8, 2014

In 2012, during another election season, The Fact Checker took a deep dive in the statistics behind this factoid and found it wanting. We awarded the president only a Pinocchio, largely because he is citing Census Bureau data, but have wondered since then if we were too generous.

We also called out the president when he used this fact in the 2013 State of the Union address. And in the 2014 State of the Union address. And yet he keeps using it. So now it's time for a reassessment.

The Truth Teller video above also goes through the details.

THE FACTS

Few experts dispute that there is a wage gap, but differences in the life choices of men and women—such as women tending to leave the workforce when they have children—make it difficult to make simple comparisons.Obama is using a figure (annual wages, from the Census Bureau) that makes the disparity appear the greatest–23 cents. But the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that the gap is 19 cents when looking at weekly wages. The gap is even smaller when you look at hourly wages—it is 14 cents—but then not every wage earner is paid on an hourly basis, so that statistic excludes salaried workers.

In other words, since women in general work fewer hours than men in a year, the statistics used by the White House may be less reliable for examining the key focus of the proposed Paycheck Fairness Act—wage discrimination. For instance, annual wage figures do not take into account the fact that teachers—many of whom are women—have a primary job that fills nine months out of the year. The weekly wage is more of an apples-to-apples comparison, but it does not include as many income categories.

June O'Neill, a former director of the Congressional Budget Office, has noted that the wage gap is affected by a number of factors, including that the average woman has less work experience than the average man and that more of the weeks worked by women are part-time rather than full-time. Women also tend to leave the work force for periods in order to raise children, seek jobs that may have more flexible hours but lower pay and choose careers that tend to have lower pay.

Indeed, BLS data show that women who do not get married have virtually no wage gap; they earn 96 cents for every dollar a man makes.

Economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis surveyed economic literature and concluded that ''research suggests that the actual gender wage gap (when female workers are compared with male workers who have similar characteristics) is much lower than the raw wage gap.'' They cited one survey, prepared in 2009 for the Labor Department, which concluded that when such differences are accounted for, much of the hourly wage gap dwindled, to about 5 cents on the dollar.

''This study leads to the unambiguous conclusion that the differences in the compensation of men and women are the result of a multitude of factors and that the raw wage gap should not be used as the basis to justify corrective action. Indeed, there may be nothing to correct,'' the report for the Labor Department said. ''The differences in raw wages may be almost entirely the result of the individual choices being made by both male and female workers.''

A 2013 article in the Daily Beast, citing a Georgetown University survey on the economic value of different college majors, showed how nine of the 10 most remunerative majors were dominated by men:

1. Petroleum Engineering: 87% male
2. Pharmacy Pharmaceutical Sciences and Administration: 48% male
3. Mathematics and Computer Science: 67% male
4. Aerospace Engineering: 88% male
5. Chemical Engineering: 72% male
6. Electrical Engineering: 89% male
7. Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering: 97% male
8. Mechanical Engineering: 90% male
9. Metallurgical Engineering: 83% male
10. Mining and Mineral Engineering: 90% male

Meanwhile, nine of the 10 least remunerative majors were dominated by women:

1. Counseling Psychology: 74% female
2. Early Childhood Education: 97% female
3. Theology and Religious Vocations: 34% female
4. Human Services and Community Organization: 81% female
5. Social Work: 88% female
6. Drama and Theater Arts: 60% female
7. Studio Arts: 66% female
8. Communication Disorders Sciences and Services: 94% female
9. Visual and Performing Arts: 77% female
10. Health and Medical Preparatory Programs: 55% female

The White House discovered this week that calculations using average wages can yield unsatisfactory results. McClatchy newspapers did the math and reported that when the same standards that generated the 77-cent figure were applied to White House salaries, women overall at the White House make 91 cents for every dollar men make. White House spokesman Jay Carney protested that the review ''looked at the aggregate of everyone on staff, and that includes from the most junior levels to the most senior.'' But that's exactly what the Census Department does.

Betsey Stevenson, a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, acknowledged to reporters that the 77-cent figure did not reflect equal pay for equal work. ''Seventy-seven cents captures the annual earnings of full-time, full-year women divided by the annual earnings of full-time,

full-year men,'' she said. ''There are a lot of things that go into that 77-cents figure, there are a lot of things that contribute and no one's trying to say that it's all about discrimination, but I don't think there's a better figure.''

Carney noted that the White House wage gap was narrower than the national average, but the White House actually lags the District average calculated by the BLS: 95 cents.

THE PINOCCHIO TEST

From a political perspective, the Census Department's 77-cent figure is golden. Unless women stop getting married and having children, and start abandoning careers in childhood education for naval architecture, this huge gap in wages will almost certainly persist. Democrats thus can keep bringing it up every two years.

There appears to be some sort of wage gap and closing it is certainly a worthy goal. But it's a bit rich for the president to repeatedly cite this statistic as an ''embarrassment.'' (His line in the April 8 speech was almost word for word what he said in the 2014 State of the Union address.) The president must begin to acknowledge that average annual wages does not begin to capture what is actually happening in the work force and society.

Thus we are boosting the rating on this factoid to Two Pinocchios. We were tempted to go one step further to Three Pinocchios, but the president is relying on an official government statistic—and there are problems and limitations with the other calculations as well.

TWO PINOCCHIOS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Included in this article is the following quote referencing a study by the Census Bureau:

This study leads to the unambiguous conclusion that the differences in the compensation of men and women are the result of a multitude of factors and that the raw wage gap should not be used as the basis to justify corrective action. Indeed, there may be nothing to correct.

I don't know that. There indeed may be more that we can correct. I am willing to look to see, to continue to peel back this onion to see if we can do more than we did with the Equal Pay Act of 1963, do more than we did with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, do more than we did with the Lilly Ledbetter Act that I supported several years ago. If there is more that needs to be done, I am willing to work on it because I don't want to be in a State where men are viewed as being paid $1 to the 67 cents that a woman is being paid. I don't want those statistics to be valid. I don't want them to play out in my State. I want to understand how we ensure that there is a level of fairness. I think we need to make sure we look keenly to the issue of whether there is discrimination at play or whether, in fact, there are a host of other issues we need to consider as well. I am willing to work in good faith with my colleagues to do just that.

I see the chairman of the Judiciary Committee is with us.

(Mr. MARKEY assumed the Chair.)

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished senior Senator from Alaska for yielding. I was interested in hearing her speech too.

LANDMINES

The Presiding Officer represents the beautiful Commonwealth of Massachusetts. But consider if 15 percent of the land area of Massachusetts was littered with 100,000 landmines or if my State of Vermont, with a slightly larger land area, was littered with landmines. Each one a tiny explosive buried a few inches beneath the surface of the ground, and it explodes when an unsuspecting person steps on it. Each one capable of killing a child or blowing the legs off of an adult.

This may sound far-fetched, but it is not. It is the reality today for many countries—from Vietnam to Angola to Colombia. But if that were the reality in our States, I think we would all agree that these inherently indiscriminate weapons—designed to be triggered by the victim regardless of whether it is a civilian or combatant—do not belong in the arsenal of a civilized country.

In fact, 161 nations have already agreed, and they have joined together in an international treaty banning antipersonnel mines. They include every member of NATO except one—the United States. They include every country in this hemisphere except two—the United States and Cuba.

We condemn the use of IED's against our soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan, and of course we should. But why not condemn antipersonnel landmines? There is really no appreciable difference.

I am hoping some will be listening to me at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue because I ask this: If landmines were littering this country—in schoolyards, along roads, in cornfields, in our National Parks—and hundreds of American children were being crippled like this Cambodian girl who lost her left foot, how long would it take before the White House sent the Mine Ban Treaty to the Senate for ratification? Two days? Two weeks? It wouldn't take any longer than that, I am sure. Yet we hear the same excuses year after year.

I look at my five beautiful grandchildren and I ask, what if they were living in a country where simply by walking across a field, going to a playground, or walking down a road, they might lose their lives? They are not combatants. It is usually civilians who are injured and killed by these landmines. We hear the same excuses year after year—why the most powerful Nation on earth cannot join its NATO allies, why the most powerful Nation on earth is the only country other than Cuba in this hemisphere not to sign it. What do we get? The same talking points, the same power points. It is really bureaucratic inertia. It is also a lack of leadership.

For 20 years the Pentagon insisted that Korea was the problem. But 20 years later, there is absolutely no evidence they have done anything to revise their Korea war plans without antipersonnel mines or that any President, Democratic or Republican, has ever told them to do so.

The U.S. Government deserves credit for spending hundreds of millions of dollars to clear mines and help mine survivors, and the Leahy War Victims Fund has been an important part of that, including the money I have gotten through appropriations to clear land mines.

But this girl—and there are countless more like her—we are told there are thousands of new mine victims each year, show the other tragic side of the story.

I mentioned on the floor the other day about talking to a young teenager in the hospital about the Bosnia war. She had been sent away by her parents to a safe place during the fighting. The war ended. She could come home. She was running down the road calling out to her parents and stepped on a land mine and lost both her legs. She wasn't a combatant. She became a victim. There are so many innocent victims.

Americans overwhelmingly condemn the use of landmines, and they expect more than they are getting from their government, and so do I, and so, too, should every Member of Congress.

It has been 20 years since President Bill Clinton at the United Nations called for the elimination of antipersonnel landmines. I cheered him when he did. Two years later in 1996 he said: ''Today I am launching an international effort to ban antipersonnel landmines.'' And I cheered that. But 18 years later we are still waiting. We are waiting for action, not words. We haven't signed the landmine treaty. We didn't sign it during the Clinton administration or the George W. Bush administration or this administration.

I have spoken to President Obama about this. I was encouraged when, in accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, he said:

I am convinced that adhering to standards, international standards, strengthens those who do and isolates and weakens those who don't.

I told the President how much I agreed with his words. Coincidentally, when he received the Nobel Prize it was a decade after the Nobel committee awarded the prize to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. How fitting it would be after all these years if my friend, President Obama, gave real meaning to the words he said when accepting the Nobel Peace Prize by putting the United States on a path to join the Mine Ban Treaty, and joining our NATO allies. This is what the President needs to do. More importantly, it is what America and the world needs.

I will speak further about this on another occasion, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

FRANKLIN REGIONAL H.S. TRAGEDY

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak on S. 1596, the Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act.

Before I do that, though, I want to say a few words about a terrible event that occurred this morning in Pennsylvania. The students at Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville, PA, suffered a terrible, devastating tragedy this morning. A person—and this person is believed to be a fellow student—took out a knife and attacked his fellow students before the start of the school day. It appears that as many as 20 people were injured, some severely. Our thanks go out to the first responders who did respond as rapidly as they could, and our prayers go out to those who were injured and their families at Franklin Regional High School.

PROTECTING STUDENTS FROM SEXUAL AND VIOLENT PREDATORS ACT

Mr. President, I want to turn to this bill that I have introduced, the Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act, S. 1596. I want to thank my cosponsors, Senator JOE MANCHIN and Senator MITCH MCCONNELL.

The inspiration for this bill begins with a story of a boy named Jeremy Bell. The story begins in Delaware County, PA. One of the school teachers in the school in Delaware County was found to have molested several boys and raped one of them. Prosecutors decided there was not enough evidence to bring a case. The school knew about what was happening and decided to dismiss the teacher for this appalling behavior. What was so amazing and disturbing is the school also helped this predator land a job at another school in West Virginia, even passing on a letter of recommendation so they could move their problem somewhere else.

The story ended in 1997 when that teacher, by then a school principal, raped and murdered 12-year-old Jeremy Bell in West Virginia. Justice finally caught up with that teacher who is now in jail serving a life sentence for that murder. But for Jeremy Bell justice came way too late. Jeremy Bell's father wouldn't rest until he knew he had done all he could to help to ensure that no child or parent would ever experience a similar tragedy.

Roy Bell, Jeremy's father, worked with Congress to create protections for children to ensure they were not victimized at school. I think for him it was some consolation for his loss. The House of Representatives responded to this terrible, terrible tragedy. On October 22 of last year, the House unanimously passed the Protecting Students Against Sexual and Violent Predators Act. But again, sadly, justice came too late. Jeremy Bell's father passed away just 3 days before the vote.

So we are now in the Senate with a chance to pass the same bill, a bill that has already passed the House unanimously. It is a bipartisan bill. The bill that I introduced is a companion legislation. As I mentioned, we have bipartisan support for this bill, but I hear some people suggesting that maybe we should wait, maybe now is not the right time. Maybe we need more time.

I want to say as strongly as I can that we have had enough waiting. We have wasted enough time. Let me explain why we cannot wait another day. I want to start with 2 numbers, the first is 130. Since January 1 of this year, 130 teachers have been arrested across America for sexual misconduct with children. That is more than 1 teacher arrested for each day of the year so far. And that is, of course, only those who have been caught and arrested. Every moment that we delay we are delaying rooting out some of these problems.

The other number is 73, and 73 is the number that comes from the Government Accountability Office. GAO says that the average pedophile molests 73 children over the course of that pedophile's lifetime. These predators actively seek out the environment where they can find victims. That is what they do. What better place for them than schools. They go from school district to school district, sometimes from State to State, methodically looking for victims. Every moment we delay we let a predator move on to the next of his 73 victims.

The damage that these predators do is just enormous. It is damage far beyond what any number can convey. Over the past few months I have had a chance to visit a number of child advocacy centers around Pennsylvania, meeting with the men and women who work with abused children, whether it is helping them through the criminal justice system or just helping them to start the healing process. These folks do some incredibly important and very, very good work. But again, you cannot visit one of these centers without being profoundly impacted by how devastating the abuse is.

I cannot come up with the words to convey how devastating it is, but I can let some of the children speak for themselves. I am going to quote from two students who were victims. Shannon was raped by a teacher. The teacher was later convicted of sexual assault and sentenced to life in prison. Nine years later here is what Shannon wrote:

> When I was a senior in high school, Mr. Peterson approached me and said I would need to go to night school if I wanted enough credits to graduate on time. And of course he taught those courses—a computer class.
>
> I was 17, and he raped me four times over the course of the year. He said he would fail me if I ever told. He also hit me and made threats against me and my family. So I didn't tell. I held it in for a year and a half.
>
> In the end 66 people offered to testify against Peterson. His first victim dated back to the year I was born. Some of those who spoke up were parents. Their daughters had complained at the time but nothing was done. That made me very angry. It still does. I learned that a handful of teachers and two principals knew about him. And his teaching license had been revoked in Michigan years before, but no one knew why.
>
> I am different because of what happened. I have to watch people all the time, analyze them. I can't be carefree.
>
> Now I have a 7-year-old son and two daughters, ages 3 and 1. I will home school my girls.

Next is a case of a boy from South Carolina named Gary, one of at least 29 boys abused by a teacher, Mr. Fisher, over the teacher's 37-year career. The teacher is serving 20 years in prison. Two school principals were sued for allegedly covering up the abuse.

What Gary wrote is as follows:

> I was 9 when it started. The abuse was frequent and long-term—until I went to college. I knew there were others, too, but until it all came out I never knew how many. You feel so guilty, so ashamed. It's frightening now to look back and see how calculating Fisher was. I did everything I could to get kicked out of school. I was in the guidance counselor's office all the time. Finally, in tenth grade I got myself kicked out for cheating.
>
> By the time I went to college I was drinking all the time. I was terrified to quit because then I would have to feel. But I couldn't drink and do school, so I entered rehab. I was 18. It took me a year and a half, and I've been sober since.
>
> My life is good now for the first time. You can survive it, but you have to deal with it.

He goes on to say:

> I always felt that what the school did was far worse than what Fisher did. Fisher was sick, an evil monster. But [the school] just calculated the damage to its public relations. We kids were disposable, which is a whole other category of evil.

So the question before us is what are we going to do about this? What can we do? What are we going to do?

My bill, the Protecting Students From Sexual and Violent Predators Act is a sensible first step in protecting these kids. It would require a mandatory background check for existing and perspective employees, and the checks would have to be periodically repeated. There are five States today that don't require any background check at all.

The second thing my bill would do is it would check all employees or contractors who have unsupervised contact with children—not just teachers, coaches, and school bus drivers. Anybody who has contact with kids in my view should undergo this background check. There are 12 States in which there is no such requirement from contractors.

My bill would also require a more thorough background check. It would require a check of four major databases, both State and Federal. In Pennsylvania, for instance, if an employee has been living in the State for 2 years or more, there is no Federal background check at all, only the State check, and I don't think it is adequate. The way these predators move from State to State, I think it requires that we check the Federal database.

Importantly, my bill would also ban what we call ''passing the trash.'' This is the horrendous practice whereby the school discovers they have a predator and they intentionally ease the predator out and sometimes actually facilitate that predator getting a job somewhere else. That should be illegal, and my bill would make it illegal.

The fifth thing that my legislation does is it would stipulate that schools cannot hire a person who has ever been convicted of any violent or sexual crime against a child. I think that is a very reasonable first step.

In addition, it would ban hiring of a number of specific felonies—not all felonies, but felonies such as homicide, child abuse or neglect, crimes against a child including pornography, spousal abuse, rape, sexual assault, and kidnapping. Any of those felonies are so egregious it would qualify to keep a person excluded from working with children.

In addition, anyone convicted of a felony physical assault or battery or a felony drug-related offense would be prohibited for 5 years, couldn't be hired for 5 years. The enforcement of all of this would be that if a State refused to adopt these very commonsense measures to protect kids, then they would get no Federal funding from the EASA. I think the States would adopt these reforms.

I would point out there is nothing the least bit radical about these proposals. In addition to having passed the House of Representatives unanimously, we in the Senate just passed virtually an identical background check requirement on the Child Care and Development Block Grant legislation we adopted last week or perhaps the week before—very recently. That bill essentially had identical background check provisions for daycare workers, and that is very sensible. That is an important and good step. It makes sense to protect children in daycare, but it makes no sense whatsoever to protect kids in daycare and then leave them defenseless when they move on to an ordinary school.

Finally, I want to emphasize that this bill has broad bipartisan support manifested in the House and here in the Senate. More than that, I think it is a moral imperative. Our children deserve to be protected now. If that is not a responsibility we have, I don't know what is. The protection didn't come soon enough for Jeremy Bell or Shannon or Gary, but we don't have to fail other children by delay.

I ask any of my colleagues who object to this legislation that passed unanimously in the House—legislation that is completely consistent with what we passed a couple of weeks ago—to please come forward with their concerns or issues. I welcome hearing any objections, if there are any, but I want to see a very speedy passage of this legislation.

It is my intention tomorrow to come down here to the Senate floor and ask for unanimous consent from my colleagues to pass this legislation here on the Senate floor. That will expedite this process and that will assure we put this important safeguard in place as soon as we possibly can.

EX-IM BANK

I have one other issue I want to address briefly before I yield the floor, and that is about the Ex-Im Bank. I believe this afternoon we will be considering a nominee to a very senior post at the Ex-Im bank. My focus is not principally on this particular candidate, but I think we need to ask ourselves some important questions about the way the Ex-Im Bank operates and what it does and how it does it. I hope we will make some very significant changes when we get to the reauthorization debate in the fall.

First of all, I should point out this is an institution—the Ex-Im Bank—that gives rise to a very substantial taxpayer risk, and it is large and growing. In 2007, Ex-Im Bank's total exposure was $57 billion. Today it is almost precisely twice that amount. It is $113 billion, and the Ex-Im Bank wishes to increase that exposure further.

In 2013, the GAO, after doing an audit, found multiple weaknesses in Ex-Im's risk management processes, failures to account for changing environments that could lead to higher losses, lapses that would not be acceptable in fully private institutions.

Another point I wish to make is—I hope we don't kid ourselves about this; I know sometimes people suggest to the contrary—taxpayers are systematically subsidizing the activity of the Ex-Im Bank, and the risk that taxpayers are taking is not adequately compensated. How do we know this? We know this because buyers of products that are subject to Ex-Im Bank financing get the Ex-Im Bank financing because no private lender is willing to make the loan or, if they are, they are not willing to do it under terms as generous as the Ex-Im Bank. That is all the evidence we need to confirm that they are systematically underpricing the risks they are taking, and I find that very objectionable.

There is another concern I have, and that is the nature of the activity, the financial subsidization it provides for certain overseas buyers of some American exports. The nature of this process inevitably creates winners and losers back here in the United States.

The Ex-Im Bank effectively subsidizes—and I will give one example. Indian Airlines gets a subsidy to purchase Boeing jets, and that is very nice, except that Indian Airlines competes directly with some American airlines and American companies. They are direct competitors, but they don't get the advantageous funding. Yet their foreign-based competitor does. How can that possibly be fair? How can that possibly make sense?

My final point is that one of the most predictable things in the world is that when we create a government entity to engage in an economic activity, that entity will be politicized. It is a creature of Congress and the government. It is going to be affected. Sure enough, it didn't take long for that to happen. It already happened in the Ex-Im Bank.

I have seen Members of this body come down to this floor and attempt to offer amendments that would require, for instance, certain quotas that the Ex-Im Bank must lend to certain places in the world that are geographically favored by particular Members for whatever reasons.

There are other mandates on Ex-Im Bank's financing, such as that it must accommodate certain economic activities or certain products. This has nothing to do with market forces or general exports. This has everything to do with the politics that individual cares about. This is the kind of politicization and distortion that inevitably occurs.

In my view, we ought to make it a high priority of our trade discussions to insist with our trading partners around the world that we have a mutual and reciprocal phasing out of these counterproductive, taxpayer-subsidized export entries. While we will not have the opportunity to do that with respect to this nominee we are going to consider this afternoon, we will have the opportunity to do it when the reauthorization debate begins in the fall, and I hope my colleagues will engage in that debate.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Louisiana.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I think we are prepared to have several unanimous consent requests regarding the issue of how to care for veterans in our country. I first want to begin by thanking Senator SANDERS for his extraordinary leadership on the issue of caring for and supporting veterans, their families, their dependents, and the communities in which veterans live. There has been no stronger voice on the Senate floor for veterans on either side of the aisle than Senator SANDERS, and I appreciate his leadership. He has been spending a great deal of time on the floor explaining the importance of his legislation. He has joined me today to talk further about it.

Inside of this very important and major piece of legislation, there is a piece of it that passed the House unanimously that would authorize the construction of 27 major medical facility leases in 18 States and in Puerto Rico, two of which would be in Louisiana—one in Lafayette and one in Lake Charles. I have been leading the effort—contrary to the testimony put on the RECORD by the junior Senator from Louisiana—with Congressman BOUSTANY, whose district this is in, and he has been the leader of our delegation. There is no hesitation among our delegation about who the leader has been about getting these clinics built.

We have been working with the veterans office for years. We got them to admit that they actually made the mistake that caused our clinics to have to be delayed in their construction because of a mishap of great proportion in the way these contracts were bid. The veterans in our State—and Senator SANDERS knows this—have rightly been complaining for years that they have been left out and left behind.

Our entire delegation, Democrats and Republicans, has been fighting on their behalf vigorously. We have written letters, made phone calls, and made multiple visits to the region. Contrary to the testimony by the junior Senator from Louisiana, the fact is everybody has been working well together.

Congressman BOUSTANY got to pass this piece of legislation out of the House that basically says: Yes, let's go forward and build these clinics and not require an offset.

I ask unanimous consent right now to do just that and take the House bill that has passed with no amendments, no modifications, and pass this bill so it doesn't have to go back to the House. It can go right to the President's desk for signature. It costs $1.8 billion, and there is no offset. As I have said, in my view—and this is only my view—the veterans this is going to help have already paid the price. They have already paid the price. They should not have to pay twice.

I agree with the House of Representatives. There doesn't need to be an offset to this. I don't agree with Senator VITTER's amendment that there needs to be an offset. I think we just need to go ahead and unanimously decide to send this to the President's desk for his signature. I am confident he would sign this, and it would authorize these clinics not only in Louisiana but in the States around the country.

I understand there is some opposition from outside of our State. I don't understand any opposition from within the State.

I ask unanimous consent the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3521, the bill read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator COBURN, who is not here today, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. LEE. My understanding is that Senator COBURN's objection is based on the lack of a pay-for in this proposal. There is, however, an amendment that has been introduced by Senator VITTER that addresses this concern and fills this gap.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3521, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I also ask unanimous consent that the Vitter amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Would the Senator yield for a question?

Is that an order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. LEE. Yes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I understand that the House of Representatives passed this bill, H.R. 3521—and I will get the exact vote in a minute—with a vote of 346 to 1. They passed this bill, H.R. 3521, with a vote of 346 to 1, that has no offset.

Does the Senator from Utah have any reason to know why Senator COBURN would now require an offset since the bill and the politics is controlled by the Republican leadership in the House?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I don't mean to cut my colleague off, but Senator LEE is here on behalf of Senator COBURN, who has been more involved, and so I will give the history of it. Some folks in the Senate had concerns about the bill and the fact that, in their view, it was not paid for. I met with them and talked through all of these concerns. I could not convince them to drop those concerns completely, so instead we found a solution, which is the Vitter amendment that is at the desk. That amendment has been cleared within its four corners. Nobody in the Senate—no Republican or Democrat—opposes the amendment. We found that solution in order to pass the bill through the Senate, and that addressed Senator COBURN's objections to the bill alone. That is the solution we worked out.

I can't fully walk through all of Senator COBURN's thoughts about the bill on its own and whether it was paid for. I can just tell the Senator that I met with him exhaustively, was not able to get him to completely drop his objection, but was able to agree on this compromise—this solution to the pay-for issue. So that is why the amendment, which is at the desk, was proposed, which removes the Coburn objection and thereby fixes the problem.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Utah?

Mr. SANDERS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont, objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana has the floor.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, that is very good to know that Senator COBURN is objecting—or not objecting—to an offset that is not a real offset.

The reason there is some objection from our side, and I think from Senator SANDERS as well, is because the Vitter offset is not real. It doesn't generate $1.6 billion in savings. So I think we should go forward with no offset because the $1.6 billion is not a real offset.

The CBO analysis of this offset basically says, from our preliminary estimate of the amendment, based on information from the Department of Defense, there are no savings—there are no savings—for drug-related purchases to the current law. The preliminary estimate is zero.

With that, I wish to reiterate my unanimous consent request—please don't interrupt—I would like unanimous consent for my amendment, which has no offset—and the bill does not have to go back to the House of Representatives. The bill can go straight to the President's desk.

I yield the floor.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator will state his inquiry.

Mr. VITTER. I would like to ask through the Chair, because this is significant information, whether Senator SANDERS would object to passing the bill without amendment, because in all previous discussions to date, I understood he would object to that. But that is very significant information, so I would ask that of Senator SANDERS through the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is not a parliamentary inquiry. However, if the Senator chooses to respond, he may.

Mr. SANDERS. I will respond later.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, reclaiming the floor and reclaiming my time, that is very significant information that can guide us with regard to any path forward. So I would like to know from the Senator whether he would or would not object to a UC to pass the bill without this amendment.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, that is a fair question. Let me ask my colleague from Louisiana—as he knows, I will be speaking more to this in a moment. I wish to thank Senator LANDRIEU for her strong support of legislation I introduced and for her support not only for veterans in Louisiana but for every veteran in this country. This legislation is supported by virtually every veterans organization in the United States of America.

I will respond at this point to my colleague from Louisiana to say that if I were prepared to support the Landrieu amendment, which has no offsets—and she makes a good point, that veterans have paid for this legislation in their blood already—would the Senator from Louisiana object to an amendment I offered for the comprehensive bill that had no offset as well?

Mr. VITTER. If I could address the Chair, I am happy to answer the question.

As Senator SANDERS knows, I have serious concerns with his much broader bill. So I am not agreeing to his far broader bill. He knows that. We have talked about that. We have talked about those concerns. I am happy to restate that.

Having answered his question, I would like to reask through the Chair if Senator SANDERS is objecting or would object to a UC request to pass this veterans clinics bill without the amendment at the desk.

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object, let me again thank Senator LANDRIEU, who has raised this issue with me on numerous occasions. The

issue we are talking about—I think Senator VITTER referred to it—is clearly not just an issue for Louisiana, it is an issue which addresses the need to see built 27 major medical facilities in 18 States and Puerto Rico. To my mind, this is a very important provision, which is in fact why I put it in a very prominent place in my legislation.

What I would say to my friend from Louisiana is that as important as that provision in the bill is, there are many other provisions of equal or greater importance. What I would say to my friend from Louisiana is that organizations—and, again, virtually every veterans organization in America, representing millions and millions of veterans, wants this body and Members of the Senate to not just give speeches on Veterans Day or Memorial Day about their concerns for veterans, they want this body to start acting on behalf of the veterans in this country.

What they want us to do, among many other things, is an advanced appropriations. I know my friend from Louisiana isn't a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and maybe he does not know that in the last government shutdown we were 10 days away from veterans—disabled veterans—not getting the checks they live on. This bill I have introduced addresses that.

Maybe the Senator from Louisiana does not know we have a major backlog problem; that while the VA is making good progress and significantly reducing that backlog, I as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee want to make absolutely certain that when a veteran applies for a benefit, that benefit is adjudicated in a rapid, efficient, and accurate way, and my legislation deals with that issue.

I don't know if the junior Senator from Louisiana knows we have a real problem for veterans in Louisiana and across this country who are trying to take advantage of the post-9/11 education bill. Over 1 million veterans and their families are taking advantage of it but suddenly find themselves, if they move from Vermont to Louisiana or Louisiana to Vermont, they may not be able to take advantage of instate tuition. Our bill addresses that issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senators are advised that subject to a previous order, the Senate was to proceed to executive session at 2:30.

Mr. VITTER. I ask unanimous consent that the previous order be postponed for an additional 10 minutes so we can simply round out this very important discussion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. None whatsoever.

Mr. VITTER addressed the Chair.

Mr. SANDERS. I think I have the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. VITTER. I believe I made an inquiry through the Chair, so I believe I have the floor and I would like to reclaim it if that is appropriate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont currently has the floor.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the point I am making is that furthermore, not only are we dealing with the instate tuition issue, which impacts veterans from Louisiana and Vermont and every other State, we are dealing with another issue in that we are going to extend for 5 years to 10 years unfettered access to VA health care for recently separated veterans. At a time when real unemployment in this country is close to 12 percent and many veterans are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan and they are looking for work and work is hard to find, this legislation renews our vow to hire heroes because we believe it is important that veterans get back to work and take care of their families.

Mr. VITTER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. I apologize for interrupting, but I just want to ensure that of the additional 10 minutes that were granted, I would have 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is dividing the time equally.

Mr. VITTER. I apologize for interrupting.

Mr. SANDERS. Not at all.

I wanted to mention to my colleague from Louisiana, which he may or may not know, that we have a very serious problem in the military regarding sexual assault, and it is terribly important that the men and women who were sexually assaulted get the help and the treatment they need in a VA facility and we address that issue.

The Senator from Louisiana may or may not know that 2,300 veterans—these are men and women who suffered injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan and came back home—are unable, because of their wounds, to have babies, and this legislation is going to help them start the families they want.

The Senator from Louisiana may or may not know—and I know the Senator from Illinois Mr. DURBIN does know—that in this legislation we deal with the caregivers act; that right now we have 70-year-old women who have taken care of their husbands who lost their legs in Vietnam or in Korea or whatever war, and they are crying out for us to give them a modest degree of help.

What I say to my friend from Louisiana: Now is the time to stand with the veterans of this country. If he thinks it is too expensive, then don't send them off to war. Don't send them off to war. Taking care of veterans is a cost of war. They paid for it. I am very proud, again, that this legislation has the support of the American Legion, VFW, DAV, Gold Star Wives, Vietnam veterans organizations, Iraq, Afghanistan veterans organizations, and all the others—virtually all of the other ones.

I implore my friend from Louisiana to do the right thing and support this comprehensive legislation which addresses his concerns in this provision, but it does a lot more.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I think this discussion has been very important and very instructive because it underscores that not only does the distinguished Senator from Vermont object to my efforts to pass the veterans clinics bill with the amendment at the desk by unanimous consent, but he also objects to Senator LANDRIEU's efforts to pass the same veterans clinics bill, in her case, without the amendment, without the offset. I asked him that direct question. He made it very clear that he continues to demand that we pass his entire much broader bill and will not let this hostage go.

I think that is very sad and very inappropriate for him to object to my effort, for him to now object to the efforts of Senator LANDRIEU. She made the unanimous consent request to pass the clinics bill, the focused clinics bill. He is objecting to that as well.

It is also completely contrary to what Senator SANDERS has said before, working on these and related issues. In another instance in late 2013, November, Senator SANDERS himself, talking about our colleagues, said:

> I'm happy to tell you that I think that was a concern of his.

Another colleague—

> We got that UC'ed last night. So we moved that pretty quickly, and I want to try to do those things, where we have agreements, let's move it.

Where we have agreement, let's move it. We do not have agreement about the significant details of the much broader Sanders bill. It is not 1 Senator objecting about that, it is 43, but we do have agreement about this clinics issue. No one, including Senator SANDERS, objects to the substance of the clinics bill. We have worked out every issue, including through my discussions with Senator COBURN, about the pay-fors. The amendment at the desk solves that.

So when we take that bill and the amendment, no one objects to that substance. No one objects to it within the four corners of that material. The only objection constantly on the floor for the last several weeks—today again toward me, today again toward Senator LANDRIEU's UC—is, no, I need my whole bill.

We will continue to discuss those important issues and disagreements, but 43 Senators disagree with Senator SANDERS. Sixty are needed to move forward. In the meantime, can we at least agree what we agree on and not hold veterans hostage? They have had guns pointed at them before, but they don't expect U.S. Senators to hold guns to their head and hold them hostage over veterans clinics.

So where we have agreement, let's move it. We have agreement about the

veterans clinics. Let's move it. That is my effort. That is Senator LANDRIEU's effort, which again is being objected to, moving this focused clinics bill, by the Senator from Vermont. I find that very unfortunate, but I will certainly continue to demand that we pass this and continue to talk regarding all of the other important veterans' issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we talk about holding hostage. The distinguished junior Senator from Louisiana pointed out that 43 Senators voted against comprehensive legislation that is supported by virtually every veterans organization in this country. The arithmetic is 43 voted against it, that is true. How many voted for it? Fifty-six voted for it and 1 was absent who would have voted for it. Fifty-seven voted for comprehensive legislation, 43 voted against it.

So when the Senator talks about holding veterans hostage, I would suggest to my friend from Louisiana that maybe instead of filibustering this bill and requiring an undemocratic 60 votes, let the majority rule.

The American people want us to pass this legislation. If you choose not to vote for it, that is your right. But I do urge you not to hold us hostage by demanding 60 votes when a very strong majority wants to see it passed.

With that, Mr. President, I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, can you tell me the order of business we are in now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 40 seconds remaining on the current issue, following which we will proceed to executive session.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I yield back that time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF WANDA FELTON TO BE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Wanda Felton, of New York, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The remaining time until 3:30 p.m. will be for debate on the Felton nomination.

The Senator from Illinois.

AMERICAN CURES ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, a generation ago, an AIDS diagnosis meant a sure and agonizing death. It was 23 years ago, when I was in the House of Representatives, when I was walking to the Chamber for a vote when I saw a colleague and friend, Tom McMillen, a Congressman from Maryland, coming my way. You would not miss Tom McMillen. He played in the NBA. He was tall. As he passed by on the sidewalk, he stopped and said: Magic has AIDS. It was a stunning announcement that Magic Johnson had been diagnosed with AIDS. The reality is that was 23 years ago. At the time we felt this was a death verdict, there was no way to escape it.

Last month American researchers revealed that a second American baby born with HIV has apparently been cured of the virus with drugs delivered just minutes after birth.

How far we have come in 23 years—from an AIDS diagnosis meaning certain death to being able to cure for the second time a baby born with HIV with drugs delivered minutes after birth.

These babies were treated as part of a research program at the National Institutes of Health. Their apparent cures offer real hope for a quarter of a million babies who were born into the world this year with HIV—many of them in desperately poor nations.

It is not the only happening when it comes to medical research, by a long shot. In my home State of Illinois, Dr. Jose Oberholzer from the University of Illinois-Chicago and Dr. Xunrong Luo from Northwestern University are among scores of researchers throughout the country on an NIH-sponsored project to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes.

Do you know anyone with type 1 diabetes? I do. To think that we are close enough to even consider the possibility of a cure should spur us all on to want more research in this area done as quickly as possible.

These two doctors are part of an effort called the Clinical Islet Transplantation Consortium. Islets are a group of beta cells in the pancreas that produce insulin. Type 1 diabetes destroys these cells. Transplanting healthy beta cells into the liver of someone with type 1 diabetes can enable the person's body to start producing insulin on its own—a functional cure for type 1 diabetes.

This is not just a theory; it is starting to show results when it comes to this clinical research.

Why do I raise these amazing medical research stories on the floor of the Senate? Because the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives each year vote on how much money we are going to put into the National Institutes of Health, and we have had some sad outcomes in recent years.

Did you know that over the last 10 years we have been unwilling to give the National Institutes of Health even a cost-of-living adjustment? So each year they have fallen behind in medical research just because of inflation. They have fallen behind 22 percent in awarding research grants such as the ones I just described because we have failed to provide a cost-of-living adjustment for them.

Does anyone believe we are saving money by cutting back on medical research? If they do, they are just plain wrong.

They had a program announced about a month ago at NIH called the AMP Program. It is a new undertaking. The 10 largest pharmaceutical companies have put up $150 million—not a great amount of money for successful pharmaceutical companies but an investment—to be matched by NIH, and they are setting out to use human genomic mapping and cell information to find cures for Alzheimer's, type 1 diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis.

Can we afford this? Can we afford this research? Do you know what we paid last year in Medicare and Medicaid just for Alzheimer's patients? It was $203 billion—1 year. If we can, through our research, find a way to at least delay, if not cure, Alzheimer's, think of the misery that will be spared these poor families who suffer from Alzheimer's and think of the money we will save.

Are we so shortsighted as a nation that we have forgotten that medical research not only finds cures but saves us money that would otherwise be spent for medical care?

That is why I introduced, 2 weeks ago, the American Cures Act. It is different. There are not a lot of proposals like it before Congress. What I am doing with this proposal is trying to get Congress, on both sides of the aisle, in both Chambers, to make a commitment to American medical research, American cures.

Here is the commitment: Over the next 10 years, I want a commitment that we will increase the funding in medical research beyond inflation 5 percent a year—5 percent—for the National Institutes of Health, for the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Defense medical research, and the Veterans' Administration medical research.

What is the cost of that? The cost of that is $150 billion over 10 years—to make a commitment to go forward on medical research. It is a lot of money. It is a lot of money until you consider what the cost is each year of Alzheimer's—$200 billion—not to mention the cost of diabetes, arthritis, and so many other illnesses and diseases that call for huge investments when it comes to medical care.

Where in the world can we get $150 billion over 10 years? Where could we possibly find it? Let me give you a starting place. Increase the Federal tax on tobacco products by 95 cents. I am for that. I will tell you why I am for it. I have been fighting tobacco as long as I have been in Congress—the House and Senate—and what I have discovered is, if you want to discourage young people from smoking, taking up tobacco addictions that will ultimately cost them their lives, raise the price of the product. They stop buying it.

In my lifetime, we have seen the percentage of Americans smoking cut in

half. So raising that tobacco tax gives us money for medical research and reduces the likelihood that people will become addicted to nicotine and tobacco.

Mr. President, 700,000 Americans will not take up the tobacco habit if we raise that tax 95 cents. It is money well spent on medical research.

If we do not do this, what happens? We fail to find the cures for diseases, we continue to make massive expenditures in Medicare and Medicaid and other health programs, and we watch the world pass us by.

If the United States decides to retreat when it comes to biomedical research, other countries are ready to step in. Now, today, China is investing 12 to 20 percent more each year in government research and medical research—each year. In 8 years China will surpass the United States in dollars spent on government research and medical research. Are we ready to let that happen? I hope not.

For the sake of the people who live in this country who need cures for these diseases, and help, for the sake of the cost to our health care system that all of this medical challenge presents, and if we want to maintain a lead when it comes to researchers and doctors and hospitals, it is time for us on a bipartisan basis to make a commitment to medical research.

I hope others will join in cosponsoring this American Cures Act. A number have done this already, and I thank them for joining me. One of them is on the floor, my colleague from California Mrs. BOXER. She is always by my side. We have fought a lot of these battles together. And the list goes on: Senators REED, BROWN, HIRONO, FEINSTEIN, GILLIBRAND, CARDIN, HAGEN, CASEY, MARKEY, and MIKULSKI, and we are just getting started. I might also say that Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO is cosponsoring this measure in the House.

I cannot think of a more important thing that we can do to make this a better, safer nation, to reward research, to find cures for diseases, and to make sure our country continues to lead the world when it comes to biomedical research.

I hope my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Illinois for his leadership in making our people healthier than they otherwise would be. He talked about the battles we have had making sure that we crack down on the tobacco companies that told us for years smoking was safe—as a matter of fact, do it, it will relax you—and they denied the science.

We lived through those years. Many years ago, I worked with then-Senator Lautenberg—and Senator DURBIN led the charge in the House—to stop smoking on airplanes. I remember coming home from these long trips and literally reeking of cigarette smoke—I never smoked in my life, but just sitting around it in the airplanes.

Now we are working together on NIH issues. We are very upset about some of the false claims that are being made about ecigarettes, and we want the truth out.

So before he leaves the floor, I want to thank the Senator.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. President, I am here for only a couple minutes to express my chagrin, my disappointment, my shock that not one Republican voted with Democrats to make sure women have equal pay to men. What a simple concept: If you work a job that is the same as a man, the pay should be equal, and that means women can get a fair shot in the workplace. And how do we know it is not happening? We know because there are statistics that prove that women are earning, on average, $11,000 less than a man for the same job; and that is $11,000 a year. Over the course of a lifetime, it is over $400,000.

Our Republican friends, in searching to come up with a reason—I do not know their reason; I do not get their reason—but this is what they said. They said—MITCH MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, said in a press conference—and I just read it; I hope I am wrong, and maybe he did not say this—but he said: We are hurting the very same people we are trying to help in this legislation.

Now, somebody explain to me how it hurts a woman to have equal pay with a man for the same job. How does it hurt a woman to be able to afford a better place to live with that $11,000 a year, or a better school, to send her child to college, or just to enjoy a family vacation or a used car that maybe they want to buy—or, or, or.

It is unbelievable to me. Every Republican voted against equal pay today for women. What is even more disturbing, every Republican voted to filibuster equal pay for women, meaning they voted against our even taking up the subject. They stopped us. We had a good, solid majority of Democrats—54. We just wanted to take it up and work on it and get it through. They filibustered this. It is, to me, amazing.

Senator MCCONNELL said that Democrats are obsessed with this issue of equal pay for equal work. OK, I will take it. I am obsessed. I want equal pay for women.

We are here in the U.S. Senate. Everyone knows what we earn, and everyone knows that a woman Senator makes the same as a man Senator. We have the same pension options and health care options, and that is the fair way. All the equal pay for equal work act says is: We want to enforce the civil rights laws that demand it. But employers now harass you, fire you, stop you from finding out what your colleague across the aisle makes.

If you even ask someone: I want to just check, am I getting paid fairly? I am getting paid $45,000 a year, and we do the same job. Can you tell me?—that alone—that alone—makes that worker a target for dismissal, harassment, et cetera.

This should not be. We should be able to find out and ask. That is all we are trying to do here. We are trying to make sure that the Civil Rights Act which passed in the 1960s actually works. Because the Civil Rights Act said: equal pay for equal work. But then all these rules came down and loopholes came down, and employers can fire you, harass you, or do whatever, if you even ask about it.

Everyone knows—I should not say ''everyone''—a lot of people understand the Lilly Ledbetter case. Lilly Ledbetter worked at a tire company. She was a manager. She was considered one of the top people in the company who did this work. She found out she was getting paid thousands of dollars less by the owner of the tire factory. She sued.

She won her lawsuit at the lower level. Then it went all the way to the Supreme Court. They said: Sorry, you waited too long to file your lawsuit. What? She said: I could not find out about it. I did not find out about it, she said, until a coworker left me a note and said:

> Lilly, I admire you. You're great. Do you know you're getting paid X thousands less a year than your male counterpart?

But she did not find it out for many years. So we had to fix that problem. BARBARA MIKULSKI led us, and the President led us. He signed the bill, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which expands the statute of limitations so when you find out you have been discriminated against you can bring a lawsuit.

All this is, is you can find out for sure earlier by asking someone. So I am in shock. Do not tell me women do not want fair pay, all they care about is flexibility. You cannot buy groceries with flexibility. If you want flexibility in the workplace, you can work that out. But set your pay first. I have employees, men and women, who want to get their pay settled. Then they will say: Is it okay if I work 4 days at the same level, but then I do not get paid for that fifth? That is fine if that is the flexibility workers want. But do not substitute flexibility and say: Well, if you want to work 4 days a week, we will give you that, but, guess what, you are going to be paid less for the job than a man. Please.

Yes, we are obsessed with this. We are because we Democrats believe in justice and fairness and equality, not just in words and speeches and reading great quotes from our Founders, but in reality.

That means, in reality, we want a woman in the workplace to be able to find out if she is getting paid fairly. I am disappointed, but I am also excited that HARRY REID is going to bring this back again and again and again in the hopes that our Republicans in the Senate relent and understand this is about

fairness and justice and equality and the right thing for women in this country. Not only women in this country, but for their families, their children. Two-thirds of women either are the sole supporters of their families or they are cosupporters of their families. This is an economic issue.

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. LEE. 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. LEE. Mr. President, the American economy is the envy of the world, primarily because it is still seen as a place where anyone—regardless of who you are or where you come from—can work hard, play by the rules, and succeed. That belief is predicated on the notion that America has a thriving, competitive, and free enterprise economy in which the best ideas and hardest workers win the day, while those who are less successful always have a fair chance to try again.

The free enterprise system is not perfect, by any means, but it is fair. Unfortunately today, Americans increasingly believe our system is rigged. In President Obama's America, they have good reason. From the stimulus to Cash for Clunkers, from the bailouts to cap-and-trade, from Dodd-Frank to ObamaCare, every namebrand initiative of the President's term of office has distorted public policy to privilege well-connected insiders and elites at the expense of taxpayers and consumers.

The Export-Import Bank is another taxpayer-funded example of distorted public policy that further erodes Americans' confidence in our markets and our system. In short, the Ex-Im Bank exists to dole out taxpayer-backed loan guarantees to help American exporters. Most of the benefits go to large corporations that are perfectly capable of securing private financing anywhere in the world. That is to say, Congress allows Ex-Im Bank to risk taxpayer money unnecessarily to subsidize well-connected private companies.

This kind of public policy privilege, best described as crony capitalism, is a threat to the free market and to its moral underpinnings. Crony capitalism corrupts the free market by rewarding political connections over competitive excellence. It subverts the rule of law by codifying inequality. It undermines social solidarity by pitting citizens against one another, twisting cooperative communities into rival special interests.

That is why in Obama's crony economy, we are seeing record corporate profits but stagnant middle-class wages and an anemic, jobless recovery. Cronyism has promoted and exacerbated inequality. It has isolated the poor and it has squeezed America's middle class.

There are three principal reasons why we should start making this discussion part of the public debate and why we should start doing it right now: First, we should do this to fix the economy. Nearly all of our Nation's net job creation comes from firms that have existed for 5 years or less. But cronyist policies tilt the playing field against those very firms, and make it next to impossible for those companies to succeed, to grow, and to create new jobs that we so badly need, and that the American people so significantly deserve. Leveling the playing field creates competition in both directions. It allows smaller, younger firms to compete, and it forces larger, older firms to do the same. That dynamic competition is what creates new jobs. It is what creates new economic growth. It is what gives rise to new opportunities up and down the economy on every step on the economic ladder.

Second, this is a matter of basic justice. The American people have a fundamental right to equal opportunity under the law, and it is the job of the government to protect equal opportunity. If the very people who work hard and play by the rules are forced by government to bail out, prop up, and subsidize elite insiders who do not, then the land of opportunity, well, is not.

Third, as those who most support free enterprise and equal opportunity, Republicans must bear the burden of reform. We believe in the power of free markets and a voluntary civil society to expand, lift people out of poverty, and support a secure and prosperous middle class. So it is our responsibility to follow through on our own convictions and close our own branch of the beltway favor bank. It starts with conservatives having an agenda to reform government and to end cronyism. Fortunately, some of us have already started working on it.

These proposals focus on protecting the American people from the economic harm that comes from the collusion of big government, big business, and big special interests.

For example, we have policy reforms that force Congress to periodically reevaluate expensive regulations; level the playing field for all energy producers; open our higher education system to new students, teachers, and competition; give Americans the right to choose whether to join a union; cut out the bureaucrats who waste critical infrastructure funding; and, yes, eliminate taxpayer subsidies to organizations such as the Ex-Im Bank.

This agenda will create jobs, grow the economy, increase opportunities by allowing small businesses and forcing big businesses to compete on a level playing field where success depends on customer service and not on political connections. A conservative agenda to get right on cronyism will be good for jobs, for the economy, and above all it will be the right thing to do.

Eventually, later this year, the reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank will be before the Senate, and I hope my colleagues will keep these points in mind. But before us today is the nomination of Wanda Felton to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank. This is a position she already holds, but it is being renominated so that she can continue holding that position.

Ms. Felton, significantly, sat on the board of the Ex-Im Bank, and she did so at a time when the Ex-Im Bank declined to take several recommendations from its own inspector general to lower its risks, which, in turn, put taxpayers at greater risk.

The Ex-Im Bank has also continued to make claims about the importance of Ex-Im on job creation without necessary caveats or references to the bank's methodology—claims the GAO has heavily criticized.

I cannot support putting someone back into this position after that person largely ignored these recommendations by government watchdogs.

For all the reasons I have mentioned, I respectfully and strongly ask my colleagues to oppose the renomination of Wanda Felton to be the First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

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.

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

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

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Wanda Felton, of New York, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States?

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''nay'' and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) would have voted ''nay.''

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

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 104 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Graham	Murkowski
Ayotte	Hagan	Murphy
Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Portman
Blunt	Heller	Pryor
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Hoeven	Reid
Brown	Isakson	Rockefeller
Burr	Johanns	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	King	Scott
Casey	Kirk	Shaheen
Coats	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Landrieu	Tester
Coons	Leahy	Thune
Corker	Levin	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Markey	Walsh
Durbin	McCain	Warner
Feinstein	McCaskill	Warren
Flake	Menendez	Whitehouse
Franken	Merkley	Wicker
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—21

Barrasso	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Inhofe	Roberts
Chambliss	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Cochran	Lee	Sessions
Enzi	McConnell	Shelby
Fischer	Moran	Toomey
Grassley	Paul	Vitter

NOT VOTING—4

Bennet	Cornyn
Coburn	Cruz

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF TERRELL McSWEENY TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consider the McSweeny nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Terrell McSweeny, of the District of Columbia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2010.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today the Senate is voting to confirm Terrell McSweeny's nomination to an open seat on the Federal Trade Commission. This vote is long overdue as the FTC has lacked a full complement of Commissioners for more than a year. The confirmation of Ms. McSweeny will bring the Commission to a full complement of Commissioners and ensure that the mission of consumer protection can be fully realized.

Ms. McSweeny is a highly qualified candidate. She has already served as Domestic Policy Advisor to Vice President JOE BIDEN. She has worked here in the Senate—first as a page while still in high school and later as then-Senator BIDEN's Deputy Chief of Staff and Policy Director, and she has been a lawyer in private practice. She is a graduate of Harvard University and Georgetown University Law School. I have had the privilege of knowing Terrell McSweeney for a number of years, and I have every confidence that she will make an excellent FTC Commissioner.

The FTC undertakes critical work to ensure that Americans are protected from deceptive and misleading advertising and marketing and to ensure that American businesses do not engage in unfair and anticompetitive practices. I would like to commend the Senate for taking up her nomination and urge my colleagues to support Ms. McSweeny's confirmation as a Commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Terrell McSweeny, of the District of Columbia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of 7 years from September 26, 2010?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) would have voted ''yea'' and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''yea''.

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

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 105 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Gillibrand	Merkley
Ayotte	Graham	Mikulski
Baldwin	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Hagan	Murkowski
Begich	Harkin	Murphy
Blumenthal	Hatch	Murray
Blunt	Heinrich	Nelson
Booker	Heitkamp	Paul
Boozman	Heller	Portman
Boxer	Hirono	Pryor
Brown	Hoeven	Reed
Burr	Inhofe	Reid
Cantwell	Isakson	Risch
Cardin	Johanns	Roberts
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Chambliss	Kaine	Sanders
Coats	King	Schatz
Cochran	Kirk	Schumer
Collins	Klobuchar	Scott
Coons	Landrieu	Sessions
Corker	Leahy	Shaheen
Crapo	Lee	Shelby
Donnelly	Levin	Stabenow
Durbin	Manchin	Tester
Enzi	Markey	Thune
Feinstein	McCain	Toomey
Fischer	McCaskill	Udall (CO)
Flake	McConnell	Udall (NM)
Franken	Menendez	Walsh
Warner	Warren	Wicker
	Whitehouse	Wyden

NAYS—1

Vitter

NOT VOTING—4

Bennet	Cornyn
Coburn	Cruz

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. We have a number of votes scheduled. They are going to go by voice, I am told.

Mr. President, we are going to have a cloture vote an hour after we come in tomorrow morning, and there is no reason we cannot be finished tomorrow, but that doesn't mean we will be finished tomorrow.

We will have to cooperate and have to work out the time problems we have with the matters that will be pending after we complete the votes on these two measures now.

So we could finish tomorrow. It is up to all of us. Otherwise, we may have to spill over a little into late on Friday.

NOMINATION OF DEBRA L. MILLER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

NOMINATION OF STEVEN JOEL ANTHONY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

NOMINATION OF DANIEL W. YOHANNES TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of the following nominations which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Debra L. Miller, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board; Steven Joel Anthony, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board; Daniel W. Yohannes, of Colorado, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, 2 minutes will be equally divided for the Miller nomination.

Who yields time?

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

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

All time is yielded back.

VOTE ON MILLER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Debra L. Miller, of Kansas, to be a Member of

the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2017?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON ANTHONY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the Anthony nomination.

Who yields time?

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

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

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Steven Joel Anthony, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2018?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON YOHANNES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the Yohannes nomination.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

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

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Daniel W. Yohannes, of Colorado, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador?

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative business.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Rhode Island.

The Senate will be in order.

Mr. REED. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the Minimum Wage Fairness Act, which I strongly support. The minimum wage, first instituted in 1938, has served as a key way to protect workers in our economy, ensuring they are able to earn enough money to provide basic living necessities. However, the current minimum wage set at $7.25 fails to do that.

The Federal minimum wage has not been increased since 2009. Today an individual who works 40 hours per week, 52 weeks a year at the Federal minimum wage earns $15,080 per year. This is nearly $5,000 below the Federal poverty level for a family of three and almost $9,000 below the poverty level for a family of four. This means we have hard-working Americans who put in full-time work every week for the entire year yet still live in poverty. This is unacceptable.

If we fail to act, the Federal poverty level will rise with inflation while the minimum wage will not. As a result, families earning $7.25 per hour will continue to fall further and further below the poverty line.

The value of the minimum wage peaked in 1968, and it is now much lower due to inflation. If the minimum wage had kept pace with inflation, it would currently pay $10.74 per hour. While the value of the minimum wage has been on the decline, worker productivity has been on the rise, and that is a disconnect. Increased productivity usually means there are increased wages that reflect that productivity, but that is not the case with the minimum wage. If the minimum wage had increased with rising productivity, it would be worth over $21 per hour today. Yet the minimum wage still stays stuck at $7.25.

If we were paying workers based on the 1968 level, it would be much higher. If we were paying workers based on their productivity and their ability to do the job, it would be exceptionally high.

The bill that will come before us shortly will increase the minimum wage in three installments until it reaches $10.10 per hour and then tie the Federal minimum wage to inflation. This would ensure that the value of the minimum wage will not be eroded over time as it has been. The bill will also increase the minimum wage for tipped workers, whose minimum wage has been fixed at $2.13 for over two decades. I must salute the Presiding Officer for his insistence that this provision be included in the minimum wage bill.

Over 3.5 million Americans currently work at or below the current minimum wage, and there are millions more who work just above it. Raising the minimum wage would therefore increase the wages of everyone making between the current minimum wage and the $10.10 mark.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 16.5 million Americans would see their wages increased by this legislation. The Council of Economic Advisers estimates that 28 million people would benefit from the wage increase.

According to researchers at MIT, a Rhode Island worker supporting a family of four would need to earn $19.17 per hour to have a living wage, a wage in which he or she could adequately support their family. Yet the current minimum wage lags woefully behind, thereby putting many working families in dire financial situations.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that raising the Federal minimum wage to $10.10 per hour—I would point out that our minimum wage in Rhode Island is $8 and that is higher than the Federal minimum wage—would give over 90,000 Rhode Islanders a raise. That would immediately translate to economic activity in Rhode Island, and it would immediately translate into growth in Rhode Island. That raise would affect almost 20 percent of our workforce. This is a critical way—in order to give families the ability to support themselves—to increase economic growth and also significantly begin to bring together workers at every level. We have seen extraordinary gains at the top level. We have extraordinary stagnation at the mid-level and the low level. We have to start bringing ourselves together rather than pulling ourselves apart.

Providing a raise to these Rhode Island workers would also impact an estimated 40,000 children in those families. Over 3 years, the Economic Policy Institute estimates this will cause the Rhode Island economy to grow by $77 million and support 300 additional jobs. We are talking about economic growth as well as fairness to working Americans.

The benefits of raising the minimum wage are vast both in my State and across this country. According to the CBO, this legislation would lift an estimated 900,000 people out of poverty. It would also help low and middle-income families who have been struggling in this economy. This would have a huge impact—and a positive impact—across the country.

Increasing the minimum wage is especially important to women who disproportionately work minimum wage jobs. Fifty-five percent of all minimum wage workers are women, including over 70 percent of the tipped workers.

Again, thanks to the efforts of the Presiding Officer, we are focusing on this issue of the tipped worker and their minimum wage.

While some have suggested otherwise, this legislation is also good for business. Studies show that higher wages allow businesses to save money because they have less turnover and lower training costs, which leads to increases in worker productivity that helps businesses succeed. An increased minimum wage can also help our Nation's small businesses to compete. It forces the big-box stores to pay wages that are comparable to those that are paid by many small businesses, which levels the playing field in the marketplace.

Finally, this bill will save billions of dollars on the Federal budget. By raising the minimum wage to $10.10, Federal need-based programs would have fewer enrollees and the costs of these programs would drop significantly. Researchers at the Brookings Institution estimate that increasing the minimum wage to $10.10 will save at least $11 billion annually in the Federal budget,

and these savings come both from the lower costs of Federal programs and increased revenues from taxing a higher base salary.

Some critics have suggested that increasing the minimum wage only helps teenagers, but in fact the average age of individuals who will benefit from this legislation is 35 years old. Nationally, over 84 percent of those directly affected by this legislation are at least 20 years old and nearly half are at least 30.

In my State, according to the estimates by the Economic Policy Institute, 77 percent of workers who would see a raise under this bill are at least 20 years old. This is not just the part-time high school student who works a few hours a week making the minimum wage; these are people who are, on average, 30 years or older who are working and struggling not only for themselves but, in many cases, for their families. This bill is something that is beneficial to workers throughout this country.

Opponents of the minimum wage have also argued that increasing the minimum wage will decrease jobs, citing a recent CBO report. However, the CBO report was generated without any new analyses on the part of the CBO, and their estimates are stated with a great deal of uncertainty.

In fact, the CBO's own numbers suggest there is a 16-percent chance that increasing the minimum wage to $10.10 would actually increase employment. Economists at Goldman Sachs and at the Brookings Institution say that the CBO report overstates the likely negative impact on jobs.

Further, over 600 economists, including 7 Nobel Prize winners, sent a letter to President Obama and congressional leaders urging them to support this bill, saying that ''the weight of evidence now [shows] that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers, even during times of weakness in the labor market.'' They go on to add that it could help stimulate the economy as higher wages will lead to increased consumer demand and spending.

The most recent research suggests that rather than having job losses, this will contribute to a growing economy. The benefits of raising the minimum wage are immense for families, workers, and the economy as a whole.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to help restore the minimum wage as a safeguard for workers and their families in this country.

RECOGNIZING 99TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this month we solemnly recognize the 99th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Ninety-nine years ago the Young Turk leaders of the Ottoman Empire summoned and executed over 200 Armenian leaders and intellectuals, beginning an 8-year campaign of oppression and massacre. By 1923, nearly 1.5 million Armenians were killed and over a half a million survivors were exiled. These atrocities affected the lives of every Armenian living in Asia Minor and, indeed, throughout the world.

Henry Morgenthau, Sr., who was the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during President Wilson's administration and who had urged intervention, later remembered the events of the genocide, saying:

> I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.

The survivors of the Armenian genocide, however, persevered due to their unbreakable spirit and steadfast resolve. They went on to enrich their countries of emigration, including the United States, with their centuries-old customs and culture. That is why today we not only commemorate this grave tragedy, but we celebrate the traditions, the contributions, and the bright future of Armenia.

In particular, I wish to note the incredibly strong Armenian-American community in my home State of Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Armenian-American community, as it does each year, holds events in commemoration of this grave tragedy. One will take place this year at the Martyrs' Monument at the North Burial Ground in Providence. This monument was built 38 years ago in memory of those who were lost in the genocide.

This year I once again join with my Senate colleagues on a resolution that encourages the United States to officially recognize the Armenian genocide. Denial of this history is not consistent with our country's sensitivity to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. We must continue to educate our young people against this type of hatred and oppression so that we can seek to prevent such crimes against humanity in the future.

I also remain committed to supporting efforts as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee to provide foreign assistance to Armenia to promote economic growth and business competitiveness, strengthen military and security assistance, and support democratic reforms and sustainable development.

I also wish to express my concern regarding the recent fighting and violence that is endangering the Armenian community in Kessab, Syria, and has forced many to flee. This community and so many others continue to struggle in the midst of this conflict.

We must find a way to recognize what happened 99 years ago and show our steadfast support to those who are currently being impacted by persecution. I hope we can come together and do that.

With that, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today on three matters. First and most importantly is the issue of pay equity. Frankly, we should not be talking about this in 2014—the fact that women still too often do not get equal pay for equal work. Senate Republicans showed this morning—it is disappointing—that too many in this Chamber simply do not think closing the wage gap between men and women—closing the wage gap by which working women are victimized—is that important.

Think back to 1963, the beginning, not of the civil rights movement, of course, but of Congressional action in 1963, 1964, and 1965 on voting rights and civil rights. In 1963, the Equal Pay Act came up first. President Kennedy signed it. Women were earning 60 cents for every dollar men earned. Now, 50 years later, that figure has increased only 17 cents.

How many more years should people in this country wait? In 2012, median earnings for men working full time in Ohio were $46,700; for women $35,900, an earnings ratio of about 77 percent. The Paycheck Fairness Act would shore up the Equal Pay Act and create stronger incentives for employers to follow the law while helping women fight pay discrimination.

The pay gap persists across all occupations and educational levels. From the outset women are paid less than men just 1 year after college in nearly every occupation. The gap grows from there. As the gap grows in pay, the gap grows in pensions. Lilly Ledbetter taught us that. The decidedly lower pay that she received working at Goodyear showed up in a significantly lower pension when she retired. Over the course of a 35-year career, a woman with a college degree will make about $1.2 million less than a man with the same level of education.

As I said, women make less, their families have less, and the retirement income and savings are smaller. For Women 65 and older, their annual median income from all retirement sources—Social Security, pensions, and private savings—is about $11,000 less than men in the same age group. It is even more discouraging for African-American women, who make 64 percent less, and Hispanic women, who earn 53 percent less. That is so, so unacceptable.

As a father of daughters, as a husband, as a grandfather of 2-week-old Jacqueline Sally, I know—and so does America—this pay gap devalues women's work and discourages economic growth because women make up nearly half of today's workforce. At a time when families are struggling to make

ends meet, equal pay for equal work is not just a gender issue; it is a family issue.

In more than one-third of families, women are the primary wage earner. As the main breadwinner, women are asked to carry a greater economic load while making less than they deserve and, frankly, less than they have actually earned.

Many of these woman get up early, they take the bus to work, they stand on their feet all day, they come home, they take care of their children, and they do not ask for a handout. But they are asking for equal pay. If the wage gap were eliminated, an Ohio woman working full time would have enough money for 88 more weeks of food for her family, 9 more months of mortgage and utility payments, 15 months of rent, and 3,000 additional gallons of gas. Our economy would grow, boosting GDP by 2.9 percent, or $450 billion.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

Senator JACK REED was in the Chamber 45 minutes or so ago when I was the Presiding Officer. Senator REED talked about Rhode Island and the minimum wage and the impact of a lower minimum wage than it should be. They have a bit higher one in Rhode Island than in some States, and we have a bit higher one in Ohio than in some States. But raising the minimum wage to 10.10 an hour nationally would mean—he said 90,000 people in Rhode Island. It would be way more, hundreds of thousands in Ohio who would get an increase in the minimum wage and would get a pay raise if this body did what it should, which we are going to try to do in the next 3 or 4 weeks; that is, to raise the minimum wage.

The impact of the minimum wage is especially important for women. What is especially important for women is the so called ''tipped wage.'' This is the tipped wage for people who work in jobs where there are tips. It could be a valet, it could be a waitress or a server or it could be somebody pushing a wheelchair at an airport. Their minimum wage is only $2.13 an hour, plus tips, if people know to tip the man or woman who is pushing the wheelchair in the airport.

I watch pretty closely. I spend a lot of time flying between Cleveland and Washington or Columbus and Washington. I notice that more often than not, people who ride in the carts or are sitting in a wheelchair do not tip the worker whose minimum wage is $2.13 an hour. They do not tip the worker because I think they do not know to tip the worker. I do not think they are cheap. They do not know that worker may be only making $2, $3, $4 or $5 an hour.

But the minimum wage for that tipped worker is only $2.13 an hour. Whether they work in a diner in Gallipolis, or Chillicothe, whether they are working at the Toledo or Cleveland airport driving a cart or pushing a wheelchair, whether they are working as a valet in Cincinnati or Dayton, their tipped wage has been stuck at $2.13 since 1991.

The State of Maryland recently raised their minimum wage. They did not raise the tipped wage which is stuck where it has been for a number of years. Americans do not know this—that typically there is a subminimum wage that is a lot less. Most of the workers—the overwhelming majority of workers that get that tipped wage—are women.

We know that in restaurants the sexual harassment rate of workers is one of the highest in the country because they depend on customers for their tips and they depend on their boss for the distribution of the tips to get their minimum wage—$2.13 an hour. Some restaurants pay $3, $4 or $5—I am not saying none of them do, but to get their minimum wage—their tipped wage—simply up to the minimum wage.

Surely, as some will say, in some restaurants the workers make way, way, way more than the minimum wage. They are more likely than not male workers who work in the highest end restaurants. You are more likely going to see women in the diners and the lower-paid service jobs in restaurants.

DOOLITTLE TOKYO RAIDERS

April 18 will mark the 72nd anniversary of the 1942 Doolittle Raid, the first offensive action by the U.S. military following Pearl Harbor. Eighty men, known today as the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, volunteered for an ''extremely hazardous mission'' without knowing the target, location or assignment. The Raiders, led by LTC James Doolittle, launched their B–25 Mitchell Bombers 650 miles from their target. After hitting their military and industrial targets in Tokyo and five other cities, they were low on fuel, the weather was deteriorating. All 16 planes were forced to crash-land in China or Russia.

Of the 80 men on the mission, eight Raiders were captured. Of these eight, three were executed; one died of disease; and four returned home. Their mission traveled an average distance of 2,200 miles over 13 hours, making it the longest combat mission ever flown in a B–25 Mitchell Bomber.

I would add that another aviation hero in Vietnam just walked into the Chamber—Senator MCCAIN—right at the time I was talking about the Doolittle Raiders. The Senator has signed our resolution and commendation for a Medal of Honor for them. I thank Senator MCCAIN both for his heroism, especially, and for joining us in this effort.

In 2002, I led a resolution to recognize the 70th anniversary. It passed the Senate unanimously. Early last year, I renewed my efforts to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders. We have got 78 cosponsors, nine more than the 67 necessary. This bill passed in the Senate in November by unanimous consent.

On November 9, 2013, the Raiders celebrated their final reunion. They have met every year since the end of—I believe since the end of World War II. They met at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton. The meeting marked the last planned gathering of the living Raiders, which was celebrated by the opening of an 1896 bottle of Hennessy cognac, originally given by their commander, Jimmy Doolittle, on his 60th birthday.

Of the 80 men on the raid, only four remain alive today; only 3 were able to get to the reunion. Time is running out. I appreciate the efforts of Congressman PETE OLSON from Texas who is leading the effort in the House.

I hope the Speaker, the leadership, and both parties will take the final action needed to pass the legislation to honor these heroes.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

It is appropriate Senator MCCAIN is in the Chamber too. In 2008, Senator MCCAIN, who had served as the Senate designee on the Gallaudet University board of trustees, left during his Presidential run. Senator HARKIN and Senator MCCAIN apparently had recommended that I be the Senate designee on the board at Gallaudet University.

This week Gallaudet celebrated its 150th anniversary. It is an incredible place, as Senator MCCAIN knows. It is the only one of its kind in the world, a school for the deaf, created during the administration of President Lincoln 150 years ago in 1864.

Senator MCCAIN certainly will have reminiscences and stories about serving on this board, but my first dinner my first night at the Gallaudet University board meeting, the students, all deaf, came out and performed a dance for the board. A number of the board hear—as I do, obviously—but a number don't and they signed everything.

The students who were dancing to the music were able to dance because of the vibrations they felt on the floor. You could see this dance troupe, but if you hadn't known better, you wouldn't have known they were deaf because they were dancing an exact rhythm with the percussion, the beat, and the vibrations on the floor in the ballroom where the dinner was for the Gallaudet board.

I wish Gallaudet another 150 years. It is an incredible institution. It has served this country so well. It is partially congressionally funded.

Senator MCCAIN, Senator HARKIN, and now Senator MORAN of Kansas are all particularly interested in it. It is an honor to be part of it. I wish Gallaudet a happy 150th birthday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the Senator from Ohio for his service on one of the very remarkable experiences that one could have at Gallaudet University—the wonderful, loving, caring people who make us all proud of their success. I thank him for his involvement.

I also thank him for honoring our heroes today of long ago and far away

when the United States was in great jeopardy.

LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP PROGRAM

I rise to bring attention to the Navy's littoral combat ship—with not a great deal of pleasure in doing so. It is a troubled major defense acquisition program that, if not properly addressed, will join a list of failed procurements at the Department of Defense.

From the 13 arduous years LCS has been in development, we have learned yet again an important costly basic lesson: If we don't know what we really want when we procure a weapons system, we are likely not to like what we get, if we get anything. In this case, the Navy's poor planning continues to frustrate its ability to state a clear role for LCS, the littoral combat ship, has led to dramatic cost increases, years of wasted effort, and a ship that the U.S. Pacific Command Commander Admiral Locklear recently conceded only ''partially'' satisfies his operational requirements.

The list of how the Littoral Combat Ship Program has failed is ironic and—given the amount of taxpayers' investment to date—shameful. In LCS we have, No. 1, a supposed warship that apparently can't survive a hostile combat environment; No. 2, a program chosen for affordability that doubled in cost since inception and is subject to the risk of further cost growth as testing continues; No. 3, a ''revolutionary'' design that somehow has managed to be inferior to what came before it on important performance measures; and, No. 4, a system designed for flexibility that cannot successfully demonstrate its most important warfighting functions.

Like so many major programs that preceded it, LCS's failure followed predictably from a chronic lack of careful planning from its very outset in three areas: undefined requirements, unrealistic initial cost estimates, and unreliable assessments of technological and integration risk.

In 2002, the Navy submitted its first request to Congress to authorize funding for the LCS Program. Yet even then the program's lack of defined requirements drew criticism from the Armed Services Committee conferees. The conferees noted that:

> LCS has not been vetted through the [Pentagon's top requirements-setting body, called the] Joint Requirements Oversight Council [and that] the Navy's strategy for the LCS does not clearly identify the plan and funding for development and evaluation of the mission packages upon which the operational capabilities of LCS will depend.

Despite the conferees' concerns, Congress approved funding for the LCS Program and authorized hundreds of millions of dollars for a program without well-defined frozen requirements. The Navy, therefore, charged ahead with production without a stable design or realistic cost estimates. That resulted in frequent costly changes to the ships, even as they were being built.

Originally, the Navy wanted a small, fast, affordable ship to augment larger ships in the fleet, with several interchangeable plug-and-play mission modules that would be used with aluminum and, separately, steel-hull seaframes. LCS was to serve multiple roles operating in coastal or open waters as part of a larger battle force.

The Navy could have easily procured a small warship similar to those already serving in naval fleets around the world. The capabilities of such ships were well-known at the time and would have required much less development.

The Navy could also have upgraded older ships with a proven track record. Without any formal analysis of those reasonable alternatives, the Navy opted instead to develop a high-risk ''revolutionary'' ship that bore little resemblance to anything else in the fleet.

Despite the foreseeable costs of building LCS seaframes while development was still ongoing, LCS's original cost estimates were overly optimistic. Navy officials have since characterized those estimates as ''more of a hopeful forcing function than a realistic appraisal of likely costs.'' I can assure my colleagues that if we had known that was the Navy's cost estimates at the time—hopeful forcing function, more than a realistic appraisal of likely costs—I can assure my colleagues we would never have approved it.

While hope for low costs may spring eternal, reality is a far more helpful basis in generating cost estimates. In this case, a realistic estimate would have allowed legislators and top defense acquisition managers alike to make much more informed decisions on procuring the LCS.

But because of poor planning early in the program, LCS suffered through years of waste while demonstrating little in the way of desired combat capability. Hundreds of millions of dollars continued to pour into LCS each year, even though the program continually failed to deliver useful capability or conclusively flesh out the ship's unstable design.

Finally, in 2007—remember, 5 years later—Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter identified a need to slow down production so that a clear LCS design could be established and fixed-price agreements could be pursued before more taxpayer dollars were wasted. I strongly supported Secretary Winter's actions, and I still believe that he effectively highlighted the extent to which LCS was slipping out of control.

It was not until 2010, however, that the Navy ultimately began to implement guidelines to bring skyrocketing LCS costs under control. With congressional approval, the Navy overhauled and restructured the LCS Program and, since then, the cost of building LCS's seaframes has finally stabilized. But even though the Navy has stabilized these costs, the large investments sunk into the program to date have still not yielded commensurate combat capability.

Since the early stages of LCS procurement, I have attempted to shine a light on the lack of planning that has plagued the program. Last year, I authored legislation to reduce LCS production and require validation by the Department of Defense and the Navy that the program's seaframes and mission packages were on schedule and would meet the capability requirements of combatant commanders prior to additional funding.

Congress spoke resolutely on the issue approving that legislation and sending a clear message the LCS would need to justify its existence with meaningful progress toward becoming operational.

Despite that the cost to complete the construction of the seaframes has stabilized over the past few years, LCS continues to face another potentially crippling consequence of poor planning, and that is a serious lack in capability.

Just last month, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel identified this problem while announcing that the President's budget request for fiscal year 2015 would reduce LCS production by 40 percent, from 52 ships to 32 ships. Secretary Hagel said:

> The LCS was designed to perform certain missions—such as mine-sweeping anti-submarine warfare—in a relatively permissive environment. But we need to closely examine whether the LCS has the independent protection and firepower to operate and survive against a more advanced military adversary and emerging new technologies, especially in the Asia Pacific.

Other Department of Defense leaders have expressed similar doubts about LCS's abilities to survive combat situations. Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Christine Fox in a speech on February 11, 2014, said:

> Niche platforms that can conduct a certain mission in a permissive environment have a valuable place in the Navy's inventory, yet we need more ships with the protection and firepower to survive against a more advanced military adversary.

The prospect of sending LCS into combat with the lives of American sailors at risk is even more chilling in the aftermath of the Government Accountability Office's July 2013 report on LCS. Early in LCS's development, the Navy intended for the ship to be a self-sufficient combatant that could engage in major combat operations and survive in a battlespace actively contested by enemy forces.

According to the Government Accountability Office, however, more recent Navy assessments suggest that LCS has little chance of survival in a combat scenario. Instead, LCS can only be safely employed in a relatively benign, low-threat environment.

GAO also found deficiencies in the ability of LCS to operate independently in combat, turning a supposedly capable warship into a vessel requiring significant support from larger ships of

the fleet. Such fundamental uncertainty about LCS's capacity to function as a warship in a combat environment demonstrates a lack of clarity regarding LCS's actual capabilities.

Recent GAO assessments continue to highlight major problems regarding the LCS Program. According to an article last Friday, a soon-to-be released GAO report will validate the need for LCS to be subject to rigorous testing and evaluation, not just anecdotal lessons learned from a single overseas deployment. And there is talk of another impending GAO report critical of LCS that will also likely echo the issues I have long cited that continue to plague this program.

GAO is not alone in expressing concern about LCS's capabilities. In January 2014 the Department of Defense Director of Operational Test and Evaluation published his annual report and noted that weapons systems aboard each of the two LCS variants are struggling to demonstrate required capabilities. The report noted:

> The Navy has not yet conducted comprehensive operational testing of the LCS [and is] still developing the concept of employment for these ships in each of the mission areas.

It is worth taking a moment to step back and consider the absurdity of this situation. Planning and development of LCS has been going on for 12 years, roughly triple the time it took to fight and win the Second World War. In that time, the Navy has spent billions of dollars and failed to even figure out how to use the ships it is procuring once those ships demonstrate some semblance of capability.

And lest we forget, whether LCS will ultimately be operationally effective, suitable, and survivable remains at best unclear. Failure this comprehensive is incredible, even for our broken defense procurement system.

The individual mission packages that were supposed to give LCS its real functionality in the fleet present another area of major concern. The LCS's are meant to be outfitted with one of three interchangeable mission packages tailored for particular roles in the fleet—antisubmarine warfare, surface warfare, and mine countermeasures. So far, the mission packages have experienced significant performance issues.

The antisubmarine warfare mission package has suffered particularly severe setbacks in recent years. When the antisubmarine package was tested by the Navy, it actually demonstrated less capability than predecessor systems. The Navy subsequently canceled the package and reportedly revised its entire strategy for procuring that aspect of LCS. The Navy has now stated a goal of fielding the antisubmarine mission package by 2018, but no independent assessment has been performed to evaluate the likelihood the Navy will meet that 2018 goal. The program's performance to date, of course, does not fill me with confidence that the goal will be reached on schedule.

The other mission packages have also experienced major problems. The Navy has taken delivery of early versions of the surface warfare and mine warfare mission packages. But according to GAO, both packages have experienced significant performance issues and neither has yet been fully integrated into the LCS seaframes.

The mine countermeasures mission package, considered by many experts to be the most important, is more than 4 years behind schedule. According to the DOD's Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, the mine countermeasures mission package has yet to demonstrate any of its required capabilities.

Given the utter failure of the mine countermeasures mission package to date, the Navy has altered its plan for acquiring this package. The full package will be delivered over a series of four increments and, if everything goes according to plan, the Navy will successfully demonstrate the capability of the fourth and final increment in 2019, 18 years—18 years—after planning for the LCS Program commenced. Until then, the Navy will be forced to retain the current generation of minesweeping ships.

Today, the Navy plans to purchase its final LCS seaframe in 2019, the same year when the mine countermeasures package is supposed to be ready. If the mine countermeasures package has suffered a delay by that point—and with the history of this program to date, a mere 1-year delay would qualify as an improvement—the Navy will have an entire fleet of LCS's with only two-thirds of their planned capability, even if all the other problems with the ships are fixed.

All of the mission packages need significant further testing and have to overcome major integration challenges. That work is likely to drive up program costs and leave combatant commanders without the tools or capabilities they need for years to come.

The LCS Program faces a daunting combination of capability failures and strategic confusion. The Navy does not know what the LCS seaframes will actually be capable of doing once all of them are purchased in 2019, and it does not know what role they will play, even if development miraculously goes according to plan. Against that backdrop, the need to slow this procurement is clear.

Recently, we learned that, at Secretary Hagel's direction, the Navy has established a task force to determine how LCS can best serve the fleet going forward. The Navy should, above all else, not repeat the mistakes of the past, and Congress must hold the Navy to account at each step in the process. This means establishing requirements and sticking to them, setting a stable design and holding to it, and zealously guarding against further cost growth.

I support Secretary Hagel's decision to limit LCS procurement to 32 ships. I have recommended further reducing the LCS procurement to 24 ships. More important than the raw number of ships, however, is the manner in which the procurement goes forward. As Congress considers the President's 2015 budget request and continues to conduct oversight of LCS and every major defense acquisition program, we would be wise to understand this particular program's failings or risk repeating them.

The program is still clearly riddled with uncertainty about what the ships will be used for and what they will be capable of. Production should not go forward until the Navy and DOD confirm that LCS provides greater capabilities than the legacy ships it is intended to replace and that the mission packages plus the seaframes have demonstrated the combined combat capability that our combatant commanders need.

I understand that in connection with Secretary Hagel's direction to limit LCS's procurement and develop a more capable follow-on ship the Navy is underway brainstorming on possible alternatives to LCS that may provide it reliably with the capabilities it needs at a comparable cost. Before making final decisions on any procurement, however, the Navy must first determine what problem it is trying to solve—exactly what operational requirements do combatant commanders actually have that cannot be met with current capabilities? This is the step the LCS Program originally skipped. Only after that basic question is answered definitively should the Navy start considering what material solution could be brought to bear on that capability gap. On major defense acquisition programs, that should always be our approach—LCS or no LCS.

While history of the LCS procurement supports my recommendation that we should not procure ships until we know what we want them to do, that outcome is also dictated by plain common sense. We live in an age of great fiscal uncertainty due to sequestration and other defense budget cuts. With that fiscal pressure, there is a much smaller margin for error in the procurement world. Every dollar wasted buying ships with unclear capabilities for unspecified missions is a dollar that could have supported a vital defense activity. The wastefulness of excessive concurrency—of buying a system that has not been tested and figuring out requirements and fixes on the fly—is more unacceptable than ever when so many good programs have to make do with sharply reduced funding. I will continue speaking out against wasteful concurrency, that is, acquisition malpractice, as I have done for years.

In today's fiscal world, spending money as we have done in LCS is not just reckless, not just wasteful, it is dangerous. It actually weakens our national defense. It is my sincere hope and firm conviction that in the future we can prove ourselves better stewards

of taxpayer money than we have in the past. And finally getting LCS right would be a big, long overdue step in that direction.

Mr. President, 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING ERNEST B. HILLENMEYER, JR.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to and lament the passing of a man of great faith from my home State, the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mr. Ernest B. Hillenmeyer, Jr., devoted his life to serving others. He passed away last Thursday at the age of 92.

Ernest, or ''Ernie'' as he was affectionately known by friends and family, was born on a farm in Lexington, KY, on February 26, 1922. Ernie's formative years occurred when our country was trapped in the depths of the Great Depression. It was during this time that he learned the value of a good education, of family and community, and of faith in God. Through good times and bad, Ernie carried these ideals with him for the rest of his life.

Ernie's daughter, Katy Hillenmeyer, has said that ''we'd all have to live to be 200 to accomplish what he did in his 92 years.'' This is hardly an understatement. After graduating from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Ernie served his country for 10 years in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1985, he was ordained as a deacon and served his parish at St. Patrick Church in Maysville and St. James Church in Brooksville. Ernie was heavily involved in establishing the Meadowview Regional Hospital and the Hospice of Hope, both in Maysville, KY. He also chaired the Hayswood Foundation for 10 years, served as a director of the Maysville-Mason County Area Chamber of Commerce, and was the first lay chair of the board of trustees at Thomas Moore College. Those are only a few of Ernie's many accomplishments from a lifetime of service to others.

Ernie is survived by his wife, Mary Agnes Farrell Hillenmeyer, his sister, Mary Hillenmeyer Fiore, 6 children and 11 grandchildren. Said his cousin, Robert F. Houlihan, Jr., ''He's loved and respected. And he was totally unafraid to die. You can't live a bad life and be unafraid of death.'' Although he may have been unafraid, Ernie will undoubtedly be missed by those who knew and loved him. I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in remembrance of the life of Ernest B. Hillenmeyer, Jr.

Mr. President, Ernie's obituary was recently published in the Ledger Independent. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in full in the RECORD.

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

[From The Ledger Independent, Apr. 3, 2014]

HILLENMEYER REMEMBERED FOR LIFE OF SERVICE

MAYSVILLE.—During his 92 years, Ernest B. Hillenmeyer Jr. lived by the motto his father instilled during his boyhood on their Lexington farm: ''Be honest, and be of service to your community.''

Hillenmeyer embodied that creed through the many decades and facets of his life, each guided by love of God, family and his community.

Hillenmeyer, former president of Parker Tobacco Company and a leader in the Catholic Church and civic affairs, died April 3, 2014, at the age of 92, at Maysville Nursing and Rehabilitation Center following a long illness.

He raised seven children in Maysville, where he lived for the past 68 years, and is survived by his wife of more than 52 years, Mary Agnes Farrell Hillenmeyer.

The World War II veteran helped establish Meadowview Regional Medical Center in Maysville and Hospice of Hope, which provides end-of-life care and through which, as its first chaplain, he ministered to patients. In 1985, he was ordained a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church as part of the Diocese of Covington's first class of men to enter the permanent diaconate and served his parish at St. Patrick Church, Maysville, along with St. James Church in Brooksville, where he was pastoral associate from 1998 to 2002. Thomas More College in Crestview Hills, where Hillenmeyer was the first layman to chair the board of trustees, awarded him an honorary doctorate in May 2013 for his lifetime of leadership and volunteerism.

''Deacon Ernie Hillenmeyer was a gentleman and a man of integrity,'' said Sister Justina Franxman, OSB, his friend and spiritual director for a number of years. ''He loved God, his family and the Church. He was committed to his ministry and saw Jesus in the people to whom he ministered. Ernie loved life to the full.''

''Ernie'' Hillenmeyer was born Feb. 26, 1922, in Lexington, to Earnest B. Hillenmeyer Sr. and Mathilde Scott Hillenmeyer and grew up on his father's farm. His passion for gardening and agriculture dates to his youth tending peach and potato crops with his dad, himself the son and grandson of nurserymen.

He attended St. Paul's School in Lexington and later graduated from Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wis.

He graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., holding a commission from 1942 to 1952 as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve, from which he was discharged as a lieutenant.

He spent three and a half years during World War II as a deck officer aboard liberty ships in the Merchant Marine, sailing with the North Atlantic and Pacific fleets.

During the war, he met fellow Kentuckian Ellen Cochrane Parker, a Maysville native whom he married in April 1945.

His father-in-law, S. Alex Parker Sr. hired Hillenmeyer into the family's tobacco business in 1946 and the couple settled in Maysville, where their four children, Zoe, Theresa, Ernie and Cece, were born.

Following his first wife's death in 1960, Hillenmeyer married Mary Agnes Farrell of Ludlow, to whom he was introduced by his childhood friend, the late Msgr. John F. Murphy.

Married in October 1961, the couple had three more children, Ellen, Katy and Paul.

He frequently traveled abroad for business and hosted international guests in the creekside house he built in Huntington Park, one of two contiguous subdivisions he helped to develop in Aberdeen, Ohio.

Whether sailing houseboats, pitching horseshoes, playing bridge or crosswords, betting horses at Keeneland or cheering on the University of Kentucky Wildcats, Hillenmeyer enjoyed recreating with his family and friends, and delighted in competition.

In 1987, Hillenmeyer was a representative attending various Masses when Pope John Paul II visited and met with deacons for a conference, in Detroit, Mich.

In all his years teaching card games to his kids and grandkids, he never threw a hand. He took pride, too, in his vegetable and flower gardens, producing homegrown tomatoes and asparagus into his 90s.

Hillenmeyer began his long association with Thomas More College when in the mid-1950s he was invited to become a member of the Board of Lay Overseers, to which he was selected chairman in 1960. This Board recommended the college's move from downtown Covington to Crestview Hills and the construction there of a new campus.

Along with education, Hillenmeyer worked to advance ecumenism, health care and economic and human development.

As a member of the Limestone Ministerial Association, he led ministers and others to locally observe an annual week of prayer for Christian unity, now in its 42nd year.

He chaired a fund-raising drive to build a new hospital to replace Maysville's outdated Hayswood Hospital. For 10 years, he chaired the Hayswood Foundation, launching its grant program which donated funds to support St. Patrick School, the YMCA, The Boys and Girls Club and other projects in surrounding communities.

A founding member of the Council for Burley Tobacco, Hillenmeyer testified before Congress on behalf of tobacco trade associations, and formerly presided over the Burley Tobacco Dealers Association.

He served two terms as council member and vice mayor of Aberdeen; was local district chairman for the Boy Scouts of America; president of the Maysville Country Club; served as a director of the local Chamber of Commerce; formerly presided over Appalachian Industries in Vanceburg, promoting employment and housing; and was a lifetime member of the UK Alumni Association.

During retirement, he and his wife, Mary, routinely attended daily Mass, and prayer and scriptural reflection, and continued to nurture their deep bonds of affection and eagerness to share their faith with others.

''Ernie is a pillar—gentle and firm at the same time,'' cousin Robert F. Houlihan Jr., of Lexington said. ''He's loved and respected. And he was totally unafraid to die. You can't live a bad life and be unafraid of death.''

He is survived by his wife, Mary Farrell Hillenmeyer; youngest sister, Mary Hillenmeyer Fiore of Kansas City Missouri; six children, 11 grandchildren, beloved in-laws and many other relatives who were dear to him.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m., Monday, April 7, at St. Patrick Church, in Maysville.

Visitation is 4 to 8 p.m., April 6, with Vigil Prayers at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

Burial will be in St. Patrick Cemetery.

Following the committal rite at St. Patrick Cemetery, friends and family are invited to gather for food and fellowship at the Limestone Center.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the John J. Brannen Foundation, in care of St. Patrick School, 318 Limestone Street, Maysville, Ky. 41056, or St. Patrick Church, 111 East Third Street, Maysville, Ky. 41056.

Woodhead Funeral Home, Falmouth, is serving the family.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER KATHY FELGER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Commander Kathy Felger, a congressional affairs fellow for the U.S. Coast Guard on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and other Members of the Committee over the past 2 years.

A native Hoosier, Commander Felger graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1997. Since that time she has held various positions in the Coast Guard, most of them at sea as a ship driver. She will next serve as commanding officer of *Thetis*, a Famous class cutter, based out of Key West, FL with the primary missions of law enforcement, search and rescue, homeland security, and national defense.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Commander Felger for all of the fine work she has done and for her continued service to our Nation. I wish her continued success in the years to come.

MARTIN DE PORRES CENTER

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 10th anniversary of the Martin de Porres Center in Columbus, OH. Named after the Dominican Saint Martin de Porres, and sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the center was founded in 2004 as a place for spirituality, education, arts, and ministry outreach to the people of central Ohio.

Over the last decade, the center has become a pillar of the central Ohio community, bringing people together and helping them reach their full potential. For example, through the Dominican Learning Center, members of the community are able to participate in the adult literacy program, which provides free one-on-one tutoring. The center also serves the Columbus region by connecting youth to its older population through discussions and study groups.

I have visited the Martin de Porres Center and have seen firsthand the excellent work of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. The positive contributions made by the center are countless. Its outreach and dedication to the region in spiritual, mental, and artistic growth have been commendable. I thank everyone involved in making the center's first 10 years a success and wish them the best of luck in the coming decades.

COMMENDING OHIO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor 393 high school seniors in eight northeast Ohio counties for their commendable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Of these 393 seniors from 129 high schools in 106 towns and cities, 91 will enter the Army, 104 will enter the Marine Corps, 47 will enter the Navy, 32 will enter the Air Force, 5 will enter the Coast Guard, 100 will enter our Ohio Army National Guard, and 14 will enter into the Ohio Air National Guard. In the presence of their parents/guardians, and high school counselors, military leaders, city and business leaders, all 393 will be recognized on May 7, 2014 by ''Our Community Salutes of Northeast Ohio.''

In a few short weeks, these young men and women will join their classmates in celebration of their high school graduation. At a time when many of their peers are looking forward to pursuing vocational training or college degrees, or are uncertain about their future, these young men and women instead have chosen to dedicate themselves to military service in defense of our rights, our freedoms and our country. They should know that they have full support of this Senate Chamber, and of the American people, who are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

These 393 young men and women are the cornerstone of our liberty. It is thanks to their dedication and the dedication of an untold number of patriots just like them that we are able to meet here today, in the U.S. Senate, and openly debate the best solutions to the many diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom in a dangerous world. We are grateful to them, and we are grateful to their parents and their communities for instilling in them not only the mental and physical abilities our Armed Forces require, but more importantly the character, the values and the discipline that leads someone to put service to our Nation over self.

I would like to personally thank these 393 graduating seniors for their selflessness and the courage that they have shown by volunteering to risk their lives in defense of our Nation. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the names of the 393 high school seniors.

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

UNITED STATES ARMY—91

Anderson—Cuyahoga Falls; Adang—Conneaut; Adkins—Parma; Ashworth—Akron; Baucco—Brunswick; Boyer—Akron; Brewton—Akron; Buchler—Mayfield Heights; Burhoe—Fairlawn; Canfield—Deerfield; Chessar—Mayfield Heights; Clark—Wickliffe; Clay—North Royalton; Cordova—Lorain; Curnutte—Norton; Dangler—North Olmsted; Detzel—Seven Hills; Elkins—Mogadore; Faught—Brunswick; Finn—Akron; Fischbach—Geneva; Ford—Akron; Fuller—Parma Heights; Gadson—Akron; Genovese—Tallmadge; Gertz—Solon; Gilbert—Twinsburg; Glas—Norton; Gonda—North Olmsted; Good—Cuyahoga Falls; Griggs Oneal—Akron; Gromek—Mentor; Hammond—Brooklyn; Hardy—Parma Heights; Hemerlein—Solon; Herman—Rootstown; Holland-Bell—Akron; Hurd—Lakewood; Johns—Cuyahoga Falls; Johnson—Eastlake; Kearney—Garrettsville; Keathley—Lorain; Keathley—Lorain; Kenney—Euclid; Kuhn—Madison; Loomis—Copley; Lucas—Cleveland; Maldonado—Lorain; Martin—North Olmsted; Mehl—Aurora; Mendez—Cleveland; Messner—Cuyahoga Falls; Milczewski—Brooklyn; Minor—Wadsworth; Moran—Litchfield; Morris—Grafton; Nelson—Wadsworth.

Neuman—Independence; Nobles—Akron; Nordstrom—Maple Heights; Norman—Akron; Ornelas Ramirez—Lorain; Packard—Cleveland; Payne—Elyria; Perry—Geneva; Post—Ravenna; Prigmore—Akron; Rees—Brunswick; Rippe—Grafton; Rodriguez—Cleveland; Rush—Willoughby; Rutherford—Medina; Sanchez Gonzalez—Cleveland; Sapper—Cuyahoga Falls; Skudrin—Cleveland; Smith—Mogadore; St. John—Hudson; Strand—Willoughby; Strzala—Middleburg Heights; Sutter—Berea; Sweitzer—Stow; Swisher—Mogadore; Taylor—Cleveland; Thomas—Akron; Tschannen—Wadsworth; Venable—Geneva; Warren—Cuyahoga Falls; Williams—Beachwood; Wilson—Akron; Wray—Akron; Wright—Lakewood.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS—104

Adigwe—Cleveland; Adkins—Cleveland; Albertson—Akron; Arnold—Berea; Arrington—Canton; Balcomb, Jr.—Ashtabula; Binkley—Canton; Blackman—Cleveland; Blazick—Cuyahoga Falls; Blunk—Berea; Brunner—North Olmsted; Cale—Madison; Caraballo—Lakewood; Carlisle—Cleveland Heights; Carlton—Ashtabula; Carpenter—Barberton; Chandler—Maple Heights; Chasar—Akron; Ciptak—Akron; Colon—Painesville; Corral—Cleveland; Csonka—Hartville; Davis—Massillon; De Hoff—Mantua; Dibble—Akron; Downing—Brook Park; Finlaw—Akron; Fitzgerald—Massillon; Garber—Akron; Gayheart—Ashtabula; Gilbert—Ravenna; Givens—Hartville; Gooch—Cleveland; Gordon—Lakewood; Green—Silver Lake; Greig—Mentor; Hanzak—Madison; Harkenrider—Cleveland; Helsel—Cleveland; Hershberger—Massillon; House—North Olmsted; Imburgia—North Royalton; James—Barberton; Johnson—Canton; Juratovac—Madison.

Knoch-Hawkins—Fairlawn; Koons—Willoughby; Kovats—Rome; Lacy—Copley; Lawson—Lyndhurst; Lemmon—Barberton; Lytle—Mogadore; MacMillan—Bay Village; McGrath—Madison; Meadows—Akron; Metz—Columbia Station; Miker—Parma; Miller, C—Massillon; Miller, R—Massillon; Milton—Westlake; Montecalvo—Akron; Morek—Euclid; Nagle—Columbia Station; Natko—Akron; Nelson—Copley; Novel—Westlake; Osborne—North Royalton; Pare—North Royalton; Patel—Strongsville; Person—Painesville; Price—Shaker Heights; Radisek—Bay Village; Reed—Akron; Rhinehardt—Twinsburg; Richmond—Massillon.

Ries—Massillon; Rivera—Cleveland; Roney—Chagrin Falls; Ryan, D—Mentor; Ryan, R—Parma; Schnell—Canton; Scott—Orwell; Shimek—Ashtabula; Smith, B—Akron; Smith, C—Painesville; Smith, J—Deerfield; Spicer—Norton; Strukel—Mentor; Sutyak—Madison; Tatarko—Twinsburg; Thomsen—Cleveland; Ticherich—Berea; Trevethan—Reminderville; Trump—Canton; Utz—Orwell; Vechik—Brimfield; Wadsworth—Akron; Wagner—Canal Fulton; Wallis—Berea; Warlop—Clinton; Weitendorf—Hudson; Winston—North Olmsted; Wood—Fairlawn; Yost—Akron.

UNITED STATES NAVY—47

Beddard—Bedford; Bowers—Avon Lake; Buga—Vermilion; Burns—South Euclid; Cabalu—Parma; Daily—North Olmsted; DeCesare, Jr.—Sagamore Hills; Donze—Akron; East—Brunswick; Elliott—Cleveland; Gantose—Seville; Gordon—Westlake; Harvey—Wadsworth; Herbert—Painesville; Heyduk—Medina; Hill—Hudson; Hill-Ross—Lorain; Howells—Cleveland; Hruska—Garfield Heights; Johnson—South Euclid; Kopp—Garfield Heights; Long—Barberton; Madonna—Madison; Marks—Barberton; McNeeley—North Olmsted; Mennell—Rittman.

Mutnansky—Elyria; Pacheco—Cleveland; Payne—Elyria; Pikula—Willowick; Poorman II—Canton; Rhodes—Willowick; Rodriguez—Elyria; Schlageter—Mentor; Seamon—Medina; Stropko-Jorgenson—North Olmsted; Surbella—Conneaut; Sweeney—Willoughby; Tokar—Wickliffe; Vorndran—Mentor; Wilkerson—Berea; Williams, Jr.—Cleveland; Wilson—Cleveland; Witten—Cleveland; Wright—South Euclid; Yates—Elyria; Yeager—Barberton.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE—32

Adamczyk—Medina; Begin—Walton Hills; Cox—Wadsworth; Dyer—Norton; Erb—Fairport Harbor; Estrada—Olmsted Falls; Fitzpatrick—Lorain; Friedrick—Medina; Frye—Parma; Gabel—Stow; Gioiello—Sheffield Lake; Graf—Medina; Gregory—Elyria; Hayes—North Ridgeville; Howard—Wellington; Julius—Avon; Konokpa—Parma; Lane—Cuyahoga Falls; Lomax—East Cleveland; Matheny—Stow; McEntire—Avon Lake; Morgan—Akron; Prukey—Madison; Robbins—Uniontown; Rocazella—Chardon; Saunders—Akron; Sincere—Cuyahoga Falls; Suire—Lakewood; Swit—Cleveland; Todd—University Heights; Turney—Amherst; Wagner—Wellington.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD—5

Adams—Norton; Bowen—Berea; Milam—Olmsted Township; Montgomery—Fremont; Mozik—Copley.

OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD—100

Acaba—Cleveland; Anderson III—Wellington; Angell—Vermilion; Applegarth—Mogadore; Barker—Norton; Bartch, Jr.—Middleburg Heights; Bohnsack—Concord; Brochu—Avon Lake; Brown—Lorain; Burgess—Wellington; Champe—Amherst; Clements—Cleveland; Collins—Oberlin; Coyne—Thompson; Creakman—Parma Heights; Cuckler—Barberton; Dorrer—Lyndhurst; Dorrough—Cleveland; Duncan—Brook Park; Dungan—North Ridgeville; Dunning—Chardon; Edwards—Cleveland; Fofana—Euclid; Foltz—Grafton; Ford—East Cleveland; Gold—Medina; Gruszka—Macedonia; Harkins—Grand River; Harris—Akron; Hayes—Cleveland; Heath—Akron; Hildreth—Lorain; Hill—Westlake; Holley—Akron; Holzwarth—Twinsburg; Hrusovsky—Seven Hills; Hunt—Brooklyn; Jennings, J—Cleveland; Jennings, S—Akron; Jennings—Akron.

Johns—Brunswick; Kasperski—Independence; Kawkabani—Mentor; Kerrigan—Fairview; Kucho—Akron; Kurzinger—Mentor; Lahetta—Amherst; Lansdale—Akron; Lantz—Uniontown; La Rosa—Berea; Lemley—Cleveland; Lewis—Ravenna; Macklin—Bedford; Manu—Tallmadge; Marek—Brunswick; McClary—Avon; McMillion—Olmsted Falls; Mellone—Chagrin Falls; Milbrandt—Ashtabula; Miller, A—Parma; Miller, M—Chardon; Montgomery—Uniontown; Muckley—Hartville; Mugongo—Cleveland; Munger—Diamond; Naro—Rome; Nazario—Cleveland; Nervo—Stow; Novilla—Northfield; Otto—Ashtabula; Paden—Brunswick; Parker—Willoughby Hills; Perkins—Cleveland; Pyatt—Fairview Park; Remenyi—Uniontown.

Riegelmayer—Berea; Rivera—Cleveland; Robinson—Cleveland; Sabol—Cleveland; Sammon—Parma; Scott-Alston—Lorain; Shull—North Ridgeville; Slitor—Lakewood; Smith, A—Akron; Smith, B—Ashtabula; Smith, J—Euclid; Smith, R—Cleveland; Spickard—Akron; Stewart—Cleveland; Strader—Vermilion; Tarter—Rootstown; Taylor—Andover; Terry—Ravenna; Todt—Broadview Heights; Waleri—Vermilion; Washington—Cleveland; Waterhouse—Akron; Williams—Akron; Wolf—Wadsworth; Wright—Cleveland.

OHIO AIR GUARD—14

Benson—Rootstown; Craft—Rootstown; Fix—Akron; Gearhart—Wadsworth; Head—Novelty; Kociuba—North Royalton; Koltas—Sheffield Lake; Nutter—Norwalk; Steiner—Medina; Stilley—Cuyahoga Falls; Todd—Deerfield; Tyler—Canton; Varnis—Avon Lake; Velez—Lorain.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID P. SMITH

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I recognize a respected leader from Southwest Colorado, city attorney David P. Smith, of Durango, for his impeccable leadership and service. David retired on April 1, 2014, after a long and distinguished career.

David is a consummate public servant, having served the city of Durango for 37 years. In his capacity as city attorney, David has served at the pleasure of 55 different city councilors. His tenure is the longest of any city attorney in the city of Durango's 133 year history.

David's legal career, which began 45 years ago in general practice, is marked by his outstanding level of professionalism. David is recognized as a leader among legal professionals in Southwest Colorado, fostering cooperative relationships among community stakeholders and governmental entities.

In service to his local community, David is committed to the advancement of high-quality education. David has served as a board member and president of the school board for the 9R School District, on the Durango Foundation for Educational Excellence, and on the advisory board for Animas High School.

After full engagement and an integral role in shaping the future of Durango and Southern Colorado for decades, David is transitioning from his service as the city attorney to enter a well-deserved retirement. I am pleased to recognize David's extraordinary service to the city of Durango before the Senate today. I wish him all the best in his retirement; may the next phase of his life be equally as remarkable.•

REMEMBERING PAUL PAWLAK, SR.

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Paul Pawlak, Sr. I knew Paul from my work in Connecticut State government. He was a dedicated public servant and family man who worked on behalf of the town of Seymour and the State of Connecticut for his entire life.

Living in Seymour, the town where he graduated from high school, Paul worked as an electrician for more than 40 years. During that time, he also tirelessly served his community in public office, serving as first selectman for 4 years, as second selectman for 8 years, Chairman of Seymour's Board of Education for 12 years, and a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives for 12 years. In the State legislature, he placed particular importance on protecting our natural environment, serving as chair of the Water Resources Committee and helping to fight pollution with the Clean Waters Act.

Paul also believed in the importance of public health and of strong and responsive public institutions to maintain it. He was the first chairman of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Public Health Department, as well as a member of the board of directors of the Public Health Nursing and Homemaker's Services. And he understood that all these institutions needed to work together and cooperate in order to accomplish their missions. He helped to form the Valley Council of Governments and served as its first chairman.

Paul's passing is mourned by all those who knew him and the many people whose lives he affected for the better through his work. Of course, however, those who will miss him the most are those who were closest to him: his wife Mildred, his brother Andrew, his children Paul Jr., Joseph, David, and Richard, and the many other family members and friends he leaves behind.

For his service to Connecticut, and for the legacy of good work and family loyalty that he created, I honor Paul Pawlak, and I know that he will not be forgotten.•

REMEMBERING BUDDY BROWN SPIVEY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor a larger than life personality and a true American hero, Buddy Brown Spivey, who was recently interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

Buddy's story is truly inspirational. While serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, he was deployed to Vietnam. On December 7, 1966, he was severely injured by an explosion that led most of his

unit to believe he died that day. The explosion took Buddy's eyesight, his right leg, and caused brain damage. He refused to allow it to take his spirit.

After years of rehabilitation, Buddy returned to Arkansas with the intention of helping his fellow veterans live happy, productive lives after service. That was the thing about Buddy, he never stopped thinking of others despite the difficult circumstances he found himself in after his own military service.

After earning his master's degree at the University of Arkansas, Buddy went to work for the Blinded Veterans Association, where he served as field representative for 10 years. He later worked as a counseling psychologist and social worker at the VA hospital in Little Rock.

It has been said that he rarely missed a day of work. Helping his fellow veterans was a job he was paid to do until he retired in 2007, but continued to do long after that. That is how dedicated he was to his fellow veterans.

Spivey family members will regale you with stories about Buddy's captivating personality. He was known as a sharp, at times flashy, dresser who wore a suit and tie to work long after business casual became the norm. He was a masterful storyteller, but he also listened to others' stories with the same intensity. After repeat meetings, people were often amazed that Buddy remembered every detail of a person's story from the last time they met.

Most importantly, Buddy inspired people. His sacrifices on the battlefield earned him two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. His sacrifices after service earned him accolades of another sort. The lives he touched, the people he helped, will always remember that sharply dressed man who put others first.●

REMEMBERING PAUL RINEBOLD

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Paul Rinebold, a dedicated Ohio dairy farmer, great-grandfather, and community member who passed away last month. Ohio and our Nation are made strong by people like Paul—men and women who have dedicated their lives to their family, community, and work.

A son of Fostoria, OH, Paul lived his entire life in his community. After graduating from Hopewell-Loudon High School in Bascom, OH, he joined the U.S. Army and served his country for 7 years. During that time, in 1959, he married Ardith Bloom of Fremont, OH.

Mr. Rinebold was a self-employed dairy farmer who founded PAR 3 Farms, named after himself, Paul (P), his wife, Ardith (AR), and the first three (3) of what would be their four children. PAR 3 Farms has been recognized by both the Ohio State and the National Ayrshire Breeders Associations for its contributions to the dairy business in Seneca County. Mr. Rinebold's family farm is still in operation today.

In 2008, the Ohio Ayrshire Breeders Association presented Paul with the Ohio Ayrshire Distinguished Service Award, a testament to the care with which Mr. Rinebold raised, treated, and bred his cows. It was at this awards ceremony that the association thanked Paul and Ardith for their dedication and expertise in the field of dairy farming. By 2008, the couple had attended more national Ayrshire conventions than any other Ayrshire dairy farm in the country, adding up to a total of 40 years' of conventions.

While he was not working on the farm, Paul dedicated his time to benefitting the community he called home. Active in his community, he was a member of St. John's United Church Christ in Fostoria; the Seneca County Farm Bureau; the State and National Ayrshire Associations; the National Dairy Shrine; and both the State and National level of the Loudon Center Grange. Paul helped each of his four children earn their 4–H club 10-year pins in Seneca County, and he enjoyed working with them on their county fair projects and yearly showcases at the Ohio State Fair. Paul loved farming, dairying and bowling, but most of all, his family.

This week—on what would have been Mr. Rinebold's 76th birthday—I would like to honor him for his dedication, service to our country, and contributions to the Ohio dairy community and his friends and neighbors in Fostoria community. I would also extend my thoughts and condolences to his family—his wife Ardith, sons Jeffrey and Michael, daughters Cheryl Ann and Paula, eight grandchildren, Brian, A.J., Jackson, Brittany, Brayden, Blake, Taylor, and Cameron, and two great-grandchildren, Anistyn and Chase, on their loss.

Emerson wrote ''To know one life has breathed easier because you have lived, that is to have succeeded.'' We have all breathed easier because of Paul.●

USF HEALTH BYRD ALZHEIMER'S INSTITUTE

● Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, we need to find a cure for the devastating disease of Alzheimer's. According to the Alzheimer's Association, there are 5 million people living with Alzheimer's in America today. Last year alone, $213 billion was spent on Alzheimer's care in the United States. And if measures are not taken to address the issue, it is estimated this will rise to $1 trillion a year by midcentury.

As the senior Senator from Florida and the chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, I am well aware of the toll this disease takes on individuals and their families. In 2010, about 450,000 Floridians were living with this disease, but this number is expected to rise to 590,000 by the year 2025.

Florida is the home of groundbreaking research in the field of treating, and hopefully curing, Alzheimer's. Today I will focus on just one of Florida's many research institutes, the University of South Florida, USF, Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute. A leader in the field, the Byrd Institute is already implementing and routinely practicing key tenets outlined in the milestones of the Federal Government's 2013 National Alzheimer's Plan, including prevention, memory impairment screening, state-of-the-art diagnosis and treatment, supportive services, and education.

As a university-affiliated free-standing Alzheimer's center, the Byrd Institute is one of very few places that can offer high-quality, integrated Alzheimer's care. In fact, USF Magazine boasts that it is ''the largest facility of its kind in the world.'' The Byrd Institute's streamlined approach emphasizes integrated Alzheimer's care among physicians, researchers, therapists, social workers, support groups, caregivers, and other entities that play a crucial role in the comprehensive well-being of Alzheimer's patients. As an active Alzheimer's research site, patients have access to many publicly and privately funded clinical trials. Research productivity at the Byrd Institute has been brisk with $2.7 million in Federal grant expenditures for basic and translational research from 17 new and continuing Federal grants in 2012 and 2013. The Alzheimer's Association, along with several other non-Federal sponsors, provided nearly $1 million in funding to the center.

The institute's strong track record as a regional trailblazer in Alzheimer's care demonstrates the vast potential for the expansion of similar types of care centers on a national level. Moving forward, the Byrd Institute offers hope for accelerated and improved Alzheimer's care. It is a living and breathing testament to what can be accomplished by working together to tackle a problem that affects us all and a true model for the future of Alzheimer's care in this Nation.

I know that many Floridians—as well as advocates from all across the Nation—are visiting with their congressional representatives to urge greater funding for research funding at the National Institutes of Health and caregiver support from the Administration for Community Living. I want all Floridians visiting, as well as all of those who couldn't be here today, to know that I share their commitment for finding a cure for this dreaded disease.●

FAIRFIELD EAGLES

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor the Montana Class B Girls Basketball State Champions: the Fairfield Eagles.

In rural Montana, high school basketball is a way of life. Rural towns take pride in their teams' success, and fans often travel hours across the State to see their children, their grandchildren, or their neighbors play. Fairfield, MT, is no exception.

This year, the Eagles won their fourth consecutive State championship

and their 104th consecutive game. And they did it in thrilling fashion, winning a 60-to-55 double overtime game that included a 3-pointer to tie the game as the buzzer sounded at end of the first overtime.

The Eagles basketball team also puts forth the same kind of effort in the classroom; Fairfield has done a great job of turning out some incredible student athletes.

Fairfield principal and girls' head coach Dustin Gordon makes sure of that.

Congratulations on another great season. Go Eagles!●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE FROM APRIL 8, 2014

At 11:43 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 404. An act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1872. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3470. An act 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.

H.R. 4323. An act to reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 90. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the commemoration for the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 404. An act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:32 a.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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1871. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY) announced that he had signed the following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 404. An act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1871. An act to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to reform the budget baseline; to the Committee on the Budget.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2223. A bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 9, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 404. An act to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

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–5284. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Visas: Waiver by Joint Action of Visa and Passport Requirements for Members of Armed Forces and Coast Guards of Foreign Countries'' (RIN1400–AD51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5285. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Transnuclear, Inc. Standardized NUHOMS Cask System'' (RIN3150–AJ28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5286. A communication from the Vice President, Government Relations, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's Statistical Summary for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5287. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5288. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Animal Drug User Fee Act for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5289. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012 for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5290. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report for fiscal year 2013 relative to the Biosimilar User Fee Act of 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5291. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a financial report relative to the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2012 for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5292. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment, Maintenance, and Availability of Records: Amendment to Record Availability Requirements'' ((Docket No. FDA–2002–N–0153, Formerly Docket No. FDA 2002N–0277) (RIN0910–AG73)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–222. A resolution adopted by the Delaware County Board of Supervisors of the State of New York entitled ''In Support of Home Rule 543 'Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013' ''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*David J. Arroyo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2016.

*William P. Doyle, of Pennsylvania, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2018.

Coast Guard nominations beginning with Linda L. Fagan and ending with James E. Rendon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 10, 2014.

Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. William D. Lee, to be Vice Admiral.

Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. Charles W. Ray, to be Vice Admiral.

Coast Guard nomination of Rear Adm. Charles D. Michel, to be Vice Admiral.

Coast Guard nomination of Vice Adm. Peter V. Neffenger, to be Vice Admiral.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive

Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Coast Guard nominations beginning with Ruby L. Collins and ending with Michael W. Wampler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 16, 2014.

Coast Guard nominations beginning with William C. Adams and ending with Adam K. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 16, 2014.

Coast Guard nominations beginning with Kevin J. Lopes and ending with Mariette C. Ogg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 6, 2014.

By Mr. SCHUMER for the Committee on Rules and Administration.

*Myrna Perez, of Texas, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2015.

*Thomas Hicks, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2017.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

[Treaty Doc. 112–1: Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Swiss Confederation (without printed report)]

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Swiss Confederation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation With Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Washington October 2, 1996, signed September 23, 2009, at Washington, with a related agreement effected by an exchange of notes September 23, 2009, as corrected by an exchange of notes effected November 16, 2010 (the ''Protocol'') (Treaty Doc. 112–1), subject to the declaration of section 2 and the conditions of section 3.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Protocol is self-executing.

Sec. 3. Conditions.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following conditions:

(1) Not later than 2 years after the Protocol enters into force and prior to the first arbitration conducted pursuant to the binding arbitration mechanism provided for in the Protocol, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transmit to the Committees on Finance and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Joint Committee on Taxation the text of the rules of procedure applicable to arbitration panels, including conflict of interest rules to be applied to members of the arbitration panel.

(2)(A) Not later than 60 days after a determination has been reached by an arbitration panel in the tenth arbitration proceeding conducted pursuant to the Protocol or any of the treaties described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of the Treasury shall prepare and submit to the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, subject to laws relating to taxpayer confidentiality, a detailed report regarding the operation and application of the arbitration mechanism contained in the Protocol and such treaties. The report shall include the following information:

(i) For the Protocol and each such treaty, the aggregate number of cases pending on the respective dates of entry into force of the Protocol and each treaty, including the following information:

(I) The number of such cases by treaty article or articles at issue.

(II) The number of such cases that have been resolved by the competent authorities through a mutual agreement as of the date of the report.

(III) The number of such cases for which arbitration proceedings have commenced as of the date of the report.

(ii) A list of every case presented to the competent authorities after the entry into force of the Protocol and each such treaty, including the following information regarding each case:

(I) The commencement date of the case for purposes of determining when arbitration is available.

(II) Whether the adjustment triggering the case, if any, was made by the United States or the relevant treaty partner.

(III) Which treaty the case relates to.

(IV) The treaty article or articles at issue in the case.

(V) The date the case was resolved by the competent authorities through a mutual agreement, if so resolved.

(VI) The date on which an arbitration proceeding commenced, if an arbitration proceeding commenced.

(VII) The date on which a determination was reached by the arbitration panel, if a determination was reached, and an indication as to whether the panel found in favor of the United States or the relevant treaty partner.

(iii) With respect to each dispute submitted to arbitration and for which a determination was reached by the arbitration panel pursuant to the Protocol or any such treaty, the following information:

(I) In the case of a dispute submitted under the Protocol, an indication as to whether the presenter of the case to the competent authority of a Contracting State submitted a Position Paper for consideration by the arbitration panel.

(II) An indication as to whether the determination of the arbitration panel was accepted by each concerned person.

(III) The amount of income, expense, or taxation at issue in the case as determined by reference to the filings that were sufficient to set the commencement date of the case for purposes of determining when arbitration is available.

(IV) The proposed resolutions (income, expense, or taxation) submitted by each competent authority to the arbitration panel.

(B) The treaties referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

(i) the 2006 Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital and to Certain Other Taxes, done at Berlin June 1, 2006 (Treaty Doc. 109–20) (the ''2006 German Protocol'');

(ii) the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, and accompanying protocol, done at Brussels July 9, 1970 (the ''Belgium Convention'') (Treaty Doc. 110–3);

(iii) the Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and Canada with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital, signed at Washington September 26, 1980 (the ''2007 Canada Protocol'') (Treaty Doc. 110–15); or

(iv) the Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Paris August 31, 1994 (the ''2009 France Protocol'') (Treaty Doc. 111–4).

(3) The Secretary of the Treasury shall prepare and submit the detailed report required under paragraph (2) on March 1 of the year following the year in which the first report is submitted to the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and on an annual basis thereafter for a period of five years. In each such report, disputes that were resolved, either by a mutual agreement between the relevant competent authorities or by a determination of an arbitration panel, and noted as such in prior reports may be omitted.

(4) The reporting requirements referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) supersede the reporting requirements contained in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 3 of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the 2009 France Protocol, approved by the Senate on December 3, 2009.

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. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2224. A bill to enhance the accuracy of credit reporting and provide greater rights to consumers who dispute errors in their credit reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2225. A bill to provide for a smart water resource management pilot program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2226. A bill to establish a WaterSense program within the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. 2227. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for property certified by the Environmental Protection Agency under the WaterSense program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. 2228. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to consider projects involving rural communities in the selection of alternative

water source projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2229. A bill to expand primary care access; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2230. A bill to provide the legal framework necessary for the growth of innovative private financing options for students to fund postsecondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2231. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide an individual with a mental health assessment before the individual enlists in the Armed Forces or is commissioned as an officer in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2232. A bill to protect the right to freedom of speech secured by the First Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2233. A bill to provide tax relief for major disaster areas declared in 2012 and 2013 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2234. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. REID:

S. Con. Res. 35. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 571

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 571, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a deadline for restricting sewage dumping into the Great Lakes and to fund programs and activities for improving wastewater discharges into the Great Lakes.

S. 1008

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1008, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from implementing proposed policy changes that would permit passengers to carry small, nonlocking knives on aircraft.

S. 1066

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1066, a bill to allow certain student loan borrowers to refinance Federal student loans.

S. 1150

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1150, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 1422

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1422, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1468, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes.

S. 1596

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1596, a bill to require State educational agencies that receive funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have in effect policies and procedures on background checks for school employees.

S. 1793

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) 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. 2018

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to provide for the use of hand-propelled vessels in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and the National Elk Refuge, and for other purposes.

S. 2106

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2106, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the individual health insurance mandate not apply until the employer health insurance mandate is enforced without exceptions.

S. 2118

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2118, a bill to protect the separation of powers in the Constitution of the United States by ensuring that the President takes care that the laws be faithfully executed, and for other purposes.

S. 2142

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2142, a bill to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

S. 2156

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2190

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) 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. 2199

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) 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. 2223

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

S. CON. RES. 33

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors 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 Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) 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. 418

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 418, a resolution to honor Gallaudet University, a premier institution of higher education for deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and to recognize the impact of the University on higher education.

AMENDMENT NO. 2962

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2962 intended to be proposed to 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2963

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2963 intended to be proposed to 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2234. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for employees who participate in qualified apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce with my colleague, Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina, the Leveraging and Energizing America's Apprenticeship Programs or LEAP Act, which provides a tax credit to employers to help increase the number of registered apprenticeships in the U.S. and put more young Americans to work.

Today, there are still more than 10 million unemployed Americans, and our young people continue to be especially hard hit. Nearly six years after the start of the Great Recession, 16 percent of 16 to 24 year olds are without a job. The numbers are far worse among youth of color and for those without college degrees.

Yet 4 million jobs remain unfilled in the U.S., and part of the reason is that key gaps persist between the skills of young adults and workforce needs. By 2020, the United States is expected to experience a shortage of 3 million workers with associate's degrees or higher and 5 million workers with technical certificates and credentials.

Apprenticeships are a proven way to help young people develop in-demand skills and to meet the needs of employers, yet they comprise just 0.2 percent of the U.S. workforce.

While competitor nations around the world are investing in robust apprenticeship programs, the U.S., by contrast, had just 358,000 active, registered apprenticeships in 2012. That is 7 percent of what England offered when adjusted for population. In Germany, nearly half of all young people go through apprenticeship programs.

We can't let America continue to lag behind. That's why Senator SCOTT and I are introducing the LEAP Act, an initiative that provides a paid-for Federal tax credit to businesses to develop apprenticeship programs that are registered with the Department of Labor or a state apprenticeship agency. The bill addresses the fact that the average age of apprentices is currently as high as 29 years, by offering a tax credit of $1,500 for apprentices under the age of 25. The tax credit for apprentices 25 or over is $1,000. The cost of the tax credits are offset by a provision that cuts printing waste by barring the Federal Government from producing publications that are available online, unless the printing is for seniors, Medicare recipients or communities with limited Internet access.

A thriving apprenticeship system should be an essential element of an effective workforce development strategy; registered apprenticeship programs help individuals attain a recognized post-secondary credential and provide workers with the education and on-the-job training needed to succeed.

Studies show that apprenticeships are a wise investment for both participants and the U.S. government: individuals who complete registered apprenticeship programs earn over $240,000 more over their careers than people who did not participate in such programs, and the tax return on every Federal Government dollar invested in registered apprenticeship programs is $27.

Our future competitiveness—our economic strength as a nation—depends on the innovation and skill of our workforce. I am proud to join with Senator SCOTT in putting forward this bipartisan legislation that will create opportunities for more Americans to learn the in-demand skills that will help meet employers' needs and fuel our economy. I look forward to working with my colleagues to build support for and pass this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 35—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, April 10, 2014, through Thursday, April 24, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Monday, April 28, 2014, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, April 10, 2014, through Thursday, April 24, 2014, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2014, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at such place and time he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the Senate adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the Senate shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 3. (a) The Speaker of his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on, April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''From Here to Mars.''

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on, April 9, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Addressing Primary Care Access and Workforce Challenges: Voices from the Field.''

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on, April 9, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Indian Education Series: Indian Students in Public Schools—Cultivating the Next Generation.''

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SH–216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Examining the Comcast-Time Warner Cable Merger and the Impact on Consumers.''

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Election Administration: Making Voter Rolls More Complete and More Accurate.''

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 11 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Fiscal Year 2015 Budget for the Small Business Administration.''

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 9:15 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 10 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 9, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask that Alexandra Merrill, my intern, be given floor privileges for the duration of the day.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Micah Murphy, a Navy fellow assigned to the office of Senator MCCAIN, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Marine Corps; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that 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 any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National-Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Colonel David P. Baczewski
Colonel Jeffrey W. Burkett
Colonel Conrad C. Caldwell, III
Colonel Jeffrey B. Cashman
Colonel Charles W. Chappuis
Colonel Joel A. Clark
Colonel Patrick J. Cobb
Colonel Thomas B. Cucchi
Colonel John B. Daniel
Colonel George M. Degnon
Colonel William D. DeHaes
Colonel William D. Dockery, Jr.
Colonel Andrew E. Halter
Colonel Timothy J. Harmeson
Colonel Paul G. Havel
Colonel Jill L. Hendra
Colonel Alan K. Hodgdon
Colonel Joseph M. Jabara
Colonel Wendy K. Johnson
Colonel Timothy M. Jones
Colonel Thomas J. Kennett
Colonel Kerry L. Muehlenbeck
Colonel Timothy A. Mullen
Colonel John W. Ogle, III
Colonel Ryan T. Okahara
Colonel Russell A. Rushe
Colonel David P. San Clemente
Colonel Diana M. Shoop
Colonel Jesse T. Simmons, Jr.
Colonel David A. Simon
Colonel Mark C. Snyder
Colonel John G. Sotos
Colonel Ronald C. Stamps
Colonel Randolph J. Staudenraus
Colonel Scott A. Studer
Colonel Michael R. Taheri
Colonel Ronald B. Turk
Colonel Steven C. Warren
Colonel Roger E. Williams, Jr.
Colonel Ronald W. Wilson
Colonel Bryan F. Witeof
Colonel Brett A. Wyrick
Colonel Ricky G. Yoder

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. John E. Hyten

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Wendy M. Masiello

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Chaplains, United States Navy, and appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 5142:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Margaret G. Kibben

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Brent W. Scott

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Sean A. Pybus

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 5046:

To be major general

Col. John R. Ewers, Jr.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1309 MARINE CORPS nominations (82) beginning BAMIDELE J. ABOGUNRIN, and ending PHILLIP M. ZEMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 7, 2014.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the agriculture committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 33.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 33) celebrating the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 33) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Thursday, February 27, 2014, under ''Resolutions Submitted.'')

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 35, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 35) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that 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 (S. Con. Res. 35) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 105–292, as amended by Public Law 106–55, and as further amended by Public Law 107–228, and 112–75, reappoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Katrina Lantos Swett of New Hampshire.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 10, 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 time until 10:30 a.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that at 10:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 574.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. At 10:30 a.m. tomorrow there will be a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michelle Friedland to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. If cloture is invoked, there would be up to 30 hours for debate prior to a vote on confirmation of the nomination, unless an agreement can be reached. Upon disposition of the Friedland nomination, there will be a cloture vote on the Weil nomination to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor. There could then be up to 8 hours for debate prior to a vote on confirmation of the Weil nomination.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. 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 5:52 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 9, 2014:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DEBRA L. MILLER, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2017.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

TERRELL MCSWEENY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2010.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DANIEL W. YOHANNES, OF COLORADO, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

STEVEN JOEL ANTHONY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2018.

EXPORT–IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

WANDA FELTON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT–IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2017.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL DAVID P. BACZEWSKI
COLONEL JEFFREY W. BURKETT
COLONEL CONRAD C. CALDWELL III
COLONEL JEFFREY B. CASHMAN
COLONEL CHARLES W. CHAPPUIS
COLONEL JOEL A. CLARK
COLONEL PATRICK J. COBB
COLONEL THOMAS B. CUCCHI
COLONEL JOHN B. DANIEL
COLONEL GEORGE M. DEGNON
COLONEL WILLIAM D. DEHAES
COLONEL WILLIAM D. DOCKERY, JR.
COLONEL ANDREW E. HALTER
COLONEL TIMOTHY J. HARMESON
COLONEL PAUL G. HAVEL
COLONEL JILL L. HENDRA
COLONEL ALAN K. HODGDON
COLONEL JOSEPH M. JABARA
COLONEL WENDY K. JOHNSON
COLONEL TIMOTHY M. JONES
COLONEL THOMAS J. KENNETT
COLONEL KERRY L. MUEHLENBECK
COLONEL TIMOTHY A. MULLEN
COLONEL JOHN W. OGLE III
COLONEL RYAN T. OKAHARA
COLONEL RUSSELL A. RUSHE
COLONEL DAVID P. SAN CLEMENTE
COLONEL DIANA M. SHOOP
COLONEL JESSE T. SIMMONS, JR.
COLONEL DAVID A. SIMON
COLONEL MARK C. SNYDER
COLONEL JOHN G. SOTOS
COLONEL RONALD C. STAMPS
COLONEL RANDOLPH J. STAUDENRAUS
COLONEL SCOTT A. STUDER
COLONEL MICHAEL R. TAHERI
COLONEL RONALD B. TURK
COLONEL STEVEN C. WARREN
COLONEL ROGER E. WILLIAMS, JR.
COLONEL RONALD W. WILSON
COLONEL BRYAN F. WITEOF
COLONEL BRETT A. WYRICK
COLONEL RICKY G. YODER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. JOHN E. HYTEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WENDY M. MASIELLO

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, UNITED STATES NAVY, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5142:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MARGARET G. KIBBEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. BRENT W. SCOTT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. SEAN A. PYBUS

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5046:

To be major general

COL. JOHN R. EWERS, JR.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BAMIDELE J. ABOGUNRIN AND ENDING WITH PHILLIP M. ZEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 7, 2014.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TROY SPRING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Troy Spring. Troy is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Troy has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Troy has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Troy has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O–Say, become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and led his troop as the Patrol Leader. Troy has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Troy led a team in removing and replacing more than 300 feet of fencing at Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri. The fenced area houses a Cars Ministry facility, which provides basic car maintenance for single mothers and low-income families.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Troy Spring for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CECIL MOZEL BAILEY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Cecil Mozel Bailey who recently passed away on February 23 at the age of 91. Cecil was a man of God dedicated to his faith, family, and community. I consider myself fortunate to count Cecil and his family as personal friends and I know he will be greatly missed.

Cecil was born on November 11, 1922, in Grand Saline, Texas. The values of family and hard work were ingrained in Cecil from an early age as he grew up helping his parents, Harvey and Tennie Fisher Bailey, on the family farm. After graduating from Grand Saline High School, he received an offer to play football for Arlington State College. Cecil then decided to serve his country in the United States Army where he was stationed in Germany.

After returning home from war, Cecil and his wife Wanda raised their family together while Cecil worked as a warehouse superintendent with A&P Grocery in Dallas and served as a Sunday school teacher and deacon at Urban Park Baptist Church.

Following the passing of his wife Wanda, Cecil returned to Grand Saline, where he later married again. He and his wife, Irene, then moved to Canton where they retired. His faith was important to him, and together, Cecil and Irene Bailey helped start Lakeside Baptist Church. Cecil continued to actively serve the Lord as the Chairman of the deacons.

Family was always important to Cecil. The Baileys enjoyed many trips together, traveling to Israel, Hawaii, Alaska, New England, and Branson. Cecil also spent time growing large vegetable gardens, canning produce, and sharing what he grew with his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Cecil Bailey. He was a man who fully believed in the values of faith, family, and community. I believe everyone can benefit from his example and the life he lived.

TRIBUTE TO ASHLEY JARED

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Ashley Jared of the Iowa Finance Authority 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 Ashley in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Jared 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 Ashley 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.

RECOGNIZING KENT HANCE FOR HIS DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF TEXAS AND TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend of mine, a great friend of Texas, and one of the finest examples of a public servant: Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance. In his nearly 8 years as head of Texas Tech, Chancellor Hance has become a staple in the community and a beloved figure on campus.

Famous for knowing every Texas mascot, a trait that he and I share, students are often greeted by him with a fist bump and a quiz on high school mascots while on their way to class. From the Itasca Wampus Cats to the Hamlin Pied Pipers, there's not a student on campus he hasn't won over with his down-to-earth demeanor and palpable dedication to the students.

Under Chancellor Hance's leadership, Texas Tech has repeatedly broken its enrollment records for the last five years, with more than 33,000 enrolled in the fall of 2013. The university has grown, expanded, and renovated, putting it on track to reach the university's milestone goal of 40,000 students by 2020. With the incredible achievement of not only reaching, but surpassing the $1 billion goal during the most ambitious fundraising effort ever undertaken by Texas Tech, Chancellor Hance has certainly set the stage for success in Lubbock, TX. His quick wit, famous stories and steadfast dedication to his alma mater will certainly be missed upon his retirement.

I wish my friend Kent Hance the best of luck in his next endeavor and thank him for the tremendous legacy he is still creating. From his early days in Texas politics, to his service in the U.S. Congress, to his successful law firm, Chancellor Hance makes a difference everywhere he goes. He lives by his own motto to "dream no little dreams," and I look forward to seeing what his dreams have in store for him, and for us, next.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AFFIRMATION AND NAVAL VESSEL TRANSFER ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the passage of this reaffirmation of the Taiwan Relations Act and to the longstanding relationship between the United States and Taiwan. The Taiwan Relations Act,

TRA, helped codify our pledge to the people of Taiwan and serves as a reminder that the continued support and strengthening of U.S.-Taiwan relations aids our mutual interests and shared values.

Over the last few decades, Taiwan has emerged as a global leader in innovative technology and the heart of Asia's IT and Knowledge Economy sectors. Through the implementation of sound free-market policies and promotion of democratic ideals, we have seen a small agrarian economy transform itself into a growing global leader in the technology sector. Taiwan is now the world's second largest producer of ICT goods, and companies like Acer and HTC are now household names.

Our mutually beneficial cooperation and exchange with Taiwan has helped dozens of American companies meet their ever-growing demand for equipment and expertise. The partnerships between American and Taiwanese innovators and job creators ensured a virtuous cycle of economic development in Taiwan and lower costs for American consumers.

The U.S. should welcome Taiwanese participation in efforts to advance regional economic integration, such as the Trans Pacific Partnership. Taiwan is one of the region's most dynamic economies and its entry into the TPP will substantially expand the market encompassed by the agreement. Additionally, Taiwan's recent experience transitioning from a developing, domestically focused economy to a globally integrated economy will be invaluable as TPP partners make difficult choices and reforms to comply with higher standards set by TPP.

As a longstanding friend of Taiwan, I am proud to voice my support for this resolution today. Few could have foreseen the political and economic progress that Taiwan has undergone since 1979. Our commitment to broadening and deepening our commercial and investment linkages with Taiwan will ensure that the spirit of the TRA endures and contributes to mutual prosperity on both sides of the Pacific.

A TRIBUTE TO BRENDA LEVIN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brenda Levin of Los Angeles, upon receiving the 2014 Rose Award from the Los Angeles Parks Foundation. The Rose Award is being given to Ms. Levin for her extraordinary contributions to the quality of life in Los Angeles.

Ms. Levin received her education in graphic design at Carnegie Mellon and New York Universities and in architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Born in New York, Ms. Levin moved to Los Angeles in 1976 and worked for architect John Lautner for two years. Ms. Levin's first project in Los Angeles with the firm Group Arcon was renovation of the James Oviatt building. She then established her own architecture and urban planning firm, Levin & Associates Architects, in Los Angeles in the year 1980.

In the 1980s, Ms. Levin connected with the urban revitalization pioneers, who successfully revived segments of the city that had been disregarded. Ms. Levin is known for revitalizing Los Angeles's urban, historic, and cultural forum and pioneering in the preservation of significant historical landmarks. Noteworthy examples of her historic preservation and adaptive re-use work on Los Angeles's most valued icons include: the Bradbury Building, Grand Central Market, Wiltern Theater, Los Angeles City Hall, and Griffith Observatory.

Ms. Levin's portfolio also incorporates designing new institutional, commercial, and multi-family housing facilities. In addition, she has been involved in the design of cultural buildings such as: The Boone Gallery at the Huntington Library, National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, the Autry National Center and Southwest Museums. More recent projects include Dodger Stadium, Wilshire Boulevard Temple, the Hercules Campus at Playa Vista, and Los Angeles County's Ford Amphitheatre.

Ms. Levin's exceptional work has been recognized with numerous awards. She is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the AIA/Los Angeles selected her recipient of the 2010 Gold Metal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual. A significant virtue of Ms. Levin's work has been the preservation of historical sites for generations to come.

I hereby ask all Members of Congress to join me in honoring Brenda Levin for her exemplary service and commitment to the Los Angeles community.

TRIBUTE TO JASON KIESAU

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jason Kiesau of Merit Resources in Urbandale, 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 Jason in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Kiesau 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 Jason 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.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM AT THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is critical that we continue to improve access for women and minorities to jobs and contract opportunities in the field of transportation.

As the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials I am introducing legislation today establishing a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program at the Federal Railroad Administration so that women and minority owned businesses will be guaranteed participation in any new passenger and high speed rail initiatives.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has been the leader in ensuring minority and women owned participation in transportation projects, advocating for a reasonable 10% set aside for businesses that often struggle to compete on an uneven playing field with larger firms. Currently, each of the other modes of transportation have a successful DBE program, and it is critical that the Federal Railroad Administration develop a program for these same businesses.

The Congressional Black Caucus has made strengthening Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) programs at the Department of Transportation a top priority, and will continue to push to ensure that these worthy goals are being met.

This legislation will keep the American Dream alive for many women and minority owned companies and I encourage its swift passage and implementation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LUZERNE COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the men and women of Luzerne County Emergency Responders and Public Safety Telecommunicators, who on April 12, 2014 will hold a Public Safety Open House to celebrate National County Government Month and National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

Emergencies that require police, fire, or emergency medical services can occur at any time. When an emergency occurs, the prompt response of police officers, firefighters, and paramedics is critical to saving lives and protecting homes. The safety and success of our police officers and firefighters depends upon the quality and accuracy of information provided through the Luzerne County 911 communications center.

Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services. They serve as the

vital link for our police officers and firefighters by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them with essential situation information, and insuring their safety. Public Safety Telecommunicators of Luzerne County 911 play a substantial role in fighting crime, suppressing fires, and ensuring patients receive necessary and timely treatment. These dispatchers exhibit compassion, understanding, and professionalism in performing this crucial public service.

I am honored to recognize these exceptional men and women for their distinguished service to their fellow citizens. Their diligence and professionalism keeps our community and our loved ones safe, and I thank them for all their work to protect Luzerne County.

HONORING THE GRANDVIEW C–4 SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the extraordinary accomplishments of the Grandview C–4 School District located in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. The contributions this institution has made to the community are beyond measure. And more importantly, to celebrate the positive differences made by the talented, dedicated, and hard-working people who are now, and have been in years past, a part of this school system.

In an April 9, 1914, election, Grandview, High Grove, Maple Ridge, and Mastin school districts were consolidated into the Grandview School District. In the early 1950s, two more school districts, including Martin City, became part of Consolidated School District No. 4 or Grandview C14 School District.

Through the years, district enrollment has grown from 523 students in 1948, to its current enrollment of more than 4,200 students. In 2013–2014, the district had the highest percentage increase in enrollment of any school on the Missouri side of the Kansas City area. The district has one high school, one middle school, one K–8 school, four elementary schools, an early childhood center and an alternative school.

I. 2013, the Grandview C–4 School District was recognized as one of the top performing districts in the state, according to final Annual Performance Report (APR) data released by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Grandview C–4 School District earned ''Accredited with Distinction'' status based on the current fifth cycle Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP 5) scoring guide, with a district-wide score of 93.6 percent.

On April 9th the district will recognize its 100th anniversary. Historic photos spanning the district's 100 year history will be displayed at several public places throughout the Grandview and South Kansas City area. More celebrations are planned throughout the year—all of them richly deserved.

For 100 years, the Grandview C–4 School District has been the fabric of the community. Considering the challenges many of our families face, many parents take pride in the education their children get from the C–4. Many of these same parents, who now send their children to C–4, were themselves students at C–4 in the past, as their parents were as well. They demonstrate this pride not just year after year, but generation after generation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Grandview C–4 School District today. Grandview is a top-tier school district, comparable to the most elite of districts. We have a glorious past and look forward to an exciting future.

HONORING SPENCER DAUGHERTY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Daugherty. Spencer is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Spencer has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Spencer installed landscaping for the Northland Therapeutic Riding Center in Holt, Missouri, which provides equine activities for people with special needs of all ages and abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Daugherty for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

VISITORS FROM THE NATIVE VILLAGE OF SHISHMAREF, ALASKA COME TO CONGRESS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I recently had two very special visitors come to my office from the Native Village of Shishmaref, Alaska. Mr. Johnson Eningowk and Richard Kuzuguk made the long journey from Alaska to Washington, DC to educate and inform Members of Congress about the real life challenges to their families and community from climate change, as well as the endless pressure of oil companies seeking offshore oil production.

Living on an island in the Chukchi Sea that is three miles long and one-half mile wide, Mr. Eningowk and Mr. Kuzuguk want to continue to practice their traditional way of life—fishing, hunting, gathering and sustaining a healthy relationship with the natural resources they have traditionally depended upon for generations. They want to share this way of life with their community's children and future generations.

Unfortunately, the effects of climate change are changing their traditional way of life, including raising real concerns about whether their home will survive erosion and a rising sea. Oil companies are pressuring for more leasing opportunities and a greater presence both on land and in the coastal waters of Alaska. Both climate change and oil exploration have the potential to devastate Native Alaskan fishing and hunting grounds.

It takes courage for two men to travel far from home to tell their story and ask for help. I want to thank Mr. Eningowk and Mr. Kuzuguk for coming to Washington and telling Congress their story. Native Alaskans have a voice that must be heard as Congress debates issues that will directly affect their lives, livelihoods, and future generations.

The members of the Native Village of Shishmaref Council passed a resolution last year that I would like to submit. Their call for a moratorium on new oil and gas leases in the Arctic Ocean should be heeded. Congress and the Executive Branch need to consult and dialogue directly with Native Alaskans as these policies are being discussed and decided. The future of their way of life is at stake.

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE ARCTIC OCEAN TO MAINTAIN ITS BIODIVERSITY FOR THE FOOD SECURITY, TRIBAL HEALTH, AND CULTURAL IDENTITY OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, RESOLUTION NO. 13–05

Whereas, Alaska's indigenous people are inextricably linked to the land and sea, depending on the natural world for our food security, community well-being, and cultural identity;

Whereas, the Arctic Ocean and surrounding ecosystem have sustained Arctic indigenous peoples for thousands of years;

Whereas, The Arctic Ocean has been recognized through science and traditional knowledge as one of the most biologically important places on Earth;

Whereas, the Arctic Ocean is home to whales, seals, walrus, and other migratory animals that many Alaskan Tribes depend on for their food security;

Whereas, many animals and fish that Tribes across Alaska depend on for their food security migrate to and from the Arctic each year;

Whereas, many Tribes along the Arctic coast continue to share and trade traditional foods from the Arctic Ocean with other indigenous communities;

Whereas, food security is a basic human right recognized by the United Nations and affirmed by the United States in the International Covenant of Civil and Political rights;

Whereas, climate change is causing severe coastal erosion, loss of sea ice, ocean acidification, and changes to the migratory animals we depend on for our food security;

Whereas, the loss of sea ice and other impacts from climate change are having an impact on our ability to hunt and provide for our families;

Whereas, increased shipping and vessel traffic through Arctic waterways, and the threat of offshore drilling and exploration, puts additional impacts on the ocean and coastal communities;

Whereas, the United States government and other Arctic Nations are moving forward with plans to make further develop the Arctic Ocean;

Whereas, Alaska's indigenous Tribes must stand together to support a vision for the Arctic that protects our way of life and puts our people first;

Whereas, Tribes must be at the forefront of planning for the future of the Arctic ecosystem;

Whereas, the traditional knowledge and wisdom of the elders, passed down through

generations, is invaluable for understanding the Arctic ecosystem and best management practices; now therefore be it

Resolved, That a comprehensive and scientifically proven mitigation and monitoring plan must be developed to provide oversight to Arctic industrial activities that could impact our food security, way of life, and the health of our peoples, and be it further

Resolved, That the United States should not issue any new oil and gas leases in the Arctic Ocean until comprehensive and scientifically proven plan is in place to determine the impacts, and whether development can be done without jeopardizing the safety of nearby villages, food security, and the migratory animals that Tribes depend on, and be it

Resolved, That the United States must consult with and engage in a process with Tribes to determine appropriate deferral areas and other protective measures for the important cultural, biological, and subsistence use areas of the Arctic Ocean ecosystem to ensure our food security, cultural identity, and protect our way of life.

TRIBUTE TO BRAD MAGG

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Brad Magg, owner of Goldie's Ice Cream Shop and Magg Family Catering, 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 Brad in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Magg 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 Brad 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.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ANDREW TRENKEL AND THE MAIN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTION TEAM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Coach Trenkle and the Maine South High School Constitution Team for their achievement in winning the Illinois State Title of the ''We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution'' competition. This fantastic accomplishment marks the twenty-second time in twenty-three years that Maine South's team has won the title.

The ''We the People: the Citizen and the Constitution'' program, sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, promotes civic competence and responsibility through course study and mock Congressional hearings. Students study the fundamentals of our Constitutional Democracy and learn applied critical thinking, debate, and teamwork. The ''We the People'' program encourages civic engagement and promotes a next generation of leaders, a mission that the Maine South team accepted and achieved.

Congratulations to all the members of the 2013–2014 Maine South Constitution team: Coach Andrew Trenkle, Hope Allchin, Peter Barac, Meg Boyce, Molly Butler, Alex Campbell, Ryan Curry, Ryan Dysart, Max Edsey, Lily Elderkin, Brendan Faley, Hannah Ferstel, Jenna Galuska, Danielle Gomez, Nicole Hassman, Jordan Helms, Brain Johnson, Kian Khalili, Frank Lally, Cara Laskowski, Taylor Martell, Emilie McGuire, Katherine Miles, Hayley Miller, Peter Mocarski, James Mroz, Madeline Schulze, Samantha Smart, Lauren Smith, Amanda Sremac, and Amanda Svachula.

On behalf of the Ninth Congressional Distinct of Illinois, I congratulate you on your success, and wish you the best of luck in the national competition.

RECOGNIZING THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA FALUN DAFA ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we recognize the Greater Philadelphia Falun Dafa Association for its contribution to the advancement of the arts in the Philadelphia region, notably its presentation of the Shen Yun Performing Arts program at the Merriam Theater in Philadelphia, April 25th through April 27th. This outstanding dance and music company promotes traditional Chinese culture and heritage in the United States and around the world. Shen Yun has graced many of the world's greatest stages, performing in more than 100 cities on five continents. Its brilliant productions feature classical, ethnic and folk dance, and music showcasing 5,000 years of civilization and the wisdom of Chinese legends. Therefore, we express our appreciation to the Greater Philadelphia Falun Dafa Association for bringing this company of performers to our area. In so doing, a significant contribution is being made to arts and culture in the Philadelphia region.

HONORING DONALD ALLEN KANDLBINDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Donald Allen Kandlbinder. Donald is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Donald has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Donald has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Donald has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O–Say, become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow and led his troop as the Quartermaster. Donald has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Donald cleaned and stained a wooden pathway and eight wooden benches in the outdoor recess area at Liberty Early Childhood Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Donald also led his troop in building 28 plexiglass iPad easels for the preschool center.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Donald Allen Kandlbinder for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MS. INERIA ELIZABETH HANLEY HUDNELL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Ineria Elizabeth Hanley Hudnell of West Palm Beach, Florida. Ms. Hudnell is the much loved and widely respected historian and archivist of West Palm Beach's black community. A retired schoolteacher, Ms. Hudnell has spent more than three decades collecting memorabilia, news stories, and photographs of West Palm Beach's often under-reported black history.

On April 22, Ms. Hudnell will receive the Judge James R. Knott Award, the highest honor presented by the Historical Society of Palm Beach County. This remarkable lady, a nonagenarian, hasn't slowed down, continuing to collect and curate information about the important events, awards and life in general of African Americans in West Palm Beach. I am delighted that she is a resident of my Congressional district, and am proud to recognize her on this day.

TRIBUTE TO JESSE LINEBAUGH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Jesse Linebaugh of Faegre Baker Daniels 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 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 Jesse in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Linebaugh 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 Jesse 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.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF LOCAL 58 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as the members and leadership of Local 58 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) gather to celebrate the centennial of their organization, I congratulate them on their many achievements and accomplishments.

As America approached the Twentieth Century, workers in an increasingly industrialized society saw the need to come together to promote safe working conditions, fair pay and strong professional operating standards—a labor movement that gave rise to the IBEW to protect electrical workers. From the beginning of the IBEW's existence, Detroit has had a strong membership, which resulted in the creation of Local 58 in 1914. Under its first President, Ed Ismond, the members of Local 58 worked diligently to realize increases in pay that better reflected the danger of their profession, increased flexibility in project design to ensure higher safety standards, and the creation of many workplace practices that continue to be the standard today. Among those practices are the eight hour workday, the forty hour work week, established rates of pay and established pay schedules.

At the turn of the century in late 1800s, advancements in manufacturing made it possible to better harness the power of electricity—events which put the members of Local 58 at the center of major events in our nation's history. With the manufacturing boom in Detroit, members of Local 58 put their skills to work in the construction of structures that have become iconic of the economic might of our country: structures like the Ambassador Bridge, Masonic Temple, Penobscot Building and Michigan Central Station. And later, when America entered World War II, 200 members of Local 58 answered the call to serve our nation overseas and many more of its members served our nation in the Arsenal of Democracy, producing equipment that was vital to our success.

In the later decades of the 1900s, Local 58 continued in its mission to push for more effective workplace protections, seeking higher standards for the conditions allowed by contractors. As part of this effort, Local 58, the IBEW and their brothers and sisters in the labor movement became more politically active—directly engaging their legislative officials to discuss the importance of workplace safety.

Throughout its history, Local 58 and the IBEW, like many of their labor movement partners in other industries, have shown a dedication to training and continuing education for their members. Woven into the very fabric of Local 58, its apprenticeship training program can be traced back to 1923. Originally operated in partnership with Detroit Public Schools, the original trade school was located at Sixth and Abbott in Detroit. After moving to several locations over the next eighty years, Local 58 opened a 50,000 square foot training facility in Warren, with ten classrooms, three hands-on shop areas and many state-of-the-art labs, which supports nearly 240 apprentices. In addition to the apprenticeship programs, the center also supports the ongoing education of Local 58's members—more than 4,700 strong.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor that I am able to rise to recognize the incredible accomplishments of the men and women of Local 58 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. As masters of electricity, from the iconic skyline of Detroit to the current standards enjoyed by the American workforce at-large, the members of Local 58 have been deeply involved in shaping the United States in the Twentieth Century. Their achievements over the last 100 years are truly remarkable and I am proud to continue standing in solidarity with them and their brothers and sisters in the labor movement to ensure that the future of our nation continues to be bright for all Americans.

HONORING THE INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE SWIM TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2014 NJCCA SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Indian River State College swim team for winning yet another title for both the men's and women's teams during the 2014 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCCA) Swimming and Diving Championships. These championships were hosted by the IRSC in Fort Pierce from March 5 through March 8.

In a competition against sixteen other college swim teams from across the country, the IRSC Swimming and Diving men's team succeeded in extending their amazing winning streak to 40 consecutive swimming titles, the longest unbroken championship winning streak in any sport at the collegiate level in the country. In an equal display of strength and sportsmanship, the women's team proudly brought home their 36nd title.

These young men and women have demonstrated yet again that anything is possible through hard work, determination and a positive attitude. Their impressive accomplishments and unique sense of resilience inspire every single one of us, their fellow students, and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the achievements of these remarkable individuals serve as an example that sports can have an outstandingly positive impact on our youth as they prepare to face the challenges of today's society. For this very reason, it is my honor to recognize these young athletes here today.

BASELINE REFORM ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today we could be debating a jobs and infrastrature package. We could be working on a comprehensive effort to balance our budget and replace sequestration once and for all. But instead, we're wasting time debating this retread of an old Republican ploy to further decimate the nation's discretionary budget.

Currently, the Congressional Budget Office rightfully assumes annual adjustments for inflation and population growth to reflect the cost of maintaining current services. For example, next year more children will attend schools on military bases. The CBO assumes a small increase in funding for these schools to ensure teachers and administrators have the resources they need. This idea that funding should keep pace with inflation and need makes sense. It reflects reality. It is an important concept in the business world, but the so-called reform before us today would freeze adjustments for inflation and population growth, undermining the usefulness of CBO's baselines and making it more difficult to measure the real-world impact of discretionary spending changes.

While this bill may appeal to those who profit from demagoguing the budget, it would drastically hurt the nation in the long-term. Flat-funding would mean a death by a thousand cuts to discretionary spending programs: every year inflation and population growth would chip away at the effectiveness of the investments we make in our future. At least the Republican budget is upfront about the obvious and drastic cuts it makes to education, food and nutrition assistance for women and infants, infrastructure, research and health care for seniors. This bill is about locking-in a years-long path to these deeply misguided goals under the guise of "reform."

Ordering CBO to ignore the needs of our people and the real impacts of spending is the height of fiscal recklessness. Congress experimented with imaginary budget assumptions when it passed the Reagan tax cuts and again with the George W. Bush tax cuts. As a result, we now find ourselves in a very real amount of debt. We remain unable to pay for needed investments in our crumbling infrastructure, and unable to pay for the education and retraining required to maintain American competitiveness, thanks to the refusal of our Republican colleagues to consider raising revenue by closing egregious tax loopholes.

So I'll vote ''no'' on this unwise and deceptive approach. And I ask colleagues to get down to the serious work of budgeting. Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN suggested an alternative that would replace the sequester and reduce the deficit. His approach would not ax Head Start programs for our nation's children, would not cause the further deterioration of our national infrastructure, would not kick seniors and veterans out of federally-supported housing, and would not furlough schoolteachers at bases like Fort Bragg, where the kids of our servicemen and servicewomen are being forced to go without school for five days this fall. Let's stop the partisan showmanship and get to work. Find a way to rid our nation of sequestration and put our country on a fiscally sustainable path.

TRIBUTE TO ANDY LASHIER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Andy Lashier of Laser Resources in Urbandale, 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 Andy in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Lashier 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 Andy 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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS ACT OF 2014

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today to expand access to a new and innovative private financing option to help students pay for postsecondary education.

The bill, entitled the Investing in Student Success Act, would create a legal framework where individuals or organizations can provide students with money for school in exchange for the student agreeing to make payments linked to their income for a set period of time after graduation. Students would have no loan balance to repay, so some students might end up paying less than the amount given to them and others more. These plans would serve as an alternative to student loans.

This concept is extremely innovative in its approach to financing college. Far too many students struggle to obtain enough financing through traditional sources to pay for college, and many others are saddled with unaffordable payments after graduation. These plans would help all students get the financing they need—including students from disadvantaged backgrounds—but without the anxiety that comes with traditional loans.

These ideas were originally proposed by Milton Friedman and were recently discussed in a report published by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). One of the recommendations of the report was for Congress to create a legal framework that would provide investors with clarity regarding tax treatment, consumer disclosures, and other relevant aspects of these contracts. While there are a few small companies operating in this market, the report argues that the lack of legal clarity has prevented the growth of these financing options on a wide scale.

The AEI report also highlights the potential for these financing tools to help address the issue of college costs. It argues that investors will likely offer more generous terms to students for higher quality institutions and programs or for fields that are in high demand in the workforce. Therefore, by helping students navigate to programs that will set them up for success, these tools would likely put pressure on institutions to cut costs and improve quality.

Mr. Speaker, as some form of postsecondary education becomes increasingly essential to success in today's economy, we should ensure that students have an array of beneficial tools to help them finance their studies. I hope that my colleagues will join me in helping to make this new and innovative financing option available to them.

TRIBUTE TO MARLAN BOURNS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marlan Bourns, who passed away on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Marlan was a pillar of the community in Riverside County and he will be deeply missed.

Marlan was born May 28, 1920, not far from Milford, Michigan, to Frank and Bernice Bourns and was raised from humble beginnings. He grew up in the same home his mother was raised in, which stood on 40 acres of farmland. Marlan was enrolled in the local school, Picket School, which only consisted of one room, but provided him with a quality education. While growing up, Marlan took on many jobs on the farm including counting sheep, collecting eggs from the hen coup, and bringing in water from the well. Marlan also developed an interest in the technical fields and started reading the magazine Popular Mechanics at a young age.

This interest quickly manifested itself into a passion and a hobby. Marlan took the technical knowledge he gained through reading and began building things by himself. He built a shooting gallery to practice his BB gun shot, a small working submarine, and eventually two working automobiles that could fit full-sized adults. Marlan also took up an interest in musical performance, and developed a knack for playing the saxophone during his high school years. He also honed his skills playing the clarinet and piano and created both a band and a lucrative business by playing his instruments at weddings. Soon, Marlan would go on to graduate high school with a perfect record and earned a spot at the University of Michigan where he would graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Physics and a lifetime membership with the Phi Beta Kappa Academic Honor Society. Throughout his time in high school and as an undergraduate, Marlan's interest in technology was manifested during his shop classes and he was known for being able to convert innovative ideas into hardware.

Marlan also met the love of his life, Rosemary, during his time at the University of Michigan, whom he would marry in her parent's living room shortly after she graduated from the same university in 1947. After being selected for a top secret U.S. Navy program at the California Institute of Technology, which was instrumental in the development of the Manhattan Project, Marlan and his new bride made the cross-country trek to California with the help of her parents. The couple purchased an older home in Altadena, California, and started Bourns Laboratories, which recently celebrated its 65th Anniversary, in their single car garage.

Rosemary ran the business side of the operation and Marlan was the innovator, and together, they made an unstoppable team. The Bourns family worked diligently making and testing products with what little resources they had. With the creation of one successful prototype, made out of a Whitman's candy box, they earned a massive contract with Consolidated Vultee in San Diego for many of their projects including linear motion potentiometers, vane transducers, accelerometers and bourdon tube pressure transducers. Though the company would rapidly grow over the coming years, Rosemary and Marlan remained very personally involved in its development and made sure to establish relationships with their employees. They built manufacturing plants for their products all over the world, and found a passion for traveling as they regularly visited them.

Marlan, who holds over 100 patents to his name, was often honored throughout his career for his significant contributions to growth of the electronic components industry. He was

honored as the ''Fellow of the Bourns College of Engineering'' by the college he helped establish at University of California, Riverside. He and Rosemary were also honored as Sensors Magazine's 1996 Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010 and as Cal State University, San Bernardino's recipients of the Spirit of the Entrepreneur Award and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Marlan is survived by his son Gordon; daughters Linda Hill, Anita Macbeth and Denise Moyles; 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren who will fondly remember his sense of humor and compassion for others.

Marlan will always be remembered for his incredible contributions to business, his work ethic, generosity, and love of family. His dedication to his work and community is a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Marlan's family and friends; although Marlan may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 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 $17,567,074,702,635.03. We've added $6,940,197,653,721.95 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.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE REAMES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Wayne Reames of Belin McCormick 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 Wayne in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Reames 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 Wayne 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 HENRY GORDON PHILIP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Henry Gordon Philip. Hank is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 360, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Hank has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Hank has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Hank has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Hank has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Hank built three hardwood benches that were placed in the vestibule of the Church of the Annunciation in Kearney, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Henry Gordon Philip for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING CLAUDIA NEIDHARDT

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Claudia Neidhardt for her 17 years working in my district office and serving the people of the Sixth District of Massachusetts.

Claudia, a longtime resident of Newburyport, began working in my District office just months after I was first elected to Congress in 1997. For nearly two decades she has been the voice constituents have come to trust when they call my office seeking assistance.

Not only has Claudia served as the face of the office, she has assisted hundreds of constituents in applying for admission to military academies, obtaining passports and travel documentation, and navigating the intricacies of any number of government agencies. She has organized dozens of Congressional Art Competitions and stood with young constituents whose artwork has been chosen to hang in the halls of Congress each year.

Claudia's kindness and compassion toward the constituents of the Sixth District as well as her colleagues has truly made her the glue of my district office.

Claudia's commitment to youth is of special note. She has created a positive, welcoming environment for the many young women and men who have worked with us through the years, demonstrating that public service is indeed an honorable profession. When I have the pleasure of running into our former interns, or those who have sought to serve our nation while continuing their education at one of our service academies, they often ask about Claudia and express how much they appreciate her care and personal attention to them.

I wish Claudia all the best as she embarks on a new chapter in her life alongside her husband Fred, their two children, Brian and Meg, and her grandchildren.

CONGRATULATING JOSEPH A. COGNITORE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Joseph A. Cognitore, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Fischer-Hewins Post 6249 in Rocky Point, New York. Joe is a humble man of quiet leadership and vision who inspires many to recognize veterans and their invaluable service to our country. On April 9, Joe will be honored as Rocky Point Lions Club ''Man of the Year'', an accolade that recognizes his military service and his tireless home front efforts in assisting his fellow veterans, as well as his commitment to the needs of the Rocky Point community.

Joe was a U.S. Army Platoon Sergeant who served with honor in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971. His service earned him a Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge for his valor on the battlefield. After his discharge from the Army, Joe worked at the Coca Cola bottling plant in Suffolk County for 38 years, where he eventually became branch manager.

Following a legacy of military service and VFW membership, Joe joined the Farmingdale Post where his father served as Chaplain and his uncle as Commander. However, it was upon joining the Rocky Point Post in 1991 that he truly found his calling. In 1994, Joe became Commander of the Post, the position he currently holds. His leadership has resulted in increased membership, extensive outreach, and assistance to those in need, especially Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. For more than a decade, the Rocky Point VFW Post has raised funds to send weekly care packages to troops overseas.

Joe was also instrumental to the Diamond in the Pines 9/11 memorial project in Coram, raising more than $40,000. Together with the hard work of the Post and the Town of Brookhaven, the memorial was completed in six months and dedicated on September 4, 2011.

Recently, Joe and other veteran leaders joined forces with Long Island Home Builders Care in their ''Building New Homes for Returning Veterans'' program, an affordable housing initiative that provides new homes to returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their families. Together with municipalities, private companies, volunteers, and many others, this collaborative effort resulted in the building of a new six-home subdivision named Veterans' Way. Just before Christmas Day 2013, a proud community watched six veterans, their wives, and their young children receive the

keys to their new homes. In order to support this worthy cause, the Rocky Point VFW Post sponsors an annual Wounded Warrior Golf Outing. The proceeds benefit Long Island Home Builders Care, the Wounded Warrior Project, and honors the death of U.S. Army Sgt. Jonathan Keller, a 1998 Shoreham-Wading River High School graduate who died in 2009 of injuries he received while serving in Afghanistan.

Joe also coordinates the VFW Post's Youth Council events, which connect young people with veterans to teach the importance of service and good citizenship. He is also an active member of the Rocky Point Senior Center, where he co-founded a program for senior citizen veterans.

On behalf of the First Congressional District, I rise today to recognize a man who has spent his life recognizing others; a respected leader whose commitment to service is unyielding. I am proud to call Joe Cognitore my constituent and prouder to call him my friend.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY RANALLO

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Anthony Ranallo of Merrill Lynch 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 Anthony in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Ranallo 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 Anthony 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.

GIRLS OF STEEL ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Girls of Steel robotics team on winning the Engineering Inspiration Award at the 2014 Pittsburgh Regional F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition.

This is the third year in a row in which they have won this prestigious award, which goes to the team that does the most to increase appreciation for engineering in its community. I think that the remarkable accomplishment of winning this award three years running speaks volumes about the dedication these young women have to engineering as well as their considerable talent.

The Girls of Steel also won the Entrepreneurship Award at both the Buckeye Regional and the Greater Pittsburgh Regional competitions. This award recognizes a team that developed the best business plan to identify, manage, and accomplish its objectives.

F.I.R.S.T., which stands for ''For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology,'' is an organization dedicated to engaging our students in the vital fields of science, technology, math, and engineering (STEM). Hundreds of thousands of students gain practical, team-based engineering experiences through F.I.R.S.T. every year.

As a founder and co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, I believe competitions like these are incredible tools for helping our young people explore potential careers in STEM. I've witnessed firsthand the incredible economic growth and development that these fields can bring in my home district, and I strongly believe that these fields are crucial to our Nation's future prosperity. For encouraging young people in these pursuits, I want to commend organizations like F.I.R.S.T. for their important work. The F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competition allows students to apply creativity and critical thinking in the demanding and competitive field of robotics, all while instilling a strong sense of pride in participants.

Thirty-nine young women from high schools located in and around the Pittsburgh area are members of this year's Girls of Steel, and in recognition of their hard work, intelligence, and teamwork, I would like to mention each of these inspiring ladies by name. They are Isabella Arnone, Sonia Appasamy, Arushi Bandi, Elizabeth Bianchini, Grace Brueggman, Abbey Ceraso, Rachel Cherian, Claudia Contreras, Laurel Donatelli, Samantha Eppinger, Clarisa Espinoza-Delgado, Mackenzie Ferris, Naoka Gunawardena, Heather Harrington, Rosanne Harrison, Sydney Hnat, Shoko Kanemoto, Campbell Konrad, Elizabeth Kysel, Jisue Lee, Sylvia Lee, Sophia Lee, Cheyenne Meyers, Gigi Nieson, Anne Kailin Northam, Maddie Oppelt, Simran Parwani, Korryn Resetar, Rachel Round, Kaitlyn Schaffer, Kriti Shah, Grace Schneider, Katie Shreve, Makalya Shreve, Lynn Urbina, Molly Urbina, Becca Volk, Alayna Yates, and Natalie Young.

I would also like to mention that that two of the Girls of Steel, Simran Parwani of Fox Chapel High School and Sylvie Lee from Shady Side Academy, were awarded the prestigious F.I.R.S.T. Dean's List Award. This award highlights and celebrates exemplary student leaders who demonstrate and embody F.I.R.S.T.'s ideals.

Additionally, I want to convey my sincere appreciation to the staff of Carnegie Mellon University's Field Robotics Center, who have mentored the Girls of Steel since 2010. Because of their efforts, more young women can experience real-world technological challenges and learn from some of the Nation's best at solving these problems. These experiences will certainly benefit these young women in the future.

I look forward to hearing about their progress as they advance to the F.I.R.S.T. Championship in St. Louis—the final and largest competition of its kind. This will be their fourth trip in four years and they will be competing against top teams from all over the world. I congratulate the Girls of Steel and wish them all continued success in their academic and professional endeavors.

HONORING EDYTH ANN WORTHY

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate the life and career of Edyth Ann Worthy on the occasion of her 88th birthday. On April 10, 2014, hundreds of friends and former students will gather for an appreciation reception at the Old Country Store in Jackson, Tennessee to celebrate Ms. Worthy's 37 years in education.

Edyth Arm Worthy was born and raised in Lenoir City, Tennessee and graduated with education degrees from both Tennessee Tech and George Peabody University. After two years with Tullahoma High School, Ms. Worthy moved to West Tennessee to become the physical education teacher and head girls' basketball coach at Jackson High School.

During her 35 years with the Jackson-Madison County School System, Ms. Worthy coached basketball, sponsored the cheerleaders and the Tri-Hi-Y club, was the director for the YMCA day camp, and served as the official hostess for the TSSAA Girls State Basketball Tournament held in Jackson during the 1960's and 1970's. For all of her efforts and dedication for youth sports, Ms. Worthy received the Jackson-Madison County Sports Hall of Fame Distinguished Service Award in 1995.

Even after her official retirement, Ms. Worthy's love for education continued as she worked part-time at Union University's Music Department. For her unwavering devotion to education, sports, and the children of Jackson-Madison County, Ms. Worthy certainly deserves the appreciation and recognition from her students, friends, and our whole community. On behalf of Tennessee's 8th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Edyth Ann Worthy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARBONDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the Carbondale Public Library, which will celebrate its 140th anniversary on May 9, 2014. The library was founded in the winter of 1873 by the Principal of Schools, E. Francis, and incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth in 1875. In 1983, it became part of the Library System managed by Lackawanna County. In 1996, the Carbondale Public Library moved into a new facility next to Carbondale City Hall.

Today, the library is an active learning hub in the community—featuring events and educational workshops—and a fantastic resource

for those interested in local history and the genealogy of Carbondale residents. The Alice Ahern Lynady Room is home to a collection of microfilms containing local periodicals from as early as the 1830s and Carbondale directories dating back to 1900. The library's wide-ranging collection also includes cemetery records, photographic histories, books and documentaries about Carbondale and the surrounding regions, and subscriptions to genealogy software services.

It is an honor to commemorate such a valuable and long-standing institution like the Carbondale Public Library. This invaluable resource brings the Carbondale community together to learn and explore. I hope that it continues this tradition of scholasticism and unity throughout the 21st Century.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE PHAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Anne Pham of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources 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 Anne in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Ms. Pham 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 Anne 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.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (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:

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, a number of political pundits have asked why House Republicans are advancing a budget this year considering the House and Senate have already agreed upon a top-level budgetary baseline for the upcoming fiscal year. Apparently, Senate Democrats agree with these pundits and have announced that they will not produce a budget. Clearly, these pundits and Senate Democrats have been in Washington for far too long.

The American people did not send us to Congress to look for shortcuts and to find the easy way out. Last year's budget agreement did not magically solve our fiscal challenges, so we need to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Thankfully, under the leadership of Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN, House Republicans are doing just that. Our budget makes the tough decisions necessary to grow our economy by curbing the growth of federal spending and making critical reforms to our entitlement programs.

Critics of the Republican budget call our spending cuts draconian. On the current path, spending will grow, on average, by 5.2 percent a year over the next decade. Under this budget, spending will grow, on average, by 3.5 percent a year. That's not austerity, that's responsibility.

Our budget does cut $5.1 trillion in spending and balances over the next ten years—without raising taxes. On the other hand, the Democrat's budget raises taxes by $1.8 trillion, increases spending by $740 billion more than current policy, while growing our annual deficit to $637 billion in 2024.

While the differences between our budgetary priorities are clear, it is essential that both sides of the aisle work together and build upon last year's budget agreement. Moving back to regular order of approving a budget and advancing the annual individual appropriations bills is the best form of governance possible. Every year, our federal agencies and programs need to be closely examined so that we can remove any waste, fraud, abuse or inefficiencies.

Mr. Chair, the budget before us is an important step towards establishing a responsible fiscal foundation for the next fiscal year as well as the years to come. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Budget Committee and Appropriations Committee in executing the vision and priorities laid out in this budget.

I once again want to thank Chairman RYAN for his thoughtful, dedicated work on this budget, which will be his last as Chairman, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

HONORING KALEB BEHEE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kaleb Behee. Kaleb is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1138, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kaleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kaleb has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kaleb has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Kaleb built a set of heavy-duty tables for the Blue Springs High School Golden Regiment Marching Band in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kaleb Behee for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AFFIRMATION AND NAVAL VESSEL TRANSFER ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 7, 2014

Mr. DIAZ–BALART. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I had the honor of taking part in a video conference with President of Taiwan, Mr. Ma Ying-jeou, at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. President Ma offered his insights on the U.S.-Taiwan bilateral relationship, especially timely given the 35th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. President Ma's speech follows below:

OPENING REMARKS

I would first like to extend my appreciation to the Center for Strategic and International Studies for organizing this videoconference for the third time. I believe this is the second time Dr. Hamre has hosted this event, and I want to thank him wholeheartedly. On the eve of the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), a landmark piece of legislation that has laid the cornerstone of the robust relationship between the Republic of China and the United States, I am especially pleased to have this opportunity to discuss the unique partnership between our two countries with such a distinguished audience.

A STRONG AND LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP

The friendship between the Republic of China and the U.S. dates back over one century. It all began with a desire for mutual understanding. The Boxer Indemnity Scholarship Program was established by the U.S. in 1909 with an endowment of 10.8 million U.S. dollars. The scholarship allowed Chinese students to study in the U.S., and in 1911 helped establish the forerunner of the prestigious National Tsing Hua University, which has educated generations of young talent in mainland China and Taiwan, including three Nobel laureates. My hat is off to my American friends for having the foresight to initiate such a beneficial scholarship program. The idea behind it was the American vision to provide educational opportunities for a vast but poor and backward Asian country surrounded by insatiable imperialist powers.

During the first half-century of our partnership, the United States played a vital role in ensuring the Republic of China's survival and development. In August 1941, for instance, four months before the Pearl Harbor attack, the U.S. dispatched the Flying Tigers to help in China's difficult war against Japan. They shot down more than 200 Japanese military aircraft during the first seven months after their arrival in China.

In January 1943, the U.S. abrogated the 100-year old unequal treaty system, with its extraterritoriality and consular jurisdiction, and signed the Sino-American New Equal Treaty with us in Washington, a signal that the U.S. sought a truly equitable partnership with the Republic of China.

On December 1st, 1943, the United States, United Kingdom, and Republic of China issued the historic Cairo Declaration, in which they demanded that Japan restore all territories stolen from the Chinese, such as Manchuria, Taiwan, and the Pescadores, to the Republic of China. This position was reconfirmed in the Potsdam Proclamation on July 26th, 1945 and realized 38 days later with the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on September 2nd. We truly appreciate America's vital military and diplomatic role during this period in helping the Republic of China recover sovereignty over Taiwan.

From 1950 to 1965, the U.S. provided Taiwan with 1.5 billion U.S. dollars in economic aid. Our two countries signed a Mutual Defense Treaty in 1954 under which the U.S. guaranteed our security. This provided a peaceful external environment that enabled Taiwan to create an economic miracle. Since then, the U.S. has stood by Taiwan through thick and thin.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Relations between the ROC and U.S. changed drastically in 1978, a year that I look back upon with profound regret. In December that year, President Jimmy Carter decided to switch diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing. To remedy the situation, the Carter administration submitted a draft version of the TRA to the Congress. But because of the inadequacies of the draft, Congress made many crucial improvements. On April 10th, President Carter signed the bill into law, and made it retroactively effective from January 1st, 1979. The TRA, according to an American scholar at the time, re-recognized Taiwan after it had been de-recognized by the Carter administration.

I was glad to learn that just two days ago, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill reaffirming the unwavering commitment of the U.S. to the TRA. The TRA provides the legal framework for many agreements signed between Taiwan and U.S., including a potential bilateral investment agreement. With solid bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress, our two countries have maintained strong political, security, economic, and cultural ties that have helped ensure and enhance peace and stability in East Asia. Another U.S. commitment was the Reagan administration's Six Assurances to Taiwan in July 1982, in which the U.S. reiterated its continued commitment to Taiwan's security.

When I took office in May 2008, I made it my top priority to improve Taiwan's relationship with the U.S. by restoring high-level mutual trust, which was nearly nonexistent at the time. Today, ROC–U.S. relations are the strongest they've been in 35 years or more. With U.S. support, Taiwan has been able to improve cross-strait relations and confidently engage Beijing from a position of strength.

Continued American backing, under the mandate of the TRA, for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations is another present-day example of U.S. support for our foreign policy goals. In May 2009, the ROC health minister attended the World Health Assembly in Geneva after an absence of 38 years. In September last year, the Director-General of our Civil Aeronautics Administration was invited as a guest of the President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to attend ICAO's 38th Assembly in Montreal, Canada, after an absence of 42 years. These were major steps forward in our efforts to achieve more international participation.

THE ROC: A PEACEMAKER AND HUMANITARIAN AID PROVIDER

Using what I call the policy of ''viable diplomacy,'' we have expanded Taiwan's international space, and strengthened relations with our allies and neighbors. Taiwan contributes to regional peace, prosperity, and stability through timely and concrete actions.

As many of you know, Taiwan, mainland China, and Japan all claim sovereignty over a group of small islets in the East China Sea known as the Diaoyutai Islands. These islands are uninhabited, but are located near rich fishing grounds, undersea hydrocarbon deposits, and some of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

In recent years, the danger of confrontation over the Diaoyutai Islands has grown tremendously. That is why I proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative in August 2012. I wanted to demonstrate that a different path and a more hopeful outcome are possible. This initiative elevates peaceful negotiation over confrontation. It de-emphasizes the territorial nature of the dispute and focuses on resource sharing and cooperation.

On April 10th last year, exactly a year ago tomorrow, we signed the Taiwan-Japan Fisheries Agreement. There had been 16 rounds of fruitless negotiations in the previous 16 years, but we were able to get it done in the 17th round. We achieved success by proceeding on the basis that ''while sovereignty cannot be compromised, resources may be shared.'' The agreement allows fishing boats from both countries to operate, for the first time in more than 40 years, in disputed waters twice the size of Taiwan near the Diaoyutai Islands. Meanwhile, the territorial claims of both sides remain intact thanks to the inclusion of a ''without prejudice'' clause. The agreement embraces the spirit of the East China Sea Peace Initiative, and has won wide support within Taiwan and Japan, from the U.S., and in the international community in general.

We also acted in line with the East China Sea Peace Initiative to resolve a dispute with the Philippines after the Philippine Coast Guard shot a Taiwan fisherman dead in May last year. After months of intense negotiations, the Philippine government made an official apology, provided compensation for the victim's family. The perpetrators were charged with homicide by the Philippine Department of Justice last month. In addition, the two sides agreed to refrain from the use of force in law enforcement actions, to notify the other side before taking any enforcement action, and to promptly release detained fishing vessels and crew in case of arrest.

Then, in November last year, when the Philippines was hard hit by Typhoon Haiyan—known there as Typhoon Yolanda—causing more than 6,000 deaths, we immediately delivered 680 tons of relief supplies to the devastated area on 18 air force cargo flights and one naval vessel. The donations were worth 12 million U.S. dollars.

After the Japanese earthquake in March 2011, which took more than 18,000 lives, my government immediately announced a donation of 3.3 million U.S. dollars to assist in the rescue effort. In the following two months, the people of Taiwan donated around 230 million U.S. dollars. This was the single largest amount of foreign assistance ever donated by the people of Taiwan. In fact, it exceeded the sum total of donations provided to Japan by 93 other countries that provided assistance. I would add that my wife and I also played a small part when we joined a telethon to solicit donations.

These measures reflect our determination to be a peacemaker and a provider of humanitarian aid in the international community.

To forestall the possibility of military conflict over the East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone, I issued the Statement on East China Sea Air Space Security on February 26 this year. In this statement, I proposed that all parties concerned should seek to resolve disputes by peaceful means pursuant to international law and the East China Sea Peace Initiative. I also proposed that the parties should formulate an East China Sea Code of Conduct and set up a multilateral negotiation mechanism.

I was pleased to learn of the testimony given by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel on February 5 this year before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. He mentioned that the principles of the East China Sea Peace Initiative ''are at the heart of the U.S. strategy and the U.S. effort, namely respect for international law and peaceful resolution of disputes.'' In fact, the spirit of the East China Sea Peace Initiative could also apply to the South China Sea.

A PEACEFUL TAIWAN STRAIT

Now, let us turn to cross-strait relations. Since I took office in 2008, I have pursued a cross-strait policy of maintaining the political status quo. This means ''no unification, no independence, and no use of force'' under the framework of the ROC Constitution. It also means maintaining peaceful cross-strait relations on the basis of the 1992 Consensus, namely, ''one China, respective interpretations.'' And in order to ensure sustainable peace across the Taiwan Strait, I have also formally announced that we will not pursue policies such as ''two Chinas,'' ''one China, one Taiwan,'' or ''Taiwan independence.''

Thanks to the joint efforts of both sides, cross-strait relations are at their best state in over six decades. To date, the two sides have completed 10 rounds of talks, signed 21 agreements, and plan to exchange representative offices in the future. Some of the main areas covered under the 21 agreements include economic cooperation, transportation, health, science, agriculture, and mutual judicial assistance. The number of regularly scheduled direct cross-strait flights has increased from zero to 118 per day. The number of mainland visitors per year has gone up from 290,000 to 2.8 million, nearly a tenfold increase. And the number of mainland students in Taiwan has jumped from 800 to 24,000, a thirtyfold increase. Meanwhile, law enforcement agencies from Taiwan and the mainland have cooperated to arrest nearly 6,000 criminal suspects. As a result, the number of scam cases has been cut by 60% from its peak, and the resulting financial losses to victims in Taiwan have fallen by 80% from its peak. It is evident that improved cross-strait relations bring tangible benefits to Taiwan.

We'll continue to focus on similar topics. We do not exclude political topics, however, if the people of Taiwan support it.

Our Mainland Affairs Minister Wang Yu-Chi visited mainland China last February to meet in Nanjing with his counterpart, Minister Zhang Zhijun of the Taiwan Affairs Office. This was the first official meeting of its kind since the two sides came under separate rule 65 years ago. This meeting represented the gradual institutionalization of the cross-strait relationship, and was a historic milestone on the path toward sustainable peace and prosperity. These developments prove that viable diplomacy and cross-strait relations are indeed complementary and constitute a virtuous cycle.

Again, I want to thank the United States for Assistant Secretary Daniel Russel's recent testimony in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he said, and I quote, ''we very much welcome and applaud the extraordinary progress that has occurred in cross-strait relations under the Ma administration.''

ENHANCING ROC–U.S. ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Trade and investment relations between the ROC and U.S. have always been close. In 2013, Taiwan was the 12th largest trading partner of the U.S. for goods, with 57.7 billion U.S. dollars in two-way trade. The United States is the largest source of foreign direct investment in Taiwan, cumulatively investing 23 billion U.S. dollars as of January 2014.

In March last year, we resumed talks under the 1994 Taiwan-U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), and we just successfully concluded the 8th TIFA meetings last week in Washington. I want to praise the hard work of both sides and the positive outcome achieved in the meetings. I hope that we can launch the negotiation of a bilateral investment agreement (BIA) in the near future. A BIA would serve as the beginning of a more robust and comprehensive economic relationship between our two countries.

Taiwan is an important security and economic partner of the U.S., as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated in 2011. To further demonstrate our commitment to enhancing trade and investment relations with the U.S., Taiwan sent a delegation of 42 business leaders to the SelectUSA Investment Summit last fall. Our delegation was the third largest among over 60 participating countries. We also dispatched a high-level CEO delegation led by former ROC Vice President Vincent Siew to the U.S. last November to promote investment in the U.S. from Taiwan.

ROC'S DETERMINATION TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

To improve Taiwan's competitiveness and avoid the danger of being marginalized, I began pursuing deregulation and market opening immediately after taking office in 2008. The lack of diplomatic ties makes it difficult for us to negotiate free trade agreements (FTAs) with our major trading partners. To break the isolation, we decided to start with mainland China, our largest trading partner since 2003. We successfully concluded the Cross-Straits Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010. This was followed in 2011 by an investment agreement with Japan, our second largest trading partner and investor. Last year, we signed an economic cooperation agreement (ANZTEC) with New Zealand in July, and an economic partnership agreement (ASTEP) with Singapore in November. We are also in contact with other potential partners in Asia and Europe in the hope of concluding more such accords.

In addition to bilateral trade negotiations, we must also take part in regional arrangements. Taiwan has highly developed markets, and shares Pacific borders with the world's three largest economies—the U.S., mainland China, and Japan. The ASEAN nations are also nearby. Taiwan should not be excluded from the process of economic integration in East Asia.

Given that Taiwan's trade with the 12 members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in 2013 came to nearly 200 billion U.S. dollars and accounted for 34% of Taiwan's total external trade, we believe Taiwan's membership in the TPP would definitely be beneficial not only for Taiwan, but also for all TPP member states.

Moreover, a TPP with Taiwan's membership would not only assure Taiwan's economic security, but would also help strengthen the economic presence of the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific region. In this regard, I am pleased to acknowledge the statements made by Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Kin Moy recently at Congressional hearings. At the hearings, they both stated that the U.S. welcomed Taiwan's interest in the TPP.

In the meantime, Taiwan also trades heavily with the 16 member countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In 2013, our trade volume with RCEP countries came to 325 billion U.S. dollars, or about 57% of Taiwan's total external trade. It is only natural that Taiwan is also seeking membership in the RCEP.

A recent effort by our government for a TPP and RCEP membership is the free economic pilot zones (FEPZs). The goal of the FEPZs is to establish a good environment for doing business, and to pave the way for Taiwan's membership in the TPP and RCEP. The American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei puts out a magazine called Taiwan Business Topics that has commented on our FEPZs. Allow me to quote from the magazine: ''The (Taiwan) government's initiative in establishing Free Economic Pilot Zones is an indication of its seriousness in seeking innovative new directions for the Taiwan economy.'' The new directions that the Chamber is referring to here are liberalization and globalization.

CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen, Taiwan and the U.S. are determined to maintain peace and stability in East Asia, and we are working together to do so. If actions speak louder than words, then the U.S. has certainly spoken loudly and forcefully in support of our century-long partnership. We continue to be grateful for America's political, economic, and security support.

And, as I have noted, with admission to the TPP and RCEP a top priority for my administration, I hope, on this 35th anniversary of the TRA, that the United States will join us in this effort. I do believe we can approach this goal as the beginning of a bright new chapter in the Taiwan-U.S. partnership. The sky is the limit, so let's soar on the wings of this unique partnership!

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention. I now look forward to your questions.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW McKINNEY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Matthew McKinney of Brown Winick 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 Matthew in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. McKinney 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 Matthew 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 IN HONOR OF MARIE WOLBACH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman and devoted leader in our community who has inspired numerous girls to strive for success and excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics STEM. Marie Wolbach cares deeply about ensuring that girls have the educational tools they need, and through the sheer force of her knowledge, determination, advocacy, participation, and persuasive talents, she created a unique educational opportunity for them.

Marie Wolbach is a retired medical sociologist and recognizes the critical need for girls to learn about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. She founded Tech Trek in 1998 with the help of an American Association of University Women (AAUW) Community Action Grant. Tech Trek is a weeklong science, technology, engineering, and mathematics summer camp for underserved rising eighth-grade girls, offering them an opportunity to enter a world that empowers and encourages them to think about themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer specialists. Since Tech Trek began on the campus of Stanford University, it has grown to ten camps on eight college campuses in California, and in 2013, it expanded nationally to seven other states where it has already positively impacted the lives of the girls who attended. Because of Marie Wolbach's vision, Tech Trek graduates are breaking barriers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, with surveys demonstrating that 96 percent of their former participants are now in college, and 54 percent are STEM majors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary woman as she is honored with the ''Unsung Heroes'' Jefferson Award. KPIX 5 nominated her for this prestigious award which she has earned and richly deserves. Marie Wolbach's unparalleled vision for a better future for girls strengthens our nation immeasurably and makes her a national treasure. It is a high privilege to represent Marie Wolbach, and call her my friend.

RECOGNIZING HYUNDAI HOPE ON WHEELS CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIGHTING PEDIATRIC CANCER

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hyundai Hope On Wheels, a leading contributor to pediatric cancer research nationwide, on celebrating its 16th year in the fight against childhood cancer.

Hope On Wheels has one wish—and it is a wish I share: to end childhood cancer.

Among the largest private funders of cancer research in the United States, Hyundai Hope On Wheels is at the forefront with its singular and steadfast mission of eradicating childhood cancer.

Each year, approximately 15,000 parents will hear the words, ''Your child has cancer.'' Even today, based on average statistics, more than 40 children are expected to be diagnosed with cancer and their average age will be just 6 years old. Children diagnosed with cancer come from all across our country and from all walks of life. Pediatric cancer affects all ethnic, gender, and socio-economic groups. This disease does not discriminate in its victims—any child could be a victim.

Even with all the advances in modern medicine, 12 percent of children diagnosed with cancer will not survive.

To be sure, research and treatment has improved the ''rate of survival'' for children. The overall survival rate for cancer survivors has improved over the years with an overall survival rate of 10 percent just 40 years ago to nearly 90 percent today. That is a drastic improvement. However, despite major advances, the number of diagnosed cases annually has not declined in nearly two decade years. For many with rare cancers, survival rates remain low. At the end of the day, even with the amazing process we have made, childhood cancer still is responsible for killing more children and teenagers every year more than any other disease.

That is why the work Hyundai Hope On Wheels does is critical. Through the innovative medical research leveraged and supported by Hope On Wheels, America is making strides toward ending pediatric cancer.

Hope On Wheels supports hundreds of research grants including the Hyundai Scholar Grant and the Hyundai Hope Grant. The first grant is a $75,000 grant for research or programmatic projects available to young nominated investigators. The later grant is a $250,000 competitive grant open to all researchers pursuing innovative research with the greatest overall potential to impact the lives of children battling cancer.

Just this month, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh received the 2014 Hyundai Scholar's Hope Grant, which is a two-year research award in the amount of $250,000. This award will allow doctors to continue to work on life-saving cancer therapies and to treat children from the Third District of Pennsylvania and beyond. By the end of 2014, Hyundai Hope On Wheels will have awarded more than $86 million towards childhood cancer research in pursuit of a cure.

Mr. Speaker, by working to improve the survival rate of our nation's children diagnosed with cancer, I ask that my colleague join with me today in recognizing the good work of Hyundai Hope On Wheels. Committed to the fight against pediatric cancer, Hope On Wheels is providing the next generation of America's children with the hope of a healthy future.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MILLER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize William Miller of Dorsey & Whitney 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 William in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Miller 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 William 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.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 29

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
To hold hearings to examine driving innovation through Federal investments.
SD–G50

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 agreed to S. Con. Res. 35, Adjournment Resolution.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2293–S2331

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2224–2234, and S. Con. Res. 35. **Pages S2326–27**

Measures Passed:

100th Anniversary of the Enactment of the Smith-Lever Act: Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 33, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the enactment of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the nationwide Cooperative Extension System, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S2330**

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 35, providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives. **Page S2330**

Measures Considered:

Paycheck Fairness Act: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of 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 S2293–S2312, S2316–21**

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

By 53 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 103), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S2299**

Subsequently, Senator Reid entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the bill. **Page S2299**

Appointments:

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105–292, as amended by Public Law 106–55, and as further amended by Public Law 107–228, and 112–75, reappointed the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Katrina Lantos Swett of New Hampshire. **Page S2330**

Friedland Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2014, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S2330**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 75 yeas to 21 nays (Vote No. EX. 104), Wanda Felton, of New York, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2017. **Pages S2312–15, S2330**

By 95 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. EX. 105), Terrell McSweeny, of the District of Columbia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2010. **Pages S2315, S2330**

Debra L. Miller, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2017. **Pages S2315–16, S2330**

Steven Joel Anthony, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2018. **Pages S2315–16, S2330**

Daniel W. Yohannes, of Colorado, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador. **Pages S2315–16, S2330**

45 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.
3 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

A routine list in the Marine Corps. Pages S2329–31

Messages from the House: Page S2325

Measures Referred: Page S2325

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Pages S2293, S2325

Enrolled Bills Presented: Page S2325

Executive Communications: Page S2325

Petitions and Memorials: Page S2325

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S2325–26

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2327–28

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S2328–29

Additional Statements: Pages S2323–25

Authorities for Committees to Meet

Privileges of the Floor: Page S2329

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—105) Pages S2299, S2315

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:52 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2330.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Gina McCarthy, Administrator, and Maryann Froehlich, Acting Chief Financial Officer, both of the Environmental Protection Agency.

RAILWAY SAFETY FOR PASSENGERS AND COMMUNITIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine an assessment on how to keep our railways safe for passengers and communities, after receiving testimony from Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation; Deborah A.P. Hersman, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board; Barb Graff, City of Seattle Office of Emergency Management Director, Seattle, Washington; and Timothy E. Pellerin, Fire/Rescue Department Fire Chief, Rangeley, Maine.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Labor, after receiving testimony from Thomas E. Perez, Secretary of Labor.

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine defense health programs, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho, Surgeon General of the United States Army, Vice Admiral Matthew L. Nathan, Surgeon General of the United States Navy, Lieutenant General Thomas W. Travis, Surgeon General of the United States Air Force, and Christopher A. Miller, Program Executive Officer, Healthcare Management Systems, all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Ernest Moniz, Secretary, and Daniel B. Poneman, Deputy Secretary, both of the Department of Energy.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force, after receiving testimony from Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary of Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment, Vice Admiral William D. French, Commander, Navy Installations Command, Major General Juan G. Ayala, Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command, Kathleen I. Ferguson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Performing Duties as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics, Major General Maryanne Miller, Deputy Chief, Air Force Reserve, and Brigadier General James Witham, Deputy Director, Air National Guard, all of the Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland concluded a hearing to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2015 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from General John F. Campbell, USA, Vice Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General James O. Barclay III, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–8, and Major General (P) Michael E. Williamson, USA, Military Deputy and Director, Army Acquisition Corps, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, all of the United States Army, Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing 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, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Howard B. Bromberg, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff (G–1), and Sergeant Major Raymond F. Chandler III, both of the United States Army, Vice Admiral William F. Moran, USN, Chief of Naval Personnel/Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (N–1), and Master Chief Petty Officer Michael D. Stevens, both of the United States Navy, Lieutenant General Samuel D. Cox, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services (A–1), and Chief Master Sergeant James A. Cody, both of the United States Air Force, and Lieutenant General Robert E. Milstead, Jr., USMC, Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Sergeant Major Micheal P. Barrett, both of the United States Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing 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, after receiving testimony from Charles F. McMillan, Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Paul J. Hommert, Director, Sandia National Laboratories, and William H. Goldstein, Deputy Director for Science and Technology, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, all of the Department of Energy; and Norman R. Augustine, and Admiral Richard W. Mies, USN (Ret.), both Co-chair of the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise, Institute for Defense Analyses, Alexandria, Virginia.

MARS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Science and Space concluded a hearing to examine from here to Mars, after receiving testimony from William H. Gerstenmaier, Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Susan Eisenhower, The Eisenhower Group, Inc., Washington, DC.; and Leroy Chiao, former NASA Astronaut, and Commander, International Space Station Expedition 10, and Jeffrey Manber, NanoRacks LLC, both of Houston, Texas.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1014, to reduce sports-related concussions in youth, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1468, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1793, to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1925, to limit the retrieval of data from vehicle event data recorders, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2022, to establish scientific standards and protocols across forensic disciplines, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2028, to amend the law relating to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety;

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, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2140, to improve the transition between experimental permits and commercial licenses for commercial reusable launch vehicles, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

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; and

The nominations of David J. Arroyo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, William P. Doyle, of Pennsylvania, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, and nominations for promotion in the United States Coast Guard.

PRIMARY CARE ACCESS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging concluded a hearing to examine addressing primary care access and workforce challenges, focusing on voices from the field, after receiving testimony from Rebecca Spitzgo, Associate Administrator, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Linda T. Kohn, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Gary Wiltz, Teche Action Clinic, Franklin, Louisiana; Stan Brock, Remote Area Medical, Rockford, Tennessee; Joseph Nichols, MedStar Franklin Square Family Health Center, Baltimore, Maryland; Margaret Flinter, Community Health Center, Inc., Middletown, Connecticut; Deborah Edberg, Erie Family Health Center, Chicago, Illinois; L. Allen Dobson, Jr., Community Care of North Carolina, Raleigh; Jim Hotz, Albany Area Primary Health Care, Albany, Georgia.

INDIAN EDUCATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Indian education, focusing on Indian students in public schools, and cultivating the next generation, after receiving testimony from William Mendoza, Executive Director, White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education; Mandy Smoker Broaddus, Montana Office of Public Instruction Director of Indian Education, Helena; Dan Hudson, Wyoming State Impact Aid Chairman, Lander; Alberto Siqueiros, Baboquivari Unified School District, Sells, Arizona; and Brent D. Gish, National Indian Impacted Schools Association, Naytahwaush, Minnesota.

COMCAST–TIME WARNER CABLE MERGER

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Comcast-Time Warner Cable merger and the impact on consumers, after receiving testimony from David L. Cohen, Comcast Corporation, and Christopher S. Yoo, University of Pennsylvania Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition, both of Philadelphia; Arthur T. Minson, Jr., Time Warner Cable Inc., New York, New York; Gene Kimmelman, Public Knowledge, Washington, DC; James Bosworth, Back9Network Inc., Hartford, Connecticut; and Richard J. Sherwin, Spot On Networks, LLC, New Haven, Connecticut.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded a hearing to examine election administration, focusing on making voter rolls more complete and more accurate, after receiving testimony from Elaine Manlove, Delaware State Election Commissioner, Dover; Judd Choate, Director of Elections, Colorado Secretary of State's Office, Denver; Christopher M. Thomas, Michigan Director of Elections, Lansing; and John W. Lindback, Electronic Registration Information Center, Washington, DC.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1728, to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

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.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for the Small Business Administration, after receiving testimony from Maria Contreras-Sweet, Administrator, Peggy E. Gustafson, Inspector General, and Winslow Sargeant, Chief Counsel for Advocacy, all of the Small Business Administration.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 14 public bills, H.R. 4431–4444 were introduced.

Pages H3142–44

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H3144**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1378, to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse", with amendments (H. Rept. 113–406);

H.R. 3786, to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–407);

H.R. 3998, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–408)

H.R. 4093, to amend the Small Business Act to raise the prime and subcontract goals, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–409); and

H.R. 4094, to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to develop and implement a plan to improve the quality of data reported on bundled and consolidated contracts, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–410). **Page H3142**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Duncan (TN) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3059**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:31 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3062**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Darius Pridgen, True Bethel Baptist Church, Buffalo, New York. **Page H3063**

Suspension—Failed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014: H.R. 4414, to clarify the treatment under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of health plans in which expatriates are the primary enrollees, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 257 yeas to 159 nays, Roll No. 174. **Pages H3067–72, H3123–24**

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 House resumed consideration of H. Con. Res. 96, to establish the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2015 and to set forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2016 through 2024. Consideration of the measure began yesterday, April 8th.

Pages H3072–H3123

Rejected:

Mulvaney amendment in the nature of a substitute (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 113–405) that sought to insert President Obama's budget proposal (by a recorded vote of 2 ayes to 413 noes, Roll No. 171); **Pages H3097–H3104, H3121–22**

Moore amendment in the nature of a substitute (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 113–405) that sought to make significant investments in education, job training, transportation and infrastructure, and advanced research and development programs. Would include funding for a comprehensive jobs bill and targeted investments to reduce and eradicate poverty in America. Would protect the social safety net without cutting Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, or SNAP and raise new revenue by revising our tax system, saving more than $1.7 trillion on the deficit over the next decade. Would reduce our annual budget deficit to 2.5% of GDP by FY 2024 (by a recorded vote of 116 ayes to 300 noes, Roll No. 172); and **Pages H3104–13, H3122–23**

Grijalva amendment in the nature of a substitute (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 113–405) that sought to create 8.8 million jobs by 2017 through investments in education, infrastructure and research and to reduce deficits by $4 trillion by 2024 (by a recorded vote of 89 ayes to 327 noes, Roll No. 173).

Pages H3113–21, H3123

H. Res. 544, the rule providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution, was agreed to yesterday, April 8th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, April 10th. **Page H3124**

Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation: Representative Dent. **Page H3124**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H3066.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3122, H3122–23, H3123, and H3124. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4413, the "Customer Protection and End User Relief Act". The bill was ordered reported, without amendment.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Department of Commerce FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Penny Pritzker, Secretary, Department of Commerce.

APPROPRIATIONS—OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET FY 2015 BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on Office of Management and Budget FY 2015 Budget. Testimony was heard from Sylvia M. Burwell, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

APPROPRIATIONS—MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a 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. Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, FY 2015 was ordered reported, without amendment; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill, FY 2015 was ordered reported, as amended; and the Report on the Interim Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2015 was agreed to.

NATIONAL DEFENSE PRIORITIES FROM MEMBERS FOR THE FY 2015 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "National Defense Priorities from Members for the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act". Testimony was heard from the following Representatives: O'Rourke; Ellmers; Collins (GA); Posey; Pierluisi; Nunes; DeSantis; Graves; Tonko; Hanna; Broun (GA); Blackburn; Heck (WA); Chu; Meng; Lowenthal; Barr; Ribble; Wagner; Perry; and Crawford.

BENEFICIARY AND ADVOCACY OVERVIEW OF THE FY15 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled "Beneficiary and Advocacy Overview of the FY15 President's Budget". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4320, the "Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act"; and H.R. 4321, the "Employee Privacy Protection Act". The bills were ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power concluded a markup on H.R. 6, the "Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act". The bill was forwarded, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology began a markup on H.R. 4342, the "Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters (DOTCOM) Act of 2014".

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO ENHANCE CAPITAL FORMATION FOR SMALL AND EMERGING GROWTH COMPANIES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises held a hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals to Enhance Capital Formation for Small and Emerging

Growth Companies''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN FY 2015: WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES, HOW EFFECTIVE?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''U.S. Foreign Assistance in FY 2015: What Are the Priorities, How Effective?''. Testimony was heard from Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development.

ADVANCING U.S. INTERESTS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE: THE FY 2015 FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUDGET

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled ''Advancing U.S. Interests in the Western Hemisphere: The FY 2015 Foreign Affairs Budget''. Testimony was heard from Roberta S. Jacobson, Assistant Secretary, Bureau for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State; and Elizabeth Hogan, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Agency for International Development.

U.S. POLICY TOWARDS MOROCCO

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled ''U.S. Policy Towards Morocco''. Testimony was heard from William Roebuck, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Egypt and Maghreb Affairs, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State.

THE BOSTON MARATHON BOMBINGS, ONE YEAR ON: A LOOK BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Boston Marathon Bombings, One Year On: A Look Back to Look Forward''. Testimony was heard from Edward P. Deveau, Chief of Police, Watertown Police Department; Jeffrey J. Pugliese, Sergeant, Watertown Police Department; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on the following legislation: H.R. 503, the ''National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act''; H.R. 863, 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. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 503; H.R. 863; H.R. 2208; H.R. 2430; H.R. 4309; and H.R. 3802. The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 4002; H.R. 4017; H.R. 4120; and H.R. 4253.

EXAMINING WAYS THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION CAN IMPROVE THE DISABILITY REVIEW PROCESS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements held a hearing entitled ''Examining Ways the Social Security Administration Can Improve the Disability Review Process''. Testimony was heard from Marianna LaCanfora, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy, Social Security Administration; Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General, Social Security Administration; Bertoni, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space held a markup on H.R. 4412, the ''National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2014''. The bill H.R. 4412 was ordered reported, as amended, to the Full Committee.

PRIZES TO SPUR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY BREAKTHROUGHS

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled ''Prizes to Spur Innovation and Technology Breakthroughs''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BIGGEST TAX PROBLEMS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Biggest Tax Problems for

Small Businesses''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a 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''. The bills, H.R. 4156 and H.R. 524, were ordered reported, without amendment.

CONTINUED ASSESSMENT OF DELAYS IN VA MEDICAL CARE AND PREVENTABLE VETERAN DEATHS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''A Continued Assessment of Delays in VA Medical Care and Preventable Veteran Deaths''. Testimony was heard from Debra A. Draper, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; John D. Daigh, Jr. M.D., Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; Thomas Lynch, M.D., Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

REFERRAL TO THE HONORABLE 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

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a 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. Testimony was heard from Mike Epley, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Oversight, Committee on Ways and Means. The motion for the Committee to go into executive session for consideration of referring for criminal prosecution Lois Lerner, the former IRS Director of Exempt Organizations, by the United States Attorney General was agreed to; the motion offered by Mr. Doggett was agreed to; and the motion for the Committee to submit the referral to the Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, of former Internal Revenue Services 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 to the House of Representatives was agreed to.

TRADE IMPLICATIONS OF U.S. ENERGY POLICY AND THE EXPORT OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing entitled ''Trade Implications of U.S. Energy Policy and the Export of Liquefied Natural Gas''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

UKRAINE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine Ukraine, focusing on confronting internal challenges and external threats, including Russia's seizure of Crimea, including H.R. 4152, to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine, after receiving testimony from Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

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, 10 a.m., SD–192.

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, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

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.

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.

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, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: 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.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. Res. 410, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and S. Res. 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, 2 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

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: 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: Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight, to hold an oversight hearing to examine small agencies, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

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, public and outside witness hearing, 9 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled Bureau of Prisons FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

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.

Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies, hearing on Department of Housing and Urban Development FY 2015 Budget, 10 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, public and outside witness hearing, 1 p.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled "Readiness Posture", 8 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 the Judiciary, 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, 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, Full Committee, business meeting on the resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing on Department of Energy Science and Technology Priorities, 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, 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.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: At 10:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. If cloture is invoked, there will be up to 30 hours of debate prior to a vote on confirmation of the nomination, unless an agreement is reached. Upon disposition of the nomination of Michelle T. Friedland, there will be a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, with eight hours of debate prior to a vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, April 10

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete 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.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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