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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. COLLINS of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 22, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG COLLINS 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 6, 2015, 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.

IN MEMORY OF SCOTTY PROBASCO

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, Chattanooga, Tennessee, the great State of Tennessee, and our Nation lost a wonderful man last Friday.

Scotty Probasco, my dear friend, passed away suddenly. All of this week, we have had memorials, tributes, eulogies—all justly deserved for this great man. I was wondering what I was going to say today as I put together these notes, but I want all of America to know about this special man and my dear friend.

Scotty Probasco was born on November 26, 1928. He attended the Bright School in Chattanooga. He attended the Baylor School in Chattanooga, Dartmouth College, and then the Wharton School at Penn. He was a gifted man, a very bright man, a great businessman, but he was a giver.

As I was thinking this week as to what I was going to say about Scotty, it was what did Scotty mean to me and what did Scotty mean to our community and to our Nation.

Scotty was something else. He would walk into a room, and he would smile. I think of Scotty Probasco's smile. Always an optimist. In our profession, sometimes you have good days and bad days. Whenever I would run into Scotty, he would smile and always encourage me, but he didn't just do that with me; he did that with everyone.

As most of you all know, I proclaim Chattanooga is the greatest midsized city in America, sometimes as the greatest midsized city in the world. It is because of people like Scotty Probasco that we got there. Scotty was truly outstanding. He gave and he gave and he gave. As a community leader, whether it was the United Way or any other charity, he was always there. As a man of Christ, he was there for the First Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his loving wife, Betty; by their four children, Scott, Zane, Ellen, and Ben; and by 12 wonderful grandchildren.

As I think of what our Nation needs today more than ever it is more Scotty Probascos—folks who will always accentuate the positive, who are always looking for the good in people, and who are always encouraging us to do our best.

There is always a loss when we lose a friend, and there was a great loss when Chattanooga lost Scotty Probasco last week, and we all feel that. We feel that dearly. I feel that dearly. Yet, when I think of the generations to come and of the generosity, of the philanthropy, and of the kindness of Scotty Probasco and what that means to us as a people, this will be his legacy.

I am going to say something to him and to his great family today: Scotty Probasco, thank you, dear friend. Thank you for a job well done, and God bless you.

MIGRANTS ARE HUMAN BEINGS

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, we witnessed the most gruesome example of a story that is becoming ever more common. Hundreds of migrants are missing and feared dead—700 or more—because the smuggling boat they were packed onto capsized in the Mediterranean Ocean off the coast of Libya. It was on the front page of every paper around the world. An estimated 3,500 people died in 2014 while making the journey from North Africa to the southern coast of Europe.

Right now, along our southern border, illegal immigration is at historically low levels, but we, too, have a border that is known for smuggling, tragic losses of life, and smugglers no less brazen and no less indifferent to the lives of their human cargo than those off the Libyan coast.

With few legal options and with great opportunity for work and freedom on the other side, migrants throughout the world are risking their lives in the hopes of surviving the journey to live a better life.

During the peak of illegal immigration to this country a decade or so ago, one person died every single day, on average, when trying to come to the U.S. They died of dehydration in the desert or died in trucks or in boxcars in

botched smuggling operations or perished as stowaways, and those are the ones we know about.

Now we hear about ''La Bestia,'' or ''The Beast,'' which is the train carrying migrants from southern Mexico to the border of our country. Think about hundreds of people, most of them children and teenagers, clinging to the outside of a moving train while they are preyed upon by smugglers, sexual predators, and every kind of deviant.

The migrants who are fleeing violence and poverty and gang- and drug lord-infested communities in Central America, like those fleeing African and Asian countries, are willing to literally risk life and limb for the slim chance of a better life on this side.

Europe is responding to the migrant crisis by committing to more rescue operations. The rightwing, anti-immigration parties across Europe see the crisis as validation for their call to build a big wall around ''fortress Europe.'' There are a few people here in this Congress, in this building, who want to build a wall just like theirs.

Most people in Europe understand that building civil society and stable economies in the Southern Hemisphere is the best way to entice people to stay home. Foreign aid and international economic development are not dirty words in Europe the way they are here.

In the U.S., the policies set in Washington directly relate to the instability of neighboring countries in Central America, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Trade policies initiated here in this country have had devastating consequences in rural areas across our hemisphere, driving people from the land and driving people into drug cultivation. It is our insatiable appetite here in the United States for illegal drugs, funded with our dollar bills and enforced with U.S. guns, that creates and maintains a lot of the instability and chaos that drives people from their homes to America. Yet almost every budget that is considered in this Congress cuts mental health and drug counseling, addiction treatment and prevention, and does little to address our role in fueling instability.

With specific regard to immigration and asylum, in this Congress, we are debating laws to make it harder for children to apply for asylum and laws to make it easier to deport children or to put families into lengthy and expensive detention.

To add insult to injury, the Judiciary Committee just approved a measure to allow those who want to homeschool their children but who are prevented from doing so by their own government to be considered as a special class of oppressed victims to be considered eligible to apply for political asylum in the U.S. For the people from Germany and Sweden who want to homeschool their children, that is the kind of oppression that Congress responds to—people from Central America whose governments are unwilling or unable to protect children from murder and sexual assault, not so much.

The reality is that we need to do more to engage and strengthen our neighbors; we need to do much more to make sure that the actions, trade, and consumption of our people are helping, not hurting; and we need to do much more to make sure that we have secure borders by also remembering to put doors on those borders so that people can come with visas in a controlled way and not risking their lives with smugglers.

First and foremost, we must remember the message that Pope Francis reminded us of when he said of those who drowned in the ocean: ''They are men and women like us, our brothers seeking a better life, starving, persecuted, wounded, exploited, victims of war. They were looking for a better life.''

Let us not forget that migrants are human beings.

HONORING FORMER BRAZOS COUNTY JUDGE RANDY SIMS

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

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Brazos County Judge Randy Sims, who passed away on April 2 of this year.

Judge Sims served the Brazos Valley community for decades. He served as the Brazos County commissioner of precinct 3 from 1972 to 1976 and again from 1989 to 2001. He also served on the Bryan City Council from 1987 to 1988. Lastly, he served as the Brazos County judge from 2003 to 2010.

Arthur Randolph Sims was born in Houston on July 31, 1939. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School. During his high school days, he was quite an athlete, playing both baseball and football. He passed up a chance to play professional baseball to get a college education. Legendary coach Bear Bryant recruited Randy to play football for Texas A&M University. Not only was Randy a top running back for Texas A&M, but he also held a longstanding record in the Southwest Conference for kicking a 52-yard field goal.

Following graduation from A&M, Randy remained in Brazos Valley. In May of 1960, he married Brenda Bryan. They were married for nearly 55 years. Randy and Brenda have one son and one daughter, and they are blessed with nine grandchildren.

In the mid-1960s, Randy opened a restaurant called Randy Sims Barbecue, which operated for 27 years. Randy was a great cook, and his restaurant carried recipes from Brenda's dad and from Brenda's brother, Red Bryan and Sonny Bryan.

Randy was a loving father, and he cherished his family time. He quickly learned how to balance his career in order to spend quality time with his family. Last year, the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce named Randy and Brenda as its Citizens of the Year. This award was bestowed on them for their long and dedicated service to our community.

As an active community leader, Randy Sims served tirelessly on various boards and organizations, including on the State of Texas Regional Review Committee, the Presidential Library Committee, the Bryan-College Station Economic Development Corporation, the Bear Bryant Scholarship Foundation, the Brazos Valley Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Solid Waste Advisory Board, the Brazos Beautiful Initiative, the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, the Grace Bible Church Deacon Board, and the Brazos County 911 Board.

His service to the Brazos Valley also included serving as a Bryan ISD host volunteer, as vice president of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, as chair of the Brazos County Health Board District, and as the chair of the Brazos County Juvenile Board.

Mr. Speaker, Randy Sims was a great leader, a dedicated public servant, and an outstanding family man. His selfless devotion to our community will be greatly missed. He will long be remembered as a great public servant to our community and as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend to his family and friends.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest sympathy and our heartfelt condolences to Brenda Sims and to her family. We also lift up Randy Sims' family and friends in our prayers.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our country during these difficult times, for the men and women in uniform, who protect it from external threats, and for our first responders, who protect us from threats here at home.

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

After working 18 years as a 911 dispatcher, I know firsthand the challenges our public safety dispatchers face, the stress that they are put under, and the critical importance of their work. This is why, last week, I was proud to introduce a resolution commemorating National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

I remember working the graveyard shift four floors below ground and taking calls from people from all walks of life, often during their most vulnerable moments. 911 dispatchers hear it all. They are the first point of contact for public safety, and no matter the crisis, losing control is simply not an option.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week also provides us with the opportunity to remind our constituents of the importance of keeping emergency lines open for just that—emergencies. 911 isn't an information line, and local governments have limited resources.

□ 1015

They can't afford to have 911 lines tied up with non-life-threatening emergencies. Simply put, there is no excuse for 911 abuse.

I encourage people to familiarize themselves with their local police and fire departments' nonemergency phone numbers, have them readily available or refer to 311 or their local info line where available. Keeping 911 lines clear is crucial to ensuring dispatchers are readily available during an emergency.

Every day public safety dispatchers help save lives. They provide comfort and reassurance, and they are an integral part of our law enforcement teams. Yet, too often, their work goes unrecognized.

When you need a calming voice to guide you through a crisis, when law enforcement, fire safety, and rescue personnel are in need of seamless coordination at a moment's notice, when every second counts, 911 dispatchers are on the other end of the line. They are the unsung heroes of the first responder community.

This National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, let's recognize and honor the hundreds of thousands of public safety telecommunicators working round the clock to keep our communities safe.

NATIONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize April as National Financial Literacy Month and highlight the key role that the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, or the AICPA, and State CPA societies and CPAs across the country play in educating all Americans about their personal finances.

National Financial Literacy Month is a yearly reminder of the importance of working to improve Americans' understanding of their personal finances. For over 10 years, the AICPA, its members, and State CPA societies have been the leaders in the financial literacy campaign by providing free programs, tools, and resources for all consumers. Thousands of CPAs across 55 States and jurisdictions are volunteering their time to educate consumers to understand their personal finances and their financial goals.

The AICPA, along with the State CPA societies and like-minded financial educational institutions, plays an essential role in educating all Americans so that they will have the knowledge to make decisions for a lifetime of financial well-being. By focusing on financial education as a lifelong endeavor, CPAs are encouraging children to learn about the value of money and teaching adults the importance of saving for a secure retirement.

Mr. Speaker, we have thousands of college students who are unfamiliar with the impact their student loan debt will have on their early career. A financially literate college student will understand those implications and ramifications and would be better served and be better suited or be better able to make better decisions with respect to whether or not to take on that debt as they pursue their college education.

All Americans, from high school students to older adults, need the tools and resources to make educated decisions about their personal finances. Through the AICPA's flagship 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy program, CPAs across the country are volunteering to help all Americans understand their personal finances through every stage of life. The program combines grassroots advocacy with free public resources and tools for CPAs to educate Americans of all ages.

There is an urgent need to improve the financial literacy of all Americans. A recent survey showed that 47 percent of American households are not saving any of their current income for retirement. This means almost half of all Americans are living paycheck to paycheck and without any savings plan for financial hardships or retirement. Providing all Americans with the information necessary to make educated decisions will help households understand the value of savings for retirement and lead to a lifetime of financial well-being.

Again, I would like to congratulate the AICPA and State societies for this effort in helping Americans become more financially literate.

PHMSA IS ACTUALLY A TOOTHLESS KITTEN

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, last week before the Transportation and Infrastructure's committee on pipeline safety, I called the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, known as PHMSA, ''a toothless tiger that has overdosed on quaaludes and is passed out on the job.''

Today I stand before you to say I was wrong. I was wrong to call PHMSA a toothless tiger. PHMSA is actually a toothless kitten, a fluffy industry pet that frightens absolutely no one. This has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt by yesterday's excellent Politico investigation of PHMSA's ineffectual ''can't do'' attitude, written by Elana Schor and Andrew Restuccia. Allow me to highlight some of the shocking incompetence brought to light by this article.

All rules made by PHMSA undergo peer review by two advisory committees: one on oil and one on gas. In theory, the committee is made up of five members each from industry, government, and public. Sounds good, right? Well, that might be true except the committee's current rosters are missing seven members on the government and public sides. This means the industry is calling the shots and voting for their own initiatives. On these committees there is almost no formal resistance to doing the industry's bidding.

That is what Deborah Hersman, former head of the National Transportation Safety Board, meant when she said: ''For the regulator to delegate too much authority to the regulated to assess their own system risks and correct them is tantamount to the fox guarding the henhouse.''

As we have seen in my district and in so many others, the fox has very little incentive to prevent oil or gas from spoiling the henhouse or to prevent the hens from blowing up. Of course, everyone is very sorry about the fact, but the will to prevent these accidents in the first place is simply not there. That is what happened in Mayflower, Arkansas, in 2013 when PHMSA let ExxonMobil operate an oil pipeline that was known to be faulty for 7 years, and then it blew up.

Nowhere is this more obvious than PHMSA's pitiful fines. Fines are supposed to be a deterrent, and yet the fines that PHMSA levies are so pathetic compared to the cost of pipeline leaks and explosions that they can't even be seen on this graph. Here you see that over the last 12 years PHMSA has issued just $44.2 million in fines for incidents that cost over $5 billion. Look at these tiny red lines. You can't even see them. You can see these other graph points that show how much damage was actually done, but the fines are next to nothing.

Take the Mayflower, Arkansas, example where dumping 200,000 gallons of heavy crude into a neighborhood cost ExxonMobil $2.7 million, or 0.008 percent of that year's profits. To industry, this measly fine is just the cost of doing business. No need to fix a pipeline. Fines are so small, it is cheaper to just pay them.

But, of course, damage from pipeline leaks and explosions can't be reduced to just gray bars. In my district, the city of San Bruno, where eight people were killed by a pipeline explosion in 2010, the public remains traumatized by the idea that their entire neighborhood could be wiped out by one carelessly inspected or uninspected pipeline. Life has risks, but one of them shouldn't be coming home to find your husband and son and mother-in-law dead and your house obliterated, as happened to one of the families in my district.

That is why I find PHMSA's utter failure to implement more rigorous safety regulations so disgusting. PHMSA's reasoning that such regulations are ''too costly for the pipeline industry compared with the expected benefits'' is the reasoning of movie villains, not well-intentioned safety professionals who are supposed to be taking care of the public interest. Whose side is PHMSA on?

Now, one could argue that the low penalties are Congress' fault, not

PHMSA's. After all, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has power to impose civil penalties of a million dollars per day. Compare that to PHMSA's relatively paltry $200,000 a day. But that doesn't explain PHMSA's failure to even start civil penalty cases.

Even as pipeline incidents increase, PHMSA started fewer civil penalty cases in 2014 than in the past 10 years and proposed 73 percent fewer fines. For the few fines that are proposed, PHMSA does that behind closed doors where the public is not welcome.

ExxonMobil dumped 63,000 gallons of oil into Yellowstone River in 2011 but managed to argue that the original $1.7 million fine should be put down to $1 million. Why did PHMSA allow this? Nobody knows.

Though I've talked about San Bruno, I want to emphasize that the lack of adequate pipeline safety measures is a nationwide problem, not a Bay Area or California problem. In 2011, a leak from an 83-year-old cast-iron main in Allentown, Pennsylvania, caused a blast that killed 5 people. In 2012, a gas pipeline explosion outside of Charleston, West Virginia, destroyed several properties. In 2014, a leak in a 127-year-old pipeline in Harlem, New York, killed 8 and injured 50 more. In each incident, we see the same, recurring problems—aging infrastructure and inadequate inspection. How many more of these tragedies do we need before we get serious about pipeline safety?

The saddest part about this whole situation is that we know how to prevent pipeline leaks and explosions. The National Transportation Safety Board has been saying the same thing for years, after so many deaths and the destruction of property and the environment. We need automatic or remote control shutoff valves. We need existing pipelines to accommodate internal inspection tools. We need PHMSA to be a strong voice for safety for the public and we need industry to cease being apologists for lethal incompetence.

Like so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I'm tired of PHSMA's excuses and prevarications. I'm frustrated that Congress seems powerless to induce PHMSA to take its job seriously. That's why I'm looking into legislation that will provide PHMSA with the proper encouragement to do its job. It's time for the toothless kitten to wake up, smell the leaking gas, and take decisive action.

SAVE OUR WATER

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, California is now in the fourth year of the worst drought on record. Hydrologists estimate it is the worst drought in 1,200 years. The Sierra snowpack today is just 5 percent of normal. One of our largest reservoirs, the New Melones Reservoir on the Stanislaus River, is at just 22 percent of its capacity, with the rainy season now officially over.

Water rationing is in effect in many communities. Many Californians face $500 fines if they take too long in the shower or spill a gallon of water on their sidewalks. And yet in the last several weeks, the Bureau of Reclamation has released about 10 billion gallons of what precious little water remains behind the New Melones Dam in order to nudge a handful of steelhead trout toward the ocean. That is enough water to meet the annual residential needs of a human population of about 300,000 for the whole year.

How many fish are affected? Well, biologists estimate that it will affect the offspring of about 29 steelhead trout on the Stanislaus River, a few hundred smolts, almost all of which will be eaten by predators long before they reach the ocean; and that assumes that they won't swim toward the ocean on their own, as they have been doing without our helpful assistance since time immemorial.

Put in financial terms, with water selling for $700 per acre-foot, the cost of this ridiculous exercise is about $21 million. But the real cost will be felt in the fall if the rains don't return. At that point, these releases guarantee there will be no water left for human beings or for fish.

All this occurs after a compromise without which Lake Tulloch, below New Melones, would have been drained below the water intake pipes that serve a population of nearly 10,000 human beings.

When are we going to wake up to the lunacy of these current environmental laws and the ideological zealots who are administering them? Who in his right mind would dump enough water to meet the annual residential needs of a population of 300,000 human beings in order to nudge toward the ocean the offspring of maybe 29 steelhead trout—it could be as few as 6—in the worst drought in 12 centuries? Yet that is precisely the policy of this administration.

President Obama has authority under the existing Endangered Species Act to convene a process to suspend these laws during the drought. Governor Brown also has the authority to request the President to act, yet despite repeated calls to do so, neither has responded. Ironically, before we built these dams, in a drought like this, there would be no rivers and there would be no fish.

Nor is this waste limited to just one reservoir and one river. The Bureau of Reclamation is ordering pulse flows throughout the State, completely uncaring of the impact on the rapidly endangered species called homo sapiens.

Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago I introduced H.R. 1668, the Save Our Water Act. It simply provides that during an extreme drought the requirements of massive environmental pulse flows are suspended. I want to urge speedy consideration and passage of this act, but I fear it will not come in time to prevent the exhaustion of our remaining water supply.

I warned of this practice last year, and I appealed to State and Federal water managers to suspend these water releases during the drought. Sadly, I was unable to rally much public interest, I think in large part because few people actually believed that our water policy could possibly be so foolish.

Well, they believe now. We are now reaching a crisis that can no longer be ignored, and Californians are now starting to realize that our environmental laws long ago passed from the realm of reason to the realm of ideological extremism.

Droughts are nature's fault. Water shortages are our fault. We once built dams to store water from wet years so that we would have it in dry ones, but the same radical environmental laws that are squandering our existing water supply have also obstructed the construction of any major new storage since 1979, while the State's population has nearly doubled.

Dr. Johnson once said that when a man is to be hanged in the morning, it concentrates his attention remarkably. Well, if any good comes out of this drought, it may be that the American people finally have awakened to the damage these laws have done and are ready to change them and change the zealots in government who are responsible for them.

□ 1030

AN UPDATE ON THE PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD ADMISSION PROCESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, for the sixth time this year, I rise to discuss Puerto Rico's political status.

I am an optimist about Puerto Rico's future. The island is blessed with natural beauty, a rich history, a vibrant culture, a sophisticated and diverse private sector, and talented and hardworking professionals who can compete with anyone, anywhere.

But my optimism is tempered by realism. Because to change the world for the better, you must first see the world as it is. And the reality is that Puerto Rico's potential is being squandered. Puerto Rico should be a blooming flower, but instead it is withering on the vine.

Puerto Rico is ensnared in the worst economic crisis in its history. The island's healthcare system is in a precarious state, the territory's homicide rate—despite recent improvements—still far exceeds that of any U.S. State, and residents of Puerto Rico are relocating to the States in record numbers.

I have heard it argued that leaders in Puerto Rico should concentrate solely on the immediate problems at hand and set aside the issue of political status until those problems are resolved or their severity is reduced. This argument has superficial appeal, but it is completely wrong. All of Puerto Rico's

major problems are directly linked to our status. They are rooted in the unequal treatment that Puerto Rico receives because it is a territory.

If you want to understand why Puerto Rico has always had higher unemployment and poverty than any State, you must recognize that the territory is excluded from the earned income tax program, partially excluded from the child tax credit program, excluded from the Supplemental Security Income program, and treated unequally under the Federal nutrition assistance program.

If you want to understand why Puerto Rico has high debt, you must realize that the territory government has borrowed so heavily in the bond market in order to compensate for its disparate treatment under Federal programs.

If you want to understand why patients in Puerto Rico received inadequate care, why physicians and hospitals are not fairly compensated, and why the cost of providing health care is disproportionately borne by the Puerto Rico Government rather than shared equitably with the Federal Government, you must grasp that Puerto Rico is treated in a discriminatory fashion under Medicaid, traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and the Affordable Care Act.

If you want to understand why drug-related violence is pervasive in Puerto Rico, then you must come to terms with the fact that Federal law enforcement agencies have dedicated insufficient personnel and equipment to Puerto Rico because States invariably take priority over territories when it comes to the allocation of finite resources.

To solve its deeply entrenched problems and to reach its enormous potential, Puerto Rico must receive equal treatment. And to receive equal treatment, Puerto Rico must become a State. To pretend otherwise is just that: to pretend.

That is why less than 3 months ago I introduced H.R. 727, the most forceful statehood admission bill for Puerto Rico in history.

I am proud to report that the bill is likely to obtain its 100th cosponsor as early as today. Cosponsors come from 31 States, the District of Columbia, and the four other territories. They are both Democrats and Republicans. Indeed, about 1,900 bills have been introduced so far in this Congress, and H.R. 727 has more bipartisan support than over 99 percent of them.

Every Member who cosponsors this bill is standing up for a powerful principle, which is this: the people of Puerto Rico are American citizens who have enriched the life of this Nation for generations.

My constituents have fought—and many have died—for a flag that contains 50 stars, but no star that represents them. If they reaffirm their desire in a federally sponsored vote to become a full and equal member of the American family, they have earned the right to be first-class citizens.

SHEPHERD'S MEN

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

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, 13 men, 911 miles, and 1 week to make a difference.

A group of brave warriors known as the Shepherd's Men set out on a journey that will take them from the Freedom Tower in New York City to the Shepherd's Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Every day, servicemen and -women from across our country return from the fields of combat only to fight another battle at home. While this battle may not include heavy artillery or enemy combatants, it is just as devastating.

Post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, and traumatic brain injuries are disorders that take years—and sometimes a lifetime—to heal. These enemies invade the mind and cause unspeakable pain for those suffering and for their families.

For this reason, 13 brave men, whose mission is to raise awareness and funding for those with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries, have accepted the arduous task of running from the Big Apple to the Peach State.

With each step forward, the Shepherd's Men are one step closer to reaching their goal of raising $250,000 for the Shepherd Center's SHARE Military Initiative, a comprehensive rehabilitation program that provides assistance and support for servicemen and -women who have sustained mild to moderate traumatic brain injury and PTSD from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While the wounds may have been inflicted years ago, the scars still remain, and that is why the Shepherd's Men run 911 miles with 22-pound packs strapped to their chests.

These courageous men do not run for their own glory, but for their fellow servicemembers whose lives may be forever changed by the effects of these conditions.

Today, one out of five servicemembers returning home from Iraq or Afghanistan have been diagnosed with one of these debilitating conditions. If left unchecked, these injuries could be life threatening. As our servicemembers return home from Active Duty, it is important for them to know that they do not suffer alone.

This morning, the Shepherd's Men are a few steps closer to reaching their final destination. As the Sun rose gently against the backdrop of the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Shepherd's Men arrived in our Nation's Capital. It was here—at the place that memorialized one of the most historic moments in our history—where I joined the Shepherd's Men for a short 1-mile run out of their 911-mile journey.

As I stood in the shadow, Mr. Speaker, of the Iwo Jima Memorial, one of the Shepherd's Men following our run came up to me and said: When we go into combat, we know that we may not come back out. And I lost many of my men in combat, and I can accept that, but what is hard is when these men survive combat, and they come back home and lose their life to these debilitating conditions. That is hard to swallow.

As a veteran of the United States Air Force, I am extremely grateful to the unwavering commitment the Shepherd's Men have shown to defend their fellow servicemen and ensure that they have the resources they need to begin their road to recovery.

Although the road may be long and fraught with setbacks, people across this Nation are going the extra mile to ensure our servicemembers are given the help they deserve.

To the Shepherd's Men, Godspeed on the rest of your journey, and thank you for your commitment to our Nation's military.

HONORING BISHOP WALTER SCOTT THOMAS, SR., AND HIS FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO GOD

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor, admiration, and respect that I take this time to honor one of this Nation's most distinguished citizens, Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr., in recognition of his 40 years of service to God as a pastor, mentor, and community leader.

I am honored to rise today to share with my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the accomplishments of this remarkable man.

For the last 40 years, Bishop Walter Scott Thomas, Sr., has faithfully served as the pastor of the New Psalmist Baptist Church located in the Seventh Congressional District in Baltimore, Maryland. Bishop Thomas is a Baltimore native who was called to proclaim God's Word to the world.

He received a bachelor's of science degree from the University of Maryland in economics, a master's of divinity degree from Howard University School of Religion, and a doctor of ministry degree from St. Mary's Seminary and the University of Baltimore.

In 1975, Bishop Thomas was called to pastor the New Psalmist Baptist Church. He is a devoted leader who cares about the needs of his congregation, the community, and the world.

Under his dynamic leadership over the last four decades, New Psalmist Baptist Church has grown to serve several thousand members. His vision and message of ''empowering disciples'' has inspired thousands to make a positive impact in their personal lives, communities, the State of Maryland, the country, and the world.

He is an influential leader who graciously uses his gifts to serve clergy and religious leaders. From 1999 to 2002, Bishop Thomas served as the president

of the Hampton University Ministers' Conference. He has coached and mentored pastors, church leaders, staff, and ministry teams all over the country.

On July 20, 2005, Bishop Thomas was elevated to the office of bishop and presiding prelate of the Kingdom Association of Covenant Pastors by ministers from across this great Nation.

Bishop Thomas has led multiple outreach initiatives to provide services and resources to the community. These initiatives include assisting economically disadvantaged families and homeless persons, providing employment assistance for job seekers, and partnering with school principals to provide school resources.

In 2013, Bishop Thomas and the New Psalmist Baptist Church donated $40,000 to the Baltimore City Northwestern Police District to renovate the station entrance and lobby for our police officers and community members.

In addition to his leadership in the local community, Bishop Thomas has been a global leader, supporting projects to improve the quality of life for the world's underserved citizens. Bishop Thomas and New Psalmist Baptist Church support a school in Nairobi, Kenya, as well as clean water and sanitation projects in Africa.

Bishop Thomas has also been the guest of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to represent the United States and the Christian faith in the Many Heavens, One Planet faith and conservation event in Windsor, England.

In 2009, Bishop Thomas had the honor of delivering the invocation during President Barack Obama's whistlestop tour at Baltimore's War Memorial Building. In 1998, Bishop Thomas hosted President William Jefferson Clinton at the New Psalmist Baptist Church.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Bishop Thomas is a devoted husband, father, and friend. He is the loving husband to first lady Patricia Thomas and the proud father of three very successful children: Joi; Walter, Jr.; and Joshua.

Bishop Thomas is a source of wisdom and encouragement to his family and friends. Bishop Thomas is a great friend who has inspired me through his faithful leadership of his family and the New Psalmist Baptist Church.

I am honored that God allowed our lives to eclipse, and today I wish to thank him on behalf of Baltimore, Maryland, and indeed the Nation and the world for his dedication, commitment to God, his church, his family, and his community.

ACCESS TO INPATIENT REHABILITATION THERAPY ACT OF 2015

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I joined the gentleman from North Carolina, Congressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD, to introduce H.R. 1906, the bipartisan Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Therapy Act of 2015.

Coordinated medical rehabilitation provided in an inpatient setting is crucial to Medicare beneficiaries with injuries, disease, disabilities, or chronic conditions.

Unfortunately, beginning in 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services began placing limitations on what types of therapy a beneficiary could receive, despite the professional judgment of the treating physician.

Mr. Speaker, these limitations restrict recreational therapy from being prescribed, despite it being medically necessary in many cases.

The bipartisan Access to Inpatient Rehabilitation Therapy Act of 2015 that I have introduced with Congressman BUTTERFIELD will undo these unnecessary barriers imposed by CMS that place limitations on what types of therapy a beneficiary may receive.

□ 1045

This legislation will not cost the American taxpayer any money; will help facilitate access to the appropriate mix of services in an inpatient rehabilitation facility; and will benefit patients with brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, and those who have sustained strokes, amputations, individuals living with neurological disorders, and a wide range of other conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today and strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get behind this commonsense bipartisan legislation.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the Speaker and acknowledge that 1965 is a very unique and special year. It is the commemoration of the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, which symbolized to the world the cry and passion to have your voices heard through the vote.

I stand here today asking this body and its leadership to put on the floor of the House the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a bill that was reauthorized in 2006, 2007, under the leadership of President George W. Bush and the Members of the United States Congress, in a bipartisan manner. The vote in the Senate was 98–0, and we had an equally impressive vote here in the United States House of Representatives.

The question would be why, a simple task of updating this legislation to ensure that thousands, maybe millions, are not denied the right to vote.

I start with that because the walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge was particularly brutal, and I want to give credit to all those who marched, many names that I know, our own colleague JOHN LEWIS, Hosea Williams, and many that we have met over the years in Selma. They marched and stood nonviolently against violence and, might I say, under the auspices of the misinterpretation of the law, those law enforcement officers—misguided, of course—that stopped those individuals from expressing their rights.

Today, I come to match the need for the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act to the enormous need, in a bipartisan manner, to reform our criminal justice system.

Over the news airwaves of the last 24 hours, right here in Washington, D.C., there was a statement about a young father who stood on his doorsteps in Fairfax, Virginia, that, finally, his two beautiful daughters had a settlement from that law enforcement department. He was shot on his doorsteps. The facts are such that I won't discuss today, but one can almost assume that that father did not need to lose his life.

Yesterday, the #marchtojustice, the Justice League of New York City, came to the west lawn to petition the government to end racial profiling and to begin to address the question of how do we have a criminal justice system that meets the equality and justice of America.

Sadly, just a few miles a way, in Baltimore, we understand that a young man was picked up and, ultimately, went into a coma and died. What happened in the midst of the time where his spinal cord was nearly severed in the custody of law enforcement officers?

Let me be very clear. As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, my commitment is that law enforcement officers go home to their families. In a few days, we will be honoring those who fell in the line of duty. We will be standing and respecting the fact that they provide a protection for this Nation and they serve us. We thank them for that.

But we must come to a point where we hold the Constitution dear and that citizens of the United States have the right to access and speech and protest and that protesters are not dangerous outsiders.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced two initiatives that I would ask my colleagues to join me on, initiatives that should draw bipartisan support. One is the Build TRUST legislation that simply indicates that there should be a process by which local jurisdictions use various citations and nuisance citations and stopping people on the street as a source of revenue, the same kind of issue that confronted Eric Garner—who, by the way, Mr. Speaker, was a large man who everybody knew, who was simply trying to support his family, maybe selling a few cigarettes.

No one has suggested that, dealing with the laws of New York, that that wasn't against the law. What we are saying is that Eric Garner did not need

to, in essence, lose his life, nor did Walter Scott in South Carolina, shot five times in the back because he ran.

We are legislators. We know the law. We understand that there is a framework for dealing with police officers, and we need to get there.

The Build TRUST bill says, however, that you cannot heavily burden a particular community, and you must report where all your revenue is coming from in terms of, if it is overly excessive, then you will lose Federal funds because we know that you are going into certain communities.

The other is the CADET Act, which I hope will draw bipartisan support. It does what South Carolina is doing. It codifies the collection of data of lethal force by law enforcement and citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is time now to use the CADET bill for the science of criminal justice reform and the Build TRUST bill to rebuild trust and have police accountability.

I believe that this 50th year of Selma, Mr. Speaker, pushes us to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act and move toward a just criminal justice reform.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, again, April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand up and raise awareness across this country that sexual assault and domestic violence can no longer be allowed to exist in our country. We must be proactive on raising awareness on this issue. That is why I come to this floor today to do just that.

Each Member—Democrat, Republican, East, West, North, South—has an opportunity, and I hope they join me to do this throughout April, to say ''no more'' to sexual assault in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, every 2 minutes, another American is sexually assaulted, every 2 minutes. That is 237,868 victims—our fellow citizens—a year that are impacted by this heinous crime and assault and violence.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the other things that we need to do, on top of raising awareness, is change our culture in America. Earlier this month, a graphic video was shown across this Nation and across this world of a gang rape that took place in broad daylight on the beaches of Panama City, Florida. The victim was clearly incapacitated and was clearly assaulted by several men on that beach.

Mr. Speaker, those perpetrators should and will be held accountable. Justice will be done; but what culture exists in America to allow the hundreds of people that were standing nearby who witnessed this assault and did nothing? Bystanders need to understand that, in America today, we stand up and say ''no more'' to this heinous crime.

Mr. Speaker, because this victim was unconscious and incapacitated, it would have been likely, absent this video, that this crime would have gone unreported. That is the norm in America. Sixty-eight percent of the assaults in the last 5 years were not reported. We need to change our culture, and we need to say ''no more.''

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have been on this floor numerous times; and, as many of you have seen before, I have shared my personal story from our family situation with this issue. I will tell you, just as I said the first time I came here and shared that story with the Nation, I say it again: there are no excuses for sexual assault and domestic violence in America.

It is time for us to come together as a nation and say ''no more'' to sexual assault and domestic violence on our fellow citizens.

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 55 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 Boyd Thomas Tucker, Sisk Memorial Baptist Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

With praise and thanksgiving we bow before You, Father. We thank You for Your love and guidance in each person's life who serves in this room. Grant to the Members of this body wisdom to take up their duties today. James said, ''If any man lack wisdom, it shall be given him.''

So we pray for wisdom and discernment in their decisions, understanding in their thinking, mercy in their judgments.

We know that without You, Your guidance, we can do nothing, but with You, we can do all things. May we not be frightened by the problems that confront us as a nation, but give thanks that You are with us in this hour.

May Your Word be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Guide us this day, I pray in my Lord and Savior's name, Jesus Christ.

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 New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUINTA 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 BOYD THOMAS TUCKER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I introduce to the Chamber today Reverend Tom Tucker. Tom is the senior pastor at Sisk Memorial Baptist Church in Fort Mill, which is just down the street from my house.

I was talking to Reverend Tucker beforehand, and he said he was called to ministry, Mr. Speaker, when he was 18, but he fought it until he was 30. I think it is a wonderful story.

He has been the president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention Pastors Conference; he is currently the first vice president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; he is a featured devotional speaker for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association; and he has ministered, literally, all over the world.

He is married to Brenda. They have two children who are here today, one of whom, Krystal, is married to Jared Ribble, the son of my good friend, Congressman REID RIBBLE from Wisconsin.

So it is an honor and a privilege to have, today, as our guest chaplain, Reverend Tom Tucker.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

NO SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS AND BENEFITS FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last summer's border crisis was the result of President Obama's 2012 decision to grant amnesty to some

illegal immigrants. And then last November, Obama granted amnesty to even more illegal immigrants—millions more. To make matters worse for American taxpayers, these illegal immigrants can now get work permits. This enables them to get Social Security numbers and government benefits.

Make no mistake; what Obama is doing is bilking hard-working American taxpayers. That is why I am reintroducing my bill, the No Social Security Numbers and Benefits for Illegal Aliens Act. America is a country of laws, not men. I am fully committed to stopping the President's illegal action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to avoid improper references to the President.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the Armenian community to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the events that led to the Armenian genocide.

One hundred years ago, on April 24, more than 300 Armenian leaders were taken from their homes, arrested, and systematically executed. They were the first massacred in a genocide that resulted in the deaths of 1½ million innocent men, women, and children.

The children, grandchildren, and younger descendants of the genocide's victims have worked hard to remember and honor those who suffered. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus and to cosponsor H. Res. 154, the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution.

I praise the Armenian American community throughout Los Angeles County and elsewhere in California and the United States for making sure that the history of that tragic period is known and urging our government to officially recognize the genocide.

SUPPORT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over 1.5 million rural South Carolinians receive their power through local electric cooperatives, who work to keep costs low and maintain high energy standards. Unfortunately, President Obama established new regulations for electric water heaters 5 years ago, destroying jobs. These regulations went into effect last week and have negatively impacted the cooperatives by limiting their ability to manage water heaters during peak time, making consumers pay for an inefficient use of resources.

I am grateful to support the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015. This legislation reduces new regulations for grid-enabled water heaters, which benefit consumers by keeping costs low. Local businesses like the electric cooperatives are the backbone of America's economy, the forefront of new innovations, and are leaders in providing affordable, reliable energy, creating jobs for American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SOLAR READY VETS PROGRAM

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Solar Ready Vets program, the recently announced Federal initiative to train veterans for jobs in the solar industry.

Solar power accounted for 32 percent of electricity-generating capacity that came online in the United States last year, creating 31,000 American jobs. The energy company, SolarCity, will soon open one of the largest solar panel manufacturing plants in the world in my home community of Buffalo, New York, creating 3,500 jobs in our region. The solar industry employs 174,000 Americans, a number that is quickly increasing. We should seize the opportunity to ensure that our veterans can participate in this growth.

The Solar Ready Vets program trains veterans for jobs in the solar industry at 10 military bases across the country. We are calling for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station to be one of those sites. This program creates jobs, fights climate change, and provides economic opportunity to returning veterans.

I call on Congress to support our veterans, support clean energy, and support American jobs by supporting the Solar Ready Vets program.

HONORING JEFF INGALLS

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Ingalls, a Granite Stater, American hero, and former prisoner of war. This week he is being rightfully recognized during the Prisoner of War Medal ceremony this Friday.

Master Chief Jeff Ingalls grew up in North Woodstock, New Hampshire, and enlisted in the United States Navy in July of 1978, where he served as a member of an elite unit of highly technical divers. Ingalls served in missions that were not only incredibly complex and challenging, but also extremely dangerous.

In June of 1985, Ingalls was aboard TWA flight 847 when it was hijacked by terrorists. The six-man detachment, including five U.S. Navy divers, was held in captivity by terrorists, during which time one bravely lost his life.

These six men showed bravery, courage, and dedication in the face of an enemy. We will never forget your sacrifices, your fight in the name of freedom and democracy.

American heroes like Jeff Ingalls are the reason our country remains the ''land of the free and the home of the brave.'' For that we are forever grateful.

100 DAYS OF REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week the House Republicans marked 100 days of Republican control of both bodies of Congress: 100 days spent working for the wealthy special interests against the hard-working American families, 100 days where we saw our national security threatened when we came dangerously close to shutting down the Department of Homeland Security, 100 days where we saw Republicans vote to end the Medicare guarantee and turn it into a voucher program.

Now, today, we are seeing House Republicans attempt to undermine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an entity designed to protect American consumers, by taking what was a bipartisan bill that came out of committee with nearly unanimous support and using it as a vehicle through the Committee on Rules to slash funding for this important Federal program.

We had a bipartisan bill that could have been an important piece of legislation that we all could get behind, and it had to be used as a way to undermine this really important and essential government function of protecting the American consumer. We have just gone too far with this. We need to get back to doing the work that the American people sent us here to do.

PUTTING DECISIONMAKING BACK IN THE DISTRICTS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, while we are all hard-working Americans dedicated to the freedom and future of our country, our districts and States are vastly different. House Republicans reject the notion that Washington knows best, and our policies reflect that. By putting power back into the hands of the States, we can ensure the decisions made best reflect the Americans we represent.

In the people's House, we understand this more than any other branch. We understand that a top-down approach to government is unrealistic and unfair. We hear the voices of those we represent. Parents don't need bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., to tell them where to send their children to school

or what doctor they should see. Our approach gives families the flexibility they need to make these essential decisions.

What works for one district may not for another, and we understand that. In the people's House, we are so proud of the individual districts we come from, like mine in the great State of North Carolina, and we are going to advance policies that let the people there thrive.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 1½ million victims of the Armenian genocide, which began 100 years ago on April 24. I join with the Armenian National Committee of the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts and Armenian communities across the country and throughout the world in mourning those lost and honoring the survivors and their descendants as we recognize this centennial commemoration.

As a member of the Armenian Congressional Caucus, I strongly support H. Res. 154, the Armenian Genocide Resolution. The systematic, premeditated mass murder committed by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenians was genocide. Other countries have formally acknowledged dark and painful chapters in their past, and it is time for Turkey to do the same. The Armenians and the descendants of those who were victimized deserve justice.

On this somber anniversary, we have a responsibility to acknowledge the truth about this horrific event. It is a necessary step to building a more just future for all Armenians.

IRAN IS A TERRORIST STATE

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as we meet today shortly after noon here, it is evening in the Persian Gulf. It is evening off the coast of Yemen. As we speak, Iran is supplying the rebels, the Houthi rebels, with weapons. Their ships are heading toward them.

Iran is, in fact, our enemy; and Iran is, in fact, in an active war to destabilize many of the Arab countries, as we speak. Iran is a terrorist state, but we are pretending it isn't. The Houthis have been determined by the United Nations to be stopped as rebels, and yet the *Theodore Roosevelt* is circling rather than, in fact, sinking that ship or stopping it.

We, America, are negotiating a nuclear deal that may or may not work—that remains to be seen—but we are negotiating with a terrorist state, a terrorist state that will, I guarantee it, continue going forward to destabilize the region and cause American lives to continue to be lost.

This is the peril that we have. We have had it since 1979. If we do not stop Iran far beyond its nuclear ambitions, we, in fact, will lose American lives every day for the rest of my life.

□ 1215

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ACT

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, in a modern society, all of us deal with a thousand issues, but there is only one issue that can kill humanity as a species, and that is climate change. Rising sea levels, more extreme weather events, and hotter temperatures are not partisan issues.

Last month, President Reagan's former Secretary of State George Shultz wrote a column in The Washington Post asking for action on climate change. Today, on Earth Day, I am introducing the Climate Solutions Act, which will tackle climate change by focusing on three areas: slashing carbon pollution, implementing bold renewable portfolio standards, and setting high energy efficiency standards.

In the future, our history books will write that America led the world on climate change and saved the planet—or there will be no more history books.

NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern over the Obama administration's ongoing nuclear negotiations with Iran. I also rise in support of the efforts of our colleagues in the Senate to ensure that any agreement made with Iran has the consent of our constituents' elected officials here in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen, in regions across the world, the Obama administration's limited ability to enforce its international agreements and promote our country's interests. The recent horrific chemical weapon attacks in Syria, the growth of ISIS, and Moscow's continued dominance in Ukraine all call into question the strength and resolve needed by this administration to enforce an agreement with one of our Nation's most dangerous foes: Iran.

As these negotiations continue, I strongly urge my colleagues to carefully consider the ability of the administration to uphold and enforce the terms decided on with Iran and the impact that this will have on our security and the security of one of our Nation's closest allies: Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a critical moment for our Nation and for the world and for future generations. We must be determined to make sure that enemies do not get a hold of weapons that could destroy our friends and allies.

RIGHT-TO-WORK ZONES

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commend the communities in my district that have rejected the Governor of Illinois' efforts to create so-called right-to-work zones.

Rather than lifting Illinois up to make life better for working families, the Governor's divisive plan would drag down all corners of the State into a race to the bottom. These zones are a gimmick to pit communities against each other, to deprive workers of their rights, and to weaken unions.

Rather than creating good-paying jobs for Illinois workers, these zones will depress wages across the State by incentivizing companies to move to whatever town offers them the possibility of paying lower wages and offering fewer benefits.

We shouldn't be asking hard-working men and women to work for poverty-level wages to make up for the fiscal deficit Illinois faces, a deficit which is caused, in large part, by laws that we pass right here on the floor of Congress that cause the citizens of Illinois to pay $20 billion more each year in taxes than we get back in Federal spending.

Unions did not cause the problems that Illinois faces, and cutting workers' pay will not solve them. So I commend those in Naperville, Aurora Township, Oswego, and communities throughout Illinois fighting against this bad policy. I am proud to stand with you.

CONGRATULATING DUKE BASKETBALL

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, as a proud graduate of Duke University's Graduate School, I rise today to honor the Duke men's basketball team and their coach, Mike Krzyzewski, who recently won the NCAA title.

The 2015 Duke men's basketball team was led by veteran senior guard Quinn Cook and freshman Chicagoan Jahlil Okafor, who was named ACC Player of the Year and was a unanimous All-American selection. Coach K led the team to a 35–4 record and the national title with a hard-fought victory over Wisconsin in the title game.

Coach K, a Polish American from Chicago, has won more men's college basketball games than any other coach in history—over 1,000, including 945 wins and five NCAA titles at Duke. And, as all college basketball fans

know, there is no place to see a game like Cameron.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the outstanding achievement of the 2015 Duke University men's basketball team and Coach Mike Krzyzewski on winning the 2015 NCAA Tournament championship.

DEBT-FREE COLLEGE

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, a college education should be accessible to all Americans.

Currently, 40 million Americans have student loans, with an average balance of $29,000. This impacts our entire economy, as it prevents young people from buying homes, starting a family, and even buying a car.

Mr. Speaker, we provide a high school education for all students because we recognize the advantages for our children and our society of having a good education.

But a high school education is no longer enough if you want to get a good-paying job. A college education is necessary and essential in today's society in order to move ahead. It is an essential step to getting a good-paying job and joining the middle class.

Mr. Speaker, we are stacking the deck against our young people. The cost of higher education is through the roof, and student loans are weighing on our youth at one of the most vulnerable points in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, our parents and grandparents didn't have to take on this level of debt just to get an education. It is our responsibility to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities that our parents and grandparents had to access higher education without the burdensome student loan debt that we now carry.

VACCINATE YOUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, there was a story in today's Washington Post about the Salk vaccine being approved for usage in this country 50 years ago, on April 12, 1955. There was a picture of a second-grade student getting a shot as a test case in 1954. It brought back memories to me that I wanted to relate here.

My father was a physician. In 1954, he gave shots to second-grade children as part of the testing of the Salk vaccine. I had a brother in the second grade. My father gave him the shot that he gave all other second-graders.

I was in kindergarten. My father's mission was not to give shots beyond the second grade. So while the vaccine was in my home, he thought about giving it to me but didn't.

In the spring of 1954, I came down with polio. My father never forgave himself for not giving me that vaccination. I have suffered for it ever since and will continue for the rest of my life.

I relate this story to tell the American people: Vaccinate your children. Don't listen to the hysteria. Science has given us ways to stop children from getting diseases that have threatened society for generations. Do vaccinate. It is safe.

ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn recognition of the 100-year anniversary of the genocide of over 1 million Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

The Armenian genocide began April 24, 1915, when 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders were arrested. By 1918, between 800,000 and 1.5 million Armenians had disappeared, been killed through massacres, or subjected to forced labor and death marches in the desert.

The Armenian genocide joins other great human tragedies of the 20th century, including the Holocaust perpetuated by Nazi Germany against Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, Christians, and political opponents; the massacre of the Tutsis in the Rwandan genocide; the Khmer Rouge; and Joseph Stalin's mass murders.

I rise today to remember those whose lives perished in the Armenian genocide and to recognize the Armenian Americans in their ongoing quest to ensure that those who perished are remembered for their loss of life in one of the most tragic genocides of the 20th century.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1560, PROTECTING CYBER NETWORKS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1731, NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 212 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 212

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1731) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Homeland Security now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-12. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent,

shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. (a) In the engrossment of H.R. 1560 the Clerk shall—

(1) add the text of H.R. 1731, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 1560;

(2) conform the title of H.R. 1560 to reflect the addition of H.R. 1731, as passed by the House, to the engrossment;

(3) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(4) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

(b) Upon the addition of the text of H.R. 1731, as passed by the House, to the engrossment of H.R. 1560, H.R. 1731 shall be laid on the table.

□ 1230

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H. Res. 212, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring this rule forward on behalf of the Rules Committee. It is a rule that respects the legislative process and reflects the responsibility of Congress to address a critical deficit in the infrastructure of our Nation.

This rule provides for consideration of both cybersecurity measures under a structured amendment process. As a result of a thorough and deliberative committee hearing yesterday evening, there are five amendments to H.R. 1560 and 11 amendments to H.R. 1731 that this body will have the opportunity to debate and ultimately vote for or against.

The bipartisan nature of these bills speaks to the critical need for this legislation. Both bills passed their respective committees with bipartisan support, and I am hopeful this rule will enjoy similar overwhelming support.

For each bill, amendments offered by Democrats exceeded those offered by Republicans. I would like to thank Chairman NUNES and also Chairman MCCAUL for their work, both within our conference and across the aisle, to ultimately bring forward two bills that reflect compromise, consistency, and a deep understanding of the dangers that cyber attacks pose every day.

If both bills are adopted, this rule combines the bills and sends them to the Senate as a package in an effort to work with the other Chamber, go to conference, and to produce a product that will be signed into law. This is a fair rule that respects this body, the importance of this issue, and the legislative process as a whole.

The world has changed greatly since this body last discussed cybersecurity. The ''Internet of Things'' has created unforeseen risks and exposed vulnerabilities and defects in the ability of companies to even simply talk to each other without fear of frivolous litigation.

Our enemy is adapting, growing bolder and more sophisticated. North Korea, Iran, Russia, and China seek to exploit and devastate our economic security as a nation and our data security as individuals through cyber attacks that we cannot adequately anticipate, respond, or even communicate about.

Foreign governments aren't the only ones who wish to do Americans harm. Terrorists and criminal enterprises have also recognized that American companies are crippled by the ambiguity in our law as it relates to sharing cyber threat information.

The cyber attack surface has expanded. Wearables, connected vehicles, and embedded devices have made it possible for cyber attacks to literally be driven into the parking lot or walked through doors.

The traditional ways of responding to cyber threats and recovering from them are not sufficient to safeguard the data privacy of Americans and the economic security of our Nation. The scope of these attacks and devastating damages are increasing as rapidly as the attackers are themselves.

These bills are not a magic pill. They will not render inoperable the scores of foreign countries and enterprises that want to see American exceptionalism brought to its knees; but they do give clear, positive legal authority to American companies to allow them to protect their own and to appropriately share cyber threats with other countries and, in certain cases, Federal agencies.

Let me be clear. These are not surveillance bills. These are not data collection bills. This is not the PATRIOT Act or FISA. This body will debate intelligence gathering, collecting, sharing, and using at some point in the future, but today is not that day.

I know those rightly concerned with government surveillance, like myself, would like to use this rule for that purpose and the underlying measures as a platform to debate that, but I urge them to refrain. We will have that debate.

Today's focus is on the perpetrating of the thousands of cyber threats American businesses face every single day. Let the attention be on North Korea. Let it be on Iran. Let it be on the countless enemies of the United States who want to destroy this Nation. For today, we speak with a united voice that they will fail.

We declare with one voice that American companies have the right to protect their own, to protect and defend their own networks, to share technical information with the appropriate agencies on a voluntary basis if they so choose.

I thank the Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees and their staff for their tireless work they have done to ensure that we can protect our economy, our infrastructure, and our private information.

I know detractors of the legislation may attempt to paint this rule and underlying measures in a different light, so let's allow the facts to speak for themselves.

These bills have three key components. First, they provide for completely voluntary participation by private companies in a program with positive legal authority. This program allows three kinds of sharing—private company to private company, government to private company, and private company to government—but this sharing of information is limited only to cyber threat indicators.

Second, they require the removal of all unrelated personal information. It is the technical cyber threat information that is being shared, zeros and ones. In fact, there is a requirement that both the government and the private entity remove personally identifiable information when the information is shared and also when it is received.

Third, the legislation expressly prohibits the cyber threat indicators from being used for surveillance.

These bills will benefit all Americans by helping businesses better protect sensitive information. Attacks against our network often seek to steal Americans' personal information. This can include credit and debit card information, medical records, or even Social Security numbers.

Many of the recent attacks that we have all read about in the news were specifically aimed at stealing the personal information of Americans. Cyber attackers are also increasingly targeting small businesses. In fact, in 2014, 60 percent of all targeted attacks struck at small- and medium-sized businesses.

The underlying legislation will also help protect American jobs by protecting the intellectual property of American businesses. It is estimated that cyber attacks cost Americans roughly 500,000 jobs a year. Foreign companies often use cyber attacks to target the trade secrets of U.S. companies and then use the information to produce their own competing product.

The threat is real, both to our economic security as a nation and our personal information as individuals. If we fail to act and pass this rule and the underlying bills, our Nation and our personal privacy is more at risk than ever before.

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying legislation.

Today, the House is convening to debate a matter that we all agree is critical for our national security, our economic competitiveness, our prosperity, and the success of our private sector.

The recent cyber attacks on Sony and Anthem are but two prominent examples of cases in which American businesses or government entities have come under attack by hackers, among many other instances that haven't even been reported.

I want to recognize the work that the House Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees did on these pieces of legislation and their attempts to address these issues. Unfortunately, in spite of their hard work and the work of those that went into crafting these two bills, I regret that they fall short of their goals and would likely do more harm than good.

Not only do both bills, particularly the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, raise enormous concerns about inappropriate sharing of personal information and surveillance on Americans' private lives, but they are built on the premise that many security experts have warned is fundamentally flawed, that sharing information with the Federal Government should be the central focus of our efforts to protect American cyber networks, rather than simply one aspect to a multipronged strategy to defeat hackers, foreign and domestic.

Now, before I address the substance of these two bills, I want to discuss this unusual rule before us and how it treats two bills which contradict each other in significant ways.

Ordinarily, when two committees share jurisdiction over a matter—in this case, the Homeland Security Committee and the Intelligence Committee—they collaborate. One committee handles one portion of the bill, reports it out; the other committee handles the other portion, reports it out, and they work together to bring a single piece of legislation to the floor for Members to debate, amend, and vote for or against.

This is what happened, for example, with the recent SGR repeal legislation, which had components under the jurisdiction of no less than six different committees in this body, but was presented before us as a single bill.

In this case, however, because there seems to be some kind of turf war between the Intelligence Committee and the Homeland Security Committee, we are actually voting on two overlapping bills that, in several respects, contradict one another.

For instance, the bills have drastically different determinations of what kind of information may be shared, what purposes the government may use the information for, and what hacking countermeasures companies are allowed to take to protect their networks.

Instead of having a meaningful debate on the merits of each bill's approach, this body, if this rule passes, would forego that, and we would simply debate and vote on each bill separately, and if they both pass, the rule directs the Clerk to mesh them together through something called conforming amendments.

Not only would this leave businesses to wade their way through two separate, contradictory regulatory schemes, but it leaves it unclear which bill's provisions would actually prevail in practice and under which circumstances. It actually would create more uncertainty in the marketplace, rather than less.

I don't think anybody could reasonably call this an open process. We shouldn't be depriving our constituents of an open debate on important issues. The major amendments of this bill that would have restored privacy, many of which I was a cosponsor, are not even allowed to be debated on the floor of the House, not for 10 minutes, not for 5 minutes, not even for 1 minute.

My colleagues and I on both sides of the aisle are being denied a vote on the very amendments that we feel could address the concerns we have with the cybersecurity legislation and make sure that we keep American networks safe.

Mr. Speaker, in the 2 years since the NSA's shockingly broad data collection program PRISM came to light, we have heard from many of our constituents. The American people want an end to unwarranted surveillance. They want Congress to restore desperately needed accountability and transparency to our Nation's often out-of-control intelligence-gathering apparatus.

It is bewildering to many people that, at the very time the American people have spoken out that we want more safeguards, instead, we are bringing forward two bills whose central objective is to facilitate the flow of more personal information to the Federal Government, when we continue to put off the question of surveillance reform and bringing an end to the NSA's bulk data collection without warrants.

It is especially disappointing in light of the fact that several PATRIOT Act provisions will sunset at the end of next month, giving Congress a crucial opportunity to reexamine and rein in Federal surveillance programs.

By putting off that issue and bringing mass information sharing to the floor, Congress is asking the American people for a blank check. Congress is saying: Trust the President. No President would allow this information sharing to infringe on your civil liberties, even though we have utterly failed to pass a single piece of legislation to end the privacy abuses that we know have occurred under this administration and the prior administration.

The problem with these bills is that they go far beyond, and they open up additional loopholes and potential abuses with regard to privacy abuses, particularly H.R. 1560, the so-called Protecting Cyber Networks Act. Both bills open up Americans' private information to inappropriate scrutiny by the Federal Government.

Now, I expect we will hear proponents of both bills argue at length that the protections against sharing personal information are sufficiently robust.

For instance, under both bills, they will cite that cyber threat data is scrubbed twice for personal information, once by private entities before they transmit it to the government and once by government entities before they store the information or share it with anybody else.

Now, that sounds good, but, unfortunately, the devil is in the details, and a close reading of the bill shows that there is an enormous loophole in the information-scrubbing component and that it fails to offer Americans safeguards for the personal information.

□ 1245

Under both bills, any Federal entity in receipt of cyber data threat information may store and share personal information it receives—unscrubbed information—if they believe that it is related to a cybersecurity threat.

Now, this standard isn't too vague, considering that information ''related'' to a cybersecurity threat could be interpreted to mean just about anything, but it is also incredibly broad. It includes an implicit assumption that Americans' personal information should be shared, unless Federal officials have information that it is not related to a cybersecurity threat. In many cases, the burden is to show that the personal information is not related to a cybersecurity threat for it to be scrubbed, rather than the other way around.

So, yes, companies and Federal entities are required to scrub the data for information that can be used to identify a specific person. But the loophole then calls on them not to remove any personally identifiable information unless they can show that it is not related to cybersecurity. Even if there is an off chance that something at some point might be pertinent to some kind of investigation, it puts Americans' personal information—without warrants, without due process, including information about patterns of Internet use, location, content of online communications—at great risk.

We have seen before that the Federal Government has a poor track record of

safeguarding our personal information when they are entrusted with it. The last thing we should be doing is empowering Federal agencies even more with a broad discretion to look at personal information unless there is clear evidence that doing so would combat a cybersecurity threat.

I introduced, along with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, a number of amendments to both bills—one with the gentlewoman from California, Representative ZOE LOFGREN, and one with Representative ZOE LOFGREN and the gentleman from Michigan, Representative JUSTIN AMASH—to impose a higher standard on Federal entities who are entrusted with this personal information. Our proposal would simply require the Federal Government to remove personally identifiable information unless it is directly necessary to identify or mitigate a cybersecurity threat—the purported purpose of this bill.

These amendments would have imposed no additional burdens on private companies, but they would have given our Nation's technology companies and the customers who keep them globally competitive more confidence that private information shared under these bills would not be subjected to inappropriate mass scrutiny by the government.

Sadly, our amendments met the same fate as nearly two dozen others put forth to add in important privacy safeguards.

The potential for abuse of private information under H.R. 1560 is even more far-reaching. The Homeland Security bill at least makes clear that the information companies transmit to DHS should be shared specifically with other agencies that need it to protect critical infrastructure. But the circumstances under which information can be shared under the Intelligence bill—and who it can be shared with—are fuzzier and broader.

Under the approach taken by H.R. 1560, every cyber threat indicator shared with a civilian agency of the Federal Government is immediately shared with a host of other government agencies, including the NSA. This increases the threat to cybersecurity by having repositories of information replicated across numerous government agencies, creating additional avenues for attack by malicious hackers. That means that private sector companies will not be able to participate in the program and promise their users they will not share information with NSA or other government agencies unless required by law.

Furthermore, it is true that the Homeland Security bill includes some troubling provisions that allow the government to use cybersecurity threat information for criminal investigations unrelated to cybersecurity. Fortunately, the Rules Committee made in order an amendment by Representatives JOHN KATKO, ZOE LOFGREN, and ANNA ESHOO that would address this problem in the Homeland Security bill. I hope that my colleagues adopt this amendment.

Unfortunately, no such amendment is being considered to address this issue within the Intelligence bill, H.R. 1560, where the problem actually runs much deeper. H.R. 1560 permits cyber threat data, including Americans' private information, that is shared with the Federal Government to be stored and used for a raft of unrelated purposes, unconstrained by congressional directive, including investigations and potential prosecution of crimes completely unrelated to cybersecurity.

Obviously, all of us want law enforcement agencies to be equipped to prevent and prosecute violent crime, but the inclusion of these matters completely unrelated to cybersecurity broadens the scope of the measure far beyond what it is purported to be: a cybersecurity bill. In fact, it reduces the focus of our efforts on combating cybersecurity when you open it up to everything under the sun.

By including a vast array of other reasons the government can invoke to store and share personal information, the authors of the bill essentially transformed the information-sharing initiative into a broad new surveillance program.

Yes. Rather than a cybersecurity measure, effectively, these bills are a stalking horse for broad new surveillance authority by multiple agencies of the Federal Government without warrants, without oversight.

H.R. 1560 empowers Federal entities to hold onto any information about an individual that may be ''related to'' any of the many law enforcement purposes lumped into the bill. That gives the Federal Government enormous incentive to retain and scrutinize personal information, even if it is unrelated to a cybersecurity threat.

The scope of the use authorizations also undermines due process protections that exist to protect Americans against unwarranted search and seizure. Private information about a person that was transmitted warrantlessly to the NSA under a program that was purportedly designed to combat hackers should not be admissible or used in court against them on an unrelated offense—not related to cybersecurity, not related to hacking. It would render all of our due process protections invalid simply because of the medium of the information that is used with regard to these matters in this case: Internet and cyber-related mediums and communications through them.

I joined Representatives ZOE LOFGREN, DARRELL ISSA, and BLAKE FARENTHOLD on an amendment to make clear that information sharing may only be used for the purpose of mitigating cybersecurity threats, again, the purported purpose of this bill. If the proponents of this bill are serious about combating cybersecurity, why did the Rules Committee deny Members the opportunity to limit the provisions of this bill to cybersecurity rather than a whole host of unrelated offenses?

I also joined the gentleman from Kansas, Representative KEVIN YODER, to sponsor an amendment to address a longstanding due process issue that has plagued our Nation's legal system and our privacy rights.

While the government is required to get a warrant if it wants to search through a person's physical mail, it is not required to get a warrant to search through somebody's old emails, provided the emails are older than 6 months. That contradiction and loophole was based on a 1986 law that was written before most people knew what email was.

Representative YODER and I sponsor a bipartisan bill that has 261 cosponsors, and yet when we offered a provision on this bill, we were not given a chance to vote on it and pass it in spite of the grave due process implications that the underlying legislation has.

In addition to these privacy and due process concerns, I am alarmed by the prospect that H.R. 1560 will actually invite attempts by both private and public entities to deliberately weaken the integrity of software systems in the name of cybersecurity.

H.R. 1560, for instance, authorizes companies to deploy countermeasures that are called defensive measures in the form of hack backs that would otherwise be illegal. A countermeasure operated on one network should never cause harm to another that is prohibited by the Federal antihacking statute, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. But that is precisely what can happen when a company places malware on its own network, because if that data gets stolen along with other valuable data, it can harm or lead to unauthorized or backdoor access of other proprietary networks or information.

The gentleman from Virginia, Representative GERRY CONNOLLY, put forward two amendments to address this issue in a very thoughtful manner. Regrettably, neither one will be allowed to be debated or receive a vote on the floor of the House unless we can defeat this rule.

Furthermore, both bills present the risk that Federal entities will use the threat information they receive from private companies to circumvent the security protections safeguarding those same private companies' information systems, effectively creating their own back doors which could later be exploited by malicious hackers.

As a matter of routine, our intelligence apparatus already demands that private companies include defects in their encryption system for the purported purpose of conducting backdoor surveillance. Today's legislation only makes it easier for the NSA to find and exploit more of these back doors and, therefore, easier—not harder—for hackers to find and exploit these very same security weaknesses.

Once again, Representative LOFGREN put forward an amendment that would actually improve cybersecurity by making it clear that Federal entities could not use data obtained through information sharing to demand that private entities create new encryption weaknesses to enable backdoor hacking. Sadly, once again, her amendment will not be heard on the floor of the House, and this bill will encourage and allow additional venues for the illicit hacking it purports to combat.

Mr. Speaker, I don't doubt the intentions and the goals of my colleagues on the Intelligence and Homeland Security Committees, but these bills simply represent a step backwards rather than a step forward, present risks on too many fronts, from privacy, to due process, to the threats that they add to the integrity of the very networks that these bills are designed to safeguard.

In addition, the bills' focus on information sharing negates an important conversation about more important mechanisms Congress should be looking at to protect cyber systems, mechanisms that are not as fraught with risks to our civil liberties and are more effective at protecting our networks. We should be doing more, for instance, to educate businesses and governments about basic network security.

Even here in Congress, we have seen evidence of how woefully lacking even elementary knowledge about cyber threats is. Helping businesses prevent cyber attacks doesn't have to mean that the government vacuums up endless amounts of personal data about how individual Americans are using the Internet and their personal communications.

In fact, if we stop allowing the NSA to demand that U.S. businesses deliberately weaken their own networks for the purpose of government surveillance, that, in itself, would be a big step forward to strengthening our national cybersecurity.

Sadly, today's rule doesn't even allow for a debate or for a vote on the most significant concerns surrounding this legislation and denies Members the opportunity to consider changes that would address the issues that we have raised and improve cybersecurity under this bill. For these reasons, I hope my colleagues join me in opposing the rule and the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to focus this debate. There are many things my friend from Colorado brought up that will be debated, that are coming up, I think, as early, frankly, as tomorrow in some committees and will be debated on this floor. This is about sharing. This is about information protection.

And with that, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), who is a member of both the Homeland Security and the Intelligence Committees. He is the chairman of the Homeland Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, and he is also the former chairman of the full committee.

Mr. KING of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule and also of the underlying bills, H.R. 1731 and H.R. 1560.

As was pointed out, I am the only Member of Congress who is on the Homeland Security Committee and the Intelligence Committee; and I was able to both take part and also to observe closely the extent to which the gentleman from Texas, Chairman MCCAUL, and the gentleman from California, Chairman NUNES, worked with Members on both sides of the aisle, worked with privacy groups, worked with Federal officials, government officials, and administration officials to try to make this as bipartisan a bill as possible, to ensure that privacy would be protected, but also to ensure that everything possible can be done to protect our Nation against cyber intrusions.

Now, every day there are attacks upon our infrastructure. The critical infrastructure—mostly in private hands—is being targeted; and Federal networks, databases that are vital to our national security, are under assault every second of every day.

Cyberterrorism, whether it is carried out by a nation-state, such as Iran or Russia or China, or carried out by terrorist organizations, such as ISIS or al Qaeda, is extremely damaging and threatening to our national security; and it is essential that we, especially since so much of our critical infrastructure is in the hands of the private sector, allow for sharing, that we allow companies to share information with the government, that there is mutual sharing with the government, with the private sector, so that these companies can do it without fear of being sued, without fear of liability—they act in good faith; they do what has to be done.

Every measure that was put in there—I know the gentleman from Colorado disagrees, but every measure is in there to ensure that individual rights will not be violated, that privacy will not be violated. And again, we have to look at, for instance, if the gentleman from Colorado is wrong, what this could mean to our country, how this could devastate—devastate—our infrastructure, devastate our national security, devastate our financial system.

So again, this was not something that was rushed into. And when you have both bills passing out of committee with, as far as I recall, not one dissenting vote—not that everyone was in full agreement with the bills. But the fact is this is probably as close to a consensus as you can come in the Halls of Congress on such a critical and, in some ways, such a controversial issue, to find that type of unanimity on the two committees that deal with this most significantly.

□ 1300

H.R. 1731 is the Homeland Security Committee bill that allows this information to be shared. The port will be the Department of Homeland Security, and that was done, again, working with privacy groups and working with those who are concerned with civil liberties, at the same time working with those who realize how absolutely essential to our security passage of this legislation is and how we have to have this type of cooperation, this type of sharing, this information sharing, and being done with the government and with the private sector working together to combat these enemies which can come at us from all directions. Again, every second of every day these attacks are being attempted and carried out.

That is the crisis that faces us as a nation. It is not as obvious as a bomb going off in Times Square, and it is not as obvious as a bomb going off at the Boston Marathon, but it is just as critical.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. KING of New York. It is just as critical and just as vital, in some ways more so, in that the ultimate result could be so devastating to our Nation.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask, again, passage of the rule, which I believe is obviously essential, but also passage of the underlying bills because, again, our Congress has been criticized, with some validity, for not being able to work together and for not being able to get things done. But to have such a vital, controversial issue as this, to have both committees who deal with it most closely, to have them come together, all the effort and work that went into it, to have them come together to come up with this package of legislation, this shows Congress works. It shows we take this issue seriously, and it means we are going to go forward in all we can to combat terrorism in all its forms. Right now, probably the most lethal are the cybersecurity attacks being made on us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support of the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would just add that demanding that private companies deliberately include defects in their own encryption systems for the purpose of allowing the NSA to conduct backdoor surveillance only increases the risk of our cybersecurity networks rather than decreases it, which is exactly what the bill does.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, though I support H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act, as approved by voice vote in my committee, I rise to express my disappointment with the rule.

Yesterday the White House announced support for House passage of H.R. 1731 but said that ''improvements to the bill are needed to ensure that its liability protections are appropriately targeted to encourage responsible cybersecurity practices.'' The White House was referring to the language that was inserted at the direction of the Judiciary majority.

Instead of providing a targeted safe harbor for companies to share timely cyber threat information, it establishes an unduly complicated legal framework that runs the risk of providing liability relief to companies that act negligently. Moreover, it explicitly immunizes companies from not acting on timely cyber information. This language runs counter to the fundamental goal of the legislation: to get companies timely, actionable information to use to protect their networks.

Yet when H.R. 1731 is considered tomorrow, Members will not be allowed to vote on a single amendment to fix the liability provision that the White House has called ''sweeping'' and said may weaken cybersecurity overall. Remarkably, none of the seven amendments that were filed to fix it are being allowed.

I would also like to register my disappointment that the rule calls for H.R. 1731, upon passage, to be attached to the Intelligence Committee bill. From my conversation with Members, I know that there is a great deal of support for authorizing cyber information sharing with the Federal civilian lead, the Department of Homeland Security. As such, I would argue that the rule should have called for H.R. 1560 to be folded into our bill.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. At this point, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the rule, but not without trepidation. I will be opposing the underlying bill, but not without regret. The underlying bill could have done what we wanted it to do. It could have allowed for the exchange of information while protecting individuals' privacy. It could have limited that information to preventing a cyberterrorist attack. But, in fact, amendments that were offered on a bipartisan basis, a number of them, that could have limited this would have, in fact, allowed us to have the confidence that this information would be used only for what it was intended.

Mr. Speaker, since 9/11, the government has begun to know more and more about what we are doing, who we are, where we live, where we sleep, whom we love, whom we do business with, and where we travel. And we have known less and less. Just a few days ago, the Ninth Circuit in northern California had to rule that the government had to turn over information in a usable format. It took a Federal court order to do so.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. ISSA. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this bill should mandate our knowing more and the government not knowing. It should have ensured that the government only had what it needed. It should have protected private companies who wanted to exchange appropriate information between each other. It should not have created a vast treasure trove here in Washington or somewhere in the hinterland where the government now and in the future can dig in for any purpose—criminal background investigations or perhaps simply checking to see if you paid your taxes. The fact is, this is a data vault that is not narrowly construed, and, therefore, sadly, without the amendments that were not allowed, I am not in a position to vote for this bill. I thank the chairman, and I thank Mr. POLIS for his kind remarks also.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, we will offer an amendment to the rule that will allow the House to consider the Department of Veterans Affairs Cybersecurity Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) to discuss our proposal.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for giving me a couple of minutes to talk about the importance of protecting our veterans from cyber attack.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1128, the Department of Veterans Affairs Cyber Security Protection Act. My bill will protect veterans' personal and sensitive information from cyber attacks without compromising the VA's ability to provide the health care, benefits, and services our veterans have earned.

This legislation will do primarily three things. First, it will require the VA to develop an information security strategic plan that protects current veterans' information and anticipates future cybersecurity threats. Second, it mandates a report on VA actions to hold employees accountable for data breaches. Third, it requires the VA to propose a reorganization of the VA's information-security infrastructure to protect veterans and provide greater levels of accountability and responsibility in the VA.

My bill will also require the VA to report employee violations of its policy and report any incidents involving the compromise of veterans' personal information by the VA or from outside cyber attacks.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is one commonsense way that we can hold the VA accountable and protect veterans' private and personal information from cyber threats, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1128.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a member of the Homeland Security Committee and a colleague of mine from Georgia.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, national cybersecurity will be an issue this House will have to constantly address for the foreseeable future. To achieve a system that will protect our Nation's citizens and its infrastructure, we must create a public-private partnership between Federal agencies and American businesses. This partnership will allow Federal agencies and American businesses to share cyber threat information, vulnerabilities within our cyber network, and the creation of new systems to protect consumer information. However, private businesses need to be provided protections and incentives to ensure they are protected from government abuse and private legal proceedings meant to gain access to private security information.

Mr. Speaker, one of our top priorities with these two bills should be to clearly acknowledge protections given to companies that engage in penetration testing and clearly state that company proprietary information is protected from nefarious legal proceedings and exempted from Freedom of Information Act requests. It is reasonable to think that individuals would actively pursue this sort of proprietary information for the sole purpose of accessing the vulnerabilities of private cyber networks if we do not clearly state that this information is protected and exempt from those actions.

I believe we should consider these possibilities and ensure that protections are provided so our country and its citizens can fully benefit from these laws.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I want to thank my colleague from Georgia who sits on the Homeland Security Committee for his passion and his commitment to addressing these critical defects in the laws governing this voluntary sharing of cyber threat information. The legislation before us today is good policy reflective of the hard work of the committees on which you sit, Homeland Security and the Intelligence Committee, as well as input from a vast array of stakeholders. It is important to know that the legislation is supported by every sector of the economy.

As my friend so eloquently noted, the legislative process will rightly continue after these bills are considered by the full House this week and for years to come as we revisit and reassess the needs of Americans' privacy and also the laws governing cybersecurity.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my friend that if there is a conference committee on this bill, we should encourage them to seek additional clarification language as needed to ensure that companies are appropriately incentivized to share cyber threat information.

I just want to say personally that I appreciate all the hard work that you have done on this issue bringing this forward and continuing to work for not only the companies in Georgia but across this Nation who depend on a safe and secure cyber network.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is ironic that on this very day, leaders on the Judiciary Committee will introduce legislation designed to reform and rein in the Federal Government's surveillance programs. I haven't had the opportunity to review those bills yet, so I can't speak to their merits. But I hope that if it is a strong bill, it will make its way through both Chambers and become law.

But, today, this body is considering a rule that would take us in the wrong direction. Recent history has shown that this body shares the American people's concerns that we don't take the threat of unwarranted surveillance seriously enough and that Congress needs to pass meaningful reforms that balance our liberties, our freedoms, and our privacy with the need to keep America safe.

Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL introduced legislation yesterday that would extend the NSA's surveillance program without any of the reforms that many of us on both sides of the aisle have advocated to rein them in. This is despite the national outcry and, indeed, international embarrassment that has been counterproductive to the very American security goals that these provisions are designed to advance.

This makes me fear that Congress is not learning from the mistakes of the past, mistakes of overly broad surveillance authorities, but instead is about to repeat them. So before we approve faster, broader, and easier sharing of vast amounts of personal information from innocent Americans with the Federal Government, Congress should be taking up legislation to prove that we have the ability to curb abuse and the Federal Government's penchant for abusing its access to this kind of data.

So far Congress has not shown its aptitude for preventing this kind of abuse. Yet today we ask the American people to trust us, to trust the President, yet again, by opening up even more information to the NSA and other surveillance agencies.

Our experience with the NSA has shown us that to protect American civil liberties from an overzealous surveillance apparatus, the authorities to review and share Americans' personal information need to be construed as narrowly, as unambiguously, and as specifically as possible by the United States Congress. We need to limit very specifically to a specific set of circumstances under which sharing data and information is necessary for mitigating a security threat.

We offered to do that through bipartisan amendments, working with Representative LOFGREN, Representative ISSA, and others, but none of those amendments are allowed to be discussed or debated under this rule.

Both the Protecting Cyber Networks Act and the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act fall well short of the standard—and in the case of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act can even be counterproductive and falls woefully short.

□ 1315

These pieces of legislation would enable Federal agencies to store and share Americans' private information, such as Internet usage patterns, even the content of online communications, based on a vague or broad standard that doing so is not unrelated to a cybersecurity threat.

Again, not affirmatively, they don't have to prove that it is related to a cybersecurity threat; the burden of proof is to show that it is not unrelated to a cybersecurity threat. How can you demonstrably show that about anything?

It would make it easier for government agencies to deliberately weaken software systems for the purpose of creating new surveillance back doors that foreign nation-states and hackers can presumably also exploit.

It would leave the door wide open to more NSA surveillance by allowing the sharing of personal information for a raft of purposes unrelated to cybersecurity. We can do better.

By rejecting this rule, Members of Congress will show that, yes, we take cybersecurity seriously, so seriously that we want to take the time to get it right. Whether that takes another week or 2 weeks or 3 weeks, getting it right means allowing Members of this body input into the formulation of the final bill meaningfully through the kinds of amendments that have been rejected outright under this rule without discussion, without debate, without a vote.

Unfortunately, the rule before us today denies us the ability to consider amendments that would have addressed many of the concerns with the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote ''no'' and defeat the previous question.

I urge a ''no'' vote on this bizarre rule that combines two, at times, contradictory bills and rejects bipartisan amendments that would have addressed the concerns that many of us have with the underlying legislation.

I urge a ''no'' vote on the previous question and the rule.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we move forward, I think one of the things—and there are many things that are going to be discussed, and I encourage all Members to vote for this rule. As we move into general debate, there will be a lot of discussion that talks about what we are moving forward; but, also, I want to bring forward that we are—as is seemingly not discussed bringing forth, there are amendments being brought forth on both of these bills.

There also were 20-something amendments in Homeland Security; there was also an amendment in Intelligence. These are vetted bills. This is a proper role with what we are doing in Congress in bringing these to the floor.

Are there times that someone may want others? Yes; but, at this point, we are going to have that debate here on the floor. That is why voting for this rule and moving this forward is the proper thing to do.

Before we also move back from this, I want to talk about this need and why we are here even to start with. Most Americans recognize and understand that the growing attacks against our cyber networks and critical infrastructure and our laws fail to provide proper legal authority for information regarding cyber threats to be shared.

In fact, when I am back home in the Ninth District of Georgia discussing this, most people don't realize there is this barrier, and especially everything that is going on, they don't understand why some of these impediments were put into place that keeps companies from protecting their own, but also protecting their own personal information.

One of the things that is missing in this debate is the discussion of what has actually happened and the personal information that is shared by these hackers who are getting into our system.

Some of the latest attacks perpetrated by North Korea and other criminal enterprises on Sony Pictures and health insurance providers Anthem and Blue Cross Blue Shield speak to the type of attacks that occur on a daily basis that target the backbone of American business and the privacy of America's most sensitive data.

As we look to constrain this, as we look to put in proper safeguards, we have to realize that doing nothing exposes more and more of our American citizens to personal information being shared. If we don't believe it, just read the headlines from Sony, Anthem, and these others that have come out recently.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, in 2014 alone, they

received almost 100,000 cyber incident reports and detected 64,000 cyber vulnerabilities, and these numbers are just based on information given to DHS and does not reflect the full scope of the attacks on our Nation.

When we look at this and we talk about the personal information, the FBI Director James Comey said:

> There are two kinds of big companies in the United States. There are those who have been hacked . . . and those who don't know they have been hacked.

A recent survey by the Ponemon Institute showed an average cost of a cyber crime for U.S. retail stores more than doubled from 2013 to an annual average of 8.6 million per company in 2014.

The annual average cost for a company of a successful cyber attack in 2014 increased to 20.8 million in financial services, 14.5 million in the technology sector, and 12.7 million in the communications industry.

The scope of many attacks are not fully known. For example, in July of 2014, the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team issued an advisory that more than 1,000 U.S. businesses have been affected by the Backoff malware, which targets point-of-sale systems used by most retail industries. These attacks targeted administrative and customer data and, in many cases, financial data. Most companies encounter multiple cyber attacks every day, many unknown to the public and many unknown to the companies themselves even.

Again, as we look back over the attacks of just the past year, Target announced an additional 70 million individual contact information was taken during the December 2013 breach in which 40 million customers' credit and debit information was stolen.

Between May 2013 and January 2014, the payment cards of 2.6 million Michaels customers were affected. Attackers targeted the Michaels POS system to gain access to their systems.

The email service Yahoo! Mail was reportedly hacked in for 273 million users, although the specific number of accounts affected was not released.

For 2 weeks, AT&T was hacked from the inside by personnel who accessed user information, including Social Security information.

Foreign nationals from China have been indicted for computer hacking and economic espionage. We have seen these attacks all over the board.

Looking at this, the real issue that comes to mind is if we sit back and are not productive and not proactive as the Intelligence Committee and the Homeland Security Committee have been here, we are putting in danger more personal information being exposed in ways that no American needs to have their personal information exposed and are being targeted in the process.

This is good legislation that needs to stay on the floor, and that is why we are here today to support this rule and to look forward to that debate that has already happened and will continue to happen.

I appreciate the discussion we have had over the past hour. Although we may have some differences, our unity should be clear against the cyber attacks and our resolve to prevent them and show their success is strong.

This rule provides for ample debate on the floor, the opportunity to debate and to vote on 16 amendments, and a smooth and deliberative process for sending one bill to the Senate. These bills will help protect American consumers, jobs, and small businesses.

Allowing companies, again, to voluntarily share cyber threat indicators with other companies and government agencies will help bring awareness to new threats and vulnerabilities.

If businesses can learn about a new threat from another business or from the government before they are targeted themselves, they can better act to protect their customers' personal information from a similar attack.

I would like to thank Intel, Homeland Security, Judiciary, and Rules Committee members and staff for the thoughtful and involved processes that have brought us to this point.

I urge my colleagues to support the rule and these two cybersecurity bills.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Rule governing debate on H.R. 1731 and H.R. 1560.

I support the Rule for H.R. 1731 and H.R. 1569 because it: 1. provides for consideration of important improvements to both bills; 2. makes clear the role of the Department of Homeland Security in securing civil government networks; and 3. the responsibilities of DHS in assist private sector entities in improving overall cybersecurity for themselves and their customers.

The bipartisan process that the Homeland Security Committee followed through the leadership of Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON is an example of what can be accomplished when partisanship is removed from the policymaking equation.

I would also like to thank Chairman SESSIONS and Ranking Member SLAUGHTER as well as members of the Rules Committee for making 4 of my amendments in order.

I join my colleagues in the work to secure our nation's cybersecurity, while preserving the privacy and civil liberties of our citizens.

The road to today began in 2011, when President Obama took several steps to move the issue of cybersecurity to the forefront by: 1. releasing a cybersecurity legislative proposal; 2. calling on Congress to take urgent action to give the private sector and government the tools needed to combat cyber threats at home and abroad; and 3. issuing the International Strategy for Cyberspace to make clear to nations abroad that the United States was firmly committed to improving cybersecurity and combating cyber terrorism.

I will be offering several amendments as the two bills are considered.

The Jackson Lee amendments are simple and will improve the privacy protections already in the bills and allow the Department of Homeland Security to become a better partner with the private sector in its work to improve domestic cybersecurity.

One of the Jackson Lee amendments that will be offered to the both bills will improve privacy and civil liberties by providing the public with a report from the Government Accountability Office that their privacy and civil liberties are not being compromised by the programs established by this bill.

Other Jackson Lee Amendments to H.R. 1731 will include an assurance that DHS's remains current on innovations: 1. on data security that can improve privacy and civil liberties protections; 2. in industrial control systems to keep pace with industry adoption of new technologies; and industry best practices; and 3. that can aid DHS in aligning federally funded cybersecurity research and development with private sector efforts to protect privacy and civil liberties.

These amendments will make sure that technology and equipment purchased with taxpayer dollars provided to ensure cybersecurity will remain current and focused on real-world applications that reflect constitutional values and how businesses and industry function.

An important building block for improving the Nation's cybersecurity is ensuring that private entities can collaborate to share timely cyber threat information with each other and the Federal Government.

The Administration is expressing concerns with H.R. 1560's broad liability protections offered to companies that sharing information with federal government programs established under this bill.

Appropriate liability protections should be established that incentivize good cybersecurity practices and would not grant immunity to a private company for failing to act on information it receives about the security of its networks.

The important component of cybersecurity is that computer network owners and managers will act to improve cyber defense of their systems when provided with information that vulnerabilities in their computer networks exist.

Legislation should not provide incentives for companies not to act when presented with evidence of network cyber security vulnerabilities.

Electronic data breaches involving Sony, Target, Home Depot, Neiman Marcus, JPMorgan Chase, and Athem are only a few of the cyber incidents that have plagued private sector networks.

These data breaches also are a reminder that the Internet is not yet what it must become to continue to meet the remote communication needs of a global marketplace.

As with other threats this nation has faced in the past and overcome we must create the resources and the institutional responses to protect our nation while preserving our liberties and freedoms.

We cannot accomplish the task of better cybersecurity without the cooperation and full support of citizens; the private sector; local state and federal government; computing research community; and academia.

This level of cooperation requires the trust and confidence of the American people that the actions taken by government to combat cyber threats will not threaten our way of life nor our hard fought Constitutional rights.

H.R. 1731 makes clear that the Department of Homeland Security will be the federal government agency responsible for securing civilian government networks and supporting voluntary efforts by private sector companies and institutions to improve coordination and response to cyber security threats.

The issues regarding liability protection related to cybersecurity must be addressed in order for H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731 to have any chance of succeeding.

It is my understanding that Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON have reached agreement on language that addresses concerns that have been raised regarding liability.

There are talented and resourceful people outside and inside of government who can inform Congress on approaches to information sharing that will yield the desired results without compromising privacy or civil liberties.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Rule for H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731. Members from both parties have a shared goal of bolstering cybersecurity and improving the quality of information that the private sector receives about timely cyber threats so that they can protect their systems. I am greatly disappointed that the Rules Committee failed to make in order any of the several amendments submitted by both Democrats and Republicans to refine what the White House has called "sweeping" liability protections, as they appear in both cyber information sharing bills to be considered this week.

Extending liability protection to a company that "fails to act" on timely threat information could encourage companies to simply do nothing despite receiving information critical to the security of its systems. Appropriate liability protection does not grant immunity to companies for failing to act on such cybersecurity threat information, but rather incentivizes sound cybersecurity practices. The provision also effectively preempts state laws—including those in California, Massachusetts, and Maryland—that hold businesses liable for failing to maintain reasonable security of their systems, thereby undermining important protections for consumers and their sensitive data.

Instead, my Democratic colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee and I support President Obama's straightforward, tailored approach to addressing what some in industry have identified as a major barrier to the sharing of cyber threat information—the risk that sharing such information would expose companies to legal liability. Unfortunately, the liability protection provision included in the bill puts in place an unduly complicated structure that runs the risk of providing liability relief to companies that fail to act on timely cyber information. I submitted two amendments to address the liability protection problems that exist in both information sharing bills to be considered this week. The first would have struck the provision immunizing companies that fail to act on timely threat information and clarified that the Act has no impact on a duty to act on shared cybersecurity threat information. The second would have removed all potential liability exemptions for willful misconduct by government actors.

These provisions would have improved both bills greatly, and at a minimum they deserved to be debated on the House floor today. The effectiveness of information sharing legislation and efforts to improve the security of companies' systems depends on getting liability protection right. I look forward to continuing the discussion on liability protection with Members from both sides of the aisle as the bill moves forward.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, House Report 114–88, the report to accompany H. Res. 212, the special rule governing consideration of H.R. 1731, does not reflect a request by Mr. MULVANEY of South Carolina to add Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi as a cosponsor of his amendment, number 8 printed in part B of the report.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 212 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1128) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the information security of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1128.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 237, nays 179, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 163]

YEAS—237

Abraham	Brat	Collins (NY)
Aderholt	Bridenstine	Comstock
Allen	Brooks (AL)	Conaway
Amash	Brooks (IN)	Cook
Amodei	Buchanan	Costello (PA)
Babin	Buck	Cramer
Barletta	Bucshon	Crawford
Barr	Burgess	Crenshaw
Barton	Byrne	Culberson
Benishek	Calvert	Davis, Rodney
Bilirakis	Carter (GA)	Denham
Bishop (MI)	Carter (TX)	Dent
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	DeSantis
Black	Chaffetz	Diaz-Balart
Blackburn	Clawson (FL)	Dold
Blum	Coffman	Duffy
Bost	Cole	Duncan (SC)
Boustany	Collins (GA)	Duncan (TN)

Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—179

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Nadler
Napolitano
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Brady (TX)
Costa
Curbelo (FL)
DesJarlais
Deutch
Graves (MO)
Hastings
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Olson
Payne
Poe (TX)
Schrader
Smith (WA)
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1349

Messrs. CLEAVER and GENE GREEN of Texas changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. NEUGEBAUER, HUDSON, and STIVERS changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 163, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 182, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 164]

AYES—238

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—182

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Nadler

Napolitano
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—11

Brady (TX)
Curbelo (FL)
DesJarlais
Graves (MO)
Hastings
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Olson
Payne
Smith (WA)
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1356

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 971. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program.

S. 984. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARDS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Pursuant to House Resolution 200 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 bill, H.R. 1195.

Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER) kindly take the chair.

□ 1358

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 bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, with Mr. YODER (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, amendment No. 2 printed in part D of House Report 114–74 offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1 printed in part D of House Report 114–74 offered by the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) 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 Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 244, noes 173, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 165]

AYES—244

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Barletta
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gibson
Graham
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Hurd (TX)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McNerney
McSally
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Moolenaar
Moore
Moulton
Nadler
Napolitano
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Speier
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Yoder

NOES—173

Abraham
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barr
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cook
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Denham
DeSantis
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Fincher
Fleischmann
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt (VA)
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reichert
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stutzman
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walker
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—14

Aderholt
Brady (TX)
Curbelo (FL)
DesJarlais
Graves (MO)
Hastings
McGovern
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Olson
Payne
Rothfus
Smith (WA)
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1405

Mr. LATTA changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 165 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT) having assumed the chair, Mr. YODER, Acting 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.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 200, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

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

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

Ms. KUSTER. I am opposed in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Kuster moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1195 to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION AGAINST PARTICIPATION BY PERSONS EMPLOYED BY COMPANIES ENGAGED IN PREDATORY PRACTICES RELATED TO SERVICEMEMBERS.

No person shall be eligible to be a member of the Small Business Advisory Board, the Credit Union Advisory Council, or the Community Bank Advisory Council who has, in the last ten years, been employed by or acted as an agent of a company that has been subject to a State or Federal enforcement action, including a consent order, settlement or deferred prosecution agreement, for:

(1) Unfair, abusive, or deceptive acts or practices in relation to the provision of consumer credit products to veterans or servicemembers.

(2) Unfair, abusive, or deceptive acts or practices in relation to the provision of consumer credit products within 50 miles of a United States military installation, or that has targeted or harmed veterans, servicemembers, or their families who live on or are deployed to such installation.

(3) Any violation of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The gentlewoman from New Hampshire is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend Congressman PITTENGER and Congressman HECK for their tireless work on this bill. The three of us arrived in Congress at the same time, just over 2 years ago, as part of a very large freshman class.

Republicans and Democrats alike, we were all sent here by constituents frustrated with the gridlock and partisanship who want their Representatives to work together to solve problems.

In that spirit, I appreciate the bipartisan work that went into this bill, which addresses a noble goal: ensuring that the voices of small businesses are heard by Federal regulators making important decisions across our entire economy.

I share that goal. Indeed, I have worked across the aisle to bring regulators like the FDA and the SBA to my district in New Hampshire to ensure that they listen to our small businesses and family farmers.

Unfortunately, this bill before us today falls short of what our constituents expect and deserve, and contains a last-minute, partisan amendment to undermine funding for consumer protection.

Regardless of one's position on the bill, however, I believe we should all work together to improve it. Thus, I offer this amendment to help protect veterans and military servicemembers from unscrupulous business practices.

This bill authorizes several advisory boards to ensure that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau consults with small businesses and community financial institutions.

My amendment is straightforward, simply stating that no person shall be eligible to serve on a CFPB advisory board if they or their company has committed unfair, abusive, or deceptive business practices against veterans or military families.

We can all agree that men and women in uniform should not have their homes foreclosed, their cars repossessed, or their families evicted when they are fighting overseas to protect our freedom. Likewise, military families should not be targeted by predatory interest rates and other abusive lending practices. That is not just wrong; it is illegal.

My amendment is straightforward. If a business violates protections for military families, they should not have a seat at the table when new rules are being written for the financial services industry.

This amendment is pro-veteran. It supports our military families. And it makes sense.

So, I ask all of us, Republicans and Democrats, to support this amendment. Send a message to our veterans.

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

□ 1415

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation of the point of order is withdrawn.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I just want the House to, again, focus upon what this underlying bill is all about, a most modest and bipartisan effort to simply ensure that the CFPB, perhaps the single most powerful and unaccountable agency in the history of the Federal Government, has some people to represent the voices of our small-business people, those that are being so harmed as we are losing a community financial institution a day in America, a community financial institution that helped fund our small mom-and-pop restaurants, our automobile transmission repair shops, a farmer, a rancher, all of our small businesses.

All we are asking is that we have that council available, and what started out as a bill that came out of our committee 53–5, unfortunately, yet again, there were some of my friends on the other side of the aisle who were for it before they were against it.

We will have very substantive debates on the issues dealing with the CFPB, but this one is a very modest one to have small business council, one that the Congressional Budget Office says will not cost trillions, will not cost billions, will not cost millions, but actually a figure we rarely hear around here, Mr. Speaker, thousands, on an annual basis, thousands.

We should reject the motion to recommit. There is no reason to include it. Already, veterans' voices will be represented, and if there is any group that deserves representation in all of the forms of council of government, it is our men and women who serve this Nation honorably in uniform—and our veterans, already assured.

It is time to get on to the larger business of the House. I urge all of my colleagues to oppose the motion to recommit and to approve the underlying bill from the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER), and let's get small business council at the table of the CFPB.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 234, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 166]

AYES—184

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Nadler
Napolitano
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—234

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—13

Brady (TX)
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
DesJarlais
Graves (MO)
Hastings
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Olson
Payne
Smith (WA)
Stivers
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1424

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 235, nays 183, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 167]

YEAS—235

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—183

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buck
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps

Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Nadler
Napolitano
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Brady (TX)
Curbelo (FL)
DesJarlais
Graves (MO)
Hastings
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Olson
Payne
Smith (WA)
Wasserman Schultz
Wenstrup
Yoho

□ 1432

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 22, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: This letter serves as my official resignation from the House Committee on Natural Resources. It has been my pleasure serving on this Committee since being elected to Congress. Thank you and I will continue working on important priorities relating to my new appointment on the House Committee on Small Business.

Sincerely,

MARK TAKAI,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 219

Resolved, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Mr. Takai.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING CYBER NETWORKS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 212 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1560.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1436

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes, with Mr. MARCHANT in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES).

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

Over the last several years, cyber attacks have become a pressing concern for the United States. Anthem, Home Depot, Sony, Target, JPMorgan Chase, and other companies have been subject to major attacks, resulting in the compromise of personal information of employees and customers alike.

Cyber thieves, whether hostile foreign agents or money-seeking criminals, have stolen credit card numbers, accessed medical records, leaked proprietary information, and published confidential emails affecting tens of millions of Americans. This situation cannot continue.

The House has passed cybersecurity information-sharing legislation with strong majorities in the past two Congresses. The gentleman from California, Ranking Member SCHIFF, and I have continued this bipartisan tradition, working closely together to draft a bill that will increase the security of our networks while protecting users' privacy.

I see the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) is here. He sponsored this legislation last time, along with the gentleman from Michigan, Chairman Rogers, who is now retired, but I do want to give them a special thanks and gratitude.

I hope that we can get this bill across the floor this year.

We have also worked closely with leadership—the gentleman from Texas, Chairman MCCAUL; the gentleman from Virginia, Chairman GOODLATTE—and the Senate Intelligence Committee to ensure that our bills complement each other.

The Protecting Cyber Networks Act addresses a core problem in our digital security infrastructure. Because of legal ambiguities, many companies are afraid to share information about cyber threats with each other or with the government. If a company sees some threat or attack, this bill will allow the company to quickly report information about the problem without fearing a lawsuit so that other companies can take measures to protect themselves.

The bill encourages three kinds of sharing: private-to-private, government-to-private, and private-to-government. In that third scenario, the bill allows companies to share cyber threat information with a variety of government agencies. If banks are comfortable sharing with the Treasury Department, they can share with Treasury. If utilities prefer sharing with the Department of Energy, they can share with Energy. If companies want to share with the Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department, or the Commerce Department, they can share with them.

The only sharing that this bill does not encourage is direct sharing to the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency. Companies can still share with DOD and NSA, but they will not receive any new liability protections.

This bill does not provide the government with any new surveillance authorities. To the contrary, it includes robust privacy protections. It only authorizes the sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures: technical information like malware signatures and malicious code.

Before companies share with the Federal Government, they must remove all personal information. If companies don't follow those requirements, there is no liability protection. Furthermore, a government agency that receives the information must scrub it a second time. This will ensure all personal information has been removed. Only then can the information be forwarded to other Federal agencies.

Finally, the bill provides for strong public and congressional oversight by requiring a detailed biennial inspectors general report relating to the government's receipt, use, and dissemination of cyber threat indicators. The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board must also submit a biennial report on the privacy and civil liberties impact of the bill.

The increasing pace and scope of cyber attacks cannot be ignored. This bill will strengthen our digital defenses so that American consumers and businesses will not be put at the mercy of cyber criminals. I look forward to passing this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. At some point, we need to stop just hearing about cyber attacks that steal our most valuable trade secrets and our most private information and actually do something to stop it. At some point, we need to stop talking about the next Sony, the next Anthem, the next Target, the next JPMorgan Chase, and the next State Department hack and actually pass a bill that will help ensure that there will be no next cyber attack.

A few weeks back, the House Intelligence Committee held an open hearing on the cyber threat to America's private sector. We heard from our witnesses that their businesses are cyber attacked billions of times a day—not thousands, not millions, but billions.

The threat to our economy, our jobs, and our privacy from not acting is massive, and it is certain. We see it happening all around us. So we must act now. That is why I am proud to support this bill.

The Protecting Cyber Networks Act provides for voluntary information sharing of cyber threats between and among the private and public sectors. It does what no executive order can do: it incentivizes cyber threat information sharing by providing limited liability protection. Now companies can pool their resources and say to one another: I found this malicious code or this virus in my system; you need to protect yourself against it as well. And now the government can better warn companies of an impending cyber attack, just as it can for an approaching hurricane or an impending flu outbreak.

But let me be very clear about this: to get the liability protection, a company that chooses to participate must remove any unrelated private information prior to sharing. This is something privacy advocates and I called for when previous information-sharing bills came before the House.

Unlike prior bills, this measure requires the private sector to strip out private information. In fact, the bill has two, not one, privacy scrubs. The first happens when a company shares with another company or the Federal Government, and the second happens when the Federal Government shares the information further. This bill even holds the government directly liable if it doesn't do what it is required to do.

Second, to get the liability protection, a private company wishing to share with the Federal Government must go through a civilian portal. To be clear: a company can't go directly to the DOD or NSA and get the bill's liability protection.

The lack of a civilian portal in previous bills was another key privacy group criticism, and this bill has resolved that issue, too. In fact, of the five main criticisms of prior cyber bills, this bill has resolved each of them. It has private sector privacy stripping of information. It has a civilian portal. It also has narrow restrictions on what the government can use that shared cyber threat information for. Gone is a national security use provision. Gone is a vague terrorism use provision. And what is left is only the most narrow of uses: to prevent cyber attacks, to prevent the loss of life, to prevent serious harm to a child, and to prevent other serious felonies.

□ 1445

Gone, too, is any question of whether offensive countermeasures or hack back is authorized. This bill makes clear that you cannot take anything but defensive actions to protect your networks and data.

And, lest anyone be confused, Mr. Chairman, this bill makes clear in black-and-white legislative text that nothing in the bill authorizes government surveillance in this act—nothing.

What this bill does is authorize voluntary, private sector sharing of cyber threat information, and it allows the government to be able to quickly share threat information with the private sector, just as we need a CDC to put out timely warnings and advice on how to counteract this year's flu strain or how to prevent a local disease from becoming an epidemic. In addition, the bill requires strong privacy and civil liberties guidelines and intense reporting requirements.

The bill before us today strikes the right balance between securing our networks and protecting our privacy, and addresses the privacy concerns that I, among others, raised last session. However, there are still some improvements that are yet to be made as the bill moves forward. In particular, we need to further clarify that our liability protection only extends to those who act, or fail to act, reasonably.

Before closing, I want to thank Chairman NUNES for his leadership and for working so hard on this bill. It has been a great pleasure to work with you, Mr. Chairman. I am grateful for all of the hours, energy, and talent that you and your staff have put in to making this bill successful. I want to thank all the members of HPSCI as well as the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee for working together on this. We had many differences in opinion, and we still have some, but we kept our eyes firmly on what is best for the American people as a whole. With that, we found ways to come together and produce a stronger bill.

Mr. Chairman, I hope we can continue to work together as well with the Senate and with the White House and all the stakeholders to produce an even stronger bill for the President to sign into law.

I also want to acknowledge the leadership of our predecessors, DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER and former HPSCI Chairman Mike Rogers. We have come this far in part because of the good work they did in the last couple of sessions. I also want to thank all those who came in to speak with us and provide their input in making this a better bill.

Every day we delay more privacy is stolen, more jobs are lost, and more economic harm is done. Let's stop sitting by and watching all of this happen. Let's do something. Let's do what this administration has urged us to do and pass this bill. Let's do it now. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, at this time I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND), who also is the chairman of the Subcommittee on NSA and Cybersecurity for the House Intelligence Committee.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you, Chairman NUNES.

Madam Chairman, today I rise in support of H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. The bill encourages and protects information sharing on cyber threats between private companies and the government and private companies. The bill safeguards personally identifiable information from being exchanged during the process by requiring private companies and the government to both make sure that no private information is exchanged.

My home State of Georgia is home to many companies that deal with and secure sensitive data on a daily basis, and they are constantly looking for better ways to protect their networks.

After recent cyber attacks against American businesses, I have spoken to industry leaders from Georgia and

across the Nation about how we can make information sharing between the industries and the government stronger to better protect our Nation.

Cyberterrorism is the new battlefield, and adapting to this warfare is crucial to eliminating these threats. By allowing American businesses to alert other companies and the government of specific threats, and only the threats, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act can help shut down the cybercriminals from stealing sensitive information or causing devastating damage to our networks.

The Protecting Cyber Networks Act is a bipartisan step forward in protecting businesses and citizens from being the next victim of a cyber attack. This bill helps devastating cyber attacks from going unnoticed or only being shared months after the attack.

Madam Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman NUNES; Ranking Member SCHIFF; the ranking member on the subcommittee, Mr. HIMES; and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER for all the work that he has put into this, as well as former Chairman Rogers. I ask for a ''yea'' vote on this.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, it is a pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER), the former ranking member of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the bipartisan Protecting Cyber Networks Act and want to thank the members of the House Intelligence Committee for continuing to prioritize our Nation's security over partisan rhetoric. I do want to say this: I want to thank Chairman NUNES and also Ranking Member SCHIFF for acknowledging Chairman Rogers and me, but I want to remind you that it was a team approach, and you two were very active in helping to bring this bill here today as we did before. So thank you for your leadership. It is well worth it, and it is refreshing to see this bipartisanship.

Mr. NUNES. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. NUNES. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thanked you in my opening statement, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, but without your leadership and former Chairman Rogers' leadership on this bill, we would not be here today. I am encouraged not only by your past support, but then your taking the time to come down here to speak on this bill I think says a lot about you and your commitment to our national security and the security of our cyber networks. So thank you.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Thank you, again, and thank you for your leadership. Now, this legislation is very similar to the bill that Chairman Rogers and I introduced to promote information sharing between the private and public sectors, which is the single most important thing we can do to combat increasingly aggressive cyber attacks.

Experts believe these attacks are costing American corporations billions of dollars each year. Target, Home Depot, and CareFirst are only the beginning. With Sony, we saw the first destructive attack in our country. It is only a matter of time before our critical infrastructure is targeted. What would happen if someone were to take out our electrical grid or 911 call centers or air traffic control? It goes on and on.

Voluntary information sharing among companies helps our companies defend themselves. Voluntary, two-way information sharing with the Federal Government helps improve our ability to protect America against foreign cyber threats by getting out more and better information faster.

There are some concerns I have, as anyone has in any bill, between the bill and the bill Chairman Rogers and I introduced which passed the House.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOXX). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCHIFF. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. However, I feel it is important to reach consensus and move this issue forward now. Our country continues to be cyber attacked. We are under attack as I speak. To do nothing is not an option.

I want to thank again the leadership of Chairman NUNES and Ranking Member SCHIFF for their leadership and for the entire committee coming together for this bill, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, at this time I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, who, without his strong leadership and support, we wouldn't be at this juncture today getting a bill passed today and tomorrow that will hopefully become law.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. I would like to first thank Chairman NUNES for his great leadership and collaboration with my committee and Judiciary on this bill, and also the ranking member, ADAM SCHIFF, a good friend as well, for his great work in the direction that this bill has gone. I think it has gone in the right direction. Also I know former Ranking Member DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER was here. I want to thank him for his leadership over the many years on this important issue of cybersecurity.

Madam Chair, this legislation comes at a critical time of rising cyber threats and attacks on our digital networks. Cyber breaches and attacks are affecting Americans' privacy, security, and prosperity. Individuals are having their most private information compromised. Businesses are seeing their intellectual property stolen and their networks damaged.

The Federal Government's sensitive information is being targeted. The country's critical infrastructure is being probed by foreign enemies.

Detecting and defending against these digital assaults requires timely and robust information sharing between the public and private sectors. This exchange of data is crucial to connecting the dots, identifying cyber attacks, and shutting them down.

The Protecting Cyber Networks Act will enable private companies to share cyber threat information on a voluntary basis with the Federal Government. This bill provides essential liability protection for sharing cyber threat indicators through trusted civilian agency portals.

Again, Madam Chair, I commend Chairman NUNES for his important work on this bill and thank him for his great partnership in working together to have these two complementary bills, as tomorrow I will bring to the floor a pro-security, pro-privacy bill, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015, which further reinforces the role of the Department of Homeland Security's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center as the hub for cyber threat information sharing.

Chairman NUNES and I have worked in lockstep to remove obstacles preventing greater cyber threat information sharing across the private and public sectors. I commend the staff on both sides of the aisle, who have operated in tandem as we crafted these cybersecurity bills. I would also like to acknowledge Chairman GOODLATTE for devising the House's standard liability exemption language for this week's cybersecurity bill.

These bills represent a unified front in the House for strengthening cybersecurity while ensuring Americans' privacy, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, it gives me great pleasure to yield 3 minutes to Mr. HIMES, one of our subcommittee ranking members on the Intelligence Committee and the Representative from Connecticut.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Chairwoman, I would like to thank my friend from California for yielding time and start by saying that I am thrilled to be standing here to urge support for the Protecting Cyber Networks Act. I would like to thank and congratulate Chairman NUNES, Ranking Member SCHIFF, and the chairman of the subcommittee on which I serve as ranking member, Mr. WESTMORELAND, for coming together at a time when this Congress is accused, often rightly so, of being dysfunctional to take a very substantial step to secure the networks on which so much of our lives today depend.

As ranking member of the Cybersecurity Subcommittee, my daily travels every single day expose me to people who say the single most important thing we as a Congress can do today to advance the security of our networks, to protect Americans, their financial records, their health records and, of course, even more ominously, to protect them against potential attack

against our utilities and any sort of thing that our antagonists around the world would seek to do to us, the single most important thing we can do is to do what we are doing today, which is to set up a rubric whereby the very good people within the private sector who focus on this day in and day out can communicate threats to each other and communicate with the experts within the United States Government to work as a team to counter very, very serious threats. This rubric has been set up with ample attention and good attention to the very legitimate privacy claims and the liberties that we all take so seriously.

The stakes are high. We saw what happened at Sony. We saw what happened at Anthem. We know all the attacks that have been leveled internationally that destroyed computers. This is the reality that we live with, and this is a very big step, an information-sharing protocol that will counter those who wish us ill.

I would note that the privacy protections in this bill are considerably better, as the chairman and ranking member have pointed out, than those that were in the bill of the last Congress. The objections of those who are focused on privacy have been dealt with point by point. And while I won't say that the bill is perfect, this bill does what it needs to do to protect the privacy of the American people by obligating everyone to work hard to scrub personally identifiable information from any code, any information that is exchanged.

I have learned in my 6 years here that we don't produce perfection, and it is my hope that as this bill proceeds through the legislative path that we will work even harder to make sure we are very clear about definitions and, in fact, are protecting the privacy rights of Americans as best as we can. But in the meantime we have taken a very big step forward in a bipartisan fashion in a way that will make America, its people, and its networks more secure. For that, I am grateful to the leadership and urge support of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL), another of our ranking members on the Intelligence Committee and a colleague from California.

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Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Chair, I want to thank our ranking member and also the chair for bringing forward this bipartisan and necessary legislation.

As we speak right now, Americans are under attack, and these attacks are not coming in the form of anything that we have been used to before. People are not kicking down front doors of homes and businesses; instead, they are attacking us through our networks. Our bank accounts, our health care records, our social media accounts, our cell phones, all are being hacked every day.

CNN reported that, in 2014, half of the Nation's adults were hacked. The examples are voluminous: 70 million Target customers were hacked; 56 million Home Depot customers were hacked; 4.6 million Snapchat users were hacked. This is Snapchat, which is supposed to be an impenetrable account that allows data to come in and disappear. They were hacked. Hackings are happening every day. Our privacy is under attack.

The problem, today, there is virtually zero relationship between private industry and government—private industry, which has about 85 percent of the networks, and government, which has about 15 percent of the networks but has vast resources that can help protect individuals against attacks.

Our government has a duty, a responsibility, to protect the American people, and that is what this bill seeks to do. It does it in a number of ways.

First and foremost, this is a voluntary program that is being created. No business is required to turn over their breach or hack information to the government; instead, there is a format, a procedure, that is now in place that will incentivize them to work with the government to identify in a way that strips out, through a number of protections, personal identifying information.

The first way that it is stripped out is, when the business that has been hacked reports to a civilian agency, they must scrub the personal identifying information; but that is not the only way that that information is scrubbed.

Once the government agency receives this personal identifying information, again, before it can be used or forwarded anywhere else in the government, it, again, must be scrubbed—two protections against personal identifying information being used.

Now, should any personal identifying information be passed along to the government, this bill provides a right of action, civil recourse for any individual who is wronged to sue the government. There is also an oversight committee, a biannual inspector general report that must be presented to Congress that would report on any privacy violations that occur.

Madam Chair, the American people, day after day, are either learning that they have been hacked or someone they know has been hacked. This will continue to have a devastating effect on our economy and, as my colleague from Connecticut alluded to, perhaps our public utilities if we do not act.

I urge support of this for my colleagues, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for the hard work they have done.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), another one of the ranking members on the Intelligence Committee and a great Member.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Chair, I would like to thank Ranking Member ADAM SCHIFF, as well as our chair, Chairman NUNES, for your leadership on this matter.

Today, I rise in support of H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, a bill that I am proud to be an original cosponsor, a bill that was unanimously voted out of our committee, the Intel Committee.

Again, I want to commend both the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership. It is an honor to serve on that committee where we really try, on a daily basis, to be bipartisan in our efforts to protect the homeland and to secure our national security.

This critical bill is bipartisan legislation, which encourages the private sector to share cyber threat information, which will ultimately help prevent future attacks. It seems like we are always hearing about another company being hit with cyber attacks.

These attacks cost our economy billions of dollars each year, and it threatens our national security and jeopardizes every American's sensitive, personal, and financial information.

This bill takes a very important step towards addressing this emerging national security threat without compromising the privacy of American citizens.

Fostering an environment where companies can voluntarily share information with each other helps American businesses defend themselves against harmful cyber attacks and helps them protect consumer information and privacy.

Additionally, two-way information sharing with the Federal Government helps improve the Federal Government's ability to protect all Americans against foreign cyber threats by disseminating vital information in a more timely and efficient manner.

I know some continue to criticize this cyber bill and all cyber bills as violating privacy, but I must assure you, Madam Chair, that this bill is a vast improvement over the CISPA bill that was entered and passed this House last term.

This bill includes many more privacy protections that weren't in the original bill, the most important of which is the requirement for two scrubs of private information, one by the private sector before sharing that information and one by the government before sharing it further.

There is also now a civilian portal—no direct sharing with NSA—a very narrow set of government use provisions, and a clear and legislative prohibition against such surveillance. Let me repeat: no provision of this bill provides any surveillance authorities.

I am encouraged by the strong showing of bipartisanship as we work together to address the emerging threats

to our national security. I urge my colleagues to join those of us who are members of the Intel Committee, as well as this administration has said that it also encourages a vote in support of this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the efforts and vote ''yes'' on H.R. 1560.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. TROTT).

Mr. TROTT. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman from California for allowing me to speak in support of this bill.

Today, I rise concerned about the need for stronger cybersecurity efforts in our country. We live in a world where personal data flows through the Internet with great speed and data about people is gathered in an instant. The use of social media has opened up our lives to anyone with a computing device, and this is the same world where hackers steal millions of personal records from people in our districts.

I would venture to guess that most Members of Congress have been affected by hackers. Internet criminals pose dire threats to our governments on the local, State, and Federal level. The Federal Government has extensive resources to put up a fight, but our local governments and municipalities do not.

In response, five southeast Michigan counties—Livingston, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne—and the State of Michigan came together to build the Cyber Security Assessment for Everyone. CySAFE, as it is known, provides a strong point for governments to begin assessing their cybersecurity needs and taking steps to respond to attacks. The assessment is a simple Excel download located at www.g2gmarket.com.

Madam Chair, I commend these local Michigan governments for committing the resources to develop such a tool. I encourage all of my colleagues to promote the use of CySAFE and to work together to find the right solutions to fight cyber crime, starting with passing H.R. 1560.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), who is a former member of the Intelligence Committee and one of the Congress' leading experts on cyber matters.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, this has been a long time in coming. When I served on the Intelligence Committee the past two Congresses, I worked very closely with Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER on CISPA, and their legacy is very evident in this fine bill.

I would, however, like to commend Chairman NUNES and Ranking Member SCHIFF for rising to the challenge as the new leaders of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and producing an even better product, particularly with regard to privacy protections.

PCNA, as it is known, also provides statutory authorization for the CTIIC, an important new center the President has created to provide comprehensive assessments of cyber threats.

This bill before us certainly isn't perfect. The liability protections, while generally narrow, could still be construed to project a company's failure to act on threat indicators. It is important that my friends in this Chamber understand that information sharing is not a silver bullet.

There will still be important work to be done to improve our Nation's cyber defenses, but I can say, with great confidence, passing an information-sharing bill will get us significantly closer to being much more secure in cyberspace than where we are right now, particularly when it comes to protecting critical infrastructure.

However, after studying this issue for the better part of a decade, I can firmly say that this bill marks a meaningful step forward.

Let me, again, congratulate the chairman and the ranking member for continuing with this bipartisan spirit that has long animated the Intelligence Committee's cybersecurity work.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Every moment we wait equals another Social Security number stolen, another checking account hacked, another invaluable trade secret pilfered, and another job lost. This is certain. We see it every day.

Many of us and our constituents, both individuals and businesses, have been the victim of a cyber crime. Whether it is identity theft, the hacking of our email or Facebook accounts, or the loss of our privacy, when our health insurance company is breached, we have our privacy invaded.

All of us are certainly paying higher fees to compensate for the billions of dollars our businesses lose to cyber hacking and to the costs of preventing future cyber attacks. The problem is only getting worse. As our cars, our phones, our home security systems, our Internet banking, our electronic health records, our web-based baby monitors all get smarter, they also get more vulnerable.

This isn't speculation. This is happening today. It is happening right now. On the time that we have been on the floor discussing this cyber bill, billions of additional hacking attempts have been made.

Here, we have the opportunity to help stop this scourge of cyber hacking. We need to encourage cyber threat information sharing by passing the Protecting Cyber Networks Act today and then not resting until it improves on its way to the President's desk for signature.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important measure. It is a bill that will help protect America's most valuable and private information, while itself protecting privacy and civil liberties to a degree far in advance of where prior legislation has gone. I and my colleagues have made sure of that, and we will continue to do so as the bill advances.

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

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

I will close by just taking a few moments to thank my ranking member and colleague from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for his fine work on this product.

I also would be remiss not to thank, on both sides of the aisle, the staff that have worked hours and hours and hours to make the legislation from last Congress even better and then, as Mr. MCCAUL said, to work with the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee so that we have a product that I think is much better than the product that we have had in the past.

We have been in consultations with the United States Senate. They have passed their bill out of committee. We look forward to, hopefully, their passing a bill off the Senate floor so that we can get to a conference.

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise today to oppose to H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Network Act (PCNA). While I commend Chairman NUNES and Ranking Member SCHIFF for crafting a bill that improves upon the cybersecurity legislation this body has previously voted on, I cannot support it in its current form.

Despite addressing many of the reservations I had when we voted on the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA) last Congress, I have concerns about the ambiguous liability provisions in this legislation. While companies should have some legal protection, this bill gives liability protections to companies so long as they share or receive information ''in accordance with the Act.'' It would grant immunity to companies for simply putting forth a ''good faith'' effort when reporting security threats and sharing consumer data with the government and other companies. For example, companies would receive liability protection even if they fail to act on threat information in a timely manner. The unintended effect of these murky liability provisions is that companies would not have the same incentive to report security threats and protect their consumers' privacy. I was disappointed that Republicans did not allow a vote on two amendments offered by Rep. RICHMOND than would have addressed these overbroad liability provisions.

Our country faces cyber-network attacks each day which threaten our national security and our economy. I strongly believe that we must take steps to protect against these cyber threats while not sacrificing our privacy and civil liberties. Should this bill pass the House,

I hope that many of the loopholes can be resolved with the Senate, but as it stands today I cannot support it.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 1560

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Protecting Cyber Networks Act''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures by the Federal Government with non-Federal entities.
Sec. 3. Authorizations for preventing, detecting, analyzing, and mitigating cybersecurity threats.
Sec. 4. Sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures with appropriate Federal entities other than the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency.
Sec. 5. Federal Government liability for violations of privacy or civil liberties.
Sec. 6. Protection from liability.
Sec. 7. Oversight of Government activities.
Sec. 8. Report on cybersecurity threats.
Sec. 9. Construction and preemption.
Sec. 10. Conforming amendments.
Sec. 11. Definitions.

SEC. 2. SHARING OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS AND DEFENSIVE MEASURES BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 110 (50 U.S.C. 3045) the following new section:

''SEC. 111. SHARING OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS AND DEFENSIVE MEASURES BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.

''(a) SHARING BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with the protection of classified information, intelligence sources and methods, and privacy and civil liberties, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the other appropriate Federal entities, shall develop and promulgate procedures to facilitate and promote—

''(A) the timely sharing of classified cyber threat indicators in the possession of the Federal Government with representatives of relevant non-Federal entities with appropriate security clearances;

''(B) the timely sharing with relevant non-Federal entities of cyber threat indicators in the possession of the Federal Government that may be declassified and shared at an unclassified level; and

''(C) the sharing with non-Federal entities, if appropriate, of information in the possession of the Federal Government about imminent or ongoing cybersecurity threats to such entities to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts from such cybersecurity threats.

''(2) DEVELOPMENT OF PROCEDURES.—The procedures developed and promulgated under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) ensure the Federal Government has and maintains the capability to share cyber threat indicators in real time consistent with the protection of classified information;

''(B) incorporate, to the greatest extent practicable, existing processes and existing roles and responsibilities of Federal and non-Federal entities for information sharing by the Federal Government, including sector-specific information sharing and analysis centers;

''(C) include procedures for notifying non-Federal entities that have received a cyber threat indicator from a Federal entity in accordance with this Act that is known or determined to be in error or in contravention of the requirements of this section, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, or the amendments made by such Act or another provision of Federal law or policy of such error or contravention;

''(D) include requirements for Federal entities receiving a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure to implement appropriate security controls to protect against unauthorized access to, or acquisition of, such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure;

''(E) include procedures that require Federal entities, prior to the sharing of a cyber threat indicator, to—

''(i) review such cyber threat indicator to assess whether such cyber threat indicator, in contravention of the requirement under section 3(d)(2) of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, contains any information that such Federal entity knows at the time of sharing to be personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat and remove such information; or

''(ii) implement a technical capability configured to remove or exclude any personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat; and

''(F) include procedures to promote the efficient granting of security clearances to appropriate representatives of non-Federal entities.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms 'appropriate Federal entities', 'cyber threat indicator', 'defensive measure', 'Federal entity', and 'non-Federal entity' have the meaning given such terms in section 11 of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act.''.

(b) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the other appropriate Federal entities, shall submit to Congress the procedures required by section 111(a) of the National Security Act of 1947, as inserted by subsection (a) of this section.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 110 the following new item:

''Sec. 111. Sharing of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures by the Federal Government with non-Federal entities.''.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATIONS FOR PREVENTING, DETECTING, ANALYZING, AND MITIGATING CYBERSECURITY THREATS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR PRIVATE-SECTOR DEFENSIVE MONITORING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a private entity may, for a cybersecurity purpose, monitor—

(A) an information system of such private entity;

(B) an information system of a non-Federal entity or a Federal entity, upon the written authorization of such non-Federal entity or such Federal entity; and

(C) information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system monitored by the private entity under this paragraph.

(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

(A) authorize the monitoring of an information system, or the use of any information obtained through such monitoring, other than as provided in this Act;

(B) authorize the Federal Government to conduct surveillance of any person; or

(C) limit otherwise lawful activity.

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR OPERATION OF DEFENSIVE MEASURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a private entity may, for a cybersecurity purpose, operate a defensive measure that is operated on and is limited to—

(A) an information system of such private entity to protect the rights or property of the private entity; and

(B) an information system of a non-Federal entity or a Federal entity upon written authorization of such non-Federal entity or such Federal entity for operation of such defensive measure to protect the rights or property of such private entity, such non-Federal entity, or such Federal entity.

(2) LIMITATION.—The authority provided in paragraph (1) does not include the intentional or reckless operation of any defensive measure that destroys, renders unusable or inaccessible (in whole or in part), substantially harms, or initiates a new action, process, or procedure on an information system or information stored on, processed by, or transiting such information system not owned by—

(A) the private entity operating such defensive measure; or

(B) a non-Federal entity or a Federal entity that has provided written authorization to that private entity for operation of such defensive measure on the information system or information of the entity in accordance with this subsection.

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

(A) to authorize the use of a defensive measure other than as provided in this subsection; or

(B) to limit otherwise lawful activity.

(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR SHARING OR RECEIVING CYBER THREAT INDICATORS OR DEFENSIVE MEASURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, a non-Federal entity may, for a cybersecurity purpose and consistent with the requirement under subsection (d)(2) to remove personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat and the protection of classified information—

(A) share a lawfully obtained cyber threat indicator or defensive measure with any other non-Federal entity or an appropriate Federal entity (other than the Department of Defense or any component of the Department, including the National Security Agency); and

(B) receive a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure from any other non-Federal entity or an appropriate Federal entity.

(2) LAWFUL RESTRICTION.—A non-Federal entity receiving a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure from another non-Federal entity or a Federal entity shall comply with otherwise lawful restrictions placed on the sharing or use of such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure by the sharing non-Federal entity or Federal entity.

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

(A) authorize the sharing or receiving of a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure other than as provided in this subsection;

(B) authorize the sharing or receiving of classified information by or with any person not authorized to access such classified information;

(C) prohibit any Federal entity from engaging in formal or informal technical discussion regarding cyber threat indicators or defensive measures with a non-Federal entity or from providing technical assistance to address vulnerabilities or mitigate threats at the request of such an entity;

(D) limit otherwise lawful activity;

(E) prohibit a non-Federal entity, if authorized by applicable law or regulation other than this Act, from sharing a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure with the Department of Defense or any component of the Department, including the National Security Agency; or

(F) authorize the Federal Government to conduct surveillance of any person.

(d) PROTECTION AND USE OF INFORMATION.—

(1) SECURITY OF INFORMATION.—A non-Federal entity monitoring an information system, operating a defensive measure, or providing or receiving a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure under this section shall implement an appropriate security control to protect against unauthorized access to, or acquisition of, such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure.

(2) REMOVAL OF CERTAIN PERSONAL INFORMATION.—A non-Federal entity sharing a cyber threat indicator pursuant to this Act shall, prior to such sharing, take reasonable efforts to—

(A) review such cyber threat indicator to assess whether such cyber threat indicator contains any information that the non-Federal entity reasonably believes at the time of sharing to be personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat and remove such information; or

(B) implement a technical capability configured to remove any information contained within such indicator that the non-Federal entity reasonably believes at the time of sharing to be personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat.

(3) USE OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS AND DEFENSIVE MEASURES BY NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—A non-Federal entity may, for a cybersecurity purpose—

(A) use a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure shared or received under this section to monitor or operate a defensive measure on—

(i) an information system of such non-Federal entity; or

(ii) an information system of another non-Federal entity or a Federal entity upon the written authorization of that other non-Federal entity or that Federal entity; and

(B) otherwise use, retain, and further share such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure subject to—

(i) an otherwise lawful restriction placed by the sharing non-Federal entity or Federal entity on such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure; or

(ii) an otherwise applicable provision of law.

(4) USE OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS BY STATE, TRIBAL, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

(A) LAW ENFORCEMENT USE.—A State, tribal, or local government may use a cyber threat indicator shared with such State, tribal, or local government for the purposes described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of section 4(d)(5)(A).

(B) EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE.—A cyber threat indicator shared with a State, tribal, or local government under this section shall be—

(i) deemed voluntarily shared information; and

(ii) exempt from disclosure under any State, tribal, or local law requiring disclosure of information or records, except as otherwise required by applicable State, tribal, or local law requiring disclosure in any criminal prosecution.

(e) NO RIGHT OR BENEFIT.—The sharing of a cyber threat indicator with a non-Federal entity under this Act shall not create a right or benefit to similar information by such non-Federal entity or any other non-Federal entity.

SEC. 4. SHARING OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS AND DEFENSIVE MEASURES WITH APPROPRIATE FEDERAL ENTITIES OTHER THAN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of the National Security Act of 1947, as inserted by section 2 of this Act, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

''(b) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR SHARING WITH THE APPROPRIATE FEDERAL ENTITIES OTHER THAN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall develop and submit to Congress policies and procedures relating to the receipt of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures by the Federal Government.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The policies and procedures required under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) be developed in accordance with the privacy and civil liberties guidelines required under section 4(b) of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act;

''(B) ensure that—

''(i) a cyber threat indicator shared by a non-Federal entity with an appropriate Federal entity (other than the Department of Defense or any component of the Department, including the National Security Agency) pursuant to section 3 of such Act is shared in real-time with all of the appropriate Federal entities (including all relevant components thereof);

''(ii) the sharing of such cyber threat indicator with appropriate Federal entities is not subject to any delay, modification, or any other action without good cause that could impede receipt by all of the appropriate Federal entities; and

''(iii) such cyber threat indicator is provided to each other Federal entity to which such cyber threat indicator is relevant; and

''(C) ensure there—

''(i) is an audit capability; and

''(ii) are appropriate sanctions in place for officers, employees, or agents of a Federal entity who knowingly and willfully use a cyber threat indicator or defense measure shared with the Federal Government by a non-Federal entity under the Protecting Cyber Networks Act other than in accordance with this section and such Act.''.

(2) SUBMISSION.—The President shall submit to Congress—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, interim policies and procedures required under section 111(b)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as inserted by paragraph (1) of this section; and

(B) not later than 180 days after such date, final policies and procedures required under such section 111(b)(1).

(b) PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.—

(1) GUIDELINES OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the heads of the other appropriate Federal agencies and with officers designated under section 1062 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee–1), shall develop and periodically review guidelines relating to privacy and civil liberties that govern the receipt, retention, use, and dissemination of cyber threat indicators by a Federal entity obtained in accordance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(2) CONTENT.—The guidelines developed and reviewed under paragraph (1) shall, consistent with the need to protect information systems from cybersecurity threats and mitigate cybersecurity threats—

(A) limit the impact on privacy and civil liberties of activities by the Federal Government under this Act, including guidelines to ensure that personal information of or information identifying specific persons is properly removed from information received, retained, used, or disseminated by a Federal entity in accordance with this Act or the amendments made by this Act;

(B) limit the receipt, retention, use, and dissemination of cyber threat indicators containing personal information of or information identifying specific persons, including by establishing—

(i) a process for the prompt destruction of such information that is known not to be directly related to a use for a cybersecurity purpose;

(ii) specific limitations on the length of any period in which a cyber threat indicator may be retained; and

(iii) a process to inform recipients that such indicators may only be used for a cybersecurity purpose;

(C) include requirements to safeguard cyber threat indicators containing personal information of or identifying specific persons from unauthorized access or acquisition, including appropriate sanctions for activities by officers, employees, or agents of the Federal Government in contravention of such guidelines;

(D) include procedures for notifying non-Federal entities and Federal entities if information received pursuant to this section is known or determined by a Federal entity receiving such information not to constitute a cyber threat indicator;

(E) be consistent with any other applicable provisions of law and the fair information practice principles set forth in appendix A of the document entitled ''National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace'' and published by the President in April, 2011; and

(F) include steps that may be needed so that dissemination of cyber threat indicators is consistent with the protection of classified information and other sensitive national security information.

(3) SUBMISSION.—The Attorney General shall submit to Congress—

(A) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, interim guidelines required under paragraph (1); and

(B) not later than 180 days after such date, final guidelines required under such paragraph.

(c) NATIONAL CYBER THREAT INTELLIGENCE INTEGRATION CENTER.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021 et seq.), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is further amended—

(A) by redesignating section 119B as section 119C; and

(B) by inserting after section 119A the following new section:

''SEC. 119B. CYBER THREAT INTELLIGENCE INTEGRATION CENTER.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence a Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center.

''(b) DIRECTOR.—There is a Director of the Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center, who shall be the head of the Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center, and who shall be appointed by the Director of National Intelligence.

''(c) PRIMARY MISSIONS.—The Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center shall—

''(1) serve as the primary organization within the Federal Government for analyzing and integrating all intelligence possessed or acquired by the United States pertaining to cyber threats;

''(2) ensure that appropriate departments and agencies have full access to and receive all-source intelligence support needed to execute the cyber threat intelligence activities of such agencies and to perform independent, alternative analyses;

''(3) disseminate cyber threat analysis to the President, the appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and the appropriate committees of Congress;

''(4) coordinate cyber threat intelligence activities of the departments and agencies of the Federal Government; and

''(5) conduct strategic cyber threat intelligence planning for the Federal Government.

''(d) LIMITATIONS.—The Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center shall—

''(1) have not more than 50 permanent positions;

''(2) in carrying out the primary missions of the Center described in subsection (c), may not augment staffing through detailees, assignees, or core contractor personnel or enter into any personal services contracts to exceed the limitation under paragraph (1); and

''(3) be located in a building owned or operated by an element of the intelligence community as of the date of the enactment of this section.''.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended by section 2 of this Act, is further amended by striking the item relating to section 119B and inserting the following new items:

''Sec. 119B. Cyber Threat Intelligence Integration Center.

''Sec. 119C. National intelligence centers.''.

(d) INFORMATION SHARED WITH OR PROVIDED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—

(1) NO WAIVER OF PRIVILEGE OR PROTECTION.—The provision of a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure to the Federal Government under this Act shall not constitute a waiver of any applicable privilege or protection provided by law, including trade secret protection.

(2) PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—Consistent with section 3(c)(2), a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure provided by a non-Federal entity to the Federal Government under this Act shall be considered the commercial, financial, and proprietary information of the non-Federal entity that is the originator of such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure when so designated by such non-Federal entity or a non-Federal entity acting in accordance with the written authorization of the non-Federal entity that is the originator of such cyber threat indicator or defensive measure.

(3) EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE.—A cyber threat indicator or defensive measure provided to the Federal Government under this Act shall be—

(A) deemed voluntarily shared information and exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and any State, tribal, or local law requiring disclosure of information or records; and

(B) withheld, without discretion, from the public under section 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5, United States Code, and any State, tribal, or local provision of law requiring disclosure of information or records, except as otherwise required by applicable Federal, State, tribal, or local law requiring disclosure in any criminal prosecution.

(4) EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS.—The provision of a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure to the Federal Government under this Act shall not be subject to a rule of any Federal department or agency or any judicial doctrine regarding ex parte communications with a decision-making official.

(5) DISCLOSURE, RETENTION, AND USE.—

(A) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—A cyber threat indicator or defensive measure provided to the Federal Government under this Act may be disclosed to, retained by, and used by, consistent with otherwise applicable provisions of Federal law, any department, agency, component, officer, employee, or agent of the Federal Government solely for—

(i) a cybersecurity purpose;

(ii) the purpose of responding to, prosecuting, or otherwise preventing or mitigating a threat of death or serious bodily harm or an offense arising out of such a threat;

(iii) the purpose of responding to, or otherwise preventing or mitigating, a serious threat to a minor, including sexual exploitation and threats to physical safety; or

(iv) the purpose of preventing, investigating, disrupting, or prosecuting any of the offenses listed in sections 1028, 1029, 1030, and 3559(c)(2)(F) and chapters 37 and 90 of title 18, United States Code.

(B) PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.—A cyber threat indicator or defensive measure provided to the Federal Government under this Act shall not be disclosed to, retained by, or used by any Federal department or agency for any use not permitted under subparagraph (A).

(C) PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.—A cyber threat indicator or defensive measure provided to the Federal Government under this Act shall be retained, used, and disseminated by the Federal Government in accordance with—

(i) the policies and procedures relating to the receipt of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures by the Federal Government required by subsection (b) of section 111 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

(ii) the privacy and civil liberties guidelines required by subsection (b).

SEC. 5. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LIABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF PRIVACY OR CIVIL LIBERTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If a department or agency of the Federal Government intentionally or willfully violates the privacy and civil liberties guidelines issued by the Attorney General under section 4(b), the United States shall be liable to a person injured by such violation in an amount equal to the sum of—

(1) the actual damages sustained by the person as a result of the violation or $1,000, whichever is greater; and

(2) reasonable attorney fees as determined by the court and other litigation costs reasonably incurred in any case under this subsection in which the complainant has substantially prevailed.

(b) VENUE.—An action to enforce liability created under this section may be brought in the district court of the United States in—

(1) the district in which the complainant resides;

(2) the district in which the principal place of business of the complainant is located;

(3) the district in which the department or agency of the Federal Government that violated such privacy and civil liberties guidelines is located; or

(4) the District of Columbia.

(c) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—No action shall lie under this subsection unless such action is commenced not later than two years after the date of the violation of the privacy and civil liberties guidelines issued by the Attorney General under section 4(b) that is the basis for the action.

(d) EXCLUSIVE CAUSE OF ACTION.—A cause of action under this subsection shall be the exclusive means available to a complainant seeking a remedy for a violation by a department or agency of the Federal Government under this Act.

SEC. 6. PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY.

(a) MONITORING OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS.—No cause of action shall lie or be maintained in any court against any private entity, and such action shall be promptly dismissed, for the monitoring of an information system and information under section 3(a) that is conducted in good faith in accordance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) SHARING OR RECEIPT OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS.—No cause of action shall lie or be maintained in any court against any non-Federal entity, and such action shall be promptly dismissed, for the sharing or receipt of a cyber threat indicator or defensive measure under section 3(c), or a good faith failure to act based on such sharing or receipt, if such sharing or receipt is conducted in good faith in accordance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.—

(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(A) to require dismissal of a cause of action against a non-Federal entity (including a private entity) that has engaged in willful misconduct in the course of conducting activities authorized by this Act or the amendments made by this Act; or

(B) to undermine or limit the availability of otherwise applicable common law or statutory defenses.

(2) PROOF OF WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.—In any action claiming that subsection (a) or (b) does not apply due to willful misconduct described in paragraph (1), the plaintiff shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence the willful misconduct by each non-Federal entity subject to such claim and that such willful misconduct proximately caused injury to the plaintiff.

(3) WILLFUL MISCONDUCT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''willful misconduct'' means an act or omission that is taken—

(A) intentionally to achieve a wrongful purpose;

(B) knowingly without legal or factual justification; and

(C) in disregard of a known or obvious risk that is so great as to make it highly probable that the harm will outweigh the benefit.

SEC. 7. OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) BIENNIAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by section 2(a) and amended by section 4(a) of this Act, is further amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (c) (as redesignated by such section 4(a)) as subsection (d); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) (as inserted by such section 4(a)) the following new subsection:

''(c) BIENNIAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every two years, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the other appropriate Federal entities, shall submit to Congress a report concerning the implementation of this section and the Protecting Cyber Networks Act.

''(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) An assessment of the sufficiency of the policies, procedures, and guidelines required by this section and section 4 of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act in ensuring that cyber threat indicators are shared effectively and responsibly within the Federal Government.

''(B) An assessment of whether the procedures developed under section 3 of such Act comply with the goals described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (a)(1).

''(C) An assessment of whether cyber threat indicators have been properly classified and an accounting of the number of security clearances authorized by the Federal Government for the purposes of this section and such Act.

''(D) A review of the type of cyber threat indicators shared with the Federal Government under this section and such Act, including the following:

''(i) The degree to which such information may impact the privacy and civil liberties of specific persons.

''(ii) A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the impact of the sharing of such cyber threat indicators with the Federal Government on privacy and civil liberties of specific persons.

''(iii) The adequacy of any steps taken by the Federal Government to reduce such impact.

''(E) A review of actions taken by the Federal Government based on cyber threat indicators shared with the Federal Government under this

section or such Act, including the appropriateness of any subsequent use or dissemination of such cyber threat indicators by a Federal entity under this section or section 4 of such Act.

''(F) A description of any significant violations of the requirements of this section or such Act by the Federal Government—

''(i) an assessment of all reports of officers, employees, and agents of the Federal Government misusing information provided to the Federal Government under the Protecting Cyber Networks Act or this section, without regard to whether the misuse was knowing or wilful; and

''(ii) an assessment of all disciplinary actions taken against such officers, employees, and agents.

''(G) A summary of the number and type of non-Federal entities that received classified cyber threat indicators from the Federal Government under this section or such Act and an evaluation of the risks and benefits of sharing such cyber threat indicators.

''(H) An assessment of any personal information of or information identifying a specific person not directly related to a cybersecurity threat that—

''(i) was shared by a non-Federal entity with the Federal Government under this Act in contravention of section 3(d)(2); or

''(ii) was shared within the Federal Government under this Act in contravention of the guidelines required by section 4(b).

''(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) may include such recommendations as the heads of the appropriate Federal entities may have for improvements or modifications to the authorities and processes under this section or such Act.

''(4) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(5) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall make publicly available the unclassified portion of each report required by paragraph (1).''.

(2) INITIAL REPORT.—The first report required under subsection (c) of section 111 of the National Security Act of 1947, as inserted by paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall be submitted not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORTS ON PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.—

(1) BIENNIAL REPORT FROM PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1061(e) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) BIENNIAL REPORT ON CERTAIN CYBER ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board shall biennially submit to Congress and the President a report containing—

''(i) an assessment of the privacy and civil liberties impact of the activities carried out under the Protecting Cyber Networks Act and the amendments made by such Act; and

''(ii) an assessment of the sufficiency of the policies, procedures, and guidelines established pursuant to section 4 of the Protecting Cyber Networks Act and the amendments made by such section 4 in addressing privacy and civil liberties concerns.

''(B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each report submitted under this paragraph may include such recommendations as the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board may have for improvements or modifications to the authorities under the Protecting Cyber Networks Act or the amendments made by such Act.

''(C) FORM.—Each report required under this paragraph shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(D) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board shall make publicly available the unclassified portion of each report required by subparagraph (A).''.

(B) INITIAL REPORT.—The first report required under paragraph (3) of section 1061(e) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee(e)), as added by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, shall be submitted not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) BIENNIAL REPORT OF INSPECTORS GENERAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice, and the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, in consultation with the Council of Inspectors General on Financial Oversight, shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the receipt, use, and dissemination of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures that have been shared with Federal entities under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) A review of the types of cyber threat indicators shared with Federal entities.

(ii) A review of the actions taken by Federal entities as a result of the receipt of such cyber threat indicators.

(iii) A list of Federal entities receiving such cyber threat indicators.

(iv) A review of the sharing of such cyber threat indicators among Federal entities to identify inappropriate barriers to sharing information.

(C) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each report submitted under this paragraph may include such recommendations as the Inspectors General referred to in subparagraph (A) may have for improvements or modifications to the authorities under this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

(D) FORM.—Each report required under this paragraph shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(E) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice, and the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall make publicly available the unclassified portion of each report required under subparagraph (A).

SEC. 8. REPORT ON CYBERSECURITY THREATS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate elements of the intelligence community, shall submit to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives a report on cybersecurity threats, including cyber attacks, theft, and data breaches.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of—

(A) the current intelligence sharing and cooperation relationships of the United States with other countries regarding cybersecurity threats (including cyber attacks, theft, and data breaches) directed against the United States that threaten the United States national security interests, economy, and intellectual property; and

(B) the relative utility of such relationships, which elements of the intelligence community participate in such relationships, and whether and how such relationships could be improved.

(2) A list and an assessment of the countries and non-state actors that are the primary threats of carrying out a cybersecurity threat (including a cyber attack, theft, or data breach) against the United States and that threaten the United States national security, economy, and intellectual property.

(3) A description of the extent to which the capabilities of the United States Government to respond to or prevent cybersecurity threats (including cyber attacks, theft, or data breaches) directed against the United States private sector are degraded by a delay in the prompt notification by private entities of such threats or cyber attacks, theft, and breaches.

(4) An assessment of additional technologies or capabilities that would enhance the ability of the United States to prevent and to respond to cybersecurity threats (including cyber attacks, theft, and data breaches).

(5) An assessment of any technologies or practices utilized by the private sector that could be rapidly fielded to assist the intelligence community in preventing and responding to cybersecurity threats.

(c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—The Director of National Intelligence shall make publicly available the unclassified portion of the report required by subsection (a).

(e) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

SEC. 9. CONSTRUCTION AND PREEMPTION.

(a) PROHIBITION OF SURVEILLANCE.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to authorize the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency or any other element of the intelligence community to target a person for surveillance.

(b) OTHERWISE LAWFUL DISCLOSURES.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to limit or prohibit—

(1) otherwise lawful disclosures of communications, records, or other information, including reporting of known or suspected criminal activity, by a non-Federal entity to any other non-Federal entity or the Federal Government; or

(2) any otherwise lawful use of such disclosures by any entity of the Federal government, without regard to whether such otherwise lawful disclosures duplicate or replicate disclosures made under this Act.

(c) WHISTLE BLOWER PROTECTIONS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to prohibit or limit the disclosure of information protected under section 2302(b)(8) of title 5, United States Code (governing disclosures of illegality, waste, fraud, abuse, or public health or safety threats), section 7211 of title 5, United States Code (governing disclosures to Congress), section 1034 of title 10, United States Code (governing disclosure to Congress by members of the military), or any similar provision of Federal or State law..

(d) PROTECTION OF SOURCES AND METHODS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed—

(1) as creating any immunity against, or otherwise affecting, any action brought by the Federal Government, or any department or agency thereof, to enforce any law, executive order, or procedure governing the appropriate handling, disclosure, or use of classified information;

(2) to affect the conduct of authorized law enforcement or intelligence activities; or

(3) to modify the authority of the President or a department or agency of the Federal Government to protect and control the dissemination of classified information, intelligence sources and methods, and the national security of the United States.

(e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to affect any requirement under any other provision of law for a non-Federal entity to provide information to the Federal Government.

(f) INFORMATION SHARING RELATIONSHIPS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed—

(1) to limit or modify an existing information-sharing relationship;

(2) to prohibit a new information-sharing relationship; or

(3) to require a new information-sharing relationship between any non-Federal entity and the Federal Government.

(g) PRESERVATION OF CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed—

(1) to amend, repeal, or supersede any current or future contractual agreement, terms of service agreement, or other contractual relationship between any non-Federal entities, or between any non-Federal entity and a Federal entity; or

(2) to abrogate trade secret or intellectual property rights of any non-Federal entity or Federal entity.

(h) ANTI-TASKING RESTRICTION.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to permit the Federal Government—

(1) to require a non-Federal entity to provide information to the Federal Government;

(2) to condition the sharing of a cyber threat indicator with a non-Federal entity on such non-Federal entity's provision of a cyber threat indicator to the Federal Government; or

(3) to condition the award of any Federal grant, contract, or purchase on the provision of a cyber threat indicator to a Federal entity.

(i) NO LIABILITY FOR NON-PARTICIPATION.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to subject any non-Federal entity to liability for choosing not to engage in a voluntary activiy authorized in this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(j) USE AND RETENTION OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to authorize, or to modify any existing authority of, a department or agency of the Federal Government to retain or use any information shared under this Act or the amendments made by this Act for any use other than permitted in this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

(k) FEDERAL PREEMPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act supersede any statute or other provision of law of a State or political subdivision of a State that restricts or otherwise expressly regulates an activity authorized under this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

(2) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to supersede any statute or other provision of law of a State or political subdivision of a State concerning the use of authorized law enforcement practices and procedures.

(l) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed—

(1) to authorize the promulgation of any regulations not specifically authorized by this Act or the amendments made by this Act;

(2) to establish any regulatory authority not specifically established under this Act or the amendments made by this Act; or

(3) to authorize regulatory actions that would duplicate or conflict with regulatory requirements, mandatory standards, or related processes under another provision of Federal law.

SEC. 10. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking ''wells.'' and inserting ''wells; or''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

''(10) information shared with or provided to the Federal Government pursuant to the Protecting Cyber Networks Act or the amendments made by such Act.''.

SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(2) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL ENTITIES.—The term ''appropriate Federal entities'' means the following:

(A) The Department of Commerce.

(B) The Department of Defense.

(C) The Department of Energy.

(D) The Department of Homeland Security.

(E) The Department of Justice.

(F) The Department of the Treasury.

(G) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(3) CYBERSECURITY PURPOSE.—The term ''cybersecurity purpose'' means the purpose of protecting (including through the use of a defensive measure) an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system from a cybersecurity threat or security vulnerability or identifying the source of a cybersecurity threat.

(4) CYBERSECURITY THREAT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term ''cybersecurity threat'' means an action, not protected by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States, on or through an information system that may result in an unauthorized effort to adversely impact the security, confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''cybersecurity threat'' does not include any action that solely involves a violation of a consumer term of service or a consumer licensing agreement.

(5) CYBER THREAT INDICATOR.—The term ''cyber threat indicator'' means information or a physical object that is necessary to describe or identify—

(A) malicious reconnaissance, including anomalous patterns of communications that appear to be transmitted for the purpose of gathering technical information related to a cybersecurity threat or security vulnerability;

(B) a method of defeating a security control or exploitation of a security vulnerability;

(C) a security vulnerability, including anomalous activity that appears to indicate the existence of a security vulnerability;

(D) a method of causing a user with legitimate access to an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system to unwittingly enable the defeat of a security control or exploitation of a security vulnerability;

(E) malicious cyber command and control;

(F) the actual or potential harm caused by an incident, including a description of the information exfiltrated as a result of a particular cybersecurity threat; or

(G) any other attribute of a cybersecurity threat, if disclosure of such attribute is not otherwise prohibited by law.

(6) DEFENSIVE MEASURE.—The term ''defensive measure'' means an action, device, procedure, technique, or other measure executed on an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system that prevents or mitigates a known or suspected cybersecurity threat or security vulnerability.

(7) FEDERAL ENTITY.—The term ''Federal entity'' means a department or agency of the United States or any component of such department or agency.

(8) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term ''information system''—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code; and

(B) includes industrial control systems, such as supervisory control and data acquisition systems, distributed control systems, and programmable logic controllers.

(9) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ''local government'' means any borough, city, county, parish, town, township, village, or other political subdivision of a State.

(10) MALICIOUS CYBER COMMAND AND CONTROL.—The term ''malicious cyber command and control'' means a method for unauthorized remote identification of, access to, or use of, an information system or information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system.

(11) MALICIOUS RECONNAISSANCE.—The term ''malicious reconnaissance'' means a method for actively probing or passively monitoring an information system for the purpose of discerning security vulnerabilities of the information system, if such method is associated with a known or suspected cybersecurity threat.

(12) MONITOR.—The term ''monitor'' means to acquire, identify, scan, or otherwise possess information that is stored on, processed by, or transiting an information system.

(13) NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the term ''non-Federal entity'' means any private entity, non-Federal government department or agency, or State, tribal, or local government (including a political subdivision, department, officer, employee, or agent thereof).

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''non-Federal entity'' includes a government department or agency (including an officer, employee, or agent thereof) of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(C) EXCLUSION.—The term ''non-Federal entity'' does not include a foreign power or known agent of a foreign power, as both terms are defined in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

(14) PRIVATE ENTITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the term ''private entity'' means any person or private group, organization, proprietorship, partnership, trust, cooperative, corporation, or other commercial or nonprofit entity, including an officer, employee, or agent thereof.

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''private entity'' includes a component of a State, tribal, or local government performing electric utility services.

(C) EXCLUSION.—The term ''private entity'' does not include a foreign power as defined in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

(15) REAL TIME; REAL-TIME.—The terms ''real time'' and ''real-time'' mean a process by which an automated, machine-to-machine system processes cyber threat indicators such that the time in which the occurrence of an event and the reporting or recording of it are as simultaneous as technologically and operationally practicable.

(16) SECURITY CONTROL.—The term ''security control'' means the management, operational, and technical controls used to protect against an unauthorized effort to adversely impact the security, confidentiality, integrity, and availability of an information system or its information.

(17) SECURITY VULNERABILITY.—The term ''security vulnerability'' means any attribute of hardware, software, process, or procedure that could enable or facilitate the defeat of a security control.

(18) TRIBAL.—The term ''tribal'' has the meaning given the term ''Indian tribe'' in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of House

Report 114–88. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

□ 1515

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. NUNES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 114–88.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, beginning line 16, strike ''in accordance with'' and insert ''under''.

Page 9, line 2, strike ''and is limited to''.

Page 9, beginning line 14, strike ''the intentional or reckless operation of any'' and insert ''a''.

Page 9, beginning line 17, strike ''substantially harms, or initiates a new action, process, or procedure on'' and insert '', or substantially harms''.

Page 12, beginning line 2, strike ''a non-Federal entity, if authorized by applicable law or regulation other than this Act, from sharing'' and insert ''otherwise lawful sharing by a non-Federal entity of''.

Page 14, line 18, insert ''or defensive measure'' before ''shared''.

Page 23, line 19, strike ''section 3(c)(2)'' and insert ''this Act''.

Page 24, line 15, strike ''section 552(b)(3)(B)'' and insert ''section 552(b)(3)''.

Page 25, line 13, insert ''investigating,'' after ''to,''.

Page 25, line 18, insert ''investigating, prosecuting,'' after ''to,''.

Page 27, line 23, strike ''subsection'' and insert ''section''.

Page 27, beginning line 24, strike ''of the violation'' and all that follows through the period on page 28, line 2, and insert the following: ''on which the cause of action arises.''.

Page 28, line 4, strike ''subsection'' and insert ''section''.

Page 28, line 14, strike ''in good faith''.

Page 28, beginning line 22, strike ''in good faith''.

Page 33, line 16, insert ''of such Act'' before the semicolon.

Page 33, line 19, insert ''of such Act'' before the period.

Page 38, line 20, strike ''threats,'' and insert the following: ''threats to the national security and economy of the United States,''.

Page 44, line 2, strike ''activiy'' and insert ''activity''.

Page 44, after line 23, insert the following:

(3) STATE REGULATION OF UTILITIES.—Except as provided by section 3(d)(4)(B), nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to supersede any statute, regulation, or other provision of law of a State or political subdivision of a State relating to the regulation of a private entity performing utility services, except to the extent such statute, regulation, or other provision of law restricts activity authorized under this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

Strike section 10.

Page 51, line 13, strike ''electric''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I offer this amendment to make certain technical changes to the bill. These changes will align several sections of the bill, including the authorization for the use of defensive measures and the liability protections, with the Committee on Homeland Security's bill, H.R. 1731.

The amendment also removes a direct amendment to the Freedom of Information Act because the bill already contains a strong exemption of cyber threat information and defensive measures from disclosure. The change does not have a substantive effect on the exemption of cyber threat information from disclosure laws.

The changes also reflect feedback we have received from our minority, from the executive branch, from outside groups, and from other committees of Congress. We want to make sure that the bill establishes a workable system for companies and the government to share cyber threat information and defensive measures.

I urge Members to support this technical and clarifying amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, the manager's amendment makes mostly technical edits to the bill which advanced out of the Intelligence Committee unanimously. These strong edits came from our close and continuing consultations with outside groups and with the White House.

There is still work that remains to be done. In particular, we are going to work, as the bill moves forward, on the liability section. In order to benefit from the liability protection under the current language, it is necessary for companies to strictly comply with the act, which means sharing information only for a cybersecurity purpose and taking reasonable efforts to remove private information before sharing it.

I would support making further changes to the bill to make this requirement even more clear. In particular, I think it would be advantageous to strike what is, in my view, an unnecessary section on the rule of construction pertaining to willful misconduct.

Striking the rule of construction will help further clarify the intent of the bill, which is that liability protection is only available if a company or other non-Federal entity shares cyber threat information, for a cybersecurity purpose, and only after it takes reasonable steps to remove private information not directly related to the cybersecurity threat.

That is the intention of the bill, and I think striking that section will make it more clear. If a company acts unreasonably—let alone recklessly or willfully—in following these requirements, it does not get liability protection, nor should it.

That is the right result, and we have to be careful not to create any confusion about there being any immunity for people or for companies acting willfully, recklessly, or even unreasonably in disregarding private information or the requirement that it be extricated.

The manager's amendment makes positive technical changes. There are further changes that I would like to see as the bill moves forward. Confusion in any section of the bill, particularly as it pertains to liability, means litigation, and litigation means costs, so I think there is further work for us to do to make it even more clear.

In sum, I support the technical and substantive changes made in the manager's amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I join the chairman in urging support for the manager's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, as I have no other speakers, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CÁRDENAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 114–88.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Chair, I am here to present my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, after line 7, insert the following:

(f) SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION.—

(1) ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall provide assistance to small businesses and small financial institutions to monitor information and information systems, operate defensive measures, and share and receive cyber threat indicators and defensive measures under this section

(2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the President a report on the degree to which small businesses and small financial institutions are able to engage in cyber threat information sharing under this section. Such report shall include the recommendations of the Administrator for improving the ability of such businesses and institutions to engage in cyber threat information sharing and to use shared information to defend their networks.

(3) OUTREACH.—The Federal Government shall conduct outreach to small businesses and small financial institutions to encourage such businesses and institutions to exercise their authority under this section.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman

from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Chair, I rise today to speak in support of my amendment to H.R. 1560.

I applaud the managers of this legislation for all of their hard work. I understand the difficult balance that must be struck in this important debate, and I thank the committee for the opportunity to have my amendment considered today.

Madam Chair, this amendment will protect national security by starting from the ground up in protecting our smallest of businesses.

Cyber attacks are a real threat to our economy and national security. Hackers will look for the most vulnerable in the supply chain to exploit their security. This is why we must make sure any legislation related to cybersecurity places small businesses at the forefront of our security planning.

By doing this, we will be protecting customers and businesses up and down the supply chain, which will defend our economy, as a whole, from being attacked.

The amendment will ensure that the SBA will assist small businesses and small financial institutions in participating in the programs under this bill, and it will make sure the Federal Government performs outreach to small businesses and to small financial institutions.

This is a commonsense provision that addresses the issues that are critical to ensuring the security of our cyberspace and of our economic well-being now and into the future.

Small businesses are increasingly becoming the target of cyber criminals as larger companies increase their protections, so we need to arm them with the information and technical assistance they need to create effective plans to thwart these attacks and intrusions.

On a personal note, I once owned a small business myself. I left my bigger, corporate job to start a small business in my local community and employ people I grew up with. Washington is a faraway place for many small businesses in our country. The laws here can seem disconnected. The issues can be brushed off as someone else's problem.

That is why it is essential that, today and moving forward on all of these cybersecurity debates, that we make sure we have programs in place to work with and to educate our small businesses and that we understand that, every time one of these small businesses is successfully attacked and breached, it is a possibility that it could go under, losing those local jobs. I think this is a commonsense amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman from California for bringing forward this thoughtful amendment. He worked closely with the committee to ensure that the language did not disrupt the intent of the bill. I am prepared to accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman, my colleague, for yielding.

Madam Chair, for a large business, a cyber attack can be costly and damaging. For a small business, a cyber attack can be fatal, wiping out a family's dream or a lifetime of work in a few clicks of a mouse.

Small businesses and small financial institutions also don't have the large legal shops that are sometimes necessary to keep up with the latest changes or regulations coming from Washington.

That is why I am so pleased that my California colleague offered this important amendment. While I don't expect that any sharing mechanism will ultimately be costly to maintain or to access, there will be some costs, especially in the early stages of implementation, and there will be some new procedures to navigate.

This amendment will help put the reach and authority of the Small Business Administration in the service of cybersecurity by having the agency assist in the rollout of cyber threat information sharing.

It is an important addition to the bill. I thank the gentleman for raising the issue, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CARSON OF INDIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 114–88.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 37, after line 16, insert the following new clause:

(v) A review of the current procedures pertaining to the sharing of information, removal procedures for personal information or information identifying a specific person, and any incidents pertaining to the improper treatment of such information.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Chair, I proudly supported this bill when we marked it in the Intelligence Committee. I am only bringing up this amendment today to address a basic transparency concern raised by my constituents after the markup, that the cybersecurity threat posed to our government, to our businesses, and to our personal information is massive and is growing every day.

This bill provides important tools to ensure that the lessons learned from a breach of one company can help strengthen the security of others. As a result, your Social Security and credit card numbers will be better protected.

Madam Chair, as someone who opposed CISPA last year, I feel like this iteration is a major first step forward in privacy protection and transparency. I am particularly happy with the robust protections of personally identifiable information.

Unlike past iterations, this bill mandates that cyber threat information is scanned and that personal information is removed not once, but twice, before it can be transmitted to other Federal agencies.

I am pleased, Madam Chair, that companies will share their cyber threat information with a civilian agency and not directly with the intelligence community. I am also happy that additional limitations are placed on the ways that cyber threat information can be utilized.

For all of the benefits of this bill, the American people still—rightfully so—expect oversight that is consistent and comprehensive. That is what this amendment is all about. It strengthens the oversight of the inspector general's monitoring of this kind of information sharing.

Now, with this amendment, the inspector general will oversee and report on the process for information-sharing procedures, for removing personal information, and any incidence in which this information was treated improperly.

It will ensure Congress and the public that sharing is happening properly and that the public is being protected. I hope that my good Republican colleagues will support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I want to thank the gentleman. He is a member of the Intelligence Committee and has played a very productive and constructive role. As he said, his constituents have brought these concerns to him. He worked with the ranking member and

me, and we are prepared to accept the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), my good friend.

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chair, this is Mr. CARSON's first year on the committee, and I appreciate his dedicated service and the interest he has taken in oversight of the intelligence community. He brings a background in law enforcement, which is a very welcome addition to our committee, and joins other colleagues with a very similar background.

He has worked closely with us to make privacy improvements throughout the process. I support his efforts here again to make a good bill even better. Mr. CARSON's amendment would include a requirement to make sure the critical dual privacy scrub is working the way it should. This is very important. It is at the core of our bill and at the core of our efforts to protect privacy. So we must monitor how these requirements are working and support transparent reporting to make sure that they are working as intended.

I support the amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. I thank Chairman NUNES and Ranking Member SCHIFF once again for their support in helping to keep our communities safer, but I still want to thank my Republican colleagues for supporting this amendment, and I thank them for their friendship. As a new member of the committee, Madam Chair, I have greatly appreciated the guidance—bipartisan guidance, if you will.

Every Member of this House, Madam Chair, has heard from constituents who are concerned about government surveillance and overreach. After everything we have heard about bulk collection over the last few years, the American people are right to be concerned about new authorities to collect data.

As the text plainly and repeatedly states, this is not a surveillance bill. We have protections in place to ensure that the intelligence community cannot collect and utilize your personal data. This amendment simply ensures that Congress and the public get to see this sharing process and see how it works if these protections happen to fail. I urge support for this amendment and the underlying bill.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part A of House Report 114–88.

Mr. MULVANEY. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following new section:

SEC. 12. SUNSET.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall terminate on the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. MULVANEY. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman of the committee for the opportunity to present the amendment here today.

Very briefly, I will talk about the genesis of this amendment, which is very simple, by the way. It adds a 7-year sunset to all the provisions of the bill.

Madam Chair, in going through the review of this bill, it occurred to me that this was a really close call. There were folks whom I respect with a great deal of credibility who reached out to me and said: Look, here are the difficulties with this bill and why we should defeat this bill. At the same time, there are a lot of folks for whom I have a great deal of respect and have a great deal of credibility in the industry who also reached out to me and said: Look, this is a very serious problem. Here are the good things in the bill, and here is why you should support it.

It is probably not unusual that we have that circumstance before us where it is a close call. We are balancing two very critical things: security—specifically, cybersecurity—on one hand, and privacy, liberty interests, on the other. It is a balancing act that we are called on to do many, many times here in Washington, D.C.

As I was going through the bill, taking input from both sides of the argument, it occurred to me: All right, what if we have got it wrong? What if we have the balancing act wrong? Sure, we can go back in and fix it at some point in the future, some indeterminate time in the future; but face it, this is a busy place, with a lot of bills demanding attention on any given day in Congress.

Wouldn't it be nice to have something hardwired into the bill that would force Congress at some point in the future to come back and say: Okay. A couple years back, here is what we did on cybersecurity. Is it working? Did we get it right? Is the balance between security and privacy one that is serving both of those very important interests correctly?

We sat down to talk amongst some of my colleagues about the amount of time that was necessary. Madam Chair, 7 years is a long time to have a sunset provision in a bill. It came to my attention, though, given the complexities, the complexities of the systems necessary to be put in place in order to implement the programs in the bill, that 7 years was the appropriate level of time.

I am glad that we have sunset provisions in other pieces of legislation. I doubt very seriously we would be having serious discussions right now about things as important as the PATRIOT Act if a sunset provision was not hardwired into the bill. Maybe we should consider adding these to every single piece of legislation for just the same reason: to force us from time to time to see if what we thought we were doing several years ago was really as good an idea as we thought it was several years ago. So that was the intention.

That is the genesis of this amendment—again, very simple, a 7-year sunset provision. I hope my colleagues will see fit to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment, although I appreciate my colleague's concern.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, my friend from South Carolina, I think, is very thoughtful in his approach in wanting sunset provisions in many laws that pass this body, and I think that is correct on major pieces of legislation, especially involving government bureaucracies, the creation of government bureaucracies, and the implementation of regulation.

I would just make a few important points that I think this bill is very different because this is a voluntary bill. It is also legislation that, because of the liability protections that are in this bill, if you have a sunset clause in it—and part of the reason why the other amendments that were made out of order and this one was made in order, because it was the longest time, with the 7 years, as the gentleman said—it is tough for a company to design, build, get in the process of preparing how they are going to share this information company to company, and I am afraid that even though this is 7 years, will companies make the investment terms of being willing to actually share? Then, if this expires, what happens with the trial lawyers that would then come after the fact when the Congress doesn't act with information that is sitting out there that no longer has the protections?

This is actually why, back when the last version of this legislation was up last Congress, we made several changes since then, and we have many more supporters since that time because of the changes we have made to make sure that we have scrubbed private data, to make sure this doesn't go to any government agency, to make sure that it is voluntary, all of the steps that we have taken. But because of the trial lawyer component and the liability being left open, this is why groups

like Heritage, in the last Congress, opposed an amendment just like this.

We would like to work with the gentleman and his colleagues on this, but I would ask if he would be willing to maybe work with us in a potential conference or possibly down the road, if it might be appropriate. I hate to oppose this amendment because he is my good friend, but I want to try to see if he might be willing to withdraw and work with us when we get to a conference on a reasonable solution to this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MULVANEY. I will respond in a couple of different ways.

Under ordinary circumstances, Madam Chair, I might consider withdrawing the amendment, but I think we are here today under a somewhat extraordinary rule. I do appreciate the chairman's genuineness in his request because we have worked very closely together on other matters in the past. I look forward to working with him on other matters in the future. I consider him to be a good friend and colleague. But because of the nature of the joint rule, if this bill passes and the bill that is being offered by the Homeland Security Committee tomorrow passes as well, my understanding is those two bills will then be merged. I have a similar amendment, Madam Chair, tomorrow to Mr. MCCAUL's bill, so I am not really sure if even withdrawing at this point would accomplish the necessary end that you seek. I will politely decline your request, and respectfully so.

I will point out, my good friend does mention an interesting part of my history here in Washington, D.C. When I offered a similar amendment to, I believe, the PATRIOT Act a couple years back, The Heritage Foundation did oppose it. It always makes me smile, Madam Chair, when I remember going through that conversation with my friends over at The Heritage Foundation, and I had to send them a copy of Ed Feulner's own book. Ed, of course, is one of the founding members of The Heritage Foundation, and the last chapter is an exhortation to please include a sunset provision in every single piece of Federal legislation. Again, that just sort of makes me smile.

With all due respect due to the chairman, both as the chair of the committee and a Member of this body and a friend of mine, I will politely decline his request.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NUNES. I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

Mr. FARENTHOLD. I appreciate the chairman yielding time to me, even though I am in support of this amendment.

Madam Chair, we need this legislation because our companies, our industries, our government, and even our individual citizens are under attack by foreign cyber hackers, under attack from criminals. We need the cooperation between the government and the private sector, but unfortunately we have seen that well-meaning folks in the government sometimes get a little overzealous in their data collection we don't always see.

For instance, section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, we saw in the Snowden revelations that every bit of metadata on phones was being collected. We didn't know that when we passed the PATRIOT Act. Now we have an opportunity to put a backstop in place where we can take a look a few years down the road and make sure this isn't being misinterpreted, not in line with congressional intent, and not in line with the Constitution. This backstop, this sunset, is a critical piece of the bill. The bill is not perfect, but this makes it a whole lot better and gives us a second bite at the apple should things be going wrong.

I appreciate your yielding.

Mr. NUNES. Madam Chair, I am prepared to close.

I would just say that I hate to have to oppose this amendment because I think my colleagues are offering it in good faith, with good intentions. However, it is a voluntary program. As I said, cybersecurity is going to continue to be an ever-increasing problem and challenge, and the last thing we want to do is put a backstop in to where companies or private citizens are afraid to share the information with each other because they are afraid of being sued by some trial lawyer down the road.

Like I said, I hate to oppose the amendment, but I will have to oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MULVANEY. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting 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. 5 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part A of House Report 114–88.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 12. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON REMOVAL OF PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the actions taken by the Federal Government to remove personal information from cyber threat indicators pursuant to section 4(b).

(b) FORM.—The report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 212, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

□ 1545

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I thank the manager and the chairman and ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee for their service and leadership.

I offer this amendment that I believe will answer a question that has been raised by many Members but really has bipartisan support.

This amendment is offered as a Jackson Lee-Polis amendment, and the specifics of it say:

''Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the actions taken by the Federal Government to remove personal information from cyber threat indicators pursuant to section 4(b).''

Again, this relates to the concern that many of us will hear over and over again from our constituents.

In the world of hacking and mistakes and misdirection and unfairness and terrorism, it is important to secure this Nation and to be able to have the right information.

As I serve as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I believe we have to have information to thwart terrorist acts and protect the homeland.

But there is a public benefit to my amendment. This amendment will provide the public assurance from a reliable and trustworthy source that their privacy and civil liberties are not being compromised.

We are a State and a Nation born out of the existence of the Bill of Rights. Along with the Constitution, it has framed a democracy, but it has also framed the preciousness of individual rights and privacy. I offer this amendment, again, to emphasize the importance of privacy that is so very important.

The Jackson Lee-Polis amendment provides, again, for a Government Accountability Act report to Congress on the actions taken by the Federal Government to remove personal information from data shared through the programs established by this statute.

The intent of the report, as indicated, is to provide Congress with information regarding the effectiveness of protecting the privacy of Americans.

Again, this amendment would result in the sole external report on the privacy and civil liberties impact of the programs created under this bill.

Privacy is of great concern to the American people. I know that because, as we were doing the Patriot Act in the

shadow of the heinous acts of 9/11, I will tell you that large voices were raised, particularly out of the Judiciary Committee and in working with the Intelligence Committee, about the issues of privacy. Americans understand that.

Privacy is of great concern to the American public. Privacy involves the handling and protection of personal information. And as well, when personal information is improperly accessed, used, or abused, it can cause financial and personal harm to those whose data is involved.

Madam Chair, may I ask how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the distinguished ranking member.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas and the gentleman from Colorado for their amendment, and I am happy to support it.

We create a lot of law in this body, and it is absolutely necessary that we establish reporting mechanisms that allow us to measure the effectiveness of the work that we do here. This is an amendment that will do just that.

By requiring regular reports on the operation of the sharing mechanism that we are creating today, we can determine whether it is working as intended or whether it needs to be tweaked or changed to be more effective. We must always ensure that the government is fulfilling its obligation under this bill to remove personal information.

Again, I want to thank SHEILA JACKSON LEE, as well as the gentleman from Colorado, for their efforts. I support the amendment.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 45 seconds remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Let me quickly say that a report on consumer views on the privacy issue published by the Pew Center found that a majority of adults surveyed felt that their privacy is being challenged along such core dimensions as the security of their personal information and their ability to retain confidentiality.

It is for this reason that I believe the Jackson Lee amendment, in conjunction with the underlying legislation, H.R. 1560, will be an added asset to ensure that the personal data, privacy, and civil liberties of Americans are protected.

Madam Chair, I offer my thanks to Chairman NUNES, and Ranking Member SCHIFF for their leadership and work on H.R. 1560.

The bipartisan work done by the House Select Committee on Intelligence resulted in H.R. 1560 being brought before the House for consideration.

I offer acknowledgement to Congressman POLIS in joining me in sponsoring this amendment.

The Jackson Lee-Polis Amendment to H.R. 1560 is simple and would improve the bill.

Jackson Lee Amendment designated #5 on the list of amendments approved for H.R. 1560:

The Jackson Lee-Polis Amendment provides for a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report to Congress on the actions taken by the Federal Government to remove personal information from data shared through the programs established by this statute.

The intent of the report is to provide Congress with information regarding the effectiveness of protecting the privacy of Americans.

This amendment would result in the sole external report on the privacy and civil liberties impact of the programs created under this bill.

Privacy is of great concern to the American public.

Privacy involves the handling and protection of personal information that individuals provide in the course of everyday commercial transactions.

When personal information is improperly accessed, used, or abused it can cause financial and personal harm to the people whose data is involved.

A report on consumer views on their privacy published by the Pew Center found that a majority of adults surveyed felt that their privacy is being challenged along such core dimensions as the security of their personal information and their ability to retain confidentiality.

For this reason, the Jackson Lee amendment providing an independent report to the public on how their privacy and civil liberties are treated under the implementation of this bill is important.

I ask that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle support this amendment.

I ask that the amendment be supported, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. MULVANEY

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, 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 Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 313, noes 110, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 168]

AYES—313

Adams
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Ashford
Babin
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Harris
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Massie
Matsui
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meng
Miller (FL)
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
O'Rourke
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Rush
Russell
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Speier
Stefanik
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walker
Walorski
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch

Westerman	Wittman	Zeldin
Williams	Yarmuth	Zinke
Wilson (FL)	Yoder	
Wilson (SC)	Yoho	

NOES—110

Abraham	Hudson	Reichert
Aderholt	Hurd (TX)	Renacci
Amodei	Israel	Roby
Barletta	Jenkins (KS)	Rogers (AL)
Barr	Jenkins (WV)	Rogers (KY)
Benishek	Johnson, Sam	Rooney (FL)
Bishop (MI)	Katko	Ros-Lehtinen
Blackburn	Kelly (PA)	Roskam
Boustany	King (NY)	Royce
Brooks (IN)	Kinzinger (IL)	Ruppersberger
Bucshon	Kirkpatrick	Ryan (OH)
Calvert	Knight	Ryan (WI)
Carter (TX)	Lance	Sensenbrenner
Coffman	LoBiondo	Shimkus
Collins (NY)	Long	Shuster
Comstock	MacArthur	Simpson
Conaway	Maloney, Carolyn	Sinema
Cook	Marino	Stewart
Costello (PA)	McCarthy	Stivers
Crawford	McCaul	Thornberry
Crenshaw	McHenry	Tiberi
Cuellar	McKinley	Trott
Culberson	McSally	Turner
Davis, Danny	Meehan	Upton
Davis, Rodney	Messer	Valadao
Dent	Mica	Wagner
Diaz-Balart	Miller (MI)	Walberg
Dold	Moolenaar	Walden
Fincher	Murphy (PA)	Walters, Mimi
Frelinghuysen	Newhouse	Wenstrup
Guthrie	Nunes	Westmoreland
Hardy	Pittenger	Whitfield
Harper	Poliquin	Womack
Hartzler	Pompeo	Woodall
Heck (NV)	Ratcliffe	Young (AK)
Hill	Reed	Young (IA)
Holding		Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—8

Brady (TX)	Hastings	Smith (WA)
Curbelo (FL)	Murphy (FL)	Wasserman Schultz
Graves (MO)	Olson	

□ 1620

Messrs. ISRAEL, FINCHER, CALVERT, RYAN of Wisconsin, TURNER, SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Messrs. ABRAHAM, and RUPPERSBERGER changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. PELOSI, Mses. EDWARDS, LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Messrs. ROHRABACHER, CARNEY, ZELDIN, ROSS, RICHMOND, Mses. MATSUI, STEFANIK, Messrs. SIRES, CROWLEY, Mses. SCHAKOWSKY, DeGETTE, TITUS, Messrs. JOYCE, SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, VEASEY, Mses. BROWNLEY of California, LEE, and Mr. PETERSON changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) having assumed the chair, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Acting 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.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 212, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Miss RICE of New York. I am opposed to it in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Miss Rice of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1560 to the Select Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select) with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 22, line 14, strike ''and''.

Page 22, line 16, strike the period and insert a semicolon.

Page 22, after line 16, insert the following:

''(6) to prevent a terrorist attack against the United States, ensure that the appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government prioritize the sharing of cyber threat indicators regarding known terrorist organizations (including the Islamic State, al Qaeda, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and Boko Haram) with respect to—

''(A) cyberattacks;

''(B) the recruitment of homegrown terrorists by such terrorist organizations; and

''(C) travel by persons to and from foreign countries in which such terrorist organizations are based or provide training (including Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, and Nigeria); and

''(7) to prevent the intelligence and military capability of the United States from being improperly transferred to any foreign country, terrorist organization, or state sponsor of terrorism, ensure that the appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government prioritize the sharing of cyber threat indicators regarding attempts to steal the military technology of the United States by state-sponsored computer hackers from the People's Republic of China and other foreign countries.''.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, the most important job we have is to protect the American homeland and the American people. The threats against our country are ceaseless and constantly evolving, and we too must evolve and adapt in our efforts to maintain the domestic security that the American people have entrusted us to uphold.

Passing H.R. 1560 will be a significant step forward in that effort. Our Nation's cyber infrastructure is under attack every single day from hackers, from foreign nations, and from terrorists. I believe H.R. 1560 will strengthen our government's ability to coordinate with companies in the private sector, share intelligence, and respond to these threats, but I also believe the legislation should be stronger.

We know that foreign nations and terrorist organizations are actively seeking to steal American military intelligence and technology, and we know that terrorists are using the Internet to spread their poisonous ideology, recruit American citizens to join their ranks, and encourage attacks here in America. Just this week, six Minnesota men were arrested after trying to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State. Last week, authorities arrested an Ohio man who actually trained with a terrorist group in Syria and returned to the U.S., intent on carrying out an attack on our soil. Earlier this month, two women in my home State of New York were arrested for planning to detonate a bomb in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment will help prevent a domestic terror attack by allowing Federal agencies to coordinate and prioritize the sharing of cyber threat intelligence regarding known terrorist organizations like the Islamic State, Boko Haram, al Shabaab, and al Qaeda and its affiliates, groups that use the Internet and social media as a weapon in their efforts to attack the United States and the American people. Likewise, this amendment will direct Federal agencies to prioritize the sharing of intelligence regarding attempts by terrorists and foreign nations to steal American military technology.

This amendment will help protect our Nation and the people we serve. I have no doubt that that is the highest priority for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, so we must also make it a priority to neutralize these threats and do all that we can to thwart the violent ambitions of those who want to do us harm.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I believe H.R. 1560 is important legislation that deserves bipartisan support, but I believe this amendment deserves the same. It

will make the legislation stronger, make the American people safer, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to give it their full support.

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

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit is nothing more than a poison pill designed to destroy the years of work that have gone into crafting this legislation.

The bill already does exactly what the motion to recommit purposes. It helps the American people defend themselves against hackers from countries like China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and other terrorist groups.

While we stand here and continue to debate this problem, our country is under attack from hackers who steal our intellectual property, pilfer our personal information, and target our national security interests.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the motion to recommit and ''yes'' on final passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the passage of the bill, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 183, noes 239, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 169]

AYES—183

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—239

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—9

Brady (TX)
Curbelo (FL)
Graves (MO)
Hastings
LaMalfa
Murphy (FL)
Olson
Smith (WA)
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1635

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 307, noes 116, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 170]

AYES—307

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Beatty
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Dold
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Gibbs
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green, Gene
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko

Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Love
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy
McCaul
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schiff
Schrader
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—116

Amash
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brat
Bridenstine
Buchanan
Capps
Capuano
Cartwright
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clawson (FL)
Cohen
Conyers
Courtney
Cummings
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
DesJarlais
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Eshoo
Esty
Fattah
Fleming
Gabbard
Garrett
Gibson
Gohmert
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Hahn
Harris
Hice, Jody B.
Honda
Huelskamp
Huffman
Issa
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan
Kildee
Labrador
Larson (CT)
Lee
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lummis
Lynch
Massie
Matsui
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Mooney (WV)
Nadler
Napolitano
Nolan
O'Rourke
Pallone
Perry
Pingree
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Rangel
Ribble
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Slaughter
Stutzman
Takano
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vela
Velázquez
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—8

Brady (TX)
Curbelo (FL)
Graves (MO)
Hastings
Murphy (FL)
Olson
Smith (WA)
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1642

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE COMMEMORATING 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST USE OF POISON GAS

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, today represents the 100-year anniversary of the first use of poison gas on Earth. On April 22, 1915, chlorine gas was sent crawling in favorable winds over Flanders Fields from German positions into positions held by the French. This sowed terror and agony for the first time.

I would like for everyone present and everyone listening to pause for a moment to think of everyone who has died in the last 100 years from poison gas, including everyone who is dying today in Syria.

Mr. Speaker, many people in America were horrified at the ''60 Minutes'' presentation of the sarin attacks and the footage that that included. It is horrifying to think that chlorine is also being used in that war today.

There is a reason that we put chemical weapons in a separate category, never to be used by any nation in any war. Let us just pause and think for a moment and rededicate ourselves to ridding the entire world of chemical weapons forever.

□ 1645

TRIBUTE TO ED MEAD

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last month, our world bid farewell to Ed Mead, a former president, copublisher, editor, columnist, and all-around legend of the Erie Times-News in Erie, Pennsylvania, a paper founded by his grandfather in 1888.

Mr. Mead leaves behind an extraordinary legacy in the newspaper business and in the community of Erie, the city where he was born and spent so much of his life devoted to connecting with people.

Mr. Mead was often referred to as ''the voice of Erie,'' leading a long and distinguished career that included more than 14,000 features for his ''Odds and Ends'' column, one that appealed to so many people throughout our region.

Mr. Mead was so committed to serving his family's newspaper that, after graduating from Princeton University in 1949, he turned down a contract to play professional football in the National Football League's Detroit Lions club; instead, he decided to return to work in Erie for the next 63 years at the Erie Times.

Although Mr. Mead's passing will long be felt at the Erie Times Publishing Company and in the entire city of Erie and in the entire community, we know he now rests in heaven.

As is true of all legends, Ed Mead may be gone, but he will surely never be forgotten.

PINELLAS PARK POLICE CHIEF DORENE THOMAS

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

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who has been described as a trailblazer, a pioneer, and a woman of firsts: Pinellas Park Police Chief Dorene Thomas who, on this Friday, will retire after four decades of public service.

Thomas became the first sworn female police officer at the Pinellas Park Police Department in 1980. In fact, when she started, the evidence room was located in the men's locker room, something she would eventually change.

In 2000, Thomas became the department's first female police chief, but she often said she would simply prefer to be known as a good police chief rather than a female police chief.

Five years ago, she was elected president of the Florida Police Chiefs Association, another first for women. She has also started intensive crisis intervention training, which teaches officers how to work with people with behavioral or mental health challenges.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize a person who has helped keep our citizens safe, to honor a person who has led with courage, kindness, grace, and understanding.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Thomas for her selfless years of service. Thank you for making Pinellas County a safer place, and thank you to all the men and women who, today, serve on the front lines of law enforcement.

Chief Thomas, enjoy your retirement. You have very well earned it.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S REQUEST TO WRITE RULES FOR THE WORLD'S ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALLEN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, at his State of the Union Address, President Obama asked us in Congress to grant us fast-track Trade Promotion Authority, so he can ''write rules for the world's economy.''

I sat alarmed for America's future should we expand this President's authority, given how he has extended executive overreach, fumbled our foreign policy, debilitated our defense, and diminished our domestic tranquility. At least this time, the President asked to bypass Congress.

Regardless of the merits of trade partnership or the tactics of their negotiation, two fundamental questions loom: Why do we trust this President, given his track record in foreign affairs? And what serious harm would come to the Nation by waiting 21 months?

Trade Promotion Authority, or TPA, would prevent Congress from amending as much as one word of the rules he writes, a sweeping agreement the White House has been working toward for the past 6 years. Even if parameters were set beforehand, violations would be subject to an up-or-down vote with no amending permitted. Unlike a treaty, a simple majority is all that would be needed to pass.

For Congress to cede oversight on such a sweeping agreement could have grave implications. The American people must be at the table, and they can be, through their elected representatives in Congress.

In a balanced process, the full range of congressional committees would hold hearings with experts, establish clear objectives, set the terms of negotiation, and be regularly informed throughout the negotiating process.

This would ensure trade deals are in the best national interest for the long haul, not designed to please some small groups of well-connected insiders for some tempting short-term benefit.

While trade is vital in securing economic freedom and in strengthening our values and friendships, we must approach any partnership with a comprehensive view of its strategic impact. Advocates have stated that a Trans-Pacific Partnership will open trade involving 40 percent of global economic activity.

This is a misrepresentation when one considers that 6 of the 11 nations proposed for the partnership already have strong trade agreements with the United States and many of the remainder enjoy excellent trade relations, such as with Japan.

The President also claims a trade surplus without delineating this improvement will come from services such as financial, insurance, and computing, not from manufacturing, as he purports. Given Obama's scathing treatment of financial and insurance investment overseas, one wonders if there is not some other hidden motivation.

Alarmingly, Mr. Obama uses containment language with regard to China as a major premise for obtaining fast-track authority. While we employ economic instruments of our national power with regard to an ascendant China, we must ensure in tandem efforts with diplomatic and informational instruments as well. Strategically, these are lacking.

Further, should a trade dispute result in an impasse, nations historically have lashed back with their last remaining option, their military. I have been on the receiving end of many of those strategic implications. Ours must be prepared—our military—as we explore these new frontiers.

I have heard no serious discussion from anyone in Congress or the White House thinking comprehensively and strategically in this manner, that our military and our diplomatic efforts must also be resourced and reinforced as we move economically in this pivot to Asia.

When John Hay opened trade with China more than a century ago as a hedge on an ascendant Japan to balance European concerns, the achievement was widely heralded. Japanese society had rapidly embraced Western science and technology since the days of Commodore Perry. A vibrant economy blossomed. Western ideas in manufacturing, banking, business, and even military doctrine quickly transformed Japan into a formidable power. This was not without political consequence.

Japan had transformed her society, fought as an ally in a world war with the West, imported goods to a demanding public, built ships together with the West, and signed treaties. Their rapid transformation alarmed the Japanese Diet hardliners, who used this anti-Western sentiment to wedge political power.

Within a 15-year span, the lengthy embrace of the West gave way to competition for resources, distrust, the fall of Japanese Government, and the doctrine of their Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

In only a couple of more years, what was embraced in the West was now widely disrespected in Japan. Despised, they were deliberately attacked; few ever saw it coming. That Japan and the United States are such strong allies and friends today is a testament of our mutual commitment to the repairing of human diplomatic and economic tragedies.

We cannot allow President Obama to rush willy-nilly into a fast-track Chinese hegemony without regard to strategic thinking. Given his dismal foreign policy record, it comes as no revelation, but it does come with consequences. What serious harm will come to our Nation by waiting 21 months when we have an administration that actually could achieve foreign policy successes, instead of one foreign policy defeat after another?

A dog may lap up antifreeze because it seems good to the taste and pleasant to the eye, but it does so with consequence. We should not be lured by the appeal to our natural senses for trade and economic growth.

Patience now may prevent horrific consequences in a major war in the future. We do that by advancing our national instruments of power with diplomatic effort, military readiness, and preparedness in tandem with our economic effort.

What serious harm can come by waiting 21 months? As Abraham Lincoln famously said:

> Nothing good can be frustrated by time.

We do not need to give the President this authority. We need to wait, have the patience, lay the strategic foundation so that we can do what is best for our country, and move into a trade agreement that will have a long-lasting foundation.

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

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on April 24, we will mark the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. 100 years ago, 1.5 million Armenians, along with the Syrians and Greeks, were slaughtered by the Ottoman Empire in the first genocide of the 20th century.

The sheer scale of genocide thwarts our capacity to comprehend it: 1.5 million Armenians killed, 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust, 1 million Tutsis. The numbers become abstractions sanitized by their enormity. It is only when we consider each of those lives individually that the full horror comes into focus.

□ 1700

The victims of genocide are more than victims—they are human beings. The Armenians massacred from 1915 to 1923 were men, women, and children who were targeted in what was then an unprecedented campaign to wipe out an entire people.

It is our duty in the modern day to remember those lost and to bear witness that the campaign to destroy the Armenian people failed. We do so by speaking the truth, and we do so by speaking the names of those 1.5 million and by keeping both the way they lived and the way they died alive in our memory.

Earlier this month, I asked my thousands of Armenian constituents and millions of Armenians around the

country and the world to submit the names and stories of their family members who were killed 100 years ago. The response was overwhelming. Thousands of people sent the names and stories of ancestors killed in the genocide—the names of infants and toddlers ripped from their mother's arms, the names of children and the elderly dying of exhaustion and starvation on a forced march to Deir ez-Zor, the names of women and girls raped and brutalized and killed, the names of clergy tortured and burned alive in their own churches, the names of men robbed of their possessions, of their homes, and of their lives.

Each victim has a name and a story. From Glendale, to Yerevan, to Jordan, and every corner of the world where Armenian diaspora lives, families sent me those names and those stories. It is my honor to read some of those names this hour, knowing that it would take more than 1,000 hours, more than 50 days, to read all of them.

Turkey may deny the genocide. Our administration may lack the courage to recognize the genocide. Our Congress may lack the courage to recognize the genocide. But no one can deny the humanity of its victims, and no one can deny our right to speak the truth.

One hundred years ago, 1.5 million Armenians were killed in the Armenian genocide. These are their names:

George Tutunjian
Harutsun Minasian
Samuel Kadiyan
Dikran Karakashian
Manoug Tenkerian
Mary Tenkerian
Hagop Artinian
Makrouhie Tenkerian
Mihran Tenkerian
Sarkis Tenkerian
Tagouhi Hounanian
Gevork Vasilyan
Hovnan Hounanian
Siranush Tatulyan
Shooshan Hounanian
Lusadzin Boghikian
Karapet Orudzhyan
Zorig Hounanian
Elias Hovsepian
Grace Totigian-Klanian
Simon Klanian
Azniv Totigian
Mariam Minasian
Tamam Kouyoumjian
Hovhannes Kouyoumjian
Isgouhi Kademian
Khachig Kademian
Arakel Gayserian
Karapet Orudzhyan
Vahan Avetikyan
Hakop Semerdjian
Hagop Yeniguveiyian
Hagop Yeniguveiyian
Garabed Kulhanjian
Vahan Jihanian
Assadour Shekherdmian
Khachik Danelian
Gadarineh Danelian
Makrouhi Chavdarian
Garabed Jihanian
Hovsep Sarkissian
Matteos Sarkissian
Bedros Torosian
Aram Achekbashian
Kegham Vanigian
Mourad Zakarian
Yervant Topuzian
Hagop Basmajian
Smpat Kelejian
Roupen Garabedian
Armenag Hampartsoumian
Apraham Mouradian
Hrand Yegavian
Karnig Boyajian
Hovhannes Ghazarian
Mgrdich Yeretsian
Yeremia Manoukian
Tovmas Tovmasian
Karekin Boghosian
Minas Keshishian
Boghos Boghosian
Hampartsum Boyajian
Janet Tufenkjioglu
Daniel Mkitharian
Takouhi Tufenkjioglu

Ripsime Bedoian and Margaret Bedoian were sisters, aged 8 and 10. They were taken forcefully by Turkish soldiers from their home in Harpoot. Ransom was demanded, but the family was poor and could not pay. They were never seen again.

Dikran Kalousdian
Khatun Kalousdian
Mardiros Gevoglanian
Adrineh Ghazelian
Abraham Bilalian
Nazareth Torosyan
Agavne Jurukian
Avak Giurlakian
Harout Avagyan
Lilit Abrahamyan
Avag Avagyan
Bagdasar Jurukian
Vahan Eloyan
Hambardzoum Avagyan
Khachatour Avagyan
Hovsep Sarkissian
Khatchadour Jingirian
Alex Petrosyan
Sarkis Jingirian
Khachadur Petrosyan
Petros Petrosyan
Hovhanes Petrosyan
Hagop Chaghastpanian
Garabet Petrosyan
Shushat Petrosyan
Megerdich Saakian
Yeranui Shurjyan
Panos Shurjyan
Hovhannes Hovhannisyan
Garabet Hovhannisyan
Hovsep Hadjyan
Sarkis Hadjyan
Ohan Hadjyan
Khachadur Petrosyan
Petros Petrosyan
Sylva Portoian
Hagop Karanfilian
Gadar Karanfilian
Dikran Vartanyan
Kerop Vartanyan
Manuel Tanielian
Robert Vartanyan
Barkev Vartanyan
Haykaz Vartanyan
Levon Vartanyan
Alice Malconian
Yervand Margaryan
Manoushag Chakalian
Mgrdich Salian
Gulsima Polatian
Kevork Der Markarian
Dilber Der Markarian
Araksiya Nadjarian
Ohanes Kahkejian
Bertha Tanielian
Harout Aydinian
Khachig Kerbabian
Sarkis Dadoyan
Siragan Abrahamian
Bishop Ignatius Maloyan
Nerses Zeytoonian
Karnig Seferian
Garabed Amirkhanian
Ohan Khodzhabashian
Mariam Amirkhanian

Victoria Sergenian drowned her two children and herself to end their suffering as they were forced to march hundreds of miles through the desert.

Iskandar Ohanissian
Touren Krikorian
Apraham Krikorian
Touren Krikorian
Bedo Seremjian
Hachik Madilian
Zakar Pstikyan
Sirvart Dembekjian
Mariam Donikian
Andon Donikian
Sedrak Barighyan
Mihran Chookaszian
Aznif Gulazian
Simpad Gulazian
Vahan Manusadjian
Souren Azirian
Matyos Karachayirlian
Mihran Khayan
Levon Karachayirlian
Abrahm Kasparian
Artin Benlian
Voski Ghazarian
Lucie Mahserejian
Hagop Mahserejian
Solomon Khachaturian
Almakdisi Jubrail Chad
Hairabed Hairabedian
Hripsime Hairabedian
Hripsime Semizian
Hagop Semizian
Yervant Semizian
Hovaness Arslanian
Nevart Arslanian
Manual Arslanian
Khosrof Arslanian
Garabed Jihanian
Hovsep Sarkissian
Souren Azirian
Mihran Khayan
Archpriest Hoosik Kachouni
Nishan Nishanian
Toros Balian
Bayzar Balian
Garabed Mekjian
Sarkis Sevian
Hagop Sevian
Prapion Sagherian
Hovhannes Sagherian
Nazaret Chalian
Garabed Kulhanjian
Bedros Der Sarkissian
Haroutune Der Bedrossian
Nahabed Kasabian
Thadeus Derdiarian
Agavne Pamboukian
Hourig Barsoumian
Sarkis Barsoumian

Khachadur Higobian
Hitoon Higobian
Ohin Higobian
Ani Arkelian
Sarkis Arkelian
Higop Arkelian
Ohines Arkelian
Movses Kochgerian

Arsidakes Varjabedian tried to prevent Turkish soldiers from raping his 15-year-old sister in Nevshehir. He was shot to death.

Mariam Kochgerian
Mari Iskandarian
Asadoor Daghlian
Elizabeth Daghlian
Gabriel Khalaf
Simon Issa
Astghik Doola
Manel Jamgotchian
Moushegh Jamgotchian
Gernelios Jamgotchian
Vahan Jamgotchian
Levon Jamgotchian
Kegham Djemdjemian

□ 1715

Mesrob Djemdjemian
Chouhar Djemdjemian
Mariam Jamgotchian
Dikranouhi Jamgotchian
Anna Jamgotchian
Karekin Hekimian
Zabel Hekimian
Avedis Hachadourian
Zabel Hachadourian
Khatchadour Hachadourian
Zarouhi Paghtikian
Levon Yapoujian
Mary Yapoujian
Artin Budakian
Daniel Varten Kondakjian
Markar Zoornajian
Sarkis Krikorian
Hagop Kinadjian
Lucia Chaderchian
Ashod Kinadjian
Khoren Kinadjian
Shahmihram Kinadjian
Vahharam Kinadjian
Kaspar Santourian
Maretdhza Hamalian
Victoria Kotchakian
Giragos Kotchakian
Hambartzum Nersesian
Nubar Nersesian
Rehan Nersesian
Abraham Ghazarian
Mooshegh Ghazarian
Samson Ghazarian
Peprone Ghazarian
Nounig Hotoian
Mariam Torisyan
Nazig Torisyan
Nersess Der Babian
Toros Mekhsian
Rahel Mekhsian
Apraham Mekhsian
Hrant Mekhsian
Mariam Kulekesayan
Haig Arakelian
Armenak Garabedian
Dikran Garabed
Nevart Najarian
Grikor Surenian
Dareh Surenian
Garegin Surenian
Aghavni Surenian
Faris Surenian
Mardiros Fermanian
Kaspar Jeboghlian
Hagop Jamgotchian
Hovhaness Jamgotchian
Hrant Shenlooguian
Dikran Shenlooguian
Krikor Shenlooguian
Nishon Jivelegian
Surpoohi Jivelegian
Byzar Jivelegian
Lusintak Amirkhanian
Simon Sheshetian
Sarkis Mouradian

Eva Mahseredjian was 10 years old. Her village was occupied by Turkish troops. Two soldiers fought over her to settle their dispute. Their commanding officer cut Eva in half with a sword.

Elize Mouradian
Garabed Kljian
Hagop Madaghjian
Khachig Kasabian
Kohar Kasabian
Garabed Kasabian
Osanna Keuilian
Movses Keuilian
Ghazar Jivalagian
Elizabeth Arakelian
Kaloost Meldonian
Sarkis Meldonian
Hovagheem Hovsepian
Elbis Hovsepian
Hagopig Hovsepian
Elizabeth Yaghdjian
Sarkis Yaghdjian
Krikor Yaghdjian
Hajno Jardarabed Haji Martros
Mardiros Deovletian
Asniv Yaghdjian
Sara Yaghdjian
Mourad Sarkissian
Zemroukht Sarkissian
Artin Boyamian
Avedis Boyamian
Kevork Mkhitarian
Lucine Mkhitarian
Arousiag Shirinian
Garabed Shirinian
Yaghut Markosyants
Martiros Markosyants
Nikoghos Zarobyan
Bedros Bedrosian
Khachadour Buchaklian
Levon Maxoudian
Hagop Yeramian
Skandare Kalousdian
Elizabeth Sirounian
Reverend Father Kevork Nalbandian
Kevork Belekian
Vartan Belekian
Nerses Belekian
Yosef Belekian
Hagob Belekian
Vartish Belekian
George Vartarian
Tigran Nargizian
Zarouhi Zeitounzian Nargizian
Avedis Ainilian
Hovannes Mugrdichian
Hornig Mugrdichian
Roupen Kapikian
Haiganoush Kapikian
Veronica Elmasian
Apik Elmasian
Satenig Kapikian
Vartouhe Kaimian
Toumass Kaimian
Lucine Manougian
Ohanness Avedis Jalakian
David Muradian
Sara Muradian
Loucine Zarougian
Bedros Zarougian
Tateos Der Avedisian
Maritza Kurkjian Der Avedisian
Arshavir Der Avedisian
Hrant Der Avedisian
Maritza Basmajian
Vartouhi Basmajian
Hagop Chavooshian
Boghos Zarougian
Bishop Kevork Nalbandian
Dickronouhi Nigoghosian
Armenouhi Nigoghosian
Barooyr Nigoghosian
Sarkis Nigoghosian
Vartivar Berberian
Anna Berberian
Iskouhi Kalfayan
Jivan Kalfayan
Parsekh Balian
Valentine Balian
Garabed Berberian
Panos Berberian
Migirdich Salian
Haroutioun Apkarian
Sara Apkarian
Hripsime Apkarian

Mariam Kouyoumjian was taken by the Turks in April 1915 and never seen again. Her daughter was orphaned as an 11 year old, but she was rescued by the Near East Relief Foundation, an unprecedented humanitarian effort undertaken by the U.S. Government and concerned Americans with support worldwide.

Guiragos Kojakian
Hagopjan Kojakian
Levon Kojakian
Harutiun Ansurian
Artashes Solakian
Hovhaness Kussajukian
Hagopig Kussajukian
Maria Kussajukian
Makrouhi Kussajukian
Anoush Sarmanian
Anna Sarmanian
Yurapet Karapetyan
Ephrem Karapetyan
Hamparsum Borzakian
Aghajan Tepoyan
Haiganoush Kilerciyan
Yeranig Alexanyan
Artin DerSimonian
Rebecca DerSimonian
Hovnan Doursounian
Shoushan Doursounian
Simon DerSimonian
Nargiz DerSimonian
Avedis Kevorkian
Hampartsoom Belejian
Roupen Racoubian
Sarkis Gureghian
Aram Demerjian
Michael Frengulian
Kevork Dashebeukian
Nishan Avedikian
Toros Kurkjian
Senecherin Kalionjian
Tomas Khanzedian
Mihran Chamian
Mergerios Tashjian
Antranig Beshgeturian
Yervant Gabashian

Levon Racoubian
Barour Kapigian
Yervant Frengulian
Musbeg Demirjian
Kaprial Chordikian
Serop Srabian
Movses Avedikian
Mourad Abrahamian
Siran Khachigian
Souren Yavruian
Levon Gevorgian
Garabed Tahmizian
Magaros Dabanian
Khoren Tossounian
Charles Atamian
Rose Atamian
Varduhi Hayzavakyan
Grikor Xazaryan
Trtat Podrumyan
Abraham Ashikyan
Mariam Ashikyan
Sahak Ashikyan
Manuk Ashikyan
Sarah Ashikyan
Haykuhi Ashikyan
Heripsime Ashikyan
Gevorg Ashikyan

Hovannes Knajian was a well-known and respected doctor. Turkish soldiers came to his door at 3 a.m. and told him his help was needed for a 9-year-old girl. He went with them and was never seen again.

Byuzant Ashikyan
Harutyun Arabyan
Abraham Arabyan
Karapet Arabyan
Shnavon Arabyan
Setrak Arabyan
Merkset Arabyan
Haji Arabyan
Lucine Arabyan
Yervand Arabyan
Mariam Arabyan
Sargis Hambartsumyan
Hambar Djxalyan
Arak Djxalyan
Manor Djxalyan
Hagop Gulyunyan
Gulyustan Gulyunyan
Gabriel Gulyunyan
Avetis Gulyunyan
Zakar Gulyunyan

□ 1730

Aghajan Tepoyan
Ossana Kalajian
Penyamin Vartivarian
Marta Kehyaian
Avedis Vosbikian
Haroutoun Tcholakian
Mariam Tcholakian
Krikor Dakessian
Dirouhi Dakessian
Maritza Achihsian
Araxi Barsamian
Donik Chilingirian
Yuhaper Chilingirian
Ovanes Chilingirian
Hazaros Bandoian
Harutyun Minasyan
Iskuhi Minasyan
Reverend Father Nerces Nercesian
Yeretsgin Alpesa Der Nercesian
Haroutun Haroutunian
Luso Melkonyan
Sanam Melkonyan
Levon Hakhoyan
Mavo Hakhoyan
Sedrak Avedissyan
Zumrogh Mikaelian
Dikran Mekhtarentz
Afram Hadouband
Kegham Mardikian
Megerdich Saroyan
Harutyun Parlakyan
Hagob Simonian
Thaguhi Ashchyan
Gohar Parlakyan
Manouk Pahlevan Keoseyan
Martiros Keoseyan
Onnig Khachaduryan
Knel Tourajikian
Sirarpy Tourajikian
Arusiag Tourajikian
Papken Tourajikian
Levon Tourajikian
Hermig Tourajikian
Ossanna Basmajian
Mihran Barzakyan
Anna Barzagyan
Awanes Kramian
Aslan Kadoyan
Tatos Kadoyan
Harry Dalalian
Aram Chamkertian
Garabet Chobanian
Serpouhi Adjemian Momjian
Kalousd Daghlarian
Serob Qosyan
Hossep Melkisetian
Khatchig Doudaklian
Avedis Mikaelian

Mesrob Der Mesrobian was burned alive in his church with his wife and his daughter.

Yeva Kevorkian
Stepan Khachigian
Garabeth Havoudjian
Sima Havoudjian
Sarkis Mahseredjian
Nishan Mahakian
Hagop Donikian
Garabed Daghlarian
Armenag Bilezikjian
Hovhaness Khrlakian
Eugenie Daghlarian
Macrouhie Lepejian
Azniv Lepejian
Mirzo Melkon Kalostyan
Hagop Alemian
Hovhannes Alemian
Manoug Kelerjian
Hovanes Derstepanian
Balasan Elbakyan
Sahak Elbakyan
Anush Elbakyan
Tokhman Hagop
Sirvart Tufenjioglu
Ovsanna Jamgotsian
Hovsep Chatoian
Kaspar Jamgotsian
Setrag Sahakian
Kevork Roumian
Nigoghos Tertsakian
Marie Tertsakian
Hovsep Vehuni
Avedis Giragosian
Garabed Sohigian
Hampardzum Khanamerian
Mariam Tatoian
Panos Cobanoglu
Kohar Cobanoglu
Panos Arslanoglu
Margrit Arslanoglu
Neshan Stepanian
Marie Mesrobian Kalpakian
Sarkis Postallian
Mary Postallian
Turfanda Minasian
Marian Minasian
Minas Minasian
Zaruhi Artin Nidelian
Tanzouf Artin Nidilian
Azaduhi Artin Nidelian
Apraham Koumruian
Khatchik Khacherian
Haiguhi Hagopian

Yetvart Jamgochian was 4 years old. He was with his sisters, hiding from shelling outside his village, when they were found by Turkish soldiers. They cut a cross into his face, and they killed him.

Eghiazar Melkonian
Sarkis Melikyan
Garabed Kulhanjian
Margaret Baronian
Hovaness Baronian
Marta Bilazarian
Sarkis Bilazarian
Bedros Der Sarkisian
Bedros Papazian
Haroutioune Aydabirian
Gabriel Handjian
Hagop Kouyoumdjian
Kevork Keshishian
Mariam Keshishian
Sarkis Ourfalian
Nevart Ourfalian
Salome Proodian
Raffi Proodian
Vartkes Proodian
Khatoon Proodian
Mugurditch Gulazian
Marderous Dadourian
Dr. Onnig Mardirossian
Artin Der-Azarian
Vartuhi Der-Azarian
Sarkis Samsatlian
Kevork Samsatlian
Kevork Adiyamanian
Vartivar Kourouyan
Mariam Kourouyan
Sarkis Dadoyan
Tamar Gulbankian
Zakary Mooradian
Antranig Agopian
Andreas Kelekian
Armenak Malkhasyan
Vartouhi Topian
Ardashes Topian
Hovannes Topian
Aristakes Topian
Madiam Topian
Nazanee Topian
Mariam Topian
Mikael Topian
Arshalouis Topian
Mary Vezirian
Hagop Havatian
Taniel Muftikian
Krikor Muftikian
Zacharia Melkonian
Shookry Grigoryan
Vartouhi Chakmanian

Armenouhi Toutikian was 7 years old. She died of dehydration and hunger on a march through the desert. Her father had to leave her body there in the sand.

Krikor Krikorian

Hovannes Krikorian
Vartanush Krikorian
Araksi Krikorian
Sarkis Muradian
Aris Krikorian
Hakop Alemian
Manouk Keshishian
Agapi Dardakhanian
Columbus Keshishian
Arakel Boghossian
Takvor Andonian
Siragan Andonian
Filor Atanesyan
Parsegh Gumushian
Haroutiun Gumushian
Veronica Gumushian
Haroutioun Andonian
Garabed Soovajian
Sisag Arpajian
Misak Arpajian
Krikor Orchanian
Anna Khouljanian
Harutyun Pogosyan
Pogos Sahakyan-Mirzayan
Eva Kevorkian
Garabed Kevorkian
Hovanes Aprahamian
Ashod Nishanian
Manvel Manukian
Khachig Khanzetian
Haroutyoon Bronozian
Mariam Zeibari
Boghos Avedian
Nazenik Avedian
Knarig Avedian
Shoushanig Avedian
Hagop Jomlekian
Azniv Jomlekian
Onnig Jomlekian
Aghavni Jomlekian
Megerditch Ayvazian
Markar Der Hovanesian
Hamparsoum Garabed Shehranian
Nishan Atamian
Nazaret DerTavitian
Zarouhi Andonian
Khachadour Paloulian
Sahag (Hagopian) Chakheian
Hagop (Avedissian) Chakheyan
Chakhe (Avedissian) Chakheyan
Serop Dzeroon Kizirian

Sarkis Amirkhanian was thrown into a well with his family and burned alive. The only survivor was his 13-year-old brother, who would recall unto his death many years later the smell of smoke.

Arpineh Kizirian
Avedis Kabaklian
Paylak Sarkisiants
Aramig Kitabjian
Siranush Kitabgian
Garabed Kitabjian
Setrak Kitabjian
Mariam Ter-Mkrtchyan
Movses Abajian
Alexan Keishian
Sahag Momdjian
Beatrice Momdjian
Garabed Momdjian
Armenag Momdjian
Joe Kahraman
Zaghig Seradarian
Megerdich Seradarian
Ohan Ohanian
Sirpouhi Ohanian
Sarkiss Mushetsi Baloian
Smbat Sargisi Sargsyan
Hranoosh Nalbandian Berberian
Asatur Soghomonian
Martiros and Aghavni Kotikian
Armenak Bahadorian
Hovannes Ananian
Nazareth Boujoulian
Harutiun Ansurian
Artashes Solakhian
Igit Nurbekyants
Miriam Sarkissian
Margarita Kaphian
Siroun Jilizian
Serop Jilizian
Minas Jilizian
Khatoun Jilizian
Hampartsum Torian
Hagop Torian
Dikran Torian
Dikran Dikranian
Araxi Dikranian

□ 1745

Lucine Torian
Abraham Dikranian
Vartuhi Dikranian
Ohanes Ohanian
Mihran Mozian
Haygazouhi Mozian
Juhar Ohanian
Juhar Ohanian
Hambarcum Chekichyan
Andranik Chekichyan
Hakop Chekichyan
Mariam Mardayan
Khachadour Vartanian
Zabelle Vartanian
Karabet Garsevanian
Simon Garsevanian
Sima Pamboukian
Shukri Pamboukian
Gevork Chilian
Margarit Pamboukian
Zarouhie Mekjian
Kevork Mekjian
Kirakos Lazarian
Pambock Lazarian

Haygaz Mitilian froze to his death on his father's shoulders in a snowstorm as they fled during the French retreat from Marash in 1920. He was 8 years old.

Garabed Baghamian
Aram Baghamian
Vahan Baghamian
Tzaghig Baghamian
Salpi Yengibaryan
Mary Manuelian
Sarkis Doudakian
Asadour Najarian
Terfanda Najarian
Garabed Tashjian
Hampartsoum Kenderian
Takouhy Kenderian
Mariam boghossian
Hripsime Kechichian
Sarkis Keshishian
Haroutioun Kourbanjian
Martiros Hovhannisyan
Nemzur Koubandjian
Grigor Mouradyan
Sahag Karajaian
Nemzur Karajaian
Harutune Dadourian
Hunazant Alexanian
Hovaness Azatyan
Mariam Azatyan
Hakop Laxoyan
Mari Laxoyan
Aharon Piloyan
Hagop Piloyan
Khachadour Piloyan
Hagop Kepenekian
Zaruhy Chitjian Khatunagian
Marinos Chitjian
Mardiros Chitjian
Vartouhi Chitjian
Yeranouhi Chitjian
Nishan Chitjian
Ludwig Madenlian
Vergeen Madenlian
Melkon Medzikian
Elmasd Medzikian
Hagop DerBedrossian
Yester DerBedrossian
Hambardzum Khulyan
Karapet Khulyan
Khachadoor Boyajian
Ipek Momdjian
Abraham Hayrikyan
Sahak Abrahamyan
Zaruhi Abrahamyan
Loosaper Balian
Avedis Nahabedian
Haig Nahabedian
Haigouhi Sare-Kechichian
Vahram DerManuelian
Chukajian Nurijan
Mariam Moughamian
Krikor Moughamian
Hovhannes Keshishian
Azniv Keshishian
Galust Avetisian
Andon Ahmaranian
Vartouhi Sarajian
Mariam Sarajian
Mardiros Kachian

Azatouhi Trdatyan was 3 years old. She was murdered, along with her parents, in front of her 13-year-old brother. Her brother survived but would never forget the trauma.

Petros Trdatyan
Dikran Menayan
Mariam Trdatyan
Anania Nalbandian
Sema Nalbandian
Nishan Totigian
Makrouhi Totigian
Sahag Karajaian
Nemzur Koubandjian
Haroutioun Kourbanjian
Yeghishe Bargamian
Jirair Bargamian
Agavni Norigian
Kohar Jokhajian
Zartoohie Karapiloian
Nshan DerBedrossian
Yeghisapet DerBedrossian
Aghajan DerBedrossian
Krikor DerBedrossian
Khanem DerBedrossian
Mariam DerBedrossian
Kevork DerBedrossian
Kayane DerBedrossian
Azniv DerBedrossian
Dickran Akmakjian
Maghak DerBedrossian
Hovsep DerBedrossian
Elise DerBedrossian
Zarouhi DerBedrossian
Noyemzar DerBedrossian
Vartouhi DerBedrossian
Aram Baghamian
Vahan Baghamian
Ara Aroian
Tzaghig Baghamian

Mariam Roubinian
Sylva Roubinian
Armenag Hokhikian
Martiros Mirakhorian
Zaghik Mardirosian
Andranik Tsarukyan
Margret Saroyan
Hovsep Saroyan
Akchan Mkhitarian
Grigor Mkhitarian
Nahabit Epikian
Yeghisabet Demirdjian
Haroution Demirdjian
Khachadour Cholakian
Mariam Agajanian
Hagop Der Nikoghosian
Der Ashot Avedian
Dikran Khanjian
Armenag Diradourian
Garabed Kenoian
Moushegh Boyajian
Easaya Kenoian
Elizabeth Boyajian Kenoian
Peter Boyajian
Garabed Baghamian
Sarkis Elmassian
Tzagheeg Baghamian
Adam Baghamian
Vahan Baghamian
Mugerditch Ohnikian

Malaka Soghomonian died from a forced march through the Der Zor Desert while she was pregnant. She left behind four living children, the oldest of whom was only 9.

Aghavnee Ohnikian
Haratyun Ohnikian
Ludwig Ohnikian
Hovsep Ohnikian
Annig Ohnikian
Mardig Kebabjian
Avedis Mardiros Gertmenian
Miriam Gertmenian Rejabian
Toros Chaglassian
Jivan Dedian
Armenag Baghdassarian
Kevork Aslanian
Nvard Ter-Stepanyan
Tzaghig Baghamian
Manush Pananian
Taguhi Doganyan
Hayrapet Doganyan
Hakop Karoyan
Petros Keheyan
Nazeli Keheyan
Abraham Hairbedian
Khanem DerTavitian
Levon Hissarian
Myram Kazarian
Siranoush Arakelian
Kazar Arakelian
Armenag Metchikian
Garabed Varjabedian
Boghos Asharjian
Boghos Asharjian
Mena Ashajian
Barkev Asharjian
Dikran Asharjian
Vartan Demoorjian
Aharon Der Melkon
Nazley Sarookeshian
Fedan Shokeyian
Krikor Shalelengian
Manoog Shokeyian
Sarkis Sarookeshishian
Markarid Ounanian Shalelengian
Osgehan Shalelengian
Sirma Shalalengian
Avedis Shalelengian
Bedros Tekian
Krikor Dulgarian
Pilbos Der Avedisian
Anahid Oundjian
Vardui Gasparian
Yeghiasar Yaylayian
Hagop Yaylayian
Vosgan Topalian
Antranig Hayrabed
Maritza Onnigian
Nerses Shabaglian
Maritza Onnigian
Lucie Ayvazian
Takouhi khardalian
Sarkis Mavilian
Nunia Mavilian
Nazely Sarookeshian
Fedan Shokeyian
Levon Hissarian
Zarouhi Tchekrekhjian
Nazaret Magarian
Zarouhi Magarian
Rahel Demirjian
Raffael Der-Tovmasyan
Levon Aharonian
Aharon Aharonian
Altoon Aharonian
Haygaz Simonian
Hagop Beloian
Hagop Beloian
Yetvart Jamgochian
Vergeen Tashjian
Verone Bedrosian
Smbat Byurat DerGhazarian
Zumgroot DerGhazarian
Zartar Arakelian
Maryam Kazarian
Hovanness Yeretzian
Marian Shekerdemian
Vartan Yeretzian
Kevork Vichabian
Simon Simonyan
Zmrookht Simonyan
Mariam Simonyan
Haroutyun Papazian
Zakaria Minassian
Garabed Jingozian
Zakaria Minassian
Krikor Papazian
Baghdassar Karibian
Mary Meuguerditchian-Apelian
Zakar Ovoian
Hambardzum Khulyan
Suren Hakobyan
Azatuhi Hakobyan
Vostan Baghallian
Simon Hovhannesi Achikgiozian
Hripsime Aghvinian
Hovhanes Aghvinian
Ester Maghakian
Boghos Maghakian
Maghak Maghakian
Mkhoyan Asatur
Hripsime Maghakian
Srpuhi Mkrtchyan
Assadour Assadourian
Yeva Hovhannessian
Ghazaros Medzoian
Sargsian Tigran
Loosatsin Medzoian
Araxi Fundukian
Zaven Fundukian
Mariam Aroushian
Sarkis Aroushian
Gadarine Fundukian
Anahid Fundukian
Elmast Medzigian
Khachig Fundukian
Hagop Fundukian
Khassig Fundukian
Eva Fundukian
Melkon Medzigian
Ludwig Medzigian
Verjin Medzigian
Ara Medzigian
Hovannes Altibarmakian
Horop Anoushian
Zakaryan Nerses
Grigor Zohrap
Movses Deirmendjian
Hovaness Toutikian
Maritsa Kyulehyan
Tadevos Karapetyan
Khatchador Boyajian
Shimavon Donoyan
Anna Donoyan
Avedis Chaparian
Sirak Keshishian
Mardiros Toutikian
Abraham Toutikian
Hovannes Knajian
Armenouhi Toutikian
Harout Knajian
Lucya Knajian
Christeen Ter Stepanian
Avak Mouradian
Papken Toumaian
Hagop Kalbakian
Aram Jermakyan
Garabed Kaloustian
Sarkis Dadoyan
Elisabeth Partamian
Nazareth Partamian
Ovsanna Kayayan
Marna Banerian
Onnig Khachigian
Elmonig Khachigian
Onnig Khachaturian
Stepan Khachigian
Elize Avakian
Zabel Avakian
Arousiag Avakian
Setrag Avakian
Mgrditch Tashjian
Boghos Mkhitarian
Iskouhi Gabrielian
Aregnaz Markaryan
Missak Mozian
Haroutyun Sarkissian
Santoukht Mozian Ansoorian
Mikael Ansoorian
Yeghia Sarkissian
Khazaros Charchian
Mihran Berberian
Haganoush Tarpinian
Megerdich Sarafian
George Chelabian
Hakop Ter-Saakyan
Tatos Moloian
Mikael Khachetoorian
Hamparsoum Borzakian
Mesrob Der Mesrobian
Marta Avakian
Karnig Tomassian
Gayane Kazarian
Dikran Kazarian
Ararat Kazarian
Shoushanig Donegian
Haroutune Oknayan
Hagop Parsaghian
Niko Zakarian
Mariam Kouyoumjian
Kevork Mardirossian
Hripsime Mardirossian
Kevork Mardirossian

Makrouhie Oknayan
Khachik Oknayan
Hagop Oknayan
Mihran Oknayan
Manuk Oknayan
Asvadzadour Oknayan
Marie Oknayan
Mousheg Khodjhumyan
Jovannes Kabbendjian
Krakow Ouzounian
Edward Bozajian
Manouk Gasparian
Gazaros Tombulyan
Sarkis Gasparian
Ibrahim Louseian
Ann Gasparian
Ibrahim Lousean
Davit Gezalian
Yegisabet Gezalian
Hrand Mikoyan
Minas Chatalian
Mariam Chatalian
Yestare Bedrossian
Rosa Jeboghlian
Marie Balian
Mikael Tarkanian
Alton Derderian
Esksa. Derderian
Mihran Tarkanian
Vartan Dakessian
Levon Guevoghlanian
Boghos Grikorian
Hovanes Minasyan
Gevorg Minasyan
Matevos Matilyan
Simon Kelian
Hovannes Terterian
Haji Teyrekian
Ahavni Biricikyan
Avetis Martirosyan
Ocean Movsesian
Krikor Gureghian
Paul DerBoghosian
Sahag DerBoghosian
Tigran Trchunyan
Tirhouhi Kara-Sarkissian
Gevork Kara-Sarkissian
Armen Kara-Sarkissian
Aram Kara-Sarkissian
Alexan Tavitian
Armine Pagoumian
Vartan Balikian
Margaret Madoian
Miriam Madoian
Hatchig Madoian
Pusant Madoian
Maghta Gevorgian
Barsegh Karapetyan
Osanna Madoian
Atoyan Maria-Magdalena
Stepan Arvanyan
Haroutune Bozghourdian
Ghazaros Baldjian
Sanasar Hovhannisyan
Eriya Amirian
Armenag Zeytounsian
Toros Agha Chaghlassian
Hovsep Najarian
Stephen Minasian
Haykandukht Mheryan
Hagop Melkonian
Christaphor Mheryhan
Nerses Mheryhan
Serop Manjikian
Sarkis Kurkdjian Senior
Tigran Zarookian
Zarouhi Alachanian
Mardiros Djambazian
Anahid Der Parseghian
Zaruhi Caroglanian
Asadour Daldabanian
Krikor Daldabanian
Arshagul Artinian
Krikor Artinian
Vaxho Simonyan
Haroutyun Tatikyan
Kurken Parseghian
Mihran Sabonjian
Vahan Kazezian
Mariam Kazezian
Yebrakseh Kazezian
Krikor Sabonjian
Nazar Guyujyan
Razmik Palandjyan
Mari Guyujyan
Krikor Gokpanossian
Panos Trashian
Goar Akopova
Anoush Kulafian
Vartouhy Kulafian
Ohannes Hagopian
Hagop Hagopian
Jirair Demirjian
Suqias Nuroyan
Matevos Sachyan
Hnazand Sachyan
Samson Khachatryan
Mariam Khachatryan
Asadur Arabyan
Arax Arabyan
Zvart Kureghian
Deradour Harmandayan
Kveh Gasparian
Gohar Kirakosian
Vasilika Kirakosyan
Zabel Kirakosian
Karapet Gasparian
Mariam Yeritsyan
Arakel Arakelyan
Makartich Ter-Hakopian
Nicholas Chavshudian
Mary Chavshudian
Avedis Kilisian
Mari Shirinian
Arsen Pashgian
Haiganoush Mandjikian
Krikor Kaakedjian
Gadar Chaparian
Takouhi Baghoyan
Ani Hidirsah
Haygaz Baghoyan
Parsegh Baghoyan
Hagop Zilifian
Helen Manoyan
Boghos Manoyan
Krikor Zilifian
Jovannes Kabbendjian
Vahan Hakobyan
Haykaz Sarkissyan
Lucia Baghdasaryan
Sara Galtakian
Arutyun Gelejian
Tagvor Dadurian
Araxsi Dadurian
Alina Dadurian
Hmiyak Dadurian
Nishan Chaderjian
Nishan Chaderjian
Maritza Chaderjian
Martha Margosian
Gulenia Havounjian
Tonapet Yeritsyan
Hovsep Sarkissian
Armenuhi Balian
Vahram Ghiragossian
Hagop Kouyoumdjian
Mary Kouyoumdjian
Vartivar Berberian
Yaghsapet Berberian
Hagop Pessayan
Mary Pessayan
Armen Dedeyan
Simon Terzian
Satenik Lusparyan
Hripsime Lusparyan
Artavazd Tumanyan
Nikolaj Safrazbekyan
Levon Safrazbekyan
Rebecca Margossian
Toros Margossianmy
Sarkis Panpalian
Vartan Vartanian
Hanna Gulian
Haroutioun Kapralian
Ana Kapralian
Flore Kapralian
Baghdassar Avedikian
Ohaness Aslanian
Isgouhi Zhamgochian Derounian
Hagop Terzian
Nishan Chaderjian
Maritza Chaderjian
Hagop Chaparian
Artin Chaparian
Hampartsoum Piligian
Hovaness Piligian
Haroutune Piligian
Pilig Piligian
Kevork Chaparian
Movses Kavarian
Megerdich Kavarian
Khatoon Kavarian
Joseph Hanna
Danho Kavarian
Hagop Kradjian
Deekran Kradjian
Nazaret Oglou
Dikran Svazlian
Hagop Bodoorian
Garabed Chilingirian
Toukhman Zoroghlian
Touma Zoroghlian
Garabed Zoroghlian
Hovhanness Zoroghlian
Loucine Zoroghlian
Garabed Zoroghlian
Nshan Ter-Saakyan
Hovhannes Tngozian
Karapet Grigoryan
Parantzem Garavanian
Abkar Badalian
Karapet Grigoryan
Parantzem Garavanian
Abkar Badalian
Jeyran Badalian
Manuk Hamamchyan
Sarhad Kocharian
John Hovig Yeressian
Kerop Tsaxikyan
Tatos Ghazazian
Yervand Urghatbashian
Margaret Urghatbashian
Caspar Mardirossian
Sinam Yeranosian
Hovakim Ahramjian
Beghekia Ahramjian
Arsen Avedikian
Acabi Avedikian
Zarmandought Ahramjian
Yevkiné Ahramjian
Arousiag Ahramjian
Khoren Aharonian
Raphael Bahde
Joseph Moukhtar

George Moukhtar
Francis Moukhtar
George Farra
Mlcon Movsessian
Mécon Movsessian
Dr. Ovsia Hekimian
Tavit Tavitian
Antaram Hovanesian
Sarkis Hovanesian
Galust Jermakyan
Hamardzum Jermakyan
Vrej Jermakyan
Toros Jermakyan
Mania Jermakyan
Levon Jermakyan
Aram Jermakyan
Siranush Alexanian
Grigo Alexanian
Maqruhi Alexanian
Maqruhi Alexanian
Avak Der-Avakian
Hana Soghomonian
Malaka Soghomonian
Isahak Ekshian
Mariam Ekshian
Arsen Kostanyan
Yegish Grigoryan
Kriikor Shahinian
Khanum Nalbanian Shahinian
Anna Garabedian
Airapet Tumanyan
Lucine Maghakian Adanalian
Stepan Boyajian
Stepan Boyajian
Hossep Melkisetian
Parségh Shahbaz
Ardashés Haroutiunian
Jack Sayabalian (Paylag)
Krikor Torosian
Kégham Parséghian
Dikran Cheogurian
Shavarsh Kûrisian
Krikor Yésayan
Aris Israyélian
Mihran Tabakian
Hagop Térzian
Arisdagés Kasbarian
Haroutiun G. Jangulian
Bédros Kalfayan
Haroutiun Kalfayan
Edwar Béyazian
Yénovk Shahén
Nérsés Papazian
Nérsés Zakarian
Dr. Sdépan Miskjian
Dr. Lévon Bardizbanian
Vramshabooh Arabian
Nérsés Shahnoor
Sérovpé Noradoongian
Karékin Husian
Mardiros H. Koondakjian
Krikor Armooni
Boghos Tanielian
Megerdich Garabédian
Apraham Hayrigian
Levon Aghababian
Kevork Terjimanian
Dikran Ashkharooni
Kevork Diratsooyan
Mihrtad Haygazn
Rosdom Rosdomian
Vramshabooh Samuelian
Arshag Khazkhazian
Mrgrrdich Sdepanian
Levon Shashian
Paroonag Feroukhan
Onnig Maghazajian
Teodor Mendzigian
Varteres Atanasian
Apig Jambaz
Vahram Altoonian
Yerchanig Aram
Nerses D. Kevorkian
Onnig Srabian
Partogh Zorian
Akrig Kerestejian
Melkon Piosian
Pilibbos Chilinguirian
Haroutiun Konialian
Vahan Jamjian
Haroutiun Kalfaian
Hovhannes Kelejian
Sdepan Kurkjian
Dikran Sarkisian
Barooyr Arzoomanian
Haig Derderian
Mirijan Artinian
Hampartsum Balasan
Vahan Kehiaian
Ardashes Ferahian
Artin Meserlian
Armenag Arakelian
Mihran Pasdûrmajian
Neshan Nahabedian
Yeghia Suzigian
Bedros Kurdian
Diran Yerganian
Asadoor Madteosian
Yervant Chavooshian
Hagop Shahbaz
Sarkis Kaligian
Garabed Reyisian
Kevork Kopooshian
Krikor Ohnigian
Aram Ohnigian
Karekin Ohnigian
Hovhannes Keoleian
Dikran Baghdigian
Hovhannes Cheogurian
Dr. Bénné Torosian
Aram Achúkbashian
Kegham Vanigian
Yervant Topoozian
Roupen Garabedian
Hovhannes Der Ghazarian
Tovmas Tovmasian
Hagop Basmajian
Moorad Zakarian
Megerdich Yeretsian
Karekin Boghosian
Armenag Hampartsoumian
Yeremia Manoogian
Apraham Mooradian
Minas Keshishian
Sûmpad Kûlûjian
Karnig Boyajian
Herand Yegavian
Boghos Boghosian
Herand Aghajanian
Garabed Patoogian
Khoren Khorenian
Amasiatsi Krikor Kayian
Vramian Onnig Tertsagian
Ardashes Solakian
A. Proodian
Garabed Dantlian
Haygag Yeremishian
Tûlgadintsi
Prof. Garabed Soghigian
Prof. Megerdich Vorperian
Prof. Hovhannes Boujikanian
Prof. Nigoghos Tenekejian
Prof. Khachadour Nahigian
Prof. Donabed Lulejian
Jirair Hagopian
Hovhannes Dingilian
Hovhannes Aghanigian
Aram Srabian
Armen Onanian
Hovsep Malemezian
Kegham Samuelian
Kapriel Tanielian
Karnig Gosdanian
Hagop Dinjian
Armen Hovagimian
Asadour Jamgochian
Hovhannes Zartarian
Kevork Keleshian
Hagop Shoushanian
Setrag Dulgerian
Aram Dabaghian
Haroutiun Semerjian
Sarkis Eljanian
Mihran Isbirian
Senekerim Kalyonjian
Moorad Derderian
Garabed Barsamian
Karnig Toughlajian
Manuel Dedeian
Levon Kantarian
Aram Hagopian
Khachadour Grdodian
Michael Frengulian
Roupen Rakoubian
Hampartsoom Blejian
Vahan Husisian
Nazaret Husisian
Hemayag Karageozian
Israel Ozanian
Dajad Chebookjian
Levon Karageozian
Hmayag Margosian
Hmaiag Karibian
Ardashig Boornazian
Hagop Boornazian
Arshag Kizirian
Hovhannes Boghosian
Antranig Bozajian
Aram Adrouni
Aram Shesheian
Hûrach Loosparonian
Megerdich Asdourian
Tsitoghtsi Setrag Varjabed
Partogh Odabashian
Kaloosd Garabedian
Vahan Kasbarian

This evening I have had only 1 hour to pay tribute to those who were killed 100 years ago. I had hoped to get through 1,500 names, and I have still so many more to go. I will be entering all of the names that I received into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

It would take me at least another 1,000 hours, if I could, to speak the names of all 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children who were lost. In their memory, we think of those who went before. We cherish their memory, and we have the courage to speak aloud that they perished in the first genocide of the last century. We will never forget, and we will never succumb to the coercion of complicity in silence on genocide.

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

□ 1800

IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the

gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I do want to commend my friend from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for what he is doing. I think it is a very noble thing to do when people are killed. Whether you want to call it a genocide or not, I just appreciate very much my friend ADAM SCHIFF calling those names and giving them recognition after the hell on Earth they went through. It was a very noble endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, what I came to the floor to talk about is the so-called deal that the administration is trying in every way they can to get Iran to even just say that they are okay with. Unfortunately, the Iranians have been dragging this out for years now. I read that Valerie Jarrett had been talking before with the Iranians before the deal—the negotiations, at least—ever surfaced. And we have reports that there was an informal negotiation taking place. It was denied back originally, and it turns out there were negotiations.

So what this has done to Israel—our ally, our friends in Israel, the people that are actually our forward observers out there in the middle of the chaotic Middle East that this administration has helped make more chaotic—they are out there, and they are kind of like, as some people have referred to them, the miner's canary. When they are under attack, when they are struggling because of other countries, then we can anticipate the United States will be shortly behind it.

Here is an article from The Wall Street Journal dated April 17, entitled, ''U.S. Suggests Compromise on Iran Sanctions,'' the byline, ''President Obama said Tehran could receive significant economic relief immediately after concluding a deal to curb its nuclear program.''

Isn't that great, though? We are now using the word ''curb'' their nuclear deal. At one time, it was to ''dismantle'' their nuclear efforts. At one time, it was going to be totally unacceptable for Iran—probably the biggest supporter of terrorism in the world. Certainly they have supported plenty of terrorism that has killed Americans. They have built and used and furnished IEDs that have killed and maimed so many thousands of Americans. But now we are down, at this point, to just curbing. If we can just curb them, apparently that will be satisfactory.

And after the last so-called mutual agreement was announced, we had the leaders of Iran saying, We didn't agree to any of that.

Now having been a former judge, having tried no telling how many cases, I know that if you have one side saying ''we have an agreement'' and the other side saying ''we never agreed to anything,'' and that is before any of the terms of the agreement are ever undertaken by either side, then you don't have an agreement. They teach you it is basic contracts.

I know the President, in Chicago, was concentrating on the Constitution, but the fact is, under contract law, one of the contract 101 things they teach you is, you have to have a mutual meeting of the minds. If one side says, ''We haven't agreed to anything,'' and you don't have a document they signed, and you don't have a tape recording even of them saying, ''Yes, we agree to those things,'' you don't have a deal. You don't have an agreement. There is absolutely nothing enforceable. And the interesting thing about international law is, basically, if the most powerful country in the world is not willing to enforce something that it says is an agreement, then it doesn't matter whether you have got an agreement or not.

I was very fortunate to have had, for a semester at Baylor Law School, a visiting dean of a Japanese law school who taught an international law course that I took. I did as well as you can do in that course. Our professor, the visiting dean, was such a brilliant guy. I did a paper on law of the sea and did very well with that.

I loved to sit down and visit with the dean from Japan. After the conclusion of the course, I had my grade. I said: You know, Dean, I hope this is not inappropriate to say; but having taken your course, having studied diligently for your course, it seems to me that the bottom line with international law is that, really, international law is whatever the biggest, most powerful country says it is, if they are willing to use their power. And the dean said; Well, Mr. GOHMERT, you did learn something in my course. Yes, you have got it.

In international law, if nobody is willing to stand behind a deal and force another country to abide by the deal, you don't have a deal. You might as well not even have a written agreement in international law if somebody is not willing to enforce it.

Under most people's definition of an act of war, if you would attack an embassy, then for purposes of most people's international law, you have committed an act of war. That embassy is considered to be sovereign. If you attack that embassy, you have attacked that country—it is an act of war—which is what happened in 1979 in a place called Tehran, Iran.

I was in the Army, stationed at Fort Benning at the time, so we obviously were paying close attention to an act of war against the United States. I think most people at Benning were put on alert, but nothing happened.

An act of war was committed against the United States, but our failure to do anything but basically beg the Iranians to let our hostages come home was deemed as weakness and, as I understand, still is used from time to time today as part of the recruiting effort to show that Americans have no backbone. They are not going to stand up to radical Islamists. Radical Islamists can have their will because America is a toothless tiger, unwilling to enforce anything.

Oh, sure. Somebody, to want to look tough, may send a boat to tag along behind a convoy, and we may send planes to blow up a tent or, like President Clinton did, blow up a camel from time to time. It seemed like there may have been an aspirin factory or something. Maybe there was something more serious, but that is not shock and awe, as we have shown some places before.

So when they are recruiting, of course they use the toothless, feckless United States examples. Like after the USS *Cole*, I had a servicemember that told me recently he was there and they couldn't believe that anybody could attack a United States naval ship and basically we don't do anything.

I understood from somebody in the Reagan administration that one of President Reagan's great regrets was after, I think it was, probably Iran behind the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut where we lost about 300 precious Marine lives, Congress made clear we are not funding anything else, and we pulled out. Another recruiting tool for radical Islamists.

And even that example from Beirut, under such a great American President as Ronald Reagan, going back to 1979 when radical Islam first committed an act of war against the United States, that was in response to President Carter—at least, it followed his pronouncement that the Ayatollah Khomeini was a man of peace. They hit our Embassy.

I know at first they were saying: Oh, the college students attacked. The college students have the hostages. And it seemed to me, as a member of the United States Army watching the news carefully from Fort Benning, that it seemed like they kept saying, you know, the students have the hostages. And I kept thinking if President Carter will just say: Okay. The students have the hostages. Then you get them back to us within 48 hours or even 72 hours; otherwise, you are going to see the entire power of the United States military coming at Iran. And heaven help you, if you harm our hostages at all, we may just wipe Tehran off the map if you do, and you as part of it.

I really felt like they would probably release the hostages and say: See? See? The students had them. We talked them into releasing them.

But rather quickly, they figured out that the Carter administration was not going to use the U.S. power and that all it was going to do was basically beg for the hostages to be released until they scaled back an effort to rescue the hostages that ended up being inadequate because the Carter administration didn't authorize enough helicopters. They needed six. General Boykin confirmed what I was told at Fort Benning, that they needed six to get to the staging area, crossing 500 miles or so of desert. Their helicopters had turbine engines. They expected that they might lose as many as 50 percent of their choppers. But they had to have six get to the staging area, meet the C–130 there and the other aircraft

and get ready and then launch, because they knew where the hostages were.

The Carter administration didn't allow enough helicopters so they could get there with six. They got there with five. And as General Boykin confirmed what I had heard before, when they got there with five, then they had to abort because they had to have a minimum of six to make it work. Perhaps the helicopter pilot got disoriented. The chopper leaned, the blades went through the C–130, and the people on the C–130 and the helicopter were killed.

But it goes back to having a Commander in Chief that is not willing to do everything he can to use our power to save American lives and to send a message around the world: Don't mess with the United States. Don't mess with our Embassy. Don't mess with our Embassy workers, because if you do, there will be a powerful price to pay.

□ 1815

Mr. Speaker, the message instead was: We got the power, but we don't have the backbone to use it. And that is being carried out. Of course, President Reagan used American power to send a message. President George H. W. Bush, after Kuwait was invaded by Iraq—I love the fact, as a former military member, that President George H. W. Bush was a former military member, and instead of trying to micromanage the freeing of Kuwait, instead of micromanaging, President Bush told the military leaders that the goal is to liberate Kuwait; you tell me what we've got to do. They told him how many people we would need in theater before we attack. You hit them hard with bombing, loosen them up, and the mission went incredibly well until Democrats in Congress started yelling, in essence, figuratively speaking, that President Bush needed to stop, stop, stop. Many in the media, stop, stop, stop, they are not fighting, they can't stand up against us, oh, please stop, you are being too brutal.

So President Bush, because of the left, was persuaded not to go all the way to Baghdad at that time. Then later he was beat up by the left in 1992 for not going ahead and taking out Saddam when he had the chance.

So it is an interesting place to work here.

Mr. Speaker, I go through that history so we understand where we stand historically with radical Islam in the Middle East. They don't see us with the kind of fear that they should.

Now, this article from The Wall Street Journal, dated April 27, by Carol E. Lee and Jay Solomon, says:

''President Barack Obama suggested on Friday that Iran could receive significant economic relief immediately after concluding a deal to curb its nuclear program, a gesture towards one of Tehran's key demands.''

It is really great. Tehran makes demands, the President follows right in line, and Secretary Kerry follows right in line as if he is going to be throwing medals over the White House fence that belonged to somebody else. It is great. They just follow right in line. Okay, Iran, please, we beg you. Do a deal with us. At least come out and announce with us we have a deal, and we will do anything you want.

That is the way it is appearing not only to the radical Islamists of the world. It sure seems that they have our President wrapped around their little finger and that they can get anything they want.

Well, Mr. Speaker, what should they think after the Taliban in Afghanistan was begged by the Obama administration to, gee, just sit down with us, we will buy you wonderful offices in Qatar, and we will give you international prominence. Heck, if you sit down, we will let murderers go of your Taliban leaders. Just sit down with us. That is all we are asking.

It sent a pretty clear message. That gets around. They understand who they are dealing with.

On page 3 of the 4-page article from The Wall Street Journal it says this:

''The Obama administration estimates Iran has between $100 billion and $140 billion of its oil revenue frozen in offshore accounts as a result of sanctions. U.S. officials said they expect Tehran to gain access to these funds in phases as part of a final deal. Iran could receive somewhere between $30 billion and $50 billion upon signing the agreement, said congressional officials briefed by the administration.''

So, Mr. Speaker, that is from The Wall Street Journal. Then 2 days later, April 19, in an article by Jennifer Rubin, it says: ''Washington Post: Obama is prepared to give anything and everything for a deal.'' Then it goes on to say:

''Just days after releasing the Iran framework, Secretary of State John F. Kerry reaffirmed that the United States would insist on phased-in sanctions relief. Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei publicly rebuked that suggestion and declared he would insist on sanctions relief up front. On Friday, the President cleared up matters by hanging Kerry out to dry, pulling the rug out from under his dwindling band of supporters and telling the world that phased negotiations were up for grabs.

''The President declared:

''With respect to the issue of sanctions coming down—I don't want to get out ahead of John Kerry and my negotiators in terms of how to craft this. I would just make a general observation and that is that how sanctions are lessened, how we snap back sanctions if there's a violation—there are a lot of different mechanisms and ways to do that. Part of John's job and part of the Iranian negotiators' job and part of the P5+1's job is to sometimes find formulas that get to our main concerns while allowing the other side to make a presentation to their body politic that is more acceptable.''

So going down the article, it said:

''This is a dramatic change in the administration's position and a foolish one. We know, as former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George P. Schultz have warned, snap-back sanctions are cumbersome and hugely ineffective. Sanctions once lifted are enormously difficult to reinstate after Western powers have commenced doing business. Inspections (not even of the go everywhere/anytime variety) are never foolproof and the parties contemplate a system designed for endless wrangling about whether violations have occurred.

''But wait. It gets worse. The Wall Street Journal reports: 'The Obama administration estimates Iran has between $100 billion and $140 billion of its oil revenue frozen in offshore accounts as a result of sanctions' ''. . . ''The monies of course will be instantly available to fund terrorist activities.''

Well, Mr. Speaker, I guess that wouldn't be President Obama saying that because apparently he hadn't recognized that, but, okay.

The article says:

''That would be a huge boost to Iran's economy, given up front and with no evidence of compliance. The monies of course will be instantly available to fund terrorist activities and Iranian surrogates in Yemen, Syria, and elsewhere.

'' 'Obama is willing to grant Iran access to funds that equate to about 10 percent of its GDP' ''—Iran's GDP—'' 'just for signing a deal. That percentage boost is equivalent to a $1.7 trillion injection into the U.S. economy today (which is twice the dollar amount of the 2009 stimulus package).' ''

That was explained by JINSA CEO Michael Makovsky.

'' 'This was a terrific present to Iran for its Army Day celebration on Saturday, when the regime showed off some of its weapons to slogans of ''Death to America,'' and ''Death to Israel.'' ' He adds, 'Equally dismaying was Obama's minimization in the same press conference of Russia's announcement to sell S–300 surface-to-air missile batteries to Iran, which will make a military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities much harder. Perhaps Obama was trying to save face by this Russian move, and/or perhaps he no longer opposes the Russian sale because it will make it harder for Israel to spoil the nuclear deal through military action.'

''If Israelis are expressing 'shock and amazement Friday night at U.S. President Barack Obama's stated openness to Iran's demand for the immediate lifting of all economic sanctions, and his defense of Russia's agreement to supply a sophisticated air defense system to Iran,' they should not be. The President will give the Iranians anything and everything to get his deal. 'It's deeply troubling that President Obama declined to publicly reject Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's demand that all economic sanctions against Iran be lifted upon concluding a final nuclear agreement,' Senator

MARK KIRK told Right Turn. 'The President is clearly leaving open the door for significant sanctions relief to Iran up front to secure a controversial deal that will neither significantly nor permanently dismantle Iran's vast capabilities to make nuclear weapons.'

''The President who once declared the framework a 'historic' deal has been forced to concede there is no deal. Now he is signaling the final deal will be much worse than he or his defenders ever suggested was possible. He promised to dismantle Iran's nuclear weapons program; now he is locking it in. He once insisted on robust inspections and gradual lifting of sanctions. Those will go by the wayside too. Ultimately, Congress, the 2016 Presidential candidates, our allies and the American people will need to explain that total appeasement—which is where this is leading—will not be acceptable. They will then have to devise the means for stopping Obama or immediately reversing his 'diplomacy,' which is more like promising to make a ransom payment. Unfortunately for the Saudis, that likely means beginning an arms race as they seek a bomb of their own. It will be quite a legacy if Obama gets his way.''

Mr. Speaker, this President's foreign policy in the Middle East and North Africa has created chaos.

Then April 20, there is this article from the Washington Free Beacon:

''The State Department on Monday would not rule out giving Iran up to $50 billion as a so-called 'signing bonus.'''

. . . ''Experts have said this multimillion dollar 'signing bonus' option, which was first reported by The Wall Street Journal, could be the largest cash infusion to a terror-backing regime in recent memory.''

So they are getting access to money, the article points out.

So then, Mr. Speaker, I want to take us back to March 2 from The Blaze, where they report on President Obama saying Netanyahu has been wrong on Iran. And they have this quote in the article, and it quotes from Reuters, this is a quote from Obama, reported by Reuters:

''Netanyahu made all sorts of claims. This was going to be a terrible deal. This was going to result in Iran getting $50 billion worth of relief,' Obama told Reuters in an interview Monday. 'Iran would not abide by the agreement. None of that has come true.'''

That was March 2. Now here we are on April 22, and it turns out everything Prime Minister Netanyahu said has been true. So far, Mr. Speaker, everything that he has said that we have been able to get evidence on has been true. President Obama was wrong, Prime Minister Netanyahu was right, and knowing President Obama to be the big, courteous, and wonderful man he is, I am sure he will be sending an apology to Prime Minister Netanyahu very soon since he does owe him one. On March 2 he tells Reuters that Netanyahu was wrong on everything, and now just over a month later we find out he was right about everything. So I think that will be good news when the President admits to Israel they were right, I was wrong.

By the way, what could we do with that $50 billion that they may let Iran have access to after all the damage, all the Americans Iran has funded killing and maiming. We could use some of that money. Wow, $50 billion.

But one final article dated today from John Sexton, ''Iran Says It Will Refuse Access to IAEA Inspectors Anywhere' Nationwide.''

''A spokesman for Iran's nuclear agency has once again rejected calls to grant IAEA access to military sites, continuing a war of words on the issue that began Sunday.''

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, this President is putting the world in jeopardy. He is putting Israel in jeopardy. He is putting us in jeopardy. He is putting all of Israel's neighbors in jeopardy. It is time he woke up and smelled the baklava.

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

□ 1830

FUTURE FORUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to report back to the Congress on the progress of the House Democratic Caucus' newest group, Future Forum.

Future Forum is made up of 14 Members of Congress who are going across the country to talk about issues facing young Americans. We launched just last Thursday. We have gone to New York, Boston, and San Francisco, and we are just warming up.

Our goal is to listen to—not talk to—young Americans about issues ranging from student loan debt, climate change, access to entrepreneurship, and anything that is on their mind or standing in their way of achieving their dreams, hopes, and aspirations.

I encourage anyone watching tonight across America to tweet at me and to tweet at Future Forum under #futureforum, so that we can address your concerns right here on the House floor and across the country.

We started Thursday evening in New York City. I was joined by Democratic Policy and Communications chair STEVE ISRAEL; Congresswoman GRACE MENG, who represents the Queens area; and Congressman SETH MOULTON, who represents the greater Boston area.

Our first stop was at the District Cowork space in Manhattan in the Flatiron District. You see here in this photo, this was not just any rigid, stuffy townhall. We invited young entrepreneurs across Manhattan and asked them at District Cowork: What stands in your way from achieving your startup success?

You have in this room these young, energetic entrepreneurs. They are ready to risk it all for their big idea. They are all millennials, aged anywhere from 18 to 35; and it was a very informal, fluid session.

What we heard was not surprising, but it was very striking. For too many of them, when we asked, How many of you have student loan debt, their hands went up. For too many of them, when we asked, How much is your student loan debt, their hands stayed up when I said, Is it above $25,000 or $50,000 or $100,000?

Then I asked and my colleagues asked: What would you do with that money? What would you spend it on if you weren't spending it every month on your student loan debt?

These young, business-minded people, they didn't say: I would go on a vacation, or I would buy a new toy or a boat or have fun for myself.

They said: I would invest it in my company. I would invest it in my company.

What do we know happens when entrepreneurs invest money in their companies? They create jobs. They create growth around their industries that put more and more Americans to work.

Future Forum members learned a lot at this visit, and what we learned was that student loan debt is a barrier—not just a barrier, it is a tall brick wall that is standing in the way of an entire generation realizing their entrepreneurial dreams.

What we heard at District Cowork in New York was not unique. In San Francisco, we went to Hive, and we visited their Impact Hub. Hive looked just like District Cowork. You have tall ceilings, nothing on the walls—they are barely painted—no carpet on the floor, just a building filled with a lot of energy, a lot of good ideas, but a lot of challenges standing in their way.

At Hive, these young entrepreneurs, just like other entrepreneurs across the country, they told us student loan debt is standing in their way. Forty-one million young Americans have a collective amount of $1.3 trillion in student loan debt.

We heard from people at Hive that their debt was not just standing in the way of them starting their own business, but we asked the room—and at this event, I was joined by Congressman RUBEN GALLEGO of the Phoenix area and Congressman PETE AGUILAR of the San Bernardino area in California and Congressman DEREK KILMER of the Tacoma, Washington, area—we asked the room, about 100 people: How many of you own a home? Crickets, dead silent.

How many of you have parents who own a home? Most of their hands went up.

How many of you are renters now? Most of their hands stayed up.

How many of you fear that you will not be able to ever own a home in your life? Again, these young people, full of energy, great ideas, great educations, their hands stayed up.

We asked: What is standing in the way? The hundreds of dollars a month they are paying in student loan debt.

Homeownership, one of the bedrocks of the American Dream, to have something to call your own, something that we fought during our independence as a country, that right for property, to chart your own course, have your own piece of land, now, an entire generation of millennial Americans, 80 million of them, have mounting student loan debt that is going to delay their ability to buy a home, that is going to delay their ability to start and have a family, that is going to delay their opportunity to chase their dreams.

While we were in California, we also visited Chabot College in Hayward, California, in the 15th Congressional District, which I am proud to represent. At Chabot College, we assembled over 100 community college students, and we asked them: How much student debt do you think you will have by the time you take your first postcollege job?

What we learned there, again, was very, very bewildering. Most anticipated that they would have $25,000 to $50,000 in student loan debt.

We did it in a very interactive way. We used text polling, so we asked the students to text in their answers. We polled the group and said: Are you able to take a full load of courses so that you can get out of community college as fast as possible and move on to a 4-year university and move on into your career field?

Most of them said that they couldn't. One student told us he worked three jobs. The jobs, they were all mostly the same. They weren't jobs that were going to put them into the area of industry they would hope and aspire to be in. They were retail and restaurant jobs.

The members of Future Forum could identify with this. Congressman KILMER talked about washing dishes in college, and Congressman GALLEGO talked about working as a restaurant server, and I harkened back to my days in this town in Washington, D.C., as an unpaid intern and working at Tortilla Coast at the end of the day to make it work.

Things are different now. Tuition continues to go up. These students told us, during our Future Forum visit, that they are taking a number of odd jobs just to pay for the rising cost of community college.

We talked about the President's plan during the State of the Union in this very Chamber to offer free community college to anyone who was qualified and able and willing. The students were hopeful but not too optimistic. They see too many barriers and walls here in Washington to get anything done that could help them.

We also asked the students to participate in a word cloud. A word cloud is you text in an answer, and, on the screen behind us, it put different words in response to different answers. We asked the students: What would you do if you didn't have student debt every month? What would your payment money go to?

Again, no one said they were going to buy a bunch of toys or go on a bunch of fancy vacations. They said that they would probably buy a car so they didn't have to take the bus or take the BART to class; they would hope to buy their first home; they would invest—which would help the economy.

Future Forum was also at San Francisco State University, and a young girl at San Francisco State University, as we talked about solutions we could offer to address rising tuition rates for current students and the debt burden that 41 million Americans carry, one San Francisco State student told us that she had a dual challenge in her house.

She was trying to pay for her own education, make it by, not qualifying for many student loans, while her mother also had $200,000 of her own student debt. This is a family matter—this is a family matter—not just for that young San Francisco State student, but for millions of young people across the country. This debt is beginning to pile up and affect multiple generations.

We had the honor of going to Boston, where we were hosted by Congressmen JOE KENNEDY and SETH MOULTON. We visited Thermo Fisher Scientific, and we met with young scientists, people who invested in their own future by taking student loans and going to college and getting, in many cases, graduate degrees to work in the field of science, to work in the field of therapies and devices, hoping that they could play a critical role in helping people, making the world a better place.

At Thermo Fisher, these young scientists told us exactly what we heard in San Francisco and in New York City. Their student loan debt weighs on them. It holds them down like an anchor.

Something happened at the Thermo Fisher visit that we didn't expect—because you have a room full of young entrepreneurs, young scientists, but there was a mother who showed up. She kind of confessed: Well, you know, I know this event was billed as a millennial event.

She told us she was worried about her daughter. Her daughter had gone to college, just as we had, as a society, told young people you have to do. Her daughter took out a number of student loans, and her daughter lives at home and can't find a job.

□ 1845

What we are seeing for our millennial generation and what was expressed by this mother is that we are at risk of becoming a permanent boomerang generation. We go out, and we study, and we attain a degree or training or technical skills; but because of the rising costs of tuition and the debt that our generation is saddled with, we boomerang back home. This mother told us it doesn't just weigh on her daughter, who has a college degree and is trying to find a job, but that it weighs on the entire household.

With 41 million young people across our country with $1.3 trillion in student loan debt, imagine how many families are affected by this. These are typically your parents who are just starting to realize their golden years.

They worked so hard; paid into Social Security; hopefully had a pension; and they want to retire, maybe travel, maybe take up a hobby, maybe join a local club; but their hopes and dreams—their golden retirements—are being affected by children who are returning to the home and need their support. We heard this all across America on this tour. This is a family matter, the student loan debt crisis in our country.

Finally, in the Boston area, we also went to Greentown Labs, a clean tech incubator I visited with Congressmen MOULTON and KENNEDY in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Here, we heard, again, about student loan debt, but we also were asked by a number of people at this event: What is standing in the way of fixing this problem?

We actually asked the audience: What do you think? From your perspective, what do you think is standing in the way?

So many of them told us campaign finance laws—a smart, young crowd in Somerville at Greentown Labs—campaign finance laws, people in the audience told us—young entrepreneurs—and I thought they were just focused like a laser on their ideas and on raising money for their first and second rounds of funding and on trying to scale up and getting their ideas off the ground. No. These young people, they get it.

They told us exactly what the problem was. Because of unlimited amounts of money that can be spent in elections today, there is less courage in the Congress to do big things, to tackle big problems, and to help a whole country of people who need it.

They asked us about climate change. Now, this was the first laboratory we had visited on the tour, and we had met with a number of young scientists who were working in the clean tech and clean energy areas. They asked us about climate change and what we were doing in Congress to address it. I want to just go to some of the people who have tweeted in to us about Future Forum this evening and what their thoughts are.

I will first mention Hive, who has tweeted at us in San Francisco that they are excited about the ideas presented and the issues raised and ''let's get to work.''

I want to tell you how we are getting to work. This was not just a one-way talking-to with millennials. Through #futureforum, through medium.com, through the article we wrote and posted there, and through the information we have collected across the country, we are actually putting the ball in the court of the young entrepreneurs and students who are charting this new economy. We told them to help us crowdsource ideas that can move America forward, and they gave us some at these visits.

With student loan debt being, probably, the biggest, most pressing issue, there was a general consensus that there are two groups affected by this. The first group is of the students who are enrolled right now and paying tuition and accruing debt. The second group is of the 41 million young Americans who already have student loan debt.

The solutions that were thrown at us for the students who are in school now or who will be in school was, one, treat public education as a public good. Find a way to make sure that any qualified, capable person who wants to go to college can do so, and keep the costs as low or as next to zero as you can.

We had people who were so excited about the Future Forum who had graduated college 30, 40 years ago who came out and talked to us, and they harkened back to a time in California when, in the UC and Cal State systems, tuition was essentially free—they even threw in the yearbook—yet the return on investment was a whole generation of educated individuals who would contribute to the greatest economy in the United States: California.

Their eyes popped out when they saw how much it costs today to go to UC Berkeley: $33,000 today is what it costs a year for a student to go to UC Berkeley. People who had attended 20, 30 years ago talked about when it was almost next to nothing. It is $33,000 a year.

Congressman GALLEGO looked at that number—and he went to Harvard. Harvard is the Berkeley of the East. Congressman GALLEGO looked at that number, and he said: That is about what I paid when I graduated from Harvard in the early 2000s, $33,000 a year.

Treat education as a public good. Keep interest rates as low as possible. The consensus among people who met with us—these current students and entrepreneurs—was that the government should make no money on interest rates on loans that it gives to students.

What about the 41 million young Americans who have the $1.3 trillion in debt? There was a general consensus that those debtholders should be able to refinance their student loans. You can refinance an auto loan. You can refinance your home loan, but for the 86 percent of loans that are the Federal loans of those 41 million Americans, you can't refinance them.

Congressman JOE COURTNEY, a colleague of mine from Connecticut, has a bill that would allow just that. Our Future Forum members are on that bill, and we are hoping that it gets a vote in this Congress because this should be a bipartisan issue.

Those 41 million Americans are not Democrats—they are not all Democrats, and they are not all Republicans. They are hopeful, aspirational young people who should benefit from the same refinancing laws that you can use with your home mortgage or with your auto loan.

There were other big ideas, and no idea was too big or small for this crowd. There was the proposal to have a jubilee for all of the federally funded student loans—to take every borrower, return that money to those borrowers, to put them at zero, and watch where the money would go.

The hypothesis was, if these students did not have to pay anywhere from $100 to $1,000 every month, they are not going to pocket the money; they are going to put the money back in the economy, and it would essentially be a stimulus.

I encourage everyone across the country—every young person, every parent of a young person, every grandparent of a young person—to give us your ideas. Future Forum is just getting started. We already are working with our colleague Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, who is excited and eager to host us in Michigan, and with other colleagues who want to bring us to their States to talk to young people.

Give us your ideas. You can tweet them at #futureforum. Put it on Instagram. You can find us on Facebook. Tweet. Facebook. Instagram. Use social media, #futureforum. Give us your ideas because the goal is for us to listen to you and then to work here in a bipartisan way to act on your behalf.

This conversation will continue. Our work will go on until we have lifted the burden that stands in the way of young, aspirational entrepreneurs.

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

INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS DESTROYING THE PATENT RIGHTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the American people and my colleagues to an issue that is rapidly coming to the floor of the House, and it is an issue that is coming so rapidly that some people might not notice the overwhelming magnitude of this issue.

In fact, it is an issue that most people are bored with. They don't like to discuss it. They think it is so complicated that they don't pay any attention. Unfortunately, the fact that little attention is being paid to this issue may result in there being major damage to the well-being of the American people.

What I am trying to say is there is legislation that will cause great harm to the American people, to our security, and to our prosperity. It is something that is coming to a vote, and we could well lose unless the American people mobilize and the people in this Hall pay attention to the interests of the American people as a whole and not to major international corporations that have been manipulating this issue.

What am I talking about? I am talking about an issue that has over the years been taken for granted, that America would be the preeminent technology power in the world. In fact, it has been our technology superiority that has led to the prosperity of average Americans, to the standard of living that we have, and also to our safety and security as a nation.

It isn't that Americans have worked so hard—and we have worked hard—but we have coupled work with technology. In fact, people work hard all over the world, but they have not had the patent protection, the protection for the intellectual rights of ownership in the development of new technology. The people around the world haven't had this; thus, they have had standards of living very low for ordinary people and then, of course, the rich at the top.

What we have had in our country is a protection of intellectual property rights by inventors. It is actually written into our Constitution. In fact, the word ''right'' is only used once in the body of the Constitution. There are the Bill of Rights in the latter part, but the word ''right'' is only related to the right that the Constitution declares for those who are writers and inventors who have created something, and they have the right to control it and to own it for a given period of time.

This has worked so well for the United States. We have made sure that our people were competitive with the overseas populations, that our people produced the wealth that was necessary for high-paying jobs, produced the wealth that was necessary for standards of living. It comes back to the fact that we have recognized, as a right of ownership, the creativity genius of our own people.

Over the last two decades, most people have not understood that there has been a concealed effort to destroy the patent rights of the American people.

Let me repeat that. For the last two decades, we have been fighting quietly—people haven't even noticed it—against large international corporations, multinationals, who would destroy the patent rights of the American people.

□ 1900

Why did they want to do that? Because they want to steal the creation of our own inventors without having to

pay for that right. This is the ultimate little guy versus big guy, David and Goliath fight that I have ever seen in Washington, D.C., but it is also one of the quietest and one that people have tried their best to keep out of the public eye.

So how is it that Congress could even conceive of this, where you have big corporations coming to say let's neuter the rights of the little guy or of little Americans? How would this happen? How could anyone imagine that a representative body like the House of Representatives would do anything like that?

Well, of course, they are not coming to this body—and they are not going to the committee of jurisdiction, which is the Committee on the Judiciary—claiming that they want to steal from little guys and that they want to take people's ideas and use them without paying compensation for them. No, they don't say that.

They have had to create what I call the straw man argument. Now, that is a traditional way of debate. It is in the debate books. If you can't beat your opponent in a debate, create a straw man, create an image that you are actually attacking this guy, the straw man, when in reality you are attacking somebody else. Somebody else is going to suffer the pain.

So this man's arguments, the straw man arguments, you can handle them. You can say how horrible that straw man is and his arguments mean nothing, well, because that is not really the guy who is being attacked. It is the other man and woman down there, the small inventors. They are the ones who are going to feel it. But yet you don't hear that from those proponents of the legislation that, as I am warning people, is on the way to the House floor.

This straw man argumentation was first used 20 years ago when I got here. They were trying to suggest that we have to make major changes in our patent law because there are these heinous submarine patents. Over and over and over again, the submarine patents were having such a horrible impact on business because they would come up and charge people for patents that the business didn't even know existed.

Well, submarine patents, that went away. They no longer talk about submarine patents. Now the boogeyman that is helping them create a straw man argument that will result in the massive theft of intellectual property rights from America's most creative people, the boogeyman now is called the patent troll. That is it: the patent troll. These huge corporations have spent millions—tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions—of dollars over these last few years trying to promote this image that there is a patent troll out there—that sounds sinister, doesn't it?—that has to be defeated. They have proposed legislation in the name of defeating a patent troll, because that sounds very sinister, rather than legislation that permits large corporations to get away with stealing the patent rights from small inventors in the United States.

Well, how did this ''troll'' word come about? It is a relatively new word. As I say, when I first got here, they were calling them ''submarine patents,'' that is the evil force. Well, ''troll'' came about—I had a businessman who was an executive of a major company who has actually now changed sides, and he has decided, my gosh, no, he can't go along with this destruction of Americans' rights to own what they have created. He told me about how it was decided.

He was in a room with senior executives, mainly from the electronics industry. They went around the room saying, now, what is the most sinister-sounding word that we can come up with in order to divert the attention of the people away from the fact that our real target is these small inventors, because everybody has a soft spot in their heart for small inventors, so they are going to create a false image some way. What can we do? What word can we use to fool the American people into thinking that this is an evil force that we are trying to stop when, in reality, they are trying to beat down small inventors?

Well, they went around the room, the guy was telling me, and he said: I actually suggested that they use the word ''patent pirate,'' the ''patent pirate.'' That is how horrible it is. But, no, by the time they got around to the end of the group, to the last part of the group, they had all heard ''patent troll,'' which is even worse than ''patent pirate.'' So they all agreed that this would be the word that we will use to deceive the American people. That is what it was all about. This businessman was very upfront with me about the cynical nature of this type of manipulation.

Well, obviously no one could come here and say, ''We want to eliminate the rights of the American people to sue for damages,'' and we can't eliminate the rights of small inventors to actually try to get their money for something that they have invented and spent their whole lifetime trying to create, but what they can do is try to get legislation that will eliminate the ability of patent trolls to function.

Well, unfortunately, every single item that is being presented as a means to control patent trolls actually does what? It hurts every single one of them, does damage to little guys trying to protect their patent rights.

By the way, everything they are presenting in this legislation would be the equivalent if someone says: Well, we have got this horrible thing about frivolous lawsuits. Because, in fact, what the businessmen often are complaining about and claiming that trolls are being the ones who are doing this, what they are really talking about are frivolous lawsuits.

Well, there are frivolous lawsuits throughout our entire justice system and court system. Would we then say that because there are some lawyers who are willing to scam the system or that we know that there are some people who will file frivolous lawsuits that we should eliminate the rights of the American people to sue for damages when they have been damaged by someone or sue to protect their rights when their rights have been violated? No. But that is what is going on here.

In the name of stopping the trolls, which they made up the term, we are being asked to support legislation that dramatically eliminates the rights and protections of honest inventors, although that is not what is being said every time there is a debate—''We are for the small inventor; we are for the small inventor,'' when every single one of the provisions hurts the small inventor.

What is happening, basically, is we are seeing that the legislation being pushed forward now is under a bill, which is H.R. 9. It is already in the committee. It was a bill that went through last year. What happened is, yes, it went through last year with the same sort of, ''Oh, we are not really trying to hurt the little guy,'' but knowing that is what it was doing because what happened is, yeah, the legislation passed this body. The legislation passed this body.

To show you how bad it was, I managed to lead the fight and have one amendment that got one of the bad provisions out. You know what that provision was? The provision was, if a small inventor feels that the Patent Office has not been dealing with him on a legal basis, on a legitimate basis, that he no longer has the right to take his case to court. They were eliminating the right of our inventors to take their case to court when their government isn't operating legally.

Now, we managed to push that one back. Unfortunately, the other provisions of the bill moved forward. But guess what. Even though it would hurt small inventors and technology investors and universities, that bill went forward out of this body, but it was stopped in the Senate. It was stopped in the Senate because some of these technology laboratories and some small inventors as well, but mainly the universities, stepped forward and said: Wait a minute. You are trying to supposedly get patent trolls, but what you are doing is going to undercut us. It was analyzed that the result of that legislation, if signed into law and passed through the Senate, would have decreased the value of patents owned by our universities.

Now, that is a major source of their income is their patents because they have laboratories and research centers. That would have negated about half the value of the patents that they own. This would have been a disaster. Luckily, the universities spoke up, and they need to speak up in the House this time because it is the same bill they are trying to put through the House, and they

are trying to ship it over to the Senate again. We need to make sure that we mobilize and let those people in elected office, whether they are a Congressman or a Senator, know that they have to pay attention to what the effects of this will be on our universities, what it will be on—yes, and on the small inventors. It is unconscionable that we have these huge multinational corporations in a power grab like this.

Why is it that they are able to do this, this attack on little guys, on average Americans who have dedicated their life to developing a new technological idea? Why? Why is that? Well, because they are able to give major campaign contributions. I am not talking about anybody's vote being bought. I don't believe that that happens here. I know that a lot of people claim that, but I don't claim that. What I do know is that contributors get the attention of the Member of Congress or the Senator. That is what happens.

These big megacorporations—and they are multinational corporations by and large—have bought the attention of these people and have made their argument. So we have 90 percent of the Members of Congress and the Senate who are yawning and nobody is talking to them about the bill, but they have got these other 10 percent with their best friends who have donated to their campaigns actually are able to make the argument.

If we are to protect our prosperity, if we are to protect our security, we have got to move forward and interact with those people who are elected to represent us in the Congress and the United States Senate. That is the only thing that will thwart these multinationals and their ability to buy the attention of a certain number of Members of Congress.

The Congress will not pay attention unless the universities, unless the average working people, the voters in their district come and see them and talk to them and say: We do not want our rights to be diminished. We don't want any of our rights, but especially our patent rights, which are the rights that protect our jobs because it makes us competitive with overseas. It produces wealth enough for average people to live well in our country.

Well, we need to make sure that these huge corporations don't run roughshod over the rest of us because they, themselves, now, as I say, they haven't bought votes; they bought attention. We need to call attention to this issue, and it is up before the Committee on the Judiciary. We are talking about H.R. 9, a piece of legislation that will do a tremendous damage to the American people by cutting off the very constitutional right that our Founding Fathers knew was so important, and that is the right to own, for a given period of time, any type of technology creation and creative genius that you have as a writer or an inventor.

This is the little guys versus the big guys. This is David versus Goliath. I will tell you, we little guys need to stick together. If we do, we will win. That is what America is all about. We can and will win. We will not let cynical, powerful forces like those who sit around the room and say: What is the bad word that we can come up with that will scare everybody into supporting our restrictions and our diminishing of patent rights? The cynical people came up with the word ''troll.''

Well, what is wrong with this, by the way? Let me just note that this bill, H.R. 9, will greatly diminish patent protection, but, for example, it destroys the right of discovery. It means that if people actually invest in a small inventor—let's say someone, a small inventor needs an investor. Of course they do. They are not like these huge corporations. They need someone to invest. But later on, the big corporation does what? Steals that invention. In order to what? These big corporations are sued all the time for infringement.

□ 1915

What infringement means is they are arrogantly taking something that belongs to somebody else, something that has been patented, and ignoring the patent, putting it into their product, and then say, ''Well, sue me,'' knowing that the little guys have trouble suing because they don't have the money.

Well, if anybody has invested in that inventor and the investor sues for infringement—let's say his lawyers aren't as good and he loses that case—well, now, they are changing the rules here. All of a sudden, all of the expenses of that big company, the legal expenses, will have to be picked up by that small inventor.

Oh, my gosh, what happens when that happens? You will never get anybody to invest in that small inventor because the law not only says the inventor will pay for the cost of asking for the infringement case, but anybody who has invested in his invention will also have to bear that burden. Who is going to want to become liable if a big company starts stealing and they can't prove it in court?

The bill destroys treble damages. Right now, if a big company decides to steal from a little guy—well, if the little guy can prove this guy knew that that was my patent and he is stealing my intellectual property, if he can prove that, he will get treble damages. That is triple damages.

Well, that has been what we have had all along. That permits the little guy to have legal counsel because, if it is just simply getting the money back that he has lost, this is damages, because he gets a certain amount because he has been violated.

Well, if you eliminate that, how will these little guys get a lawyer? Now, these big guys are trying to eliminate triple damages so the little guys can't get lawyers. By doing these things, H.R. 9 will dramatically decrease the value of patents held by our major universities, held by retirement accounts, held by our laboratories—the people who own these patents.

Now, by the way, let me tell you what they claim a patent troll to be and how they claim that this is bad. A patent troll, according to these huge corporate interests, is someone who didn't invest in something but now has the rights to sue them because that investor—the ''troll''—has purchased the patent rights to certain technologies.

Let me note that a patent sometimes runs around 10 to 20 years that a patent owner can own his patent. An inventor gets granted the patent, and for 17 years, they own that patent.

Well, many of them don't have any money, and they can't even develop it, so they have to have investors. Some of them face the theft of their technology, and they don't have the money to put out, and they, themselves, challenge in court that their rights have been violated.

It is like a piece of property. If somebody comes and builds a railroad track across your property and refuses to give you any compensation for it, well, you have a right to sue; but some of the little guys don't have enough money to sue.

Well, in this case, what we have got is legal entities that are not involved with actually the invention, but they will come in and say, I will invest in your patent so you will have enough money to sue these big guys because they are stealing from you—or they just buy the patent outright, and then they own that property for a given period of time, and then they sue.

There is nothing wrong, I believe, with someone stepping forward and buying the property rights of an inventor and then enforcing it through our court system. There is nothing wrong with that, but we have been told that these are all frivolous lawsuits by the trolls.

Well, they are not. Some of them are like this, a troll—supposedly, by that name—is nothing more than an investor who has bought the property rights of an inventor, of the person who owned the property in the first place.

What we have is these multinational corporations trying to vilify someone who comes in and buys patent rights from small inventors and then using that person to destroy all of the patent rights of the small inventor.

Luckily, we have a bill in the Senate, which is S. 632. It is CHRIS COONS from Delaware who actually has a piece of legislation to try to strengthen people's patent rights, and it eliminates some of the—you might say—bad tactics that were used by people who were involved with frivolous lawsuits in the technology area. He takes care of that without greatly diminishing the patent rights of real inventors.

We also have a bill with Representative JOHN CONYERS here in the House, and that bill protects the small guy while trying to improve the Patent Office. By the way, what his bill does is ensure that all the patent fees that go

into the Patent Office stay there and, thus, improve the quality of the patents that our people have.

Over a billion dollars has been taken from the Patent Office in the last 10 years and goes into the general fund when it should be spent trying to protect—and trying to make the system work—intellectual property ownership by inventors.

That is the last I have on that piece of legislation, which is H.R. 9, which deserves the attention of the American people.

I would like to end my time tonight talking about one other issue very quickly. Today, I introduced legislation, H.R. 1940, which basically says that the Federal Government shall not interfere in those States that have eliminated the penalties on marijuana use and sales or have allowed the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries.

This legislation, H.R. 1940, would basically leave it up to the States as to whether or not people should be permitted to use marijuana, especially medical marijuana.

I don't see any reason why the people of the United States should face the type of controls and the type of police state activity that impacts their lives by people—whether they are well meaning or not—who have set up, basically, a bureaucratic law enforcement state that activates and prevents people from living their own lives.

If, indeed, someone is using marijuana—for medical purposes especially, but also even for recreational use—if someone is in their backyard, smoking some marijuana, we should not spend limited dollars.

We have limited tax dollars here. We are cutting off veterans' benefits, cutting down on people who need help, but then we are spending it on trying to put in jail someone who is smoking marijuana in their backyard or trying to supply someone with the marijuana to smoke in their backyard. That is absolutely absurd.

My bill, H.R. 1940, will insist that, if a State has legalized the use of marijuana or the medical use of marijuana, the Federal Government cannot infringe upon that.

It is sort of like you see a guy over in the corner of a park, and he is surrounded by policemen, and they throw him to the ground, and they handcuff him and put him in jail, and they go through the court procedures with the judges and all these expenses for smoking marijuana, versus the other end of the park, where some lady is getting raped, but there is no policeman there, and they spend all of their money focusing on the people who are smoking marijuana. That makes no sense.

When you have limited dollars, we should especially respect people's right to live their own lives; and, if they make mistakes, which they do, they will have to live with those mistakes.

I would ask my colleagues to support H.R. 1940, which is consistent with criminal law should be made at the State and local level and not at the Federal level. We should not have a Federal police force knocking in doors, going into people's homes, and spending huge amounts of money in order to prevent people from personal consumption behavior.

I would ask my colleagues, if you believe in liberty, believe what our Founding Fathers believed in, support a strong patent system and oppose H.R. 9 and support my legislation, H.R. 1940, which will restore to the American people and to the States therein the right to control criminal law and their own personal behavior.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CURBELO of Florida (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of attending a Presidential visit to the Everglades National Park in his district.

Mr. HASTINGS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for April 21 through April 23.

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the first series of votes today on account of medical appointment regarding foot surgery.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 971. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program; to the Committee on Ways and Means; 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.

S. 984. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; 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.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 535. An act to promote energy efficiency.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 23, 2015, 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:

1239. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-39, ''Public Charter School Priority Enrollment Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1240. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-40, ''Chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools Salary Adjustment Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1241. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-41, ''Health Benefit Exchange Authority Financial Sustainability Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1242. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-42, ''Educator Evaluation Data Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1243. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-38, ''Wage Theft Prevention Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1244. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-43, ''At-Risk Funding Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1245. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-37, ''H Street, N.E., Retail Priority Area Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1246. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 20-492, ''Student Nutrition on Winter Weather Days Act of 2014'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1247. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-48, ''Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1248. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-49, ''Marijuana Possession Decriminalization Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1249. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-44, ''Vending Regulations Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to

Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1250. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 20-596, ''Limitations on the Use of Restraints Amendment Act of 2014'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1251. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 21-47, ''Testing Integrity Temporary Amendment Act of 2015'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, section 602(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POCAN, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts):

H.R. 1926. A bill to improve compliance with mine safety and health laws, empower miners to raise safety concerns, prevent future mine tragedies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 1927. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to improve fairness in class action litigation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 1928. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the coverage of qualified tuition programs and increase the limitation on contributions to Coverdell education savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. COFFMAN, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 1929. A bill to restrict United States nationals from traveling to countries in which foreign governments or anti-government forces allow foreign terrorist organizations to engage in armed conflict for purposes of participating in such armed conflict or from providing material support to entities that are engaged in such armed conflict, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 1930. A bill to eliminate certain subsidies for fossil-fuel production; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Appropriations, Financial Services, and Foreign Affairs, 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. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. CARTER of Texas):

H.R. 1931. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to sell certain Federal land, to direct that the proceeds of such sales be applied to reduce the Federal budget deficit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 1932. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to allow employers a grace period to abate certain occupational health and safety violations before being subject to a penalty under such Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 1933. A bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS (for herself and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 1934. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a national Oncology Medical Home Demonstration Project under the Medicare program for the purpose of changing the Medicare payment for cancer care in order to enhance the quality of care and to improve cost efficiency, 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. CULBERSON (for himself and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 1935. A bill to protect 10th Amendment rights by providing special standing for State government officials to challenge proposed regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. REED, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. MARCHANT):

H.R. 1936. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to exclude certain medical sources of evidence in making disability determinations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AMODEI (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. FLORES, Mr. STEWART, Mr. COOK, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. HARDY, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SALMON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. BARR, Mr. COLE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 1937. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. DUFFY):

H.R. 1938. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to increase transparency of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1939. A bill to amend the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to establish prohibitions to prevent the use of an unmanned aircraft system as a weapon while operating in the national airspace system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. AMASH, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 1940. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marihuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. WESTMORELAND (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BARR, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. MESSER, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HILL, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. HURT of Virginia, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1941. A bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GUINTA (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LANCE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GIBSON, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. JONES, Mr. FARR, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MARINO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. DENT, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. LEE, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 1942. A bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 1943. A bill to require the Supreme Court of the United States to promulgate a code of ethics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUM (for himself, Mr. BUCK, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 1944. A bill to provide regulatory relief to alternative fuel producers and consumers, 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. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 1945. A bill to amend the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act to provide for trade sanctions against countries involved in illegal trade of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. NEAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 1946. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to authorize the United States Trade Representative to take discretionary action if a foreign country is engaging in unreasonable acts, policies, or practices relating to the environment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. NEAL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 1947. A bill to establish the Trade Agreements Enforcement Trust Fund to take actions to enforce free trade agreements to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WALZ, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. KUSTER, and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 1948. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 1949. A bill to provide for the consideration and submission of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial approved for establishment in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 1950. A bill to abolish certain executive agencies unless Congress disapproves of such abolishment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1951. A bill to prohibit the use of hydraulic fracturing or acid well stimulation treatment in the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Region until the Secretary of the Interior prepares an environmental impact statement and conducts a study with respect to such practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. FARR, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 1952. A bill to permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DESANTIS (for himself, Mr. BLUM, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. MULVANEY):

H.R. 1953. A bill to require members of Congress and congressional staff to abide by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with respect to health insurance coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Ways and Means, and 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. FINCHER:

H.R. 1954. A bill to align exemptions for general solicitation of investment in commodity pools similar to the exemption provided for general solicitation of securities under the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1955. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for nutrient removal technologies to States in the Great Lakes System; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1956. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1957. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1958. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KIND, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1959. A bill to provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. FARR, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 1960. A bill to establish national goals for the reduction and recycling of municipal solid waste, to address the growing problem of marine debris, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations to attain those goals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 1961. A bill to authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Climate Change Education Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 1962. A bill to establish State infrastructure banks for education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. TAKAI):

H.R. 1963. A bill to provide for the upgrade of the vehicle fleet of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. HULTGREN (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SALMON, Ms. ESTY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. ROTHFUS):

H.R. 1964. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise hiring practices for air traffic controller positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HURT of Virginia:

H.R. 1965. A bill to exempt smaller public companies from requirements relating to the use of Extensible Business Reporting Language for periodic reporting to the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. MOORE, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. TAKAI):

H.R. 1966. A bill to authorize the President to reestablish the Civilian Conservation Corps as a means of providing gainful employment to unemployed and underemployed citizens of the United States through the performance of useful public work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):

H.R. 1967. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to ocean acidification; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. YOHO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1968. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit Federal court jurisdiction and funding over questions concerning the issue of marriage with respect to the Defense of Marriage Act and the Constitution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 1969. A bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Oversight and Government Reform, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 1970. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for manufacturing job training expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. HAHN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 1971. A bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 1972. A bill to provide certain requirements for the licensing of commercial nuclear facilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 1973. A bill to require the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to retain and redistribute certain amounts collected as fines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself, Mr. TAKAI, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GRAYSON, and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 1974. A bill to expand access to health care services, including sexual, reproductive, and maternal health services, for immigrant women, men, and families by removing legal barriers to health insurance coverage, 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. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. FOSTER, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 1975. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the Securities Exchange Commission to refund or credit excess payments made to the Commission; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1976. A bill to provide for nuclear weapons abolition and economic conversion in accordance with District of Columbia Initiative Measure Number 37 of 1992, while ensuring environmental restoration and clean-energy conversion; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KEATING, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 1977. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SIRES, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. WALZ, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. NOLAN):

H.R. 1978. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans conservation corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEKS, and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 1979. A bill to strengthen the protections from levy by the Internal Revenue Service for taxpayers in economic hardship; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 1980. A bill to enhance consumer access to electricity information and allow for the adoption of innovative products and services to help consumers manage their energy usage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BECERRA:

H. Res. 219. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to. considered and agreed to.

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. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1926.

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

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

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 1927.

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

The constitutional authority on which this legislation is based is found in Article I, Section 8, Clause 9; Article III, Section 1, Clause 1; and Article III, Section 2, Clause 2 of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over federal courts.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

Hit. 1928.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, which states ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States'' and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which empowers Congress to ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 1929.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests in the preamble of the Constitution providing for the ''common defense'' and in the powers governing national security in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 1930.

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

Article I, Section 8, Caluse 18 of the Constitution of the United States, which states:

''The Congress shall have the power to make all alws which shall be necessary and proprer for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution on the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 1931.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 1932.

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

Article I: Section 8: Clause 3 The United States Congress shall have power

''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 1933.

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

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, Congress shall have the power to enact appropriate laws protecting the civil rights of all Americans.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 1934.

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

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 as applied to providing for the general welfare of the United States through the administration of the Medicare program under Title 18 if the Social Security Act.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 1935.

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

Article III, Section 2, Clause 1 & the Tenth Amendment.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1936.

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

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to ''provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 1937.

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

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 1938.

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

Article I Section 8.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1939.

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

The attached language falls within Congress' delegated authority to legislate interstate commerce, found in Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. Further, Congress' authority to authorize the FAA to regulate airspace within the U.S. has been found to be within its authority under the General Welfare clause of the U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, clause 1.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H.R. 1940.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to, among other things, regulate Commerce among the several States.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 1941.

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

The Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution states that Congress shall have power to regulate the regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 1942.

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

Section 8 Clause 18—The Congress shall have Power . . . To make Laws which shall be necessary and propey for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 1943.

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

The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. BLUM:

H.R. 1944.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 1945.

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

Article I, section 8

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1946.

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

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

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1947.

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

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

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 1948.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 1949.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 1950.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Consititution. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department of Officer thereof

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1951.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2:

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1952.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2:

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.R. 1953.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 1954.

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

Article I, Section 8—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 1955.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 1956.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clauses 1 and 18 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 1957.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clauses 1 and 18 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 1958.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clauses 1 and 18 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HINOJOSA:

H.R. 1959.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clauses 1 and 18 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 1960.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 1961.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 1962.

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

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

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 1963.

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

Clause 7 of Section 8, Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 1964.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, as this legislation regulates commerce between the states. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, providing Congress with the authority to enact legislation necessary to execute one of its

enumerated powers, such as Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. HURT of Virginia:

H.R. 1965.

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

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

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 1966.

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

Article 1, Section 8, with specific power to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to regulate commerce among the several states, and with the Indian tribes of the Constitution.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 1967.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 1968.

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

Article III, Section 2, Clause 2

''In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.''

Article I, Section 8, Clause 9

''To constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court . . .''

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 1969.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 1970.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 1971.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 1972.

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

Article I

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 1973.

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

Article I

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 1974.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 1975.

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

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1976.

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

clauses 1 and 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 1977.

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

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2:

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 1978.

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

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 & Clause 18 of the Constitution, Congress, has the power ''To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper'' for carrying out power including the power ''To raise and support Armies''

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 1979.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 1980.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 140: Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 169: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 178: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 209: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 210: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 282: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 287: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 310: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 317: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 353: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 381: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. HAHN, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 393: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 402: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 424: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 425: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 430: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 432: Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 450: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 456: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KATKO, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 465: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. TROTT, and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 467: Mr. PETERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 501: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 524: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 532: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 540: Mr. MASSIE.

H.R. 546: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 566: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 591: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 592: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 605: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 624: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 662: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 670: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 672: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 702: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 712: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 717: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 721: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 727: Mr. DELANEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. VELA.

H.R. 756: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 771: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 803: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 812: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 815: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 825: Ms. TITUS, Mr. LATTA, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 836: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 842: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 845: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 846: Mr. KIND, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 868: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 885: Mr. COLE and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 891: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 902: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 907: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 916: Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 920: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 921: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 935: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 972: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 980: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 985: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 986: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 994: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 996: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 997: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 1062: Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 1086: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 1087: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 1117: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 1128: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1141: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1143: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 1147: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1151: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 1170: Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 1178: Mr. PETERS and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 1194: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 1202: Mr. PETERSON and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 1206: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1211: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 1215: Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 1220: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. LEE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1229: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1233: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1234: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1247: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 1258: Mr. TAKAI.
H.R. 1271: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1284: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1288: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1309: Mr. VELA and Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1310: Mr. DOLD, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1312: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. SIRES, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 1365: Mr. BOST and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 1383: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1384: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 1388: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 1392: Mrs. LAWRENCE.
H.R. 1404: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 1435: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1443: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 1453: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 1461: Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 1477: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 1478: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 1493: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 1516: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1528: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1538: Mr. JONES and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 1559: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 1567: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1568: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 1572: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 1594: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 1610: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 1612: Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 1613: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. LONG.
H.R. 1614: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1623: Mr. RUSSELL.
H.R. 1624: Mr. HARPER and Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 1634: Mr. RUSSELL.
H.R. 1650: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 1651: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 1652: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 1666: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 1669: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LONG, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1671: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. RUSSELL.
H.R. 1674: Mr. WELCH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1675: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. SINEMA.
H.R. 1677: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1684: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 1700: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 1732: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. ROSS, and Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 1736: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1737: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LATTA, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 1739: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 1752: Mr. YODER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.
H.R. 1769: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LATTA, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 1784: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HANNA, Mr. LONG, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1786: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 1800: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 1807: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 1832: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 1844: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.
H.R. 1869: Mr. BUCK and Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 1876: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 1885: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 1907: Mr. BRADY of Texas and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 1925: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.J. Res. 42: Mr. GOSAR.
H.J. Res. 43: Mr. AMASH, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. HARRIS, and Mrs. NOEM.
H.J. Res. 44: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. YOHO, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. JONES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. BYRNE.
H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. BARLETTA.
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. TROTT, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. HENSARLING.
H. Con. Res. 40: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SALMON, Mr. WOODALL, Ms. MENG, and Mr. SIRES.
H. Res. 56: Mr. WALZ.
H. Res. 181: Mr. SALMON.
H. Res. 188: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H. Res. 194: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. TROTT.
H. Res. 207: Mr. COSTA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HANNA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. KATKO.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015 No. 59

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Immortal God, You are the meaning and mystery of all that is, was, and is to be. Thank You for Your sustaining love and for the opportunities to learn from each other. Thank You for the challenges and difficulties You use to test and refine us.

Lord, give our lawmakers the wisdom to trust the unfolding of Your providence. May they embrace a humility that seeks first to understand, instead of striving first to be understood. Deliver them from a false patriotism that would render unto Caesar what belongs to You. Guide them with Your powerful hand until the potentates of this world acknowledge Your sovereignty and might.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Democratic leader is recognized.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 100th anniversary of a heinous and violent event that has tragically changed the world. On April 21, 1915, near the beginning of World War I, the German Army introduced to the world large-scale chemical weapons. That gas swept the battlefield. People died and suffered enduring pain, and those who survived, with rare exception, suffered the rest of their lives.

The Kaiser's army released tons of chlorine gas, nearly devastating the Allied line in Belgium. Europe would never be the same. The world would never be the same.

The use of poisonous gas proliferated during World War I, bringing death and devastation to members of the military and civilians. Following World War I, nations joined to support the Geneva Protocol of 1925, declaring that chemical weapons were so barbaric, so evil that they should be prohibited from use.

The use of chemical weapons has continued. The world will never forget the atrocities perpetrated by Hitler during World War II, as Nazi Germany used chemicals in the genocide of millions of Jews. During the Nazi regime, at the beginning of it, five men—one name started with S, one started with A, one started with R, I, and N—invented sarin gas. The world will not forget the atrocities perpetrated by the Hitler regime during World War II as Nazi Germany used chemicals in the genocide of millions—millions—of Jews.

The Iraq-Iran war of the 1980s was another terrible instance of lethal gasses being deployed as a tool of warfare. In 1988, Saddam Hussein unleashed a chemical arsenal on his own people, killing thousands of Kurds. Those pictures are available to see. The people are indiscriminately lying there—old men, old women, middle aged people, and babies. The world witnessed these events in horror and decided international action was absolutely necessary again. In 1992, the Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted in Geneva. The Chemical Weapons Convention outlaws the production, stockpile, and use of chemical weapons and requires their destruction. I voted for that ratification with pleasure. I voted for ratification—which was ratified here in the Senate—of the convention to do something more about these chemical weapons.

But in spite of other efforts, the use of chemical weapons endures. One hundred years have passed since that fateful date in Belgium, and the world has yet to end the evil of those poisons. Today, Bashar al-Assad and his regime and forces loyal to him in Syria are responsible for horrific violence that violates basic decency. It violates international laws of war and has shocked the global conscience.

It is no secret that Assad has repeatedly used chemical weapons against the Syrian people and the country over which he dictates. Even after Syria was compelled to accede to the convention—the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2013—there is clear evidence that Assad has continued to reign terror over his own people by using barrel bombs filled with chlorine to indiscriminately wreak havoc.

We are reminded of this all the time. I do not usually watch ''60 Minutes.'' It is a good program, but I usually have other things to do. But I watched because of the promotion on Sunday evening about something they were going to do on ''60 Minutes.'' They had graphic pictures that had never been shown before of what this evil person who runs this country of Syria did to his own people.

Sadly, in addition to the use of chemical weapons, the Assad regime has carried out all manner of atrocities throughout the course of the 4-year civil war in Syria. As we speak, about 400,000 Syrians have been killed. He is responsible for the vast majority of those deaths. That does not take into consideration the millions of people who have been displaced.

The regime has committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, including starvation, systematic murder, torture, rape, sexual violence and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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enforced disappearance. If there were ever, ever something that is evil, bad, wrong, it is what he has done. The action of the Assad regime has resulted in the deaths—as I indicated—of countless innocent civilians and has sewn discord and disarray across the regime.

Yet Assad has repeatedly lied to the world about using chemical weapons. He loves to get on these shows. The U.S. journalists go over there, and he sits there before us talking all of these lies about what he has not done. There are dead people—hundreds of thousands of them there. There are barrel bombs, cluster bombs. He targets civilians. He starves them, demonstrating again and again what a terrible person he is and someone who cannot be believed about anything he says.

I am going to submit a Senate resolution condemning the actions of the Assad regime and its military forces for these crimes they have carried out against humanity. This legislation will express the Senate support for the referral of these evil acts that Assad has perpetrated and that have also been perpetrated by other Syrian officials and of course by the military leaders to an appropriate international tribune.

Also, I have to say, it turns my stomach to hear people talk about making a peace deal in Syria and having Assad be a part of that deal. How could we do that? This resolution will make clear the Senate's opposition to any role for Bashar al-Assad in any final settlement of that civil war. I am confident my Senate colleagues will join me in condemning the Assad regime and its unthinkable campaign of evil against its own people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we will have a busy day of voting today. Senators should expect two rollcall votes at approximately 10:45 a.m. this morning and up to six rollcall votes starting at 2 p.m. to finish the antitrafficking bill. I filed cloture on the Lynch nomination last night, and under the regular order, that cloture vote would occur 1 hour after the Senate convenes tomorrow.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1035

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1035) to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION AND LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, help is finally on the way for the thousands of enslaved victims who suffer unspeakable abuse in the shadows. These victims often have nowhere safe to sleep. They often have no safe place to turn to. And if they do try to escape, many risk being treated by the justice system like criminals instead of the victims they truly are.

These victims deserve the help the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act would provide. It is a human rights bill that victims groups and advocates have called ''the most comprehensive and thoughtful piece of anti-trafficking legislation currently pending'' and one that provides unprecedented support to domestic victims of trafficking, who are all too often invisible and underserved.

We are relieved we can finally say that we will pass it today and that the Senate won't violate longstanding bipartisan Hyde precedent in doing so. But let me be as clear as possible. There was never a logically consistent rationale for the filibuster that held up this bill, and the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service explicitly backed up what Republicans have long said when it confirmed that there are no private funds in this bill.

Thankfully, the filibuster is at an end. Today is a new day. Today, we will finally vote to deliver much needed resources for the victims of modern slavery, with Hyde essentially applying to all funds used for health and medical services, just as it was in the original bill. This is nothing new; it is simply a reaffirmation of the status quo.

We know that today's outcome would not have been possible without the Herculean efforts of my colleague Senator CORNYN. He was absolutely determined to see justice for victims, and we really cannot thank him enough. He negotiated across the aisle in good faith. He never gave up, not even in the bleakest hour. And today, the real focus of all our efforts—the victims of trafficking and modern slavery—can see that help is finally on the way.

We thank Senator CORNYN. We thank his negotiating partners from both parties. We thank Chairman GRASSLEY for his superb work on this important bill in the Judiciary Committee as well. We look forward to this bill's passage in the House and its signature by the President.

Mr. President, once the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act passes in the Senate, we will turn to consideration of the President's nominee to be Attorney General. That is just what I pledged we would do, and that is what we will do.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, I believe we are going to be hearing from the chairman of the Finance Committee shortly. Senator HATCH will be on the floor to discuss bipartisan trade promotion authority legislation which is important because we know that trade is the key to supporting high-quality American jobs and exporting more of the things American workers make and exporting more of the things American farmers grow.

Congress is working again, and this bipartisan bill is another sign of that. No legislation will ever be perfect, but Chairman HATCH and Ranking Member WYDEN, along with Chairman RYAN in the House, put together an agreement of which we can all be proud. It protects and enhances Congress's role in the trade-negotiating process, while making sure Presidents of either party will have the ability to negotiate good agreements that can increase growth in our American economy and support many high-quality American jobs. They are marking up that bill today. I wish them the best of luck. We look forward to having it on the floor in the very near future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 178, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cornyn) amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wish to say very briefly—I know the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee is on the floor to speak on an important matter—I would like to express my gratitude to the majority leader for his determination to see this

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act come to completion in the Senate, which it will this afternoon. It would not have happened without his determination to make it happen.

AMENDMENT NO. 1120 WITHDRAWN

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I withdraw my amendment No. 1120.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 1124

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I offer amendment No. 1124.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN], for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR, proposes an amendment numbered 1124.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments)

Strike section 101 and insert the following:

SEC. 101. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 3014. Additional special assessment

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and ending on September 30, 2019, in addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of $5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—

''(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

''(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

''(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

''(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

''(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

''(b) SATISFACTION OF OTHER COURT-ORDERED OBLIGATIONS.—An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines, orders of restitution, and any other obligation related to victim-compensation arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

''(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the 'Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund' (referred to in this section as the 'Fund'), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

''(d) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred to the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

''(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts in the Fund, in addition to any other amounts available, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims' programming under—

''(A) section 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044c);

''(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

''(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(2) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subsection (h)(2), none of the amounts in the Fund may be used to provide health care or medical items or services.

''(f) COLLECTION METHOD.—The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

''(g) DURATION OF OBLIGATION.—Subject to section 3613(b), the obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full.

''(h) HEALTH OR MEDICAL SERVICES.—

''(1) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—From amounts appropriated under section 10503(b)(1)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(1)(E)), as amended by section 221 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, there shall be transferred to the Fund an amount equal to the amount transferred under subsection (d) for each fiscal year, except that the amount transferred under this paragraph shall not be less than $5,000,000 or more than $30,000,000 in each such fiscal year, and such amounts shall remain available until expended.

''(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall use amounts transferred to the Fund under paragraph (1) to award grants that may be used for the provision of health care or medical items or services to victims of trafficking under—

''(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

''(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

''(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(3) GRANTS.—Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than $2,000,000, if such amounts are available in the Fund during the relevant fiscal year, shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(4) APPLICATION OF PROVISION.—The application of the provisions of section 221(c) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 shall continue to apply to the amounts transferred pursuant to paragraph (1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

''3014. Additional special assessment.''.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I will be back to speak further on the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, but for now I yield to my friend and colleague, the chairman of the Finance Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I thank both of my colleagues who have spoken this morning, Senators MCCONNELL and CORNYN.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes this morning to talk once again about Congress's role in advancing our Nation's trade policy. While I know trade policy can be a very contentious topic here in Congress, there are two simple facts that are beyond dispute: No. 1, more than 96 percent of the world's consumers live outside of the United States, and No. 2, in order to be competitive, American businesses need to be able to sell more American-made products and services to those overseas customers. In order to do that, we need to tear down barriers to American exports. At the same time, we should lay down enforceable rules for our trading partners so that we can be sure American workers and job creators are competing on a level playing field.

In order to accomplish these goals and to advance our Nation's interests in the global marketplace, Congress and the administration need to work together. Most people acknowledge this reality. Yet, there are differing views as to what mechanisms should be in place to facilitate cooperation between these two branches of government. In the end, there is only one legislative tool with a proven track record, and that is trade promotion authority, otherwise known as TPA.

For decades—going back as far as FDR—TPA has been a cornerstone of U.S. trade policy. TPA is a compact between the Senate, the House, and the administration. Under this compact, the administration agrees to pursue objectives specified by Congress and to consult with Congress as it negotiates trade agreements. In turn, both the House and the Senate agree to allow for expedited consideration of trade agreements without amendments.

For a number of reasons, this compact is essential for conclusion and passage of strong trade agreements. Put simply, without TPA, our trading partners will not put their best offers on the table because they will have no guarantee that the agreement they reach will be the one Congress actually votes on in the end.

The most recent version of TPA expired 8 years ago. While trade negotiations have continued since that time, without TPA in place, our negotiators have effectively been negotiating with one arm tied behind their backs. We need to renew TPA sooner rather than later in order to give these negotiators the tools they need to reach the best deals possible.

The stakes are very high. Currently, the United States is in the midst of negotiating some of the most ambitious trade agreements in our Nation's history—most notably, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP. If we want those negotiations to succeed—and I would hope that for the good of our country most of us do want them to succeed—we need to renew TPA.

Last week, I was joined by my colleague Senator WYDEN and Chairman RYAN of the House Ways and Means Committee in introducing the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015. This legislation would renew TPA and promote the advancement of 21st-century trade policies. Later today—in just a little while, in fact—the Senate Finance Committee will be marking up this bill, as well as other important pieces of trade legislation.

It has taken a long time to get here. As you may recall, I, along with the two former chairmen, Senator Baucus and Congressman Camp, introduced a bill to renew TPA early last year. That bill had bipartisan support in Congress and was broadly endorsed by the business community. It also had the support of officials in the Obama administration.

When Republicans took control of the Senate this year and I became the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I made renewing TPA my top trade priority for this Congress and set out to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. This legislation we will be marking up today is the result of that hard work, and I am grateful to my colleagues for working with me to get us this far.

Of course, the effort to renew TPA really began a long time before we introduced our bill last year. Indeed, the discussion and debate over a new and improved TPA began even before the last iteration expired in 2007. We have been talking about this for a long time. Now is the time to act.

Over the past few weeks, as we have been preparing to move our legislation forward, some people—including some of my colleagues—have expressed concerns about TPA and trade agreements in general. So I wish to take a few minutes this morning to address some of the specific issues that have been raised.

Constitutional and sovereignty concerns. Some have argued that TPA cedes too much power to the administration and undermines Congress's constitutional authority to make laws.

I know the people have heard the President claiming that TPP—the Trans-Pacific Partnership—will be ''the most progressive trade agreement in history,'' and they have heard him brag about the labor and environmental standards the administration is shooting for with the agreement. The question inevitably becomes, will President Obama try to use this or other trade agreements to try to advance unilateral changes in U.S. law and policy? Even though we all know that no trade agreement can go into force without Congress's approval, given this administration's track record on executive overreach, people are right to be concerned about these issues.

Fortunately, our TPA bill addresses these uncertainties. Rather than ceding authority to the executive branch, our bill empowers Congress at every step, from trade negotiations to final approval of the agreement itself.

Our bill makes clear what objectives a trade agreement must reach in order to be approved by Congress. In fact, the bill contains the clearest articulation of trade priorities in our Nation's history. It includes nearly 150 ambitious, high-standard negotiating objectives, including strong rules for intellectual property rights and agricultural trade, as well as protections for U.S. investment.

In addition to setting negotiating objectives, our legislation constrains the administration in a number of ways. For example, it ensures that implementing bills for trade agreements will include—and I am quoting the text of the bill—''only such provisions as are strictly necessary or appropriate to implement'' trade agreements.

Additionally, it makes clear that any commitments made by the administration that are not disclosed to Congress before an implementing bill is introduced are not to be considered part of the relevant agreement and will have no force of law.

Our legislation clarifies that trade agreements must be concluded within the TPA timeframe and that any substantial modifications or additions made after that time will not be eligible for approval under TPA procedures.

So while I understand and even sympathize with those who might be suspicious of this administration and its tendency to push the boundaries of its constitutional authority, our TPA bill speaks to these exact concerns.

Furthermore, for those who might be worried that trade agreements could we used to harm U.S. sovereignty, our bill addresses those issues as well.

First, the bill makes clear that any provision of a trade agreement that is inconsistent with Federal or State law will have no effect.

Second, it states specifically that Federal and State laws will prevail in the event of a conflict with the trade agreement.

Third, it affirms that no trade agreement can prevent Congress or the States from changing their laws in the future.

Fourth, it confirms that the administration cannot unilaterally change U.S. law.

As you can see, far from abdicating Congress's power from U.S. trade policy, our TPA bill enhances the role of Congress when it comes to trade agreements.

Immigration. In addition to general concerns about constitutional powers and U.S. sovereignty, I have heard some express specific concerns that President Obama can use the Trans-Pacific Partnership to enact changes to our immigration laws and that TPA will somehow empower him to do so. These concerns are unfounded for at least two reasons.

First, immigration is completely irrelevant to the objectives of the TPP agreement and administration officials have been clear and unequivocal that no immigration provisions are under negotiation.

Just last week, USTR Michael Froman testified before the Senate Committee on Finance and said:

> I can assure you that we are not negotiating anything in TPP that would require any modifications of the U.S. immigration laws or system, any changes to our existing visa system. And, in fact, TPP will explicitly state that it will not require changes in any party's immigration laws or procedures.

Second, even if people don't trust this administration, particularly when it comes to immigration, the provisions of our TPA bill, the ones I just got through talking about, provide greater congressional oversight and authority over trade agreements and prevent this or any future administration from misleading Congress about what is included in any trade agreement.

In other words, if anyone is worried that despite their clear statements to the contrary, the administration will use TPP to advance its immigration agenda, they should support our TPA bill.

Transparency. Another concern I have heard from people both in and out of government is that trade agreements currently under discussion have been negotiated behind closed doors and that by renewing TPA, Congress would be enabling this type of secrecy.

Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the opposite is true. Our TPA bill goes further than any previous version of TPA to promote transparency both for Members of Congress and the American people.

Under our legislation, any Member of Congress who wants access to the negotiating text will get it, and at any time during the negotiations, Members of Congress will be able to request and receive a briefing from USTR on the status of negotiations.

In addition, the bill will require the administration to publicly release the full text of an agreement at least 60 days before they sign it, giving the American people full access and knowledge of all trade agreements before they are signed and well before they are submitted to Congress for their approval.

In short, any Member of Congress who is concerned about a lack of transparency in trade negotiations should be a cosponsor of the Hatch-Wyden-Ryan TPA bill.

Currency. The last concern I will talk about today deals with currency manipulation. Specifically, I have heard from colleagues that our TPA

bill should include stronger, enforceable standards to prevent our trading partners from engaging in currency manipulation.

Now, make no mistake, I think currency manipulation is a serious issue. Like my colleagues, I am worried the currency policies of a number of countries, including some of our trade partners, continue to have negative consequences on U.S. businesses and workers. I believe Congress should carefully consider ways to address this issue. That is why, for the first time, our TPA bill includes a negotiating objective intended to address currency manipulation.

While I understand some of my colleagues would like that provision to be stronger, this is a very complex issue. Many have expressed valid concerns that by requiring our trade agreements to contain enforceable currency provisions we would be inviting a number of unintended consequences, including challenges to U.S. monetary policy. In addition, most have acknowledged that such provisions would effectively derail the TPP negotiations, harming our farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, and others who so desperately need access to these markets.

It is not just me saying this. Yesterday, I received a letter from Treasury Secretary Lew expressing these very concerns about the possibility of including enhanced currency provisions in TPA. On top of that, 10 former Treasury Secretaries, from both Republican and Democratic administrations, sent a letter to congressional leaders that made similar arguments.

As you can see, there is more than ample reason to doubt the wisdom of inserting stronger currency provisions into TPA. I think it is fair, given Secretary Lew's very clear statements, to assume that President Obama would not sign a TPA bill that included such provisions, and I think it is more than fair to say that even if he would sign such a bill, it would be devastating to our ongoing trade negotiations; thereby, threatening growth and jobs right here at home. That being the case, I hope my colleagues pursuing this route will reconsider their positions.

Once again, we are going to mark up our TPA bill later today. I am excited and pleased for this opportunity. I think we will get a strong bipartisan vote to report the bill and send it to the floor. We have crafted a very good bill, one that I think Members of both parties can support. I know some Members have anxieties and concerns about these issues. We have put the bill together with those types of concerns in mind and, as I think I have demonstrated today, anyone who is truly supportive of trade and of opening foreign markets to U.S. goods and services and wants to create more good jobs right here at home should support our bill.

Since the day we introduced our legislation, letters and statements of support have been pouring in. I will mention just a few.

We have had statements from administration officials, including the President himself, and to say support from the business community has been overwhelming would be a gross understatement. We have letters from virtually every industry—farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, tech companies, health care companies, and I could literally go on and on, but I will not, at least not right now. Instead, today, I will just mention two of the many letters of support we have received from businesses and job creators.

I have a letter from the Trade Benefits America Coalition signed by hundreds of companies and major trade associations expressing their strong support for the Hatch-Wyden-Ryan TPA bill.

I have another letter signed by nearly 300 State and local chambers of commerce, farm bureaus, and manufacturing associations, all expressing their support for the swift renewal of TPA.

Leaders from a number of leading conservative organizations have expressed support as well, including the Conservative Reform Network, the Cato Institute, Americans for Tax Reform, American Enterprise Institute, American Action Forum, Tea Party Express, 60 Plus, American Commitment, American Conservative Union, Americans for Job Security, Center for Individual Freedom, Citizens for Limited Taxation, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Conservative Reform Network, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, Crossroads GPS, Digital Liberty, Ending Spending, Frontiers of Freedom, Georgia Center Right Coalition, Institute for Liberty, Minnesota Center Right Coalition, National Taxpayers Union, R Street, Rio Grande Foundation, Taxpayer Foundation Alliance, and the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy.

That is a long list and by no means contains everybody who is for this bill, and it is growing every day. As you can see, TPA is supported across the ideological spectrum.

I suppose this is the best way I can put it: Senator TED CRUZ coauthored an op-ed with Senator Ryan in support of our bill in today's Wall Street Journal. If both TED CRUZ and Barack Obama support our legislation, it is probably safe to say we are onto something.

I appreciate all the support we have received thus far for our TPA bill. It has been gratifying to see, and I look forward to talking more with colleagues about these issues in the coming week.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. 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. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time during quorum calls before the votes this morning be equally divided.

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE NEW CONGRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is over 100 days since the 114th Congress has been in session led by a new majority following the November election. This Chamber can point to significant accomplishments in this short period of time.

Now, none of us is spiking the football or saying that we have done miraculous things, but it is undeniable that we have made discernible, concrete progress on important matters that affect the lives and the quality of life of the American people.

In only 3 weeks into the new Congress, the Senate already had more votes on amendments than the Chamber did in all of last year. What that means is that, on a bipartisan basis, Senators have been able to contribute their ideas on legislation—how to improve it and get votes on it. That was something we promised voters that would change after the last election. In the new Congress and under the new majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, we have delivered.

Just a few weeks ago, the Senate passed a budget that actually balances in 10 years—something the Chamber has done only once since 2009. More recently, we sent to the President's desk the so-called doc fix, which, more importantly, ensured access to the doctors and hospitals that our seniors need. We also made great strides in providing the American people a final say on the Iran nuclear deal that is being negotiated now by the President's representatives. We have made progress on bipartisan legislation that ensures the United States will get the best deal with our trading partners in pending negotiations—opening up American goods and services to global markets, which is good for our economy. It is good for jobs, and it is good for better wages for hard-working American families.

But I must say, even with all of these accomplishments, I am most proud of the deal we were able to reach this week concerning the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

I have noticed one thing since I have been here in Washington; it is that the rich and powerful seem to do pretty well. They are well represented on K Street, and they are not hesitant about letting their needs be known. But one

indicator of the character of a nation is how that nation—our Nation—treats those who are the most vulnerable in our society, those who actually need our help, who do not have lobbyists or other people working on their behalf in the halls of Congress.

So this legislation, I think, actually is a very positive step because it demonstrates that we have not fallen deaf to the cries of those who actually need our help—the victims of human trafficking.

This legislation will be instrumental in helping victims of sexual abuse and trafficking recover from a life in bondage, and it will provide stronger tools for law enforcement officials to track down and punish those who want to keep them in the shadows, who want to continue to make profit from the pain, the anguish, and the involuntary servitude of typically young women between the ages of 12 and 14. And often these young women—these children—are treated as criminals and not as the victims they truly are. With the passage of this bill, we are one step closer to reining it in.

So I thank our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, some of whom are here in the Chamber, for working with us in the spirit of trying to accomplish something important and actually getting it done. I know the distinguished ranking member on the Judiciary Committee, with whom I partnered on a number of important topics, is here, and I thank him for his contribution. And the Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY, has been very important in the negotiation and in getting us to yes.

Finally—and I know time is short, so I will have more to say on this later. But there are literally 200 outside groups—faith-based groups, law enforcement organizations, and other organizations—that worked on the sidelines cheering us, asking us to get this done—groups such as Rights4Girls, Shared Hope International, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, the End Child Prostitution and Trafficking organization, and the National Association to Protect Children. These groups and hundreds of others across the country have literally been our boots on the ground.

I also think it is important to recognize organizations such as Google Ideas and the McCain Institute, particularly Cindy McCain, who joined me in Houston recently to talk more about this important topic.

So there are a lot of people who contributed to get us to where we are today. We are not done yet. We have some important votes in just a few minutes—a total of 8 votes today—before we complete our work on this legislation, but I think this is a good day. This will be a good day for the Senate and for the victims of human trafficking.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMENDMENT NO. 301

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 301.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY] proposes an amendment numbered 301.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of March 16, 2015, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I appreciate what the Senator from Texas has said. We have worked together. I hope we continue to do this, but before I talk about my substitute, I want to yield the floor to the distinguished Senator from Washington State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, so many Members helped us get this bill back on a bipartisan path, but I want to thank Senators REID, CORNYN, KLOBUCHAR, FEINSTEIN, MIKULSKI, and LEAHY in particular for their work. I also want to thank all of the staff who have worked extremely hard to get this done, especially Melanie Rainer from my staff.

From the beginning of this debate, Democrats have been very clear that this bill to help survivors should focus squarely on that goal alone. We also felt this conversation was no place for a debate about restrictions on women's health access. While there are clear differences between the two parties when it comes to women's health, I know Senator CORNYN and many others agreed with us that an effort to fight back against human trafficking in our country is, without question, no place for gridlock and dysfunction. It should not have taken this long, but I am very pleased that we were able to work together, find common ground, and reach an agreement.

This agreement isn't perfect. No comprise ever is, and I am sure my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would say the same thing. I believe there is much more we can and must do to protect and strengthen women's access to comprehensive, high-quality health care.

In the 21st century, there is no reason a woman should be prevented from exercising her constitutionally guaranteed right to make her own choices about her own body. That is something I could not feel more strongly about, and I am going to keep working to not only protect that right but expand and improve access to care for women across the country.

I am very glad, however, that the amendment we are proposing this morning would provide survivors now with real, dedicated funds and support, including important health services. Critically, this amendment would take away the expansion of restrictions on women's health that would have occurred under the original legislation. It would ensure that the Hyde language is now not expanded to any new programs under this bill.

I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this amendment so we can pass this bill to help trafficking survivors, and then move as quickly as possible to confirm our highly qualified nominee for Attorney General.

I thank my colleagues again for their work to reach this compromise. The families and communities we serve rightly expect us to work together to solve problems and not let gridlock and dysfunction get in the way of results. I am very pleased we were able to find that common ground and a path forward for this important legislation. I am very hopeful that now we will be able to continue working together to tackle the many other challenges our country faces.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, my substitute amendment, No. 301, brings together three very important bills that provide a comprehensive approach to preventing human trafficking and help survivors rebuild their lives. First, it includes the Leahy-Collins-Murkowski-Ayotte amendment to protect runaway and homeless youth from trafficking. Second, it includes the Klobuchar-Cornyn bill as reported in February by the Judiciary Committee. The safe harbor bill encourages States to treat victims of trafficking as victims and not—as oftentimes they are treated—as criminals. Finally, it includes the Cornyn-Klobuchar bill, S. 178, but without the divisive language that limits victims' services, which has held us up so long.

My amendment came about as a response to the request of survivors and the dedicated people who work with them, the people who actually see this day-by-day, for whom it is not a theoretical thing, but is an actual day-by-day crisis. They have urged us to remove the unnecessary and harmful provision which stalled this bill for weeks.

Congress has a long history of passing legislation to address human trafficking. We did so in the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which included the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. We consistently have addressed human trafficking legislation without abortion politics being inserted in the discussion. My amendment would return us to the path of the bipartisan bills we passed in years past. Importantly, my amendment is going to make sure we are preventing human trafficking in the first place.

It is one thing to work with children after they become victims. I think we would all agree it is better if we can

help prevent them from becoming victims. The best way to do that is to support runaway and homeless kids. Without a safe place to sleep, these children and teens are exceptionally vulnerable to human traffickers. The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, first passed in 1974, funds tried-and-true programs to help these youth stabilize their lives. When a homeless or runaway teen is looking for a place to stay and there is nothing available, they sometimes resort to desperate measures. They are picked up almost at once by sex traffickers and exploited.

The substitute amendment reauthorizes and strengthens the programs that have worked ever since 1974. It adds training for service providers so we can better identify victims of trafficking and refer them to the appropriate resources. It includes language to prevent discrimination against homeless youth based on their sexual orientation or gender identification.

We found, in the testimony before the Judiciary Committee, a growing number of homeless and runaway youth identify as LGBT. Many of them have actually been thrown out of their homes for who they are. I am a parent; I am a grandparent. I find this heartbreaking to me that any child, any child for whatever reason would be thrown out of their home. We have to ensure that these vulnerable children who have already been rejected do not face rejection again because of how they look or dress or whom they love.

I urge all Senators to support this amendment. This is a moral issue. If we are serious about listening to survivors and responding to their needs and if we are serious about preventing human trafficking and protecting vulnerable children in the first place, this amendment is the strongest option before us.

We should be judged by what we do for the most vulnerable among us. The combination of these three bills should bring us together. I urge the Senate to support this comprehensive substitute.

Several of us in this body, both parties, have had the privilege to serve law enforcement before coming here, as I did. I said many times on this floor that I still have nightmares today, 40 years later, from some of the scenes I saw back then. I could arrest and prosecute these people who harm these youth, but we could never give back to the youth who they were before they were harmed.

Unfortunately, what I have nightmares about happens in so many more places. In the distinguished Presiding Officer's own home State, as well as the home States of every single Member of this body, it is happening today. These are the most vulnerable of our citizens. We as Senators should help protect them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be allowed to meet during today's session of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. I object to the unanimous consent request to waive rule XXVI to allow the Finance Committee to pass a fast-track bill that will undermine the American worker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me say to my good friend from Vermont, the Finance Committee is scheduled to deal with the trade promotion authority issue this afternoon. There are over 200 amendments. I would say to my friend, all this objection is going to do will be to require us to recess after the votes on trafficking and stay in session because we are going to finish the bill in the Finance Committee today. I appreciate the Senator's opposition, but I want to make clear to him and to our colleagues that it will not prevent the trade promotion authority bill from being dealt with in Finance today. We will simply go into recess after we finish the trafficking bill and stay in recess, and the committee will work until it reports out the bill.

I understand the Senator's vigorous opposition to it. The Senator has made that quite clear. It is certainly understandable. The Senator has a right to do that. I am just making the point that this particular way to oppose it will not be successful today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me say to my friend, the majority leader, I appreciate his position. But as he knows, not only is there massive opposition to this TPP agreement, but there is a lot of concern that the American people have not been involved in the process, that there is not a lot of transparency. What we are trying do is to make sure this debate takes place out in the public, that the American people have as much time as possible to understand the very significant implications of this trade agreement. I, and I suspect others, will do our best to make that happen.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand the position of my friend from Vermont on this. This Finance Committee meeting obviously will be open to the public. There will be many amendments offered, most of them I expect reflecting the views of the Senator from Vermont, but the meeting will go forward. The committee will simply be inconvenienced by the current actions of the Senator from Vermont, but the committee will go forward. The Senate will be in recess, and the committee will meet at the earliest possible time and finish the bill today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds to speak before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to make clear that the first amendment we will vote on relative to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act will remove the Hyde amendment which is the longstanding, 39-year consensus that taxpayer funds will not be used to fund abortions. This amendment would completely strip that Hyde amendment, and it would undermine the delicate compromise that has been reached on the important legislation. The next vote we will have will be on that compromise piece of legislation, the Cornyn-Murray-Klobuchar legislation. It would literally cut funding for human trafficking victims as compared to this compromise.

I would urge our colleagues to stick with the bipartisan compromise and to vote against the Leahy amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG SAFER CHEMICALS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I rise on Earth Day to speak about our children and about chemical safety. We come in contact with thousands of chemicals every day. As I am speaking now, millions of our fellow citizens are buying groceries or going to the hardware store or getting clothes or toys for their children. They assume the government has studied the chemicals in these products and determined they are safe. But that is not the case.

The Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, or TSCA, is supposed to protect American families, and it doesn't. There are over 84,000 known chemicals in manufactured and commercial products, and hundreds of new ones come on the market every year. How many of those products have been regulated by the EPA? Less than half a dozen.

These are troubling numbers. TSCA has been in existence for almost 40 years, and out of 84,000 chemicals—and counting—less than a dozen are actually regulated. The EPA cannot even regulate asbestos, a known carcinogen. Since losing a court battle in 1991, they have not been able to regulate it. The risks and dangers have been around for decades, but there is no cop on the beat. TSCA has failed.

Some States are trying to fill the gap by regulating a few chemicals, but my home State of New Mexico, and the vast majority of others, have no ability to test chemicals. They don't have a department to write regulations. Without a working Federal law, they have no protection. Even California, which probably has the greatest capacity of all States to test and regulate, has only proposed rules for three chemicals. In 7 years, since California passed a law to regulate chemicals, it has only begun the process on three chemicals.

That is why I and others have worked so hard to find compromise on this issue. That is why I introduced the

Frank R. Lautenberg Safer Chemicals for the 21st Century Act.

I come to the floor today on Earth Day to urge all of my colleagues here to make reforming our broken chemical safety law a priority. We have a moral obligation to protect our kids from dangerous chemicals.

I have been privileged to work with Senator VITTER on this bill. I thank him and our colleagues who have worked with us. This is a true bipartisan effort. We don't always agree on some of the issues, but we have one basic goal here. Reform is overdue. It is 40 years overdue.

All of our landmark environmental laws have been reformed or amended—the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act—but not the Toxic Substances Control Act. It should have been—and it was not for lack of trying.

Our esteemed former colleague, the late Senator Frank Lautenberg led the way for many years, with great determination.

He never gave up. Together we fought the good fight to pass our dream bill, but were never able to make any progress. And he realized we needed to work with all stakeholders. Everyone at the table, including industry. Because he understood, this is not about getting all that we want. This is about getting the American people the protections they need. His effort to reform TSCA was the last major legislation he introduced.

Mr. President, 2 years ago, the New York Times endorsed the Lautenberg-Vitter bill. The Times said—correctly—that previous efforts at reform had gone nowhere, and the bill ''deserves to be passed because it would be a significant advance over the current law.''

That was 2 years ago. I was honored to take over as the lead Democrat on the bill. Since then, I have listened to concerns. I reached across the aisle. I brought everyone into the room, or at least tried to. With my Republican colleague, Senator VITTER, we have improved the bill.

I want to talk for a moment about what this bill actually does, and how it moves us forward. Specifically, it does the following:

First, the manufacture of a new chemical cannot begin until EPA approves it. Currently, a new chemical is on the market after 90 days, unless EPA finds unreasonable risk. Our bill gives EPA the time it needs, and keeps these chemicals out of American homes in the meantime.

Second, current TSCA has no requirement for evaluating existing chemicals. None. Our bill does and includes deadlines, even more aggressive than the EPA itself asked for.

Third, we require a stronger safety standard for all chemicals to be evaluated. No longer will EPA be required to choose the ''least burdensome'' regulation. Its criteria will be safety, science, and public health—never cost or convenience.

Fourth, our bill defines, for the first time, our most vulnerable populations—pregnant women, infants, the elderly, and workers—and explicitly requires that EPA ensure they are protected from chemicals in commerce or manufacturing.

Finally, we limit confidential business information protection for industry. Currently, it is limitless, unless challenged by EPA. We call for a 10-year sunset on confidential business information claims.

Reform takes time. But, it should not take decades. We can't afford to wait any longer. Our children and our communities can't afford to wait for protection from chemicals. Yes, that means compromise. The goal was not a perfect bill. The goal was, and is, real reform.

We have worked to address the issues with the original bill, and we still have work to do. It doesn't do everything I want. Senator VITTER has given a great deal as well. But this is a strong, bipartisan bill. I am confident it can pass the Senate. It will ensure EPA has the authority to keep us safe, something EPA cannot do now.

So, let's be clear. We have a choice. We can continue with a law that has failed. We can continue to leave the American people unprotected. Or we can actually make a difference. We can give the EPA the power it needs to do its job—so that chemicals are tested—so that our homes and workplaces are safe—and so that American families are protected.

I believe the choice is obvious. To those who disagree, I would ask a simple question. Are you willing to live with a failed law another 20 or 40 years? Because we all agree on one thing—TSCA is a failure.

This is the best chance we have, possibly for many years, to pass a law that will protect our kids from dangerous chemicals.

Our bill will make Americans safer. Not just Americans fortunate to live in States with protections. All Americans. No matter where they live.

For those Americans in States with existing safeguards, that won't change. Those safeguards will stay in place. Any regulations in place as of January of this year will remain. And there is a role for States to play—to help with the thousands of chemicals that EPA will not be able to evaluate.

But, let's be clear. The EPA has the largest staff on chemical safety of any country in the world. They should be able to put that staff to good use. To do otherwise is wasted opportunity and continued failure.

This has not been an easy process. But, it is a necessary one. I believe it will result in a good bill. We welcome a healthy debate. We welcome constructive amendments. At the same time, we should not lose sight of the key goal—to actually pass a bill. To reform a law that is not working. To protect our families and communities.

I believe we can do this. And Senator Lautenberg, who was a great environmental champion, he believed we could as well.

Americans trust that when they go to the grocery store, or when they are in their own homes, that the products they reach for are safe. The current system fails that trust. It fails to provide confidence in our regulatory system. And it fails to provide confidence in our consumer products. We cannot let that failure continue. It hurts our economy, and it hurts the American people.

We need solutions, not roadblocks and closed doors. Senator VITTER and I will continue to work with all stakeholders. If we can make this bill better, we will. We all share that goal. But, here's the bottom line: We must work through the remaining challenges. Now is not the time for digging in our heels—and going nowhere. Mr. President, 40 years of that is enough. Now is the time for change.

There is only one essential question before us. Is this reform better than what we have? The answer is yes. Can we make it even better? I hope the answer to that question is yes as well. But, that will require a spirit of cooperation and compromise. That will require that we continue to have everyone at the table.

Critics charge that this is an alliance with the chemical industry. That is false. It is an alliance with the American people. They put their trust in the American government to protect them. That trust has not been met.

It is in everyone's interest—to identify dangerous chemicals, to protect the American public, and restore confidence in the safety of the products made by American companies.

We have a historic opportunity to create a chemical law that works and provide American families with the protections they expect and deserve. Let's work together. Let's make that happen. Let's not wait another 40 years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

MEDICARE INDEPENDENCE AT HOME MEDICAL PRACTICE DEMONSTRATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 971, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 971) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Wyden amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 1129) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

On page 2, line 5, insert ''of the Social Security Act'' after ''1866E(e)(1)''.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any further debate?

If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 971), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 971

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 ''Medicare Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration Improvement Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN THE LIMIT ON THE LENGTH OF AN AGREEMENT UNDER THE MEDICARE INDEPENDENCE AT HOME MEDICAL PRACTICE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 1866E(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc–5(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''3-year'' and inserting ''5-year''.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

STEVE GLEASON ACT OF 2015

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 984, that the bill be read a third time, and that the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

A bill (S. 984) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 984) was passed, as follows:

S. 984

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 ''Steve Gleason Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. PROVIDING MEDICARE BENEFICIARY ACCESS TO EYE TRACKING ACCESSORIES FOR SPEECH GENERATING DEVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(n) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(n)) is amended by inserting ''and eye tracking and gaze interaction accessories for speech generating devices furnished to individuals with a demonstrated medical need for such accessories'' after ''appropriate organizations)''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to devices furnished on or after January 1, 2016.

SEC. 3. REMOVING THE RENTAL CAP FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT UNDER MEDICARE WITH RESPECT TO SPEECH GENERATING DEVICES.

Section 1834(a)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in clause (iii), by adding ''or'' at the end; and

(3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clause:

''(iv) in the case of devices furnished on or after October 1, 2015, and before October 1, 2018, which serves as a speech generating device or which is an accessory that is needed for the individual to effectively utilize such a device,''.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 144, National Crime Victims' Rights Week; S. Res. 145, Parkinson's Awareness Month; S. Res. 146, Assistant Principals Week; and S. Res. 147, Historian Emeritus.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 782

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 782 be discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works and be referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—H.R. 710

Mr. CORNYN. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 710 be discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I understand there are 4 more minutes on this side. Am I correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 2½ minutes of debate remaining on the Democratic side.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield back our time.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 301

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having been yielded back, under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 301, offered by the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

The result was announced—yeas 43, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 156 Leg.]

YEAS—43

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	King	Schatz
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Leahy	Shaheen
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	McCaskill	Tester
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Nelson	
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—55

Alexander	Casey	Cotton
Ayotte	Cassidy	Crapo
Barrasso	Coats	Daines
Blunt	Cochran	Donnelly
Boozman	Collins	Enzi
Burr	Corker	Ernst
Capito	Cornyn	Fischer

Flake
Gardner
Graham
Grassley
Hatch
Heller
Hoeven
Inhofe
Isakson
Johnson
Kirk
Lankford
Lee
Manchin
McCain
McConnell
Moran
Murkowski
Paul
Perdue
Portman
Risch
Roberts
Rounds
Sasse
Scott
Sessions
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Vitter
Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1124

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1124, offered by the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 157 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Alexander
Ayotte
Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt
Booker
Boozman
Boxer
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Coats
Cochran
Collins
Coons
Corker
Cornyn
Cotton
Crapo
Daines
Donnelly
Durbin
Enzi
Ernst
Feinstein
Fischer
Flake
Franken
Gardner
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hatch
Heinrich
Heitkamp
Heller
Hirono
Hoeven
Inhofe
Isakson
Johnson
Kaine
King
Kirk
Klobuchar
Lankford
Leahy
Lee
Manchin
Markey
McCain
McCaskill
McConnell
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Moran
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray
Nelson
Paul
Perdue
Peters
Portman
Reed
Reid
Risch
Roberts
Rounds
Sanders
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Scott
Sessions
Shaheen
Shelby
Stabenow
Sullivan
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Udall
Vitter
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is agreed to.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise to propound a unanimous consent request to call up an amendment, speak briefly, and then be followed by Senator SANDERS.

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

Under the previous order, the time until 2 p.m. is equally divided in the usual form.

AMENDMENT NO. 1121

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1121.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Carolina [Mr. BURR] proposes an amendment numbered 1121.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Defense to inform the Attorney General of persons required to register as sex offenders)

At the end, add the following:

TITLE ____—MILITARY SEX OFFENDER REPORTING

SEC. _____. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Military Sex Offender Reporting Act of 2015''.

SEC. _____. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act is amended by inserting after section 128 (42 U.S.C. 16928) the following:

''SEC. 128A. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

''The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Attorney General the information described in section 114 to be included in the National Sex Offender Registry and the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website regarding persons—

''(1)(A) released from military corrections facilities; or

''(B) convicted if the sentences adjudged by courts-martial under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), do not include confinement; and

''(2) required to register under this title.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 128 the following:

''Sec. 128A. Registration of sex offenders released from military corrections facilities or upon conviction.''.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to speak very briefly on an amendment the Senate will have an opportunity to vote on this afternoon.

Due to the way the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act is currently written, there is a problem with tracking sex offenders convicted in a military justice system. Some of these offenders are exploiting the cracks in that system.

My amendment is, quite honestly, a fix to the problem and will help authorities and the public better track sex offenders in our communities.

To explain, currently, military sex offenders are only required to self-report to a State government after they are released from a military correctional facility.

Under the civilian justice system, sex offenders are registered in the State before they are released. The State then provides the information to the Department of Justice to be included in both the public and the private National Sex Offender Registry, which is where the average citizen can go and see if there is a sex offender in their neighborhood.

A Department of Defense inspector general report issued in August of last year revealed that an estimated 242 of the 1,312 released sex offenders failed to self-report.

In that inspector general's report, they said:

> The lack of jurisdiction for DOD to register military sex offenders with the National Sex Offender Registry enables military sex offenders released from military prisons to evade sex offender registration requirements.

I am not sure it can be put any plainer than that.

The Department of Defense tried to correct the problem by working with State authorities and the U.S. Marshals, but underreporting continues today.

Differences in State laws in military reporting procedures enables some criminals to totally evade reporting and detection.

A recent Scripps news report revealed grim examples of the consequences of these cracks in the system.

Consider the recent case of Matthew Carr. The military convicted Matthew Carr for posing as a gynecologist. He preyed on seven women. After spending 7 years incarcerated, he evaded registration upon his release. He assaulted another woman before being apprehended by civilian authorities. This assault was preventable in that community, but the DOD wasn't required to post him as a sex offender.

In another case, a former officer served 5 years for sexually assaulting 3 minors in the cruelest way possible. He evaded registration, and Scripps located this individual living within a mile of a school. It is scary, a pedophile living next to a school—and no one knew he was there.

This amendment requires the Department of Defense to communicate a criminal's information directly to the Attorney General to improve tracking and public notification.

My amendment is based upon a bipartisan bill, S. 409, that I introduced with the support of Senator MCCASKILL. That bill already has the support of 15 of our colleagues: Senators AYOTTE, BLUNT, CORNYN, COTTON, CRAPO, FISCHER, RUBIO, SESSIONS, TILLIS, TOOMEY, FEINSTEIN, KING, MIKULSKI, and NELSON.

My amendment costs taxpayers nothing, and it is a commonsense solution to a real problem that exists.

I encourage my colleagues this afternoon, when we have an opportunity to

get back into votes, that they support amendment No. 1121.

I yield the floor to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I objected to the unanimous consent request to waive rule XXVI to allow the Finance Committee to pass a fast-track bill because I think it is time we slowed down fast-track.

This trade agreement, I think everybody acknowledges, is of enormous consequence to working people all over this country. We need more transparency. We need to know what is in this legislation, and we need to involve the American people in this discussion.

I must say I am extremely disappointed that on a piece of legislation which involves 40 percent of the world's economy, that is the largest trade agreement in the history of the United States of America, much of the major media has virtually ignored this issue.

Now, you may be for the agreement, you may be against the agreement. I am strongly against it—and I will tell you why in a moment, but I would hope we could all agree this is an enormously important issue that deserves significant discussion on the part of the American people and their elected representatives.

I find it incomprehensible that, to the best of my knowledge, ABC—the ABC television network—has had zero coverage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, zero; CBS television, zero coverage; NBC, zero coverage. PBS has had three mentions of the TPP. CNN has had zero coverage, FOX television has had four mentions, and MSNBC—mostly because of the excellent work of Ed Schultz—has covered it on 33 occasions, and all of this since January of 2015.

So here we are engaged in a discussion—some people are for it and some people are against it—but how do the American people know what is going on if the major networks are virtually blocking out any serious discussion, any mention of the agreement?

Supporters of the fast-track bill have told us over and over again that unfettered free trade will increase American jobs and increase American wages, but they have been proven dead wrong every single time we have had a trade agreement. In other words, we hear the same rhetoric: vote for NAFTA, vote for CAFTA, vote for the free-trade agreement with China. It is going to increase jobs in America, improve life for the middle class. Yet every single time the rhetoric around these past trade agreements has been proven to be dead wrong.

I was in the House of Representatives in 1993 and 1994 during the debate over NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. I remember all of those people who supported that agreement telling us how NAFTA was going to open the Mexican economy for products made in the United States of America and how it was going to create all kinds of good-paying jobs in this country.

On September 19, 1993, President Bill Clinton said the following:

> I believe that NAFTA will create 200,000 American jobs in the first two years of its effect. . . . I believe that NAFTA will create a million jobs in the first five years of its impact.

That was President Bill Clinton, who strongly supported that agreement.

But it wasn't only President Clinton who made those claims. The Heritage Foundation, one of the most conservative think tanks in this country, said in 1993: ''Virtually all economists agree that NAFTA will produce a net increase of U.S. jobs over the next decade.'' That is from the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Further, during the debate over NAFTA and the Senate in 1993, the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, MITCH MCCONNELL, who is now the majority leader, said: American firms will not move to Mexico just for lower wages.

That was Senator MCCONNELL. Virtually every major newspaper in America had editorials saying: Support NAFTA—the Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal. Support NAFTA; it is good for the American worker.

Well, it turns out that NAFTA, which, of course, was supported by every major corporation in America, supported by Wall Street, supported by all of the Big Money interests—well, it turns out that all of those projections regarding NAFTA turned out to be dead wrong.

According to the well-respected economists at the Economic Policy Institute, NAFTA has led to the loss of more than 680,000 jobs—not the creation of 1 million jobs, the loss of 680,000 American jobs.

In 1993, the year before NAFTA was implemented, the United States had a trade surplus with Mexico of more than $1.6 billion. Last year, the trade deficit with Mexico was $53 billion.

I quote what the Economic Policy Institute says about NAFTA:

> [President] Clinton and his collaborators promised [NAFTA] would bring ''good-paying American jobs,'' a rising trade surplus with Mexico, and a dramatic reduction in illegal immigration. Instead, NAFTA directly cost the United States a net loss of 700,000 jobs. The [trade] surplus with Mexico turned into a chronic deficit. And the economic dislocation in Mexico increased the flow of undocumented workers into the United States.

Further, I quote an article that appeared in the New York Times yesterday:

> Mexico has become the most attractive place in North America to build new automobile factories, a shift that has siphoned jobs from the U.S. and Canada. . . . In the past two years, eight automakers have opened or announced new plants or expansions in Mexico. . . . Low labor costs and fewer tariffs are the swing factors.

That was the New York Times yesterday. In other words, despite all of the rhetoric about how this unfettered free-trade agreement with Mexico was going to create jobs in this country, it turned out—not too surprisingly, I voted against NAFTA—to be exactly the opposite. Those people who told us how great the agreement was going to be were dead wrong.

Why were they wrong? Well, for obvious reasons. When you have workers in low-wage countries, people who are prepared to work for 50 cents an hour, $1 an hour, $2 an hour, it doesn't take a Ph.D. in economics to figure out that corporations will shut down in America, move to those countries, pay workers pennies an hour—not have to worry about environmental regulations, not have to worry about, in some cases, trade unions. You don't have to worry about that stuff.

So what would American corporations do? Of course they would go to those countries. That is exactly what they have done.

I talked for a moment about NAFTA. What about permanent normal trade relations with China? I don't think I have to elaborate on the fact that when Americans go shopping and they walk into a department store—just look at the labels. Look at where the products are manufactured. Time after time, the products come from China, China, and China.

As unbelievable as it may sound, back in 1999 and 2000, we were told—this is again what we were told—that permanent normal trade relations with China would open up the huge Chinese market to all kinds of American-made products. The argument was, look, China is the largest country in the world. If we can just have an unfettered free-trade agreement with them, think about all the products manufactured in America that would be sold to the huge population in China.

That was the argument. I think it is important for the American people to hear what the supporters of permanent normal trade relations with China—free trade with China—had to say back then and whether those arguments turned out to be right. In other words, if we are going to look at TPP today and hear what people are saying now, it is important to hear what people said about these other free trade agreements back then.

Here is what President Bill Clinton said about PNTR with China back in 1999:

> In opening the economy of China, the agreement will create unprecedented opportunities for American farmers, workers and companies to compete successfully in China's market . . . This is a hundred-to-nothing deal for America when it comes to the economic consequences.

That was President Bill Clinton.

In addition, this is what the conservative economists at the Cato Institute—a very conservative think tank—wrote back in 1999:

> The silliest argument against PNTR is that Chinese imports would overwhelm U.S. industry. In fact, American workers are far

more productive than their Chinese counterparts . . . PNTR would create far more export opportunities for American than Chinese concerns.

In other words, we had a liberal President, President Clinton, saying PNTR—free trade—with China would open up great economic opportunities in America, create new jobs, and raise wages. We had a conservative think tank say exactly the same thing. We had all of corporate America, all of Wall Street, all of the big-money interests saying: Oh boy, what a great opportunity for the United States. We can create all these jobs.

Well, were they right or were they wrong? I think everybody knows—the facts are pretty clear—they were, once again, not wrong, they were dead wrong. The Economic Policy Institute estimated that PNTR with China has led to the net loss of over 2.7 million American jobs. The trade deficit with China has increased from $83 billion back in 2001 to a recordbreaking $342 billion in 2014. I note that my Republican colleagues often talk about our national deficit, which is an important issue, but I don't hear much discussion about our huge trade deficit, especially with China, which was at $342 billion in 2014.

After all of the talk on the floor of the Senate and the floor of the House, after all of the editorials written in the major newspapers throughout our country, after all of the discussion and expositions of Wall Street and the big-money interests, it turned out that the trade agreement with China was an unmitigated disaster for American workers.

PNTR was passed in the year 2000. A couple of years later—and this kind of tells you everything you need to know about unfettered free trade—Jeffrey Immelt, the CEO of General Electric, one of our large corporations, was quoted on this subject at an investor meeting 1 year after China was admitted to the World Trade Organization, and this is what Mr. Immelt said:

When I am talking to GE managers, I talk China, China, China, China, China. You need to be there. You need to change the way people talk about it and how they get there. I am a nut on China. Outsourcing from China is going to grow to $5 billion. We are building a tech center in China. Every discussion today has to center on China. The cost basis is extremely attractive. You can take an 18 cubic foot refrigerator, make it in China, land it in the United States, and land it for less than we can make an 18 cubic foot refrigerator today ourselves.

What Mr. Immelt was saying is what virtually every major corporation CEO was thinking, and it is not hard to understand why. In China, wages are very, very low. Environmental regulations are almost nonexistent. It is hard to find a trade union to negotiate for workers. Why wouldn't a company shut down in America and run to China? And that is exactly, of course, what they have done.

Before PNTR with China passed, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce told us it would create jobs. But just a few years later, on July 1, 2004, the Associated Press ran an article with the headline ''Chamber of Commerce leader advocates offshoring of jobs.'' The article quotes Thomas Donohue, the president and CEO, who, by the way, just yesterday was before the Senate Committee on Finance advocating for the Trans-Pacific Partnership. This is what the AP article said back in 2004:

Mr. Donohue urged American companies to send jobs overseas as a way to boost American competitiveness . . . Donohue said that exporting high-paid tech jobs to low-cost countries such as India, China and Russia saves companies money.

So the dirty secret is that of course these guys like these free-trade agreements—not because they are going to create jobs in America. No one seriously believes that. When they are honest about it, they understand and they say that if companies shut down plants in America, throw millions of people onto the streets in this country and move abroad—when they do that, their profits go up. And they are right. I give them credit for that. That is right. That is what unfettered free trade has meant in this country.

And on and on it goes. It is not just Mr. Immelt, the head of General Electric; it is not just Mr. Donohue, the head of the chamber of commerce; it is major corporation after major corporation. It is Wall Street. It is all of the moneyed interests. Before the agreement, they tell us as part of the discussion how many good jobs NAFTA is going to create, how many good jobs free trade with China will create, how many good jobs the Korean trade agreement will create. After the agreement, word comes out: Hey, this is a good opportunity. Shut down in America, go abroad, pay people pennies an hour, and bring your products back into this country.

In 2011, we were told we just had to pass the South Korea Free Trade Agreement because of all the jobs it would create. Same arguments—another free-trade agreement that is going to be great for the American worker. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce told us this free-trade agreement could create some 280,000 jobs in America. Instead, the South Korea Free Trade Agreement has led to the loss of some 60,000 jobs and the trade deficit with our country has gone from $16.6 billion in 2012 to $25 billion in 2014.

Now the administration, Wall Street, and the largest corporations in this country are saying: Trust us. Forget about everything we said about all of these other trade agreements. Yeah, maybe we were wrong on NAFTA. Maybe we were wrong on CAFTA. Maybe we were wrong on the China Free Trade Agreement. Maybe we were wrong on the South Korea Free Trade Agreement. But trust us, on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, it is different. This one really, really, really—cross our fingers—really is going to be different.

This one will support about, they say, some 650,000 American jobs. You know, it is one thing to be fooled once. It is another thing to be fooled twice. It is another thing to be fooled three times. But there comes a point where the American people are catching on that one of the reasons why the middle class of this country is disappearing, one of the reasons why most or many of the new jobs being created are low wage and part time, one of the reasons why real inflation-accounted-for wages for American workers has plummeted is because of these disastrous free-trade agreements. So you can fool me once. You can fool me twice. Maybe I am dumb and you can fool me three times. But there does come a limit to how many times you think you can fool the American people.

When we talk about why the middle class of this country has been in decline for the last 40 years, one of the important reasons is that since 2001 we have lost nearly 60,000 factories in this country. Over that same time period, we have lost over 4.7 million manufacturing jobs. In 1970, 25 percent of all jobs in the United States were manufacturing jobs. Today, that number is just 9 percent. In January of 2001, there were 17.1 million manufacturing workers in this country. Today, there are only 12.3 million manufacturing workers.

In my small State of Vermont, we have lost 34 percent of our manufacturing jobs over the past 14 years. In January of 2001, Vermont had 47,000 factory jobs. Last February, it was down to 30,700. And that is true for virtually every State in this country.

Why is this significant? It is significant because historically manufacturing jobs paid the highest wages available to blue-collar workers. If you had a job at a manufacturing plant, if you had a union, the likelihood was that you would earn decent wages, have decent benefits, and you could actually support your family. You earned the wages that enabled you to take good care of your family. With the decline of manufacturing, what has happened is we have seen a huge increase in service industry jobs—McDonald's, Walmart—where wages are low, benefits are nil, and American workers who work there are having a hard time surviving economically. Manufacturing goes down, people lose their jobs, wages go down, and new jobs are being created that pay significantly less than the jobs people used to have.

The fact is that TPP is just a new and easy way for corporations to ship jobs overseas and force Americans to compete with low-wage workers in Vietnam and other countries. The minimum wage in Vietnam is 56 cents an hour. What this trade agreement says to American workers is, you are now competing against people who in some cases will be working for 56 cents an hour. I think that is grossly unfair. We should not force American workers into a race to the bottom.

Let's be clear. The TPP is much more than a free-trade agreement; it is part of a global race to the bottom to boost the profits of large, multinational corporations and Wall Street by outsourcing jobs, undercutting workers' rights, dismantling labor, environmental, health, food safety, and financial laws, and allowing corporations to challenge our laws in international tribunals rather than our own court system.

The TPP is poised to be the largest free-trade agreement in history, encompassing 12 nations that account for roughly 40 percent of the global economy. That is why it has been referred to as ''NAFTA on steroids.''

Incredibly, while Wall Street, the pharmaceutical industry, and major media companies have full knowledge as to what is in this treaty, the American people and Members of Congress do not. They have been locked out of the process. While the full text of the TPP has not been made public, there have been some leaks of what is included in it, and what I have seen is very disturbing.

It has been estimated by outside experts that the United States would lose more than 130,000 jobs to Vietnam and Japan alone if the TPP goes into effect. But that is just the tip of the iceberg. At a time when corporations have already outsourced over 3 million service sector jobs that were in the United States, the TPP includes rules that will make it even easier for corporate America to outsource call centers, computer programming, engineering, accounting, and medical diagnostic jobs. So these are not just manufacturing jobs; these are all kinds of other jobs which, if they can be done cheaper in other countries, will be sent there.

Under TPP, Vietnamese companies would be able to compete with American companies for Federal contracts funded by U.S. taxpayers, undermining American laws. The TPP will undermine U.S. sovereignty by giving foreign corporations the right to challenge any law in this country that threatens their expected future profits before international tribunals. In other words, if we pass an increase in the minimum wage, under the TPP, Vietnamese companies that invest in America could sue the United States in an international court full of corporate lawyers if they believe it will hurt their profits. By the way, that is what this whole agreement is about—maximizing the investment profits of corporations from the United States and all over the world.

If localities—local governments, state governments, federal governments—stand up and say: You know what, we want to protect health, and we want to protect the environment—if that impinges on the future profits of the corporation, it can take legal action against that local, state, or federal agency. That may sound kind of crazy, but that is exactly what has already happened in Egypt after it signed a free-trade agreement with France. In 2012, a French utility company sued Egypt in an international tribunal for 82 million euros. And what was Egypt's crime? For what were they being sued? They were being sued because they had increased their minimum wage, among other things. The French company saw raising the minimum wage for Egyptian workers—which is very low—as an impingement on their ability to make profits.

Further, large pharmaceutical companies are working hard to ensure that the TPP extends the monopolies for their prescription drugs by extending patents that already can last for 20 years or more. Doctors Without Borders—a heroic organization of doctors who go to some of the most difficult, the poorest, the most dangerous parts of this world to treat people who desperately need medical care—they are very brave people. They wrote that ''the TPP agreement is on track to become the most harmful trade pact ever for access to medicines in developing countries.'' In other words, what the big pharmaceutical industry wants is for countries all over the world to have to pay top dollar for prescription drugs. They want to be able to maintain their patents for as long as possible and prevent those drugs from going generic, where the prices would be significantly lower. The problem is that people in poor countries cannot pay a lot of money for their prescription drugs. So if this agreement goes through and the pharmaceutical industry can force poor countries to pay high prices for prescription drugs, people will suffer and people will die.

After one disastrous trade agreement after another, I think it is time for the American people and their elected officials to reassess how we do trade in America. It is time to say we need trade agreements that work for working people in this country and not just trade agreements that work for the CEOs of large, multinational corporations. It is time to say to corporate America: If you want us to purchase your products, it is time you started manufacturing those products here in the United States and not in low-wage countries all over the world.

The evidence is overwhelming. For decades, our trade policies have been responsible for lowering the standard of living of tens of millions of Americans. People today all over this country are working longer hours for lower wages. Most of the new jobs being created are low-wage jobs, and many of them are part-time jobs.

We need to rebuild our manufacturing sector. To do that, we need a fundamental revision in our trade policies. NAFTA has failed. CAFTA has failed. Permanent normal trade relations with China has failed. The Korea trade agreement has failed. It is basically insane to keep going with the same type of trade policy that has failed and failed and failed.

I hope very much that here in the Senate and in the House we can defeat this TPP and come back to the table and develop a trade agreement that works for American workers, works for people all over the world, and not continue these disastrous trade agreements.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I am glad that today the Senate will take the long-overdue step forward and approve the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act—bipartisan legislation that I am proud to be a cosponsor of that will help victims of human trafficking.

Montanans know firsthand the immeasurable damage human trafficking has inflicted on our communities, our schools, and, most of all, the victims of these horrific crimes. We also know the importance of coming together to support the victims of this modern-day slavery.

Too often, victims of human trafficking are underserved and fail to get the resources they so desperately need. This important bill will provide our law enforcement officials and the communities with the necessary tools to help lift these innocent victims out of the shadows.

Montanans understand the importance of cracking down on the perpetrators of these crimes and ensuring that we are serving as an advocate for victims—without letting partisan politics get in the way.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to come together today and do what is right for the victims of human trafficking and pass the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AIRPORT SECURITY

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, our Nation's airports are not secure. We were rudely awakened to that fact last December when it was discovered that for a several-month period at the Atlanta Airport, employees of the airport—one in particular—since there was limited, if any, screening of the airport employees coming into the airport, had concocted a scheme with another fellow to transport guns to New York, where they were sold on the streets of Brooklyn.

The police couldn't figure out how in the world they were getting these guns to New York because they kept watching the roads. It was in plain sight. What they were using were the defects in airport security—if you can believe this—to bring guns to the Atlanta Airport. Then once at the airport, the airport employee would go up to the sterile passenger area, where, in the restroom, he would meet a passenger who

came through security with an empty backpack and transfer the guns he had brought onto the airport property to the passenger, who then would take them on the flight from Atlanta to New York.

This went on for several months. This passenger even carried a carbine. When he was arrested in December, he had 16 handguns in his backpack on the airplane. It is a good thing these guys were criminals and not terrorists because you can imagine—this is exactly what we are trying to prevent: weapons getting on airplanes.

Interestingly, when I got into this from the position of having the privilege of being the ranking member of the commerce committee, where we have jurisdiction over aviation, lo and behold, what I discovered in my own State is that two airports had already solved the problem by increasing security. The security we as passengers go through—they have similar security for all airport employees. The first one to do that was Miami International Airport back in 1999 after they discovered a drug-smuggling ring. Instead of having hundreds of entry points into the airport for employees, what they had was boiled down to a handful, where they screen the employees. It was then inaugurated by the Orlando International Airport after 2007 when they discovered a drug-smuggling ring, and Orlando has boiled it down to about five entry points for airline employees. I went through those entry points at both Orlando and Miami, and it is not only what we go through as passengers, but they also have to double-check that the person is who they say they are. They have their badge. The airport employee checks the photograph on the badge with the person, and they swipe the card. In the case of the Orlando Airport, they also have to punch in an identification number.

That seems to have solved the problem at those two huge airports, Orlando and Miami, but what about the other 448 commercial airports in the United States? Are they going to be the victims? Are we, the American traveling public, going to be the victims like they were in Atlanta?

In this age of terrorism, we cannot afford any of those mistakes. We have been after the Department of Homeland Security and TSA to start changing this. The Department of Homeland Security Secretary just announced that they will take immediate steps to increase the screening of airport employees across the country because they indeed understand this is a problem. They are going to have a comprehensive review. They are not saying they are going to require what Orlando and Miami do, but at the end of the day, they are going to have to end up doing that.

We have to simplify the system by boiling down the hundreds of entry points to just a few, and then we have to put up screening devices similar to the ones passengers go through to go into a sterile environment.

I am very grateful to Secretary Johnson for calling on TSA to start this immediate inquiry and to have some action. I hope the increased attention to this matter now will get airports and airport employees more highly sensitized to what had been such a breach at the Atlanta Airport. If we can do this, then it will be another measure we can take to make sure the public is traveling safely.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNITED STATES-CANADA RELATIONSHIP

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, in 1941, in an address delivered at an event in honor of the Canadian Prime Minister, Winston Churchill famously declared, ''Canada is the linchpin of the English-speaking world.'' As with most things, Churchill was able to see deeper truths and recognize Canada for what it really is. Today, I wish to recognize the close and vital relationship between the United States and Canada, our great neighbor to the north. Canada is a critical partner to both America and Arkansas. We ought to find every way to strengthen our relationship and avoid every possible trouble on the horizon.

The bond between the United States and Canada starts with our common heritage and our common way of life, including individuals rights, constitutional democracy, the rule of law, open markets, and the defense of freedom around the world. Canada has stood with the United States in our toughest hours to defend our common way of life. Canadian troops fought alongside our GIs on D-day at Juno Beach, where 1 in every 13 Canadians perished. After the 9/11 attacks, Canada was one of the first countries to join our campaign in Afghanistan, where 158 brave Canadians died on the battlefield—the rough equivalent of 1,400 American troops. As with our own soldiers, we honor their ultimate sacrifice and entrust their families to the tender care of a loving providence.

Canada has also been a willing partner in many other security and humanitarian operations around the globe, including Libya, Haiti, and the NATO-led stabilization force in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the 1990s. Moreover, Canada is part of the Five Eyes intelligence partnership, which has its roots in World War II. This partnership is vital to our national security, helping, for example, to disrupt a 2013 Al Qaeda-associated plot to derail a train traveling between New York and Canada. If successful, this attack could have killed dozens, perhaps even hundreds.

Canada and the United States also share the world's longest border—and the world's longest peaceful border. Over 300,000 people cross our shared border every day by every mode of transport. Americans too often forget ours is the most secure and mutually beneficial international relationship among nations, taking for granted our peaceful partner to the north. Our success as the global superpower and the ability to protect our interests and global stability depends heavily on our peaceful and productive relationship with Canada. Without it, the New World would not be able to project power into the Old.

Our relationship with Canada is indeed productive, as Canada has remained our best and most important trading partner. Last year, $759 billion in goods and services moved between Canada and the United States. To put that into perspective, Canada purchased more goods from the United States than did all 28 members of the European Union combined and 2½ times more than did China. These purchases included everything from raw materials to paper produced in Ashdown, rice milled in Stuttgart, and construction hardware manufactured in Blytheville.

Moreover, Canada is the largest supplier of energy to the United States. In January, in fact, the United States imported more oil from Canada than all OPEC countries combined, and Canada produces 97 percent of all U.S. natural gas imports. Of course, these numbers would be even greater if President Obama would finally approve the Keystone XL Pipeline which would also create thousands of high-paying American and Canadian jobs.

Arkansas, like America as a whole, has benefited immensely from our close ties to Canada. Agricultural products, iron and steel produced in Arkansas factories, and countless other products manufactured in the natural state find their way to our friends in the north, providing Arkansans with good customers and good jobs. Indeed, Canada is Arkansas' No. 1 foreign customer and 66,000 Arkansas jobs depend on United States-Canada trade and investment, which totals $2.3 billion every year.

Some of Arkansas' most recognizable names reflect these Arkansas-Canada ties. Murphy Oil, headquartered in El Dorado, has operated in Canada for over 60 years, producing oil and natural gas through stakes in several projects off the coast of Newfoundland and in Alberta and British Columbia. Walmart has also had a strong presence in Canada for over 20 years. Today, they employ over 90,000 Canadians across nearly 400 retail stores. Tyson and Skippy Peanut Butter are just two of the household names produced in Arkansas that are pantry staples in Canada. With agricultural products making up nearly 20 percent of Arkansas' exports to Canada, Arkansas' ranchers and farmers help round out Canada's pantries and freezers.

Given these warm, longstanding ties to Canada, my team and I have worked

closely with the Canadian Embassy during my time in Congress to promote and strengthen our relationship. Unfortunately, the Obama administration at times has impeded it. The Keystone Pipeline, for instance, is not just good for American jobs but also a critical project for Canada's economy. Yet President Obama dismissed it as mere Canadian oil from Canadian companies—cavalier comments that minimize the pipeline's benefits for American workers, while also manifesting a casual disregard for our close ally's interests.

Now we are seeing this neglect again with country-of-origin labeling requirements for meat products processed in the United States which threaten to disrupt trade between our two countries. These so-called COOL regulations needlessly require different labeling for products born, raised or slaughtered in either country. Today, processors are forced to either operate two production lines to keep their Canadian-born or raised cattle separate from those born and raised in the United States or maintain extensive records on where each head of cattle came from. These regulations unduly burden Canadian producers and American processors while also violating our treaty obligations. Yet they deliver little value to consumers.

Yet, despite multiple adverse rulings from the World Trade Organization, the administration continues to pursue appeals, a process which is expected to end next month. As a result of these trade barriers and WTO rulings, Canada may be forced to impose reciprocal trade barriers on American products. Unfortunately, products already targeted for trade barriers include Arkansas rice, poultry, grains, and beef. If the administration does not relent, nearly $130 million in Arkansas agricultural trade with Canada will be threatened—more than half our State's annual total.

We should put a stop now to this trade dispute that no one intended and no one wants. I stand ready to work with my fellow Senators and the administration to modify the labeling requirements at the earliest opportunity following a final WTO ruling. It will be good for Arkansas' farmers and ranchers, good for American consumers, and good for the health of the United States-Canada partnership. Let's work together to fix this problem, protect American jobs, and help our neighbor to the north remain our linchpin in the world.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we have commemorated National Crime Victims' Rights Week every April since 1981. This year it takes place from April 19 through April 25.

This week is dedicated to remembering victims of crime, building awareness, and advocating for victims' rights. It is also an opportunity to pay tribute to the millions of Americans and thousands of Iowans who fall victim to senseless acts of crime each year.

On Monday I introduced a bipartisan resolution commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and I am happy that my colleagues have joined me by unanimously passing this resolution this morning.

The theme for this week, ''Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims,'' recognizes the importance of offering the support necessary to help crime survivors heal.

During this week we also remember the contributions of the countless crisis hotline volunteers and staff, victims' rights attorneys, medical professionals, and emergency responders who provide critical assistance to survivors of crime every hour, every day in communities across the United States.

The Judiciary Committee has worked to strengthen Federal laws and direct resources to efforts to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. And, although we still have a way to go to ensure that all crime survivors are treated with appropriate fairness and respect in the criminal justice system, I am proud that we have made important strides toward this goal.

An important issue for many crime victims is restitution. It is an issue that would be addressed by the ''Amy and Vicky Child Pornography Victim Restitution Improvement Act,'' a bill introduced by Senator HATCH that has my strong support.

The Judiciary Committee, of which I serve as chairman, reported this bill on February 5. If enacted, the measure, which passed the full Senate by a vote of 98–0 on February 11, would reverse a Supreme Court decision that limits the amount of restitution that victims of child pornography can recover from any one perpetrator.

It would ensure that victims can recover a minimum amount of damages for certain child pornography offenses, and it also would make any single perpetrator potentially responsible for the full damages that result from an offense involving multiple perpetrators.

Americans also deserve to know that we are doing everything possible to prevent sexual assault, especially in our most acclaimed institutions of society, including college campuses and our Nation's military. In fact, a zero tolerance standard needs to be set at the highest levels of the Federal government.

Take, for example, the lack of accountability within some of our Nation's Federal law enforcement entities. In the last few years, a string of sex scandals involving prostitutes being solicited by public servants working for the FBI, Secret Service and, most recently, the Drug Enforcement Administration reflect an embarrassing lack of ethics and moral code of conduct by Federal agents hired to flush out illicit criminal activity at home and abroad.

It should go without saying that this type of conduct by Federal law enforcement personnel—on or off the clock—cannot be tolerated. This behavior telegraphs the wrong message about acceptable sexual conduct to society and contributes to the demand for the human sex trade around the world.

I supported the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and earlier this year I chaired a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on human trafficking, where witnesses discussed the consequences of sex trafficking for both child and adult victims.

The witnesses at this hearing, which took place on February 24, 2015, also testified in support of several measures that would help us further combat the various forms of human trafficking in the United States.

One of these measures is the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act which is now pending on the Senate floor, and of which I am a cosponsor.

It is vitally important that we pass this legislation, which would authorize much needed services to victims of child pornography as well as labor and sex trafficking.

The bill also equips law enforcement with new tools for prosecuting human trafficking offenses and recognizes that the production of child pornography is a form of human trafficking.

Also, earlier this year, I introduced the Combating Human Trafficking Act. Among other things, the bill would clarify that Federal grant resources can be used to meet the housing needs of human trafficking victims and offer training on the effects of sex trafficking to those who offer services to runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth.

I led the Judiciary Committee in supporting the inclusion of this legislation as an amendment to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act during committee consideration of that bill.

The committee accepted the measure by voice vote on February 26. The committee reported the bill to the Senate floor by a vote of 19–0.

I am grateful we have been able to reach an agreement that will finally allow a vote on this very important legislation, and I look forward to casting my vote in favor of this bill.

Our next challenge should be to address the two broken systems of justice found on our college campuses and within our military institutions. First, a flawed reporting system on college campuses requires a stronger set of tools that would help survivors of sexual assault as well as protect the rights of the accused. That is why I have cosponsored the ''Campus Accountability and Safety Act'' with Senator MCCASKILL.

It would establish new campus resources and support services for students, including: a requirement that colleges designate a confidential advisor for survivors of sexual violence; new transparency and reporting requirements; coordination between colleges and local law enforcement; and

protections for due process rights of survivors and the accused.

It would also increase financial penalties for colleges found not in compliance with the new standards.

Cases of sexual assault, which too often go unreported on college campuses and in our own communities, require sustained, collective attention by policymakers, law enforcement, advocates, and survivors.

Every student who heads off to a college campus in America deserves to know that there is a system in place to secure justice and due process for the victim and the accused.

Likewise, every young man and woman who serves his or her country in uniform deserves to know that sexual assault is a crime and will be treated and prosecuted as such.

In the last Congress, I cosponsored the bipartisan ''Military Justice Improvement Act'' with Senator GILLIBRAND.

The bill would empower enlisted soldiers and sailors to come forward and report a sexual crime.

It would create an independent system of justice within the ranks of the military.

It would remove the chain of command from prosecutorial decisions regarding sexual assault.

The fear of retaliation and retribution in the military has been a reality for too many survivors of sexual assault. The current system has created an environment that emboldens predators instead of empowering victims.

Barring access to fair and impartial justice pours salt in the wounds of those who have suffered immeasurable indignity and harm while serving their country in uniform. I will continue working to advance bipartisan measures through Congress to send a clear message. Sexual assault is a crime.

The sooner our culture and systems of justice on college campuses and in the Nation's military work together to deter, prosecute, and stop sexual violence, the safer our society will be for America's sons and daughters growing up in the 21st century.

In closing, crime victims and survivors in the United States deserve our assistance in helping them cope with the often devastating consequences of crime. That is why it is so important that we support the mission and goals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for joining me in supporting passage of this resolution.

AMENDMENT NO. 273, AS MODIFIED

Mr. President, for the leader, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment in order to call up amendment No. 273 with the changes that are at the desk.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY], for Mr. KIRK, for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN, proposes an amendment numbered 273, as modified.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for knowingly selling advertising that offers certain commercial sex acts)

At the appropriate place, add the following:

SECTION ___. SAVE ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act of 2015'' or the ''SAVE Act of 2015''.

(b) ADVERTISING THAT OFFERS CERTAIN COMMERCIAL ACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1591(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting ''advertises,'' after ''obtains,''.

(2) MENS REA REQUIREMENT.—Section 1591(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the undesignated matter following paragraph (2), by inserting '', except where the act constituting the violation of paragraph (1) is advertising,'' after ''knowing, or''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1591(b) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''advertised,'' after ''obtained,''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''advertised,'' after ''obtained,''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I am pleased to be able to speak in support of my amendment No. 294 to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. It is important as part of our duties as stewards of the taxpayer money to ensure that the Federal Government is running as efficiently as possible. This is rooting out waste, duplications, and overlap where we find it in the Federal Government and in these programs.

This amendment simply requires the GAO—the Government Accountability Office—to study the programs and initiatives which are affected by this bill and those which are related to services for trafficking victims and other victims services. In particular, the amendment directs GAO to look for duplication and overlap and requires GAO to issue a report to Congress describing costs associated with them and to make recommendations on how to achieve cost savings.

I do support this legislation. I voted for it when it was considered by the Judiciary Committee. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that other programs that are affected by this legislation are studied to make sure we don't have duplication, that we don't have other programs that are doing the same things. We need to make sure we are good stewards of the taxpayers' money. The GAO has considerable experience of this kind to do this type of analysis.

I look forward to having support for this amendment, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor to thank my colleagues and to ask for their support for our first amendment, Klobuchar amendment No. 296. I understand it is going to be by voice vote, and it is something I have worked on for a long time.

I know everyone has put a lot of effort into this bill—certainly Senator CORNYN and I have—and we are very pleased that it is moving forward. I thank all my colleagues for their work.

This afternoon, I know we will be considering a number of important amendments, and, as I mentioned, one is the safe harbor legislation. I think we have 26 cosponsors on the bill.

Let's first get to why we are doing this bill. The United Nations considers human trafficking to be one of the three largest criminal enterprises in the world. The first is illegal trafficking of drugs, the second is illegal trafficking of guns, and the third is illegal trafficking of humans. It is not just something, as we know, that is happening in faraway lands. It happens in our own backyards. It has happened to 12-year-olds in my own State. As Senator HEITKAMP knows, it happens in the oil patches of North Dakota. That is why this bill and this amendment No. 296, which passed with the bill unanimously through the Judiciary Committee, are so important.

This is about treating the children who are victims of these crimes as victims because that is what they are. Right now, in many States around the country, these kids can still be prosecuted.

In a State such as mine, the State of Minnesota, we have in place a safe harbor law that has been very effective. Why? One, it gives the kids the services they need, whether it is through child protection, whether it is housing, whether it is getting the kind of medical care they need. That is what our bill does. On the other hand, if you just prosecute these kids, do you actually think they are going to turn against the person running the sex ring? Are they going to turn against the pimp? No. They are going to go right back into the hands of the person they were with—the perpetrator—to begin with. In our State, we have had a lot of success with this safe harbor law. We have obtained one of the longest sentences ever—40 years—against someone who was running a sex ring because we give help to the victims of the crime.

As I said, there are 26 of my colleagues across the Senate who have cosponsored the bill. It has been an honor to work on the issue with Samantha Power, the U.S. Ambassador to the

United Nations, and Cindy McCain, wife of our colleague Senator MCCAIN. Senator HEITKAMP, Cindy McCain, and I went down to Mexico to talk with them about the partnership we have in going after these cases.

The amendment has the support of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Fraternal Order of Police, Shared Hope International, and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

As I said, this bill and this amendment simply create an incentive for States across the country to enact a safe harbor law. Fifteen States already have these laws. Another 12 States are making progress in that direction. The House passed a similar bill last year under the leadership of ERIK PAULSEN, one of the Congressmen from Minnesota.

Secondly, in addition to creating an incentive for these States to enact safe harbor laws, the bill also creates a national strategy to combat human trafficking. The national strategy will encourage cooperation and coordination among all the agencies that work on this problem—Federal, State, tribal, and local. That is a major part of the bill, and it wasn't in the House bill. We think it is very important.

The bill also gives sex trafficking victims the right support they need. It qualifies them for job-training programs. The bill allows victims of sex trafficking to participate in the Job Corps program to help them get back on their feet.

Senator CORNYN, who is the lead Republican on this amendment, and I were pleased to include a provision that Senators WHITEHOUSE and SESSIONS have been working on to clarify the authority of the U.S. Marshals Service to assist local law enforcement agencies in locating missing children.

That is what the amendment does. There are incentives for the safe harbor laws we have already seen in 15 States. There is a national sex trafficking strategy, which is something we dearly need as we see an increase in these kinds of crimes. It qualifies victims of these crimes for job-training programs. Finally, there is a provision to make it easier for the U.S. Marshals Service to assist local law enforcement, a measure proposed by Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator SESSIONS which is included in this amendment and which came through the committee.

I want to end by telling you what this is about. It is about a 12-year-old girl in Rochester who got a text message. The text message said she was invited to a party. The text said to go meet in a parking lot. She went there, and then she was thrown into a car, brought up to the Twin Cities, raped by a man, then sold on craigslist, sold for sex, and raped by two other men. Finally, weeks later, the guy who did this was found, and he is being prosecuted federally.

That is what this is about. These are serious crimes. The average age of a victim is 12 years old—not even old enough to go to a high school prom, not old enough to get a driver's license.

Again, I thank Senator CORNYN for his work. We worked together on both the bill as well as this amendment we are considering today. This has been a lot of work the last month, but I am so pleased we are advancing this important trafficking bill.

I see that the Senator from Maine is here. She has also been a leader in this area.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. President.

First, let me commend Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR for the work they have done on this antitrafficking bill.

This is, in fact, a horrendous crime. Just a few months ago in my home State, in Bangor, a couple was arrested for allegedly trafficking a 13-year-old girl. That is what we are talking about, and that is why this legislation is so important.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of the bill, and I commend Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR and others for working so hard on it.

The antitrafficking bill deals with the law enforcement piece of this horrendous problem. But we also need to pay attention to prevention programs. That is why this afternoon we will vote on a proposal that Senator LEAHY and I, along with Senators HEITKAMP, AYOTTE, MURKOWSKI, and BALDWIN, have put forth to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs, which already have expired. They expired in 2013.

These are absolutely critical programs for preventing homeless youth and runaway youth from ending up in the hands of sex traffickers. The runaway and homeless youth programs are comprised of three programs: the Street Outreach Program, the Basic Center Program, and the Transitional Living Program. They have helped thousands of our homeless youth meet their immediate needs and provided long-term residential services for those who, sadly, cannot be reunited with their families.

The amendment that we are offering complements the underlying bill by addressing prevention, intervention, and recovery service for trafficking victims, particularly among the most vulnerable population—our homeless youth.

According to a 2013 report by the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council, homelessness is one of the most common risk factors for sex trafficking. Without access to food, shelter, and social supports, homeless young people often turn to what is termed ''survival sex;'' that is, a way to trade sex for a place to sleep, for food, and for other basic necessities.

Another recent report found that one in four homeless youth are victims of sex trafficking or engage in survival sex. Our amendment strengthens the existing programs by ensuring that service providers know how to identify trafficking victims and give these youth the support they need. In many cases these services can prevent these homeless and runaway youth from becoming victims in the first place.

In Maine, our homeless shelters are critical partners in the fight to end human trafficking. In Portland, for example, the Preble Street Resource Center has used Runaway and Homeless Youth Act resources to connect youth who need food, shelter, health services, and educational support. The Preble Street Anti-trafficking Coalition is currently helping approximately 50 trafficking victims whose ages range from 14 to 42. They enable them to start new lives.

New Beginnings, a great program in Lewiston, ME, and the Shaw House in Bangor, ME, are other organizations that have successfully leveraged Federal grants from the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program to provide shelter and services to homeless youth in my State. With this kind of support, young people can make their way off the street and away from criminals who will exploit them at a time when they are at their most vulnerable.

There are more than 1.6 million homeless teens in our country—a truly astonishing number. A growing number of these homeless youth identify themselves as LGBT. It is estimated that up to 40 percent of runaway or homeless youth are LGBT. Some of them have been kicked out of their own homes. Others have felt that there has been no place for them in their community. Our amendment would help ensure that those seeking services through the federally funded programs are not denied assistance based on their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

All homeless young people need access to safe beds at night and services during the day so that they never have to choose between selling their bodies and a safe place to sleep. I would like to thank Senator LEAHY and Senator HEITKAMP for being so passionate about this issue. They have worked with me to incorporate important feedback into our amendment, particularly from faith-based organizations.

In fact, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, a letter be printed that I have from numerous faith-based organizations endorsing our amendment. These organizations represent millions of people in all 50 States. They urge us to pass our legislation with that nondiscrimination clause intact.

They include, for example: Covenant House International, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Interfaith Alliance, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Metropolitan Community Churches, the Methodist Federation for Social Action, the

United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, and many others that are backing our amendment.

We have clarified that providers can still provide and offer sex-specific shelters and programming. By that, I mean all-girl shelters or all-boy shelters. The nondiscrimination clause is modeled—it is virtually identical to a provision enacted into law during the last Congress through the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act. Nothing, nothing in our amendment alters the ability of faith-based providers to give preference in hiring to people of their same faith.

The stand-alone bill on which our amendment is based was reported out of the Judiciary Committee last Congress by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 15 to 3. It has the support of nearly 270 organizations including, as I mentioned, many faith-based providers that serve homeless youth, other service providers, and antitrafficking groups. They all strongly support the reauthorization of these prevention, intervention, and treatment programs.

Our health care workers in Maine are also tremendous partners in helping to address trafficking crimes and their victims. Saint Joseph Hospital in Bangor has educated its clinicians to identify the signs of human trafficking among their patients. Congress must do more both to provide law enforcement with the tools it needs to pursue sex trafficking, but we cannot forget those prevention and intervention programs that are provided by the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program.

By giving homeless youth the support and the services they need, we can help prevent them from becoming trafficked in the first place. These programs have provided lifesaving services and housing for America's homeless and runaway youth for 40 years. They are vital in addressing this serious problem. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment that Senator LEAHY and I, Senator HEITKAMP, Senator AYOTTE, Senator MURKOWSKI, and Senator BALDWIN are offering today. It is so important.

Again, I want to especially thank Senator HEITKAMP for all of her advocacy. She has done tremendous work.

I am very happy to yield the floor for her.

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

MARCH 11, 2015.

DEAR SENATORS: As faith-based organizations representing millions of people in all 50 states across our nation, we are writing today regarding the Runaway Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act. Based on the values of our diverse faith traditions, we are committed to ensuring that all victims of violence have equal access to justice, strong legal protections and can access the lifesaving services they need to move from crisis to stability. We urge you to pass this legislation with the nondiscrimination clause intact. Federal funds should not be used to discriminate.

In times of crisis, victims often turn to their faith communities and leaders for guidance and support. Faith leaders are on the front lines each day identifying victims, providing refuge, referring victims and their families to programs and services for homeless and trafficked youth, and offering hope and healing. Part of meeting these needs includes respecting the religious liberty of those receiving services.

A study conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that 46% of homeless youth had run away from home because of physical abuse and 17% because of sexual abuse. A growing number of homeless youth identify as LGBT, and it is estimated that they comprise up to 40% of the runaway homeless youth (RHY) population. We believe that ALL vulnerable young people should have access to programs designed to stop the cycle of victimization and provide comprehensive solutions. Federal grantees must be prohibited from discriminating against any youth based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to working with faith communities to support vulnerable young people and victims of trafficking. We look forward to working with you to swiftly pass the Runaway Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act.

Sincerely,

Catholics for Choice, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, Covenant House International, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Global Faith and Justice Project, Global Justice Institute, Interfaith Alliance, Jewish Labor Committee Western Region, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Metropolitan Community Churches, National Council of Jewish Women;

National Center for Housing and Child Welfare, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Religious Institute, Society for Humanistic Judaism, The General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church, The Jewish Federations of North America, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, Unitarian Universalist Association, Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to add my voice to all of the accolades that have been expressed today to Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR for giving a voice to the victims of the most horrific crime that occurs in our country; those are the victims of human trafficking. Without their hard work, without their advocacy, we would not be debating this on the floor of the Senate. So it is so important to acknowledge that work and to advance the cause by working together.

Today, I wish to speak to amendment No. 290, which is the Collins-Leahy runaway and homeless youth amendment. I want to thank Senator COLLINS and Senator LEAHY for being such fierce advocates for runaway and homeless youth. I have had years of experience working with victims and vulnerable youth. I can tell you based on this experience that this amendment is the most critical piece that we are considering today to truly address prevention and early intervention for a population that is the most susceptible to being trafficked; that is the population of runaway and homeless youth.

It is a story I believe is too often told. It is a story of a runaway and homeless youth engaging in survival sex, being coerced into criminal activity by people offering nothing more than a roof over their head or maybe even a meal. Since 1995, North Dakota has received $11.5 million in this very critical and important prevention program. How many of these children have we rescued from a life of despair? We will never know.

But I am certain, telling those stories and visiting them in the shelters and in their apartments that are transitory living situations, that they would otherwise be so extraordinarily vulnerable. I have heard firsthand the stories of these homeless and runaway youth. The stories that you hear are literally heartbreaking. With prior physical, mental, and sexual abuse, these runaway and homeless youth have already been devalued. They have already been told that they are not worth what other children are worth. They have substance addictions. They have been shunned by their family or communities for who they are and how they identify. They are the most marginalized children in our country.

Last July, a 13-year-old runaway from Minneapolis was picked up by her traffickers in the Cities and then worked her way across—she was heading off to the oil patch in western North Dakota. She stopped in Fargo-Moorhead to make some money on the way, being trafficked by a man who was selling a 13-year old for sex online through backpage.com. Fargo-Moorhead law enforcement set up a sting and rescued the victim and arrested the trafficker.

Just 2 weeks ago, there was another tragic story of a 14-year old—a 14-year old runaway from Las Vegas. Her parents did not know where she was. She got mixed up in the wrong crowd. She was put in a car and taken to Minot, ND. Her mother, desperate to find her, searched through her email records, found a connection to Backpage, and saw that her daughter was being advertised on Backpage in Minot, ND. She called the local authorities. The local authorities were able to rescue her.

She was rescued with a 16-year-old and returned to Las Vegas. She is now with her mother. The 16-year-old got off the plane and ran—got off the plane and ran. There was no hope for her, no place to return that was welcoming, no mother who searched for her on the Internet and found her.

As we work through these stories, I want you to think about what is the common element, what is the common factor. You look behind these stories, and you will see in these stories of trafficking runaway and homeless youth—runaway and homeless youth—vulnerable, on the street, susceptible to a warm bed, susceptible to a hot meal, susceptible to any kind of love and comfort they can find, only to find out that it might be their worst nightmare.

They are trapped, and where do they go? Where do they go if there is not a program for runaway and homeless

youth? Where do they go if someone is not reaching out a hand? So what has become a common recurring fact of these offenders or these victims is that they have been thrown away or they are runaways.

Forty percent, we estimate, of these children, identify themselves as gay, lesbian, transgender or bisexual youth.

If we pass an amendment that doesn't have protection for this population, that doesn't have protection for these children, what is the message? The message is the message that has been reinforced their entire life, which is that they are not worthy of help, they are not worthy of being treated as all other children are.

So this Senate will reinforce the recurring message that is so tragically identified and so tragically delivered to these children every day.

I urge my colleagues, I beg my colleagues to please recognize the worth of all children. Recognize the vulnerability of this population of children.

Vote with us to support the Leahy-Collins amendment. It is so critical to sending the right message, so critical to giving the right services, but so critical to sending the right message that all children matter and that we in the Senate do not see or discriminate. What we do is we help provide shelter to the most vulnerable among us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Senator from North Dakota for her very, very strong statement.

We sometimes talk about numbers and this and that. It is when you talk about real cases that we understand what we are talking about here. We are going to consider two amendments related to preventing human trafficking of runaway and homeless youth.

Senator CORNYN's amendment speaks to this effort, but it is not a meaningful alternative to the comprehensive amendment that Senator COLLINS and I will offer. Our amendment No. 290, the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act, has the support of 30 bipartisan cosponsors.

Senator CORNYN has said that no effort to end human trafficking can be complete without addressing the needs of runaway and homeless youth. I agree and that is why amendment No. 290 is so important. In fact, when the Senate Judiciary Committee voted on this legislation last year, it received the vote of almost every single member, including Senator CORNYN.

In our hearings since then, I have listened to the stories of survivors. Some have been in my office and some have been in the offices of other Senators, and they talked about this. So many of them begin the same way. They are a homeless or a runaway teen, scared, desperate for affection and a safe place to sleep, especially if they are somewhere in inclement weather.

Traffickers know this. They prey on that desperation. They know there are so very few places these children can turn to.

A recent survey found that one in four—now, think of this—homeless youth had been victims of sex trafficking or they have traded sex for survival needs such as food or a place to sleep. Just think of this. They are the age of our children or our grandchildren.

This is a human issue. In fact, a survey found that 50 percent of homeless youth had been solicited for sex by an adult within 48 hours of leaving home. Just think of that—half of these homeless kids were solicited by an adult within the first 2 days of leaving home.

I am talking about kids 12, 13, 14 years old. They have nowhere to go, but we can at least, through this legislation, make sure they have a safe place to turn. That is what our amendment does.

Senator CORNYN's amendment is not a good alternative. The amendment I am offering assures that homeless youth providers are specifically trained to recognize victims of trafficking, address the unique trauma, and refer them to the appropriate care and services.

It also lengthens the time they can stay in shelters or receive services. Look at what happens if they are forced back out of those shelters. How long does it take for traffickers to grab them?

The amendment includes important new efforts to encourage family reunification and allows the person to define the people they consider family. This is particularly important as runaway children are often estranged from their parents.

Senator CORNYN's amendment does not have the crucial nondiscrimination provision that is in my amendment. This language would prevent the discrimination against youth based on their race, their color, their religion, their national origin, their sex, their gender identity, their sexual orientation, or their disability.

It is almost identical to a provision contained in the bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, which passed the Senate with 78 votes. It passed the Republican-controlled House overwhelmingly and was signed into law.

You may not like to think about this, but the reason this language is particularly important is because a growing number of these homeless and runaway youth identify as LGBT.

Many, sadly, have been thrown out of their homes precisely for that reason. They have been rejected by their parents. No child should face that kind of isolation or rejection—no matter what.

I am a parent. I am a grandparent. I find it heartbreaking that a child could be turned out of their home and then turned away by a service provider. We shouldn't allow organizations to take Federal funds and then turn their backs against these kids because of their race or their religion or whom they love. That is why I can't understand why the side-by-side amendment offered had the nondiscrimination protections for these children stripped from it.

I urge all Senators to support my bipartisan amendment.

I thank Senators COLLINS and HEITKAMP for their steadfast and very strong support. We have to support the efforts of dedicated service providers. They make these programs work. We have to protect these kids. The most important thing is not being in a position where the only time we can act or is after someone has been trafficked. Let's prevent them from being trafficked in the first place.

Prevention will cost money, but it is going to save lives, and it is going to prevent the far more costly effects of human trafficking. This is smart money—we ought to be able and ready to invest in our children. We have to include the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act in our efforts to prevent more of our kids from becoming victims.

I have said it so many times on this floor that I almost grow weary of hearing myself saying it. I have prosecuted some of these cases. And it was nowhere near the problem, when I was a prosecutor, that it is today throughout this country.

I still have nightmares from what we saw. This Senator hopes that someday, under this legislation, if we work hard enough, none of us will have these nightmares.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. 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. COLLINS. Mr. President, the question really comes down to this: Do we want provider services to homeless and runaway youth to be able to turn away at the door a 13-year-old girl simply because of her sexual orientation? That is what this comes down to, and I think the answer is no if that provider is receiving Federal funds. It shouldn't matter, and we should be willing to stand and say that we want to help all youth stay out of the clutches of these truly evil sex traffickers. That is what this is about.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMENDMENT NO. 290

(Purpose: To reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act)

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment to call up amendment No. 290.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY], for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR, proposes an amendment numbered 290.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of March 11, 2015, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I will speak briefly in support of the remarks of the Senator from Maine and the Senator from Vermont.

The Cornyn approach on runaway and homeless youth excludes language that would prohibit discrimination against the recipients of these services because of their sexual orientation. How can we have reached that point in the Senate?

Haven't we engaged in a national debate that centered on Indiana and other States? Haven't we decided in America that, regardless, we aren't going to allow discrimination against people because of sexual orientation? Sadly, this Cornyn amendment excludes language that prohibits discrimination against LGBT youth.

Secondly, to fund a less than $1 billion a year program, the Senator from Texas is eliminating a $10 billion health prevention fund, which serves 50 States to deal with infectious disease and serious health issues.

This is, sadly, an effort to attack ObamaCare, and it shouldn't be done in this important legislation. We have wasted 4 weeks on an extraneous issue. Let us stick to the basic issue before us.

Defeat the Cornyn amendment and support the amendment being offered by Senator COLLINS and Senator LEAHY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

AMENDMENT NO. 1127

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up my amendment No. 1127.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN] proposes an amendment numbered 1127.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''for fiscal year 2009,'' and all that follows through the period and inserting ''for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.'' and inserting ''$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.' ''; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking ''for fiscal year 2009'' and all that follows through the period and inserting '' 'for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.''.

(b) OFFSET; REPEALING PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4002 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–11) is repealed.

(2) RESCISSION OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Of the funds made available under such section 4002, the unobligated balances are rescinded.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection takes effect on October 1, 2015.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, if I could just say in the next 30 seconds or so that the first amendment we will vote on reauthorizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, which is something that we all support, which permits treatment of victims of human trafficking without discrimination. It also happens to be paid for, something that the Leahy amendment is not.

Right now, most faith-based organizations, such as Catholic Charities, treat all victims of human trafficking without regard to sexual orientation, gender issues, and the like—as I am proud to say they should.

But there is nothing—we have been told that the various faith-based organizations worry that the Federal Government is basically going to intervene and tell them whom they can hire and what their administration and implementation practices must be. That is why almost uniformly, faith-based organizations that would be eligible for the grants to help the victims of human trafficking say that this would render this administration of this victims trafficking fund legislation unworkable.

I ask my colleagues to support the Cornyn amendment, to vote against the Leahy amendment, and let's get this done.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, is there any time remaining on this amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute remaining in opposition.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in opposition to the Cornyn amendment, let me say this. Up to forty percent of the overall homeless youth population identify as LGBT, and many have reported that they have been subjected to service denial and discrimination by staff and providers based on their sexual orientation. The Leahy-Collins alternative expressly prohibits discrimination against youth because of their sexual orientation. That should be the gold standard.

Defeat the Cornyn amendment and vote for the bipartisan Collins-Leahy amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1127, offered by the Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

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

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 158 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Coats	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Sessions
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Daines	McCain	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Vitter
Ernst	Moran	Wicker

NAYS—53

Ayotte	Franken	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Portman
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Kirk	Schatz
Capito	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Flake	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz	Shelby

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 290

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on amendment No. 290, offered by the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, my bipartisan amendment to prevent human trafficking includes important language to prohibit discrimination against homeless children.

The language should be familiar to most Senators here. It is nearly identical to what we voted for overwhelmingly as part of the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization 2 years

ago. It shouldn't be controversial. We should reaffirm our commitment to nondiscrimination. All children—all children—deserve our protection. We should not be picking and choosing, saying: This child deserves protection, this one doesn't. They all deserve our protection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I urge a ''no'' vote on the Leahy amendment.

I agree with the senior Senator from Vermont that all victims of human trafficking should be treated with the dignity they deserve without regard to sexual orientation or any discrimination. That is what the Cornyn amendment we just voted on would do.

What we are told by faith-based organizations that provide many of these services is that the Leahy language would make rendition of those services difficult, if not impossible. There is some debate whether it would also intrude on hiring practices and whether people could actually be hired in faith-based organizations if they didn't agree with some of the services that are rendered here.

Finally, the Leahy amendment would authorize $115 million of spending that it is not paid for and thus would increase the deficit. A number of organizations, such as the Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Religious Broadcasters, National Association of Evangelicals, among other religious organizations, urge a ''no'' vote on the Leahy amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, how much time is left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Fifteen seconds.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, the question before us is very clear: If you believe runaway and homeless youth should receive services that are federally funded without regard to their sexual orientation, you should vote yes on this amendment. The Cornyn amendment does not prohibit discrimination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask that all votes be kept to 10 minutes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 290, offered by the Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

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

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 159 Leg.]

YEAS—56

Ayotte	Heinrich	Paul
Baldwin	Heitkamp	Peters
Bennet	Heller	Portman
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Reid
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Kirk	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Capito	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Sullivan
Casey	McCaskill	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Toomey
Coons	Merkley	Udall
Donnelly	Mikulski	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Flake	Risch
Blunt	Gardner	Roberts
Boozman	Graham	Rounds
Burr	Grassley	Rubio
Cassidy	Hatch	Sasse
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Vitter
Daines	McCain	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	
Ernst	Moran	

NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

The Senator from Ohio.

AMENDMENT NO. 311

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment in order to call up Brown amendment No. 311.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. BALDWIN, proposes an amendment numbered 311.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To direct the Attorney General to increase the amount provided under certain formula grants to States that have in place laws that terminate the parental rights of men who father children through rape)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ____—RAPE SURVIVOR CHILD CUSTODY

SEC. ____01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Rape Survivor Child Custody Act''.

SEC. ____02. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COVERED FORMULA GRANT.—The term ''covered formula grant'' means a grant under—

(A) part T of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg et seq.) (commonly referred to as the ''STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program''); or

(B) section 41601 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043g) (commonly referred to as the ''Sexual Assault Services Program'').

(2) TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''termination'' means, when used with respect to parental rights, a complete and final termination of the parent's right to custody of, guardianship of, visitation with, access to, and inheritance from a child.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require a State, in order to receive an increase in the amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants under this title, to have in place a law that terminates any obligation of a person who fathered a child through rape to support the child.

SEC. ____03. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Men who father children through rape should be prohibited from visiting or having custody of those children.

(2) Thousands of rape-related pregnancies occur annually in the United States.

(3) A substantial number of women choose to raise their child conceived through rape and, as a result, may face custody battles with their rapists.

(4) Rape is one of the most under-prosecuted serious crimes, with estimates of criminal conviction occurring in less than 5 percent of rapes.

(5) The clear and convincing evidence standard is the most common standard for termination of parental rights among the 50 States, territories, and the District of Columbia.

(6) The Supreme Court established that the clear and convincing evidence standard satisfies due process for allegations to terminate or restrict parental rights in Santosky v. Kramer (455 U.S. 745 (1982)).

(7) Currently only 10 States have statutes allowing rape survivors to petition for the termination of parental rights of the rapist based on clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived through rape.

(8) A rapist pursuing parental or custody rights causes the survivor to have continued interaction with the rapist, which can have traumatic psychological effects on the survivor, and can make it more difficult for her to recover.

(9) These traumatic effects on the mother can severely negatively impact her ability to raise a healthy child.

(10) Rapists may use the threat of pursuing custody or parental rights to coerce survivors into not prosecuting rape, or otherwise harass, intimidate, or manipulate them.

SEC. ____04. INCREASED FUNDING FOR FORMULA GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

The Attorney General shall increase the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants in accordance with this title if the State has in place a law that allows the mother of any child that was conceived through rape to seek court-ordered termination of the parental rights of her rapist with regard to that child, which the court is authorized to grant upon clear and convincing evidence of rape.

SEC. ____05. APPLICATION.

A State seeking an increase in the amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants shall include in the application of the State for each covered formula grant such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require, including information about the law described in section ____04.

SEC. ___06. GRANT INCREASE.

The amount of the increase provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title shall be equal to not more than 10 percent of the average of the total amount of funding provided to the State under the covered formula grants under the 3 most recent awards to the State.

SEC. ___07. PERIOD OF INCREASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall provide an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title for a 2-year period.

(b) LIMIT.—The Attorney General may not provide an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title more than 4 times.

SEC. ___08. ALLOCATION OF INCREASED FORMULA GRANT FUNDS.

The Attorney General shall allocate an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title such that—

(1) 25 percent the amount of the increase is provided under the program described in section ___02(1)(A); and

(2) 75 percent the amount of the increase is provided under the program described in section ___02(1)(B).

SEC. ___09. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 311, offered by the Senator from Ohio, Mr. BROWN.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, women who give birth to a child conceived through rape can often face intimidation from attackers who—believe it or not—pursue parental rights.

I was first moved to introduce this bill following the case of Ariel Castro in Cleveland. He was on trial for kidnapping, raping, and holding prisoner three women for a decade and then he asked the judge for parental rights to visit the 6-year-old daughter who was conceived through his rape.

Madam President, the Brown-Ayotte-Shaheen-Gillibrand-Baldwin amendment helps protect rape survivors by encouraging States to pass laws allowing women to petition for the termination of their attacker's parental rights if there is clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived through the rape.

Madam President, I yield 1 minute to my colleague from New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Madam President, I thank Senator BROWN. This is a very important amendment.

If you are for supporting victims, protecting life and children and against rapists, vote for this amendment. Unfortunately, rapists too often try to manipulate their victims by claiming custodial rights over children, and we need to stand with victims on this issue and allow States to be incentivized to allow victims to terminate their parental rights should they choose to have a child and to raise that child without having the threat of a rapist over their shoulder.

I ask for support on this amendment, and I thank all of my colleagues. This is a commonsense bill, and I thank Senator BROWN for his leadership.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 311, offered by the Senator from Ohio.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

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

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 160 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Alexander	Flake	Murray
Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Boxer	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Sessions
Coats	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Vitter
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Enzi	Mikulski	Warren
Ernst	Moran	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1121

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 1121, offered by the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. BURR.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, we yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Mr. BURR. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1121, offered by the Senator from North Carolina.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 161 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Alexander	Flake	Murray
Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Boxer	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Scott
Casey	King	Sessions
Cassidy	Kirk	Shaheen
Coats	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cochran	Lankford	Stabenow
Collins	Leahy	Sullivan
Coons	Lee	Tester
Corker	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Tillis
Cotton	McCain	Toomey
Crapo	McCaskill	Udall
Daines	McConnell	Vitter
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Enzi	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Fischer	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 273, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 273, as modified, offered by the Senator from Illinois, Mr. KIRK.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise to speak on amendment No. 273. It stands for the principle that freedom on the Internet is not the freedom to enslave others.

I want to make sure this country stands for the principles under the 13th Amendment that we enshrined with Lincoln's victory in the Civil War, and I urge all Members to adopt this amendment by a strong, substantial vote to pass the SAVE Act to make sure that providers of human traffic services do not have freedom to advertise on the Internet.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, as the Democratic sponsor of this amendment, I would like to thank the distinguished Senator from Illinois for his leadership on this issue. The fact is, this amendment is essentially the same as the House stand-alone bill that passed unanimously.

Members, it is a fact that approximately 76 percent of sex trafficking of underage girls takes place on the Internet—76 percent.

We know at least 19 Web sites that post ads for commercial sex acts with children. They are paid for so doing.

The amendment essentially does two things. It adds the word ''advertises'' as one of the sex trafficking offense verbs. Second, it clarifies that only the ''knowing'' intent and not the ''reckless disregard of the fact'' intent applies to the new offense.

We have checked with the Department of Justice. We believe it meets constitutional standards. We believe it is necessary and is long overdue. I urge an ''aye'' vote of all Members.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 273, as modified, offered by the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 162 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Franken	Nelson
Ayotte	Gardner	Paul
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Grassley	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Boxer	Hirono	Rounds
Brown	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Sessions
Coats	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Vitter
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Enzi	Mikulski	Warren
Ernst	Moran	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	
Flake	Murray	

NAYS—2

Cantwell	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment, as modified, is agreed to.

The majority whip.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 296; 299, AS MODIFIED; 279; 1126; 294; 308; 1128; 310; 312; 1122; AND 303

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I call up the following amendments en bloc: Klobuchar No. 296; Hoeven No. 299, as modified; Sullivan No. 279; Wicker No. 1126; Flake No. 294; Cassidy No. 308; Portman No. 1128; Brown No. 310; Brown No. 312; Heller No. 1122; and Shaheen No. 303.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendments en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN], for others, proposes amendments numbered 296; 299, as modified; 279; 1126; 294; 308; 1128; 310; 312; 1122; and 303.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 296

(Purpose: To stop exploitation through trafficking)

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE IV—STOPPING EXPLOITATION THROUGH TRAFFICKING

SEC. 401. SAFE HARBOR INCENTIVES.

Part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1701(c), by striking ''where feasible'' and all that follows, and inserting the following: ''where feasible, to an application—

''(1) for hiring and rehiring additional career law enforcement officers that involves a non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent minimum under subsection (g); or

''(2) from an applicant in a State that has in effect a law that—

''(A) treats a minor who has engaged in, or has attempted to engage in, a commercial sex act as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons;

''(B) discourages or prohibits the charging or prosecution of an individual described in subparagraph (A) for a prostitution or sex trafficking offense, based on the conduct described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) encourages the diversion of an individual described in subparagraph (A) to appropriate service providers, including child welfare services, victim treatment programs, child advocacy centers, rape crisis centers, or other social services.''; and

(2) in section 1709, by inserting at the end the following:

''(5) 'commercial sex act' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

''(6) 'minor' means an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

''(7) 'severe form of trafficking in persons' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).''.

SEC. 402. REPORT ON RESTITUTION PAID IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN TRAFFICKING OFFENSES.

Section 105(d)(7)(Q) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(d)(7)(Q)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after ''1590,'' the following: ''1591,'';

(2) by striking ''and 1594'' and inserting ''1594, 2251, 2251A, 2421, 2422, and 2423'';

(3) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(4) in clause (v), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(5) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

''(vi) the number of individuals required by a court order to pay restitution in connection with a violation of each offense under title 18, United States Code, the amount of restitution required to be paid under each such order, and the amount of restitution actually paid pursuant to each such order; and

''(vii) the age, gender, race, country of origin, country of citizenship, and description of the role in the offense of individuals convicted under each offense; and''.

SEC. 403. NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.

Section 107(b)(1)(B) of the Victims of Crime Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Subject'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.—Beginning in fiscal year 2017, and in each fiscal year thereafter, of amounts made available for grants under paragraph (2), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make grants for a national communication system to assist victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons in communicating with service providers. The Secretary shall give priority to grant applicants that have experience in providing telephone services to victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.''.

SEC. 404. JOB CORPS ELIGIBILITY.

Section 144(a)(3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3194(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) A victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)). Notwithstanding paragraph (2), an individual described in this subparagraph shall not be required to demonstrate eligibility under such paragraph.''.

SEC. 405. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE.

Section 566(e)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

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

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) assist State, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies, upon the request of such an agency, in locating and recovering missing children.''.

SEC. 406. ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall implement and maintain a National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking (referred to in this section as the ''National Strategy'') in accordance with this section.

(b) REQUIRED CONTENTS OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.—The National Strategy shall include the following:

(1) Integrated Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, including—

(A) the development by each United States attorney, in consultation with State, local, and tribal government agencies, of a district-specific strategic plan to coordinate the identification of victims and the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes;

(B) the appointment of not fewer than 1 assistant United States attorney in each district dedicated to the prosecution of human trafficking cases or responsible for implementing the National Strategy;

(C) the participation in any Federal, State, local, or tribal human trafficking task force operating in the district of the United States attorney; and

(D) any other efforts intended to enhance the level of coordination and cooperation, as determined by the Attorney General.

(2) Case coordination within the Department of Justice, including specific integration, coordination, and collaboration, as appropriate, on human trafficking investigations between and among the United States attorneys, the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(3) Annual budget priorities and Federal efforts dedicated to preventing and combating human trafficking, including resources dedicated to the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and all other entities that receive Federal support that have a goal or mission to combat the exploitation of adults and children.

(4) An ongoing assessment of the future trends, challenges, and opportunities, including new investigative strategies, techniques, and technologies, that will enhance Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to combat human trafficking.

(5) Encouragement of cooperation, coordination, and mutual support between private sector and other entities and organizations and Federal agencies to combat human trafficking, including the involvement of State, local, and tribal government agencies to the extent Federal programs are involved.

AMENDMENT NO. 299, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To ensure that eligible entities that have only recently begun collecting data on child human trafficking are not precluded from being awarded certain grants)

On page 60, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

''(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES SOLICITING DATA ON CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—No eligible entity shall be disadvantaged in being awarded a grant under subsection (a) on the grounds that the eligible entity has only recently begun soliciting data on child human trafficking.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 279

(Purpose: To require the Attorney General of the United States to grant certain requests by State attorneys general to cross designate State and local attorneys to prosecute individuals for sex trafficking)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. TRANSPORTATION FOR ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND RELATED CRIMES.

Chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking section 2421 and inserting the following:

''§ 2421. Transportation generally

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly transports any individual in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, with intent that such individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

''(b) REQUESTS TO PROSECUTE VIOLATIONS BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall grant a request by a State attorney general that a State or local attorney be cross designated to prosecute a violation of this section unless the Attorney General determines that granting the request would undermine the administration of justice.

''(2) REASON FOR DENIAL.—If the Attorney General denies a request under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall submit to the State attorney general a detailed reason for the denial not later than 60 days after the date on which a request is received.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 1126

(Purpose: To direct the Attorney General to create a publicly accessible database for trafficking victims advocates that contains information about services for trafficking survivors)

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 118. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

The Attorney General shall make available, on the website of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a database for trafficking victim advocates, crisis hotline personnel, foster parents, law enforcement personnel, and crime survivors that contains information on—

(1) counseling and hotline resources;

(2) housing resources;

(3) legal assistance; and

(4) other services for trafficking survivors.

SEC. 119. EXPANDED STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CIVIL ACTIONS BY CHILD TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

Section 1595(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''not later than 10 years after the cause of action arose.'' and inserting ''not later than the later of—

''(1) 10 years after the cause of action arose; or

''(2) 10 years after the victim reaches 18 years of age, if the victim was a minor at the time of the alleged offense.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 294

(Purpose: To require a GAO study on the programs authorized by the bill)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. GAO STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on each program or initiative authorized under this Act and the following statutes and evaluate whether any program or initiative is duplicative:

(1) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–164; 119 Stat. 3558).

(2) Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).

(3) Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.).

(4) Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.).

(5) Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), which shall include—

(1) a description of the cost of any duplicative program or initiative studied under subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations on how to achieve cost savings with respect to each duplicative program or initiative studied under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 308

(Purpose: To provide for the development and dissemination of evidence-based best practices for health care professionals to recognize victims of a severe form of trafficking and respond to such individuals appropriately, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ____—TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE

SEC. __01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2015''.

SEC. ___02. DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.

(a) GRANT OR CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, and in consultation with the Administration on Children and Families and other agencies with experience in serving victims of human trafficking, shall award, on a competitive basis, a grant or contract to an eligible entity to train health care professionals to recognize and respond to victims of a severe form of trafficking.

(2) DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES.—An entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall develop evidence-based best practices for health care professionals to recognize and respond to victims of a severe form of trafficking, including—

(A) consultation with law enforcement officials, social service providers, health professionals, experts in the field of human trafficking, and other experts, as appropriate, to inform the development of such best practices;

(B) the identification of any existing best practices or tools for health professionals to recognize potential victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(C) the development of educational materials to train health care professionals on the best practices developed under this subsection.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Best practices developed under this subsection shall address—

(A) risk factors and indicators to recognize victims of a severe form of trafficking;

(B) patient safety and security;

(C) the management of medical records of patients who are victims of a severe form of trafficking;

(D) public and private social services available for rescue, food, clothing, and shelter referrals;

(E) the hotlines for reporting human trafficking maintained by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and the Department of Homeland Security;

(F) validated assessment tools for the identification of victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(G) referral options and procedures for sharing information on human trafficking with a patient and making referrals for legal and social services as appropriate.

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—An entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall design and implement a pilot program to test the best practices and educational materials identified or developed with respect to the recognition of victims of human trafficking by health professionals at health care sites located near an established anti-human trafficking task force initiative in each of the 10 administrative regions of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(5) ANALYSIS AND REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date on which an entity

implements a pilot program under paragraph (4), the entity shall—

(A) analyze the results of the pilot programs, including through an assessment of—

(i) changes in the skills, knowledge, and attitude of health care professionals resulting from the implementation of the program;

(ii) the number of victims of a severe form of trafficking who were identified under the program;

(iii) of those victims identified, the number who received information or referrals for services offered; and

(iv) of those victims who received such information or referrals—

(I) the number who participated in follow up services; and

(II) the type of follow up services received;

(B) determine, using the results of the analysis conducted under subparagraph (A), the extent to which the best practices developed under this subsection are evidence-based; and

(C) submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services a report concerning the pilot program and the analysis of the pilot program under subparagraph (A), including an identification of the best practices that were identified as effective and those that require further review.

(b) DISSEMINATION.—Not later than 30 months after date on which a grant is awarded to an eligible entity under subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) collaborate with appropriate professional associations and health care professional schools to disseminate best practices identified or developed under subsection (a) for purposes of recognizing potential victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(2) post on the public website of the Department of Health and Human Services the best practices that are identified by the as effective under subsection (a)(5).

SEC. __03. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) The term ''eligible entity'' means an accredited school of medicine or nursing with experience in the study or treatment of victims of a severe form of trafficking.

(2) The term ''eligible site'' means a health center that is receiving assistance under section 330, 399Z–1, or 1001 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b, 280h-5, and 300).

(3) The term ''health care professional'' means a person employed by a health care provider who provides to patients information (including information not related to medical treatment), scheduling, services, or referrals.

(4) The term ''HIPAA privacy and security law'' has the meaning given to such term in section 3009 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300jj–19).

(5) The term ''victim of a severe form of trafficking'' has the meaning given to such term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

SEC. __04. NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, and this title shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

AMENDMENT NO. 1128

(Purpose: To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE IV—BETTER RESPONSE FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking''.

SEC. 402. CAPTA AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) made by this section shall take effect 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) STATE PLANS.—Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)—

(A) in clause (xxii), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(xxiv) provisions and procedures requiring identification and assessment of all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102 (10)); and

''(xxv) provisions and procedures for training child protective services workers about identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with State law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters to serve this population;''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

''(17) The number of children determined to be victims described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxiv).''.

(c) SPECIAL RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended—

(A) by striking ''For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) SPECIAL RULE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4), a child shall be considered a victim of 'child abuse and neglect' and of 'sexual abuse' if the child is identified, by a State or local agency employee of the State or locality involved, as being a victim of sex trafficking (as defined in paragraph (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) or a victim of severe forms of trafficking in persons described in paragraph (9)(A) of that section.

''(2) STATE OPTION.—Notwithstanding the definition of 'child' in section 3(1), a State may elect to define that term for purposes of the application of paragraph (1) to section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4) as a person who has not attained the age of 24.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(2) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by inserting ''(including sexual abuse as determined under section 111)'' after ''sexual abuse or exploitation''.

(3) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Paragraph (5)(C) of subsection (a), as so designated, of section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended by striking ''inhumane;'' and inserting ''inhumane.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 310

(Purpose: To allow grants under the victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program to be used for assisting law enforcement agencies in finding homeless and runaway youth)

On page 57, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

''(3) activities of law enforcement agencies to find homeless and runaway youth, including salaries and associated expenses for retired Federal law enforcement officers assisting the law enforcement agencies in finding homeless and runaway youth; and

AMENDMENT NO. 312

(Purpose: To amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to expand the training for Federal Government personnel related to trafficking in persons, and for other purposes)

At the end of title II, add the following:

Subtitle D—Expanded Training

SEC. 231. EXPANDED TRAINING RELATING TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

Section 105(c)(4) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Appropriate personnel'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Appropriate personnel'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated, by inserting '', including members of the Service (as such term is defined in section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903))'' after ''Department of State''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) TRAINING COMPONENTS.—Training under this paragraph shall include—

''(i) a distance learning course on trafficking-in-persons issues and the Department of State's obligations under this Act, which shall be designed for embassy reporting officers, regional bureaus' trafficking-in-persons coordinators, and their superiors;

''(ii) specific trafficking-in-persons briefings for all ambassadors and deputy chiefs of mission before such individuals depart for their posts; and

''(iii) at least annual reminders to all personnel referred to in clauses (i) and (ii), including appropriate personnel from other Federal departments and agencies, at each diplomatic or consular post of the Department of State located outside the United States of—

''(I) key problems, threats, methods, and warning signs of trafficking in persons specific to the country or jurisdiction in which each such post is located; and

''(II) appropriate procedures to report information that any such personnel may acquire about possible cases of trafficking in persons.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 1122

(Purpose: To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities)

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE IV—ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PERSONNEL

SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—The term ''human trafficking'' means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

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

SEC. 402. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement a program to—

(1) train and periodically retrain relevant Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Department personnel that the Secretary considers appropriate, with respect to how to effectively deter, detect, and disrupt human trafficking, and, where appropriate, interdict a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking, during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities; and

(2) ensure that the personnel referred to in paragraph (1) regularly receive current information on matters related to the detection of human trafficking, including information that becomes available outside of the Department's initial or periodic retraining schedule, to the extent relevant to their official duties and consistent with applicable information and privacy laws.

(b) TRAINING DESCRIBED.—The training referred to in subsection (a) may be conducted through in-class or virtual learning capabilities, and shall include—

(1) methods for identifying suspected victims of human trafficking and, where appropriate, perpetrators of human trafficking;

(2) for appropriate personnel, methods to approach a suspected victim of human trafficking, where appropriate, in a manner that is sensitive to the suspected victim and is not likely to alert a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking;

(3) training that is most appropriate for a particular location or environment in which the personnel receiving such training perform their official duties;

(4) other topics determined by the Secretary to be appropriate; and

(5) a post-training evaluation for personnel receiving the training.

(c) TRAINING CURRICULUM REVIEW.—The Secretary shall annually reassess the training program established under subsection (a) to ensure it is consistent with current techniques, patterns, and trends associated with human trafficking.

SEC. 403. CERTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to Congress that all personnel referred to in section 402(a) have successfully completed the training required under that section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to Congress with respect to the overall effectiveness of the program required by this title, the number of cases reported by Department personnel in which human trafficking was suspected, and, of those cases, the number of cases that were confirmed cases of human trafficking.

SEC. 404. ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.

The Secretary may provide training curricula to any State, local, or tribal government or private organization to assist the government or organization in establishing a program of training to identify human trafficking, upon request from the government or organization.

SEC. 405. EXPANDED USE OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

Section 3014(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101 of this Act, is amended—

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

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) section 106 of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17616).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 303

(Purpose: To aid human trafficking victims' recovery and rehabilitation)

At the end, add the following:

TITLE ____—HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF AND EMPOWERMENT ACT

SECTION __01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Human Trafficking Survivors Relief and Empowerment Act of 2015''.

SEC. __02. PROTECTIONS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

Section 1701(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd(c)) is amended by striking ''where feasible'' and all that follows, and inserting the following: ''where feasible, to an application—

''(1) for hiring and rehiring additional career law enforcement officers that involves a non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent minimum under subsection (g); or

''(2) from an applicant in a State that has in effect a law—

''(A) that—

''(i) provides a process by which an individual who is a human trafficking survivor can move to vacate any arrest or conviction records for a non-violent offense committed as a direct result of human trafficking, including prostitution or lewdness;

''(ii) establishes a rebuttable presumption that any arrest or conviction of an individual for an offense associated with human trafficking is a result of being trafficked, if the individual—

''(I) is a person granted nonimmigrant status pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(T)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T)(i));

''(II) is the subject of a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 107(b)(1)(E) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(E)); or

''(III) has other similar documentation of trafficking, which has been issued by a Federal, State, or local agency; and

''(iii) protects the identity of individuals who are human trafficking survivors in public and court records; and

''(B) that does not require an individual who is a human trafficking survivor to provide official documentation as described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of subparagraph (A)(ii) in order to receive protection under the law.''.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators SULLIVAN, CASSIDY, WICKER, KLOBUCHAR, and PORTMAN each be recognized to speak for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

AMENDMENT NO. 279

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of amendment No. 279, the Mann Act cooperation amendment. This is a simple amendment with strong bipartisan support.

I appreciate the cosponsors, Senators MURKOWSKI, AYOTTE, HEITKAMP, and GILLIBRAND.

What this amendment will do, it will increase prosecutions of human trafficking without an increase in cost. It allows and encourages Federal prosecutors to work with State officials to prosecute Mann Act violations and increases transparency.

The key goal of this amendment is to enable the resources and cooperation between State and Federal prosecutors to ensure all cases of human trafficking are pursued and victims have justice.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

AMENDMENT NO. 1126

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the underlying bill. I thank the leadership on both sides for coming to a bipartisan agreement, and I thank the leadership for agreeing to take the Wicker amendment by a voice vote.

My amendment does two things. Simply, it extends the statute of limitations to allow child victims to file civil lawsuits against perpetrators up to 10 years after they reach the age of 18, rather than 10 years after the cause of action arises. Secondly, my amendment creates a Department of Justice data base for education and outreach. Trafficking is a complex issue, and it will take a comprehensive approach to facility adequate support for victims.

That is what the Wicker amendment does.

I urge an ''aye'' vote when we take it by voice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

AMENDMENT NO. 1128

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise to express strong support for the underlying bill and also my appreciation to the managers of the bill for including the en bloc amendments. One I offered is entitled the ''Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking,'' part of a larger bill we passed last year.

This one ensures all children who are sex-trafficked will be classified as child abuse victims for purposes of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Currently, sex trafficking of a minor is not considered child abuse unless a parent or caregiver was directly involved in the child's exploitation. This amendment clarifies that a child victim of sex trafficking is a victim of child abuse and, therefore, can be eligible for the services as they recover.

Over the past couple of days, we have made some great progress, including putting aside partisan divides in coming together to combat human trafficking, a heinous criminal industry that all of us want to stop.

I am proud my bringing missing children home legislation with Senator SCHUMER, as well as my Combat Human Trafficking Act with Senator FEINSTEIN is on the floor and have been included in the underlying bill. We have made a lot of progress, and we are a few steps closer to actually ending trafficking for once and for all.

I particularly congratulate Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR for their hard work in bringing this to the floor and doing something important to fight human trafficking.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

AMENDMENT NO. 296

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I am speaking in favor of the Klobuchar-Cornyn amendment No. 296. This is a very important policy amendment.

It basically encourages States across the country—we already have 15 States doing this—not to prosecute victims of sex trafficking and to treat them as victims—not as criminals—so they don't end up in jail.

It also sets forth a national sex-trafficking strategy. It also qualifies these victims for job training programs. Then, finally, it includes a very important bill that Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator SESSIONS had that helps Federal marshals to track down victims of sex trafficking.

I thank my coauthor and all 26 cosponsors of this amendment. Senator CORNYN—I know we will talk later about the underlying bill, but this is a bipartisan effort from beginning to end and a very important policy bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 308

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise in favor of the Cassidy-Peters amendment.

I am a physician who has been working in a public hospital for 30 years. I am aware the following is true: 90 percent of victims in a recent survey saw a nurse or doctor or other health care professional while being held captive.

If those health care workers had the training and tools to identify the signs and symptoms of those being trafficked, they can make the appropriate referral and help them escape that terrible existence.

This amendment will provide for the development of best practices to enable health care workers to recognize and assist victims of human trafficking.

If passed today, this will help women and children in Louisiana, Michigan, and across the Nation rebuild their lives.

I thank Senator PETERS for joining this effort, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 296

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the Klobuchar amendment No. 296.

The amendment (No. 296) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 299, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Hoeven amendment No. 299, as modified.

The amendment (No. 299), as modified, was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 279

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Sullivan amendment No. 279.

The amendment (No. 279) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1126

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Wicker amendment No. 1126.

The amendment (No. 1126) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 294

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Flake amendment No. 294.

The amendment (No. 294) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 308

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Cassidy amendment No. 308.

The amendment (No. 308) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1128

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Portman amendment No. 1128.

The amendment (No. 1128) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 310

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Brown amendment No. 310.

The amendment (No. 310) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 312

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Brown amendment No. 312.

The amendment (No. 312) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1122

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Heller amendment No. 1122.

The amendment (No. 1122) was agreed to.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 303

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Shaheen amendment No. 303.

The amendment (No. 303) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Minnesota and I be permitted to speak for up to 1 minute each prior to the vote on final passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I first of all want to thank Senator CORNYN. We have been working on these bills for over 1 year. I want to thank Senator LEAHY and Senator GRASSLEY for their leadership on the Judiciary Committee, Senator MURRAY for her work in negotiating this agreement and working with us, as well as so many other people who have been involved in working on this bill.

Through the last month, I think every so often people have forgotten what this really is about. This is about victims of sex trafficking, with an average age of 12 years old—not even old enough to get their own driver's license, not even old enough to go to a high school prom. Yet this is happening all over the country, from the oil patches of North Dakota to the suburbs of Minneapolis.

What this bill does and what this Senate is doing today is saying we want to be there in our country for these victims. We are going to pay for services. We are actually going to change some policies so that when we go to the rest of the world and look at something that is now the third biggest international criminal enterprise in the world, when we look at what Boko Haram is doing in Nigeria and in other countries, we can hold our heads up high and say that in the Senate we are finally doing something about this and our country is united across party lines against this practice.

Again, I thank Senator CORNYN for what he has done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, Winston Churchill supposedly once said: The Americans always do the right thing after they exhaust every other possibility. And you might say the same thing about the Senate when it comes to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. This has been a long strange journey here to final passage, but here we are. And we have kept our focus all along on the victims—typically, a girl of 12 to 14 years old who has been sex trafficked and who has been treated as a common object and enslaved.

This is a terrible, heinous crime, but one that most of us don't see because it operates outside of our vision and our experience. We are throwing a lifeline to these victims of human trafficking by providing them real resources to help them—to help first to rescue them and then to help them heal.

This is a good day for the Senate because we are doing the right thing for people who have no voice. We are their voice, and we are going to get this done in a way that provides them some real help.

I want to thank all of our colleagues here on a bipartisan basis. It was a rocky trip here. But we got here. That is what counts, because we are providing necessary and needed help for these victims of human trafficking.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, to S. 178 is agreed to.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

Mr. JOHNSON. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 163 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Alexander	Flake	Murray
Ayotte	Franken	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Reid
Boozman	Heitkamp	Risch
Boxer	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sanders
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cardin	Johnson	Schatz
Carper	Kaine	Schumer
Casey	King	Scott
Cassidy	Kirk	Sessions
Coats	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cochran	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Corker	Manchin	Tester
Cornyn	Markey	Thune
Cotton	McCain	Tillis
Crapo	McCaskill	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Vitter
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Enzi	Mikulski	Warren
Ernst	Moran	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Murphy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Cruz

The bill (S. 178), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 178

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Sec. 101. Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.
Sec. 102. Clarifying the benefits and protections offered to domestic victims of human trafficking.
Sec. 103. Victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program.
Sec. 104. Direct services for victims of child pornography.
Sec. 105. Increasing compensation and restitution for trafficking victims.
Sec. 106. Streamlining human trafficking investigations.
Sec. 107. Enhancing human trafficking reporting.
Sec. 108. Reducing demand for sex trafficking.
Sec. 109. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 110. Using existing task forces and components to target offenders who exploit children.
Sec. 111. Targeting child predators.
Sec. 112. Monitoring all human traffickers as violent criminals.
Sec. 113. Crime victims' rights.
Sec. 114. Combat Human Trafficking Act.
Sec. 115. Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act.
Sec. 116. Bringing Missing Children Home Act.
Sec. 117. Grant accountability.
Sec. 118. SAVE Act.
Sec. 119. Education and outreach to trafficking survivors.
Sec. 120. Expanded statute of limitations for civil actions by child trafficking survivors.
Sec. 121. GAO study and report.

TITLE II—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Subtitle A—Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking

Sec. 201. Amendments to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

Subtitle B—Improving the Response to Victims of Child Sex Trafficking

Sec. 211. Response to victims of child sex trafficking.

Subtitle C—Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking

Sec. 221. Victim of trafficking defined.
Sec. 222. Interagency task force report on child trafficking primary prevention.
Sec. 223. GAO Report on intervention.
Sec. 224. Provision of housing permitted to protect and assist in the recovery of victims of trafficking.

Subtitle D—Expanded Training

Sec. 231. Expanded training relating to trafficking in persons.

TITLE III—HERO ACT

Sec. 301. Short title.
Sec. 302. HERO Act.
Sec. 303. Transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes.

TITLE IV—RAPE SURVIVOR CHILD CUSTODY

Sec. 401. Short title.
Sec. 402. Definitions.
Sec. 403. Findings.
Sec. 404. Increased funding for formula grants authorized.
Sec. 405. Application.
Sec. 406. Grant increase.
Sec. 407. Period of increase.
Sec. 408. Allocation of increased formula grant funds.
Sec. 409. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE V—MILITARY SEX OFFENDER REPORTING

Sec. 501. Short title.
Sec. 502. Registration of sex offenders released from military corrections facilities or upon conviction.

TITLE VI—STOPPING EXPLOITATION THROUGH TRAFFICKING

Sec. 601. Safe Harbor Incentives.
Sec. 602. Report on restitution paid in connection with certain trafficking offenses.
Sec. 603. National human trafficking hotline.
Sec. 604. Job corps eligibility.
Sec. 605. Clarification of authority of the United States Marshals Service.
Sec. 606. Establishing a national strategy to combat human trafficking.

TITLE VII—TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE

Sec. 701. Short title.
Sec. 702. Development of best practices.
Sec. 703. Definitions.
Sec. 704. No additional authorization of appropriations.

TITLE VIII—BETTER RESPONSE FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Sec. 801. Short title.
Sec. 802. CAPTA amendments.

TITLE IX—ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PERSONNEL

Sec. 901. Definitions.
Sec. 902. Training for Department personnel to identify human trafficking.
Sec. 903. Certification and report to Congress.
Sec. 904. Assistance to non-Federal entities.
Sec. 905. Expanded use of Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund.

TITLE X—HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF AND EMPOWERMENT ACT

Sec. 1001. Short title.
Sec. 1002. Protections for human trafficking survivors.

TITLE I—JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

SEC. 101. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 3014. Additional special assessment

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and ending on September 30, 2019, in addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of $5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—

''(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

''(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

''(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

''(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

''(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

''(b) SATISFACTION OF OTHER COURT-ORDERED OBLIGATIONS.—An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines, orders of restitution, and any other obligation related to victim-compensation arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

''(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the 'Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund' (referred to in this section as the 'Fund'), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

''(d) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred to the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

''(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts in the Fund, in addition to any other amounts available, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims' programming under—

''(A) section 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044c);

''(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

''(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(2) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subsection (h)(2), none of the amounts in the Fund may be used to provide health care or medical items or services.

''(f) COLLECTION METHOD.—The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

''(g) DURATION OF OBLIGATION.—Subject to section 3613(b), the obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full.

''(h) HEALTH OR MEDICAL SERVICES.—

''(1) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—From amounts appropriated under section 10503(b)(1)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(1)(E)), as amended by section 221 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, there shall be transferred to the Fund an amount equal to the amount transferred under subsection (d) for each fiscal year, except that the amount transferred under this paragraph shall not be less than $5,000,000 or more than $30,000,000 in each such fiscal year, and such amounts shall remain available until expended.

''(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall use amounts transferred to the Fund under paragraph (1) to award grants that may be used for the provision of health care or medical items or services to victims of trafficking under—

''(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

''(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

''(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(3) GRANTS.—Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than $2,000,000, if such amounts are available in the Fund during the relevant fiscal year, shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(4) APPLICATION OF PROVISION.—The application of the provisions of section 221(c) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 shall continue to apply to the amounts transferred pursuant to paragraph (1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

''3014. Additional special assessment.''.

SEC. 102. CLARIFYING THE BENEFITS AND PROTECTIONS OFFERED TO DOMESTIC VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Section 107(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) NO REQUIREMENT OF OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to require United States citizens or lawful permanent residents who are victims of severe forms of trafficking to obtain an official certification from the Secretary of Health and Human Services in order to access any of the specialized services described in this subsection or any other Federal benefits and protections to which they are otherwise entitled.''; and

(3) in subparagraph (H), as redesignated, by striking ''subparagraph (F)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (G)''.

SEC. 103. VICTIM-CENTERED CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 203. VICTIM-CENTERED CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

''(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may award block grants to an eligible entity to develop, improve, or expand domestic child human trafficking deterrence programs that assist law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judicial officials, and qualified victims' services organizations in collaborating to rescue and restore the lives of victims, while investigating and prosecuting offenses involving child human trafficking.

''(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grants awarded under subsection (a) may be used for—

''(1) the establishment or enhancement of specialized training programs for law enforcement officers, first responders, health care officials, child welfare officials, juvenile justice personnel, prosecutors, and judicial personnel to—

''(A) identify victims and acts of child human trafficking;

''(B) address the unique needs of child victims of human trafficking;

''(C) facilitate the rescue of child victims of human trafficking;

''(D) investigate and prosecute acts of human trafficking, including the soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing of commercial sex acts from children, as well as training to build cases against complex criminal networks involved in child human trafficking; and

''(E) utilize, implement, and provide education on safe harbor laws enacted by States, aimed at preventing the criminalization and prosecution of child sex trafficking victims for prostitution offenses, and other laws aimed at the investigation and prosecution of child human trafficking;

''(2) the establishment or enhancement of dedicated anti-trafficking law enforcement units and task forces to investigate child human trafficking offenses and to rescue victims, including—

''(A) funding salaries, in whole or in part, for law enforcement officers, including patrol officers, detectives, and investigators, except that the percentage of the salary of the law enforcement officer paid for by funds from a grant awarded under this section shall not be more than the percentage of the officer's time on duty that is dedicated to working on cases involving child human trafficking;

''(B) investigation expenses for cases involving child human trafficking, including—

''(i) wire taps;

''(ii) consultants with expertise specific to cases involving child human trafficking;

''(iii) travel; and

''(iv) other technical assistance expenditures;

''(C) dedicated anti-trafficking prosecution units, including the funding of salaries for State and local prosecutors, including assisting in paying trial expenses for prosecution of child human trafficking offenders, except that the percentage of the total salary of a State or local prosecutor that is paid using an award under this section shall be not more than the percentage of the total number of hours worked by the prosecutor that is spent working on cases involving child human trafficking;

''(D) the establishment of child human trafficking victim witness safety, assistance, and relocation programs that encourage cooperation with law enforcement investigations of crimes of child human trafficking by leveraging existing resources and delivering child human trafficking victims' services through coordination with—

''(i) child advocacy centers;

''(ii) social service agencies;

''(iii) State governmental health service agencies;

''(iv) housing agencies;

''(v) legal services agencies; and

''(vi) nongovernmental organizations and shelter service providers with substantial experience in delivering wrap-around services to victims of child human trafficking; and

''(E) the establishment or enhancement of other necessary victim assistance programs or personnel, such as victim or child advocates, child-protective services, child forensic interviews, or other necessary service providers;

''(3) activities of law enforcement agencies to find homeless and runaway youth, including salaries and associated expenses for retired Federal law enforcement officers assisting the law enforcement agencies in finding homeless and runaway youth; and

''(4) the establishment or enhancement of problem solving court programs for trafficking victims that include—

''(A) mandatory and regular training requirements for judicial officials involved in the administration or operation of the court program described under this paragraph;

''(B) continuing judicial supervision of victims of child human trafficking, including case worker or child welfare supervision in collaboration with judicial officers, who have been identified by a law enforcement or judicial officer as a potential victim of child human trafficking, regardless of whether the victim has been charged with a crime related to human trafficking;

''(C) the development of a specialized and individualized, court-ordered treatment program for identified victims of child human trafficking, including—

''(i) State-administered outpatient treatment;

''(ii) life skills training;

''(iii) housing placement;

''(iv) vocational training;

''(v) education;

''(vi) family support services; and

''(vii) job placement;

''(D) centralized case management involving the consolidation of all of each child human trafficking victim's cases and offenses, and the coordination of all trafficking victim treatment programs and social services;

''(E) regular and mandatory court appearances by the victim during the duration of the treatment program for purposes of ensuring compliance and effectiveness;

''(F) the ultimate dismissal of relevant non-violent criminal charges against the victim, where such victim successfully complies with the terms of the court-ordered treatment program; and

''(G) collaborative efforts with child advocacy centers, child welfare agencies, shelters, and nongovernmental organizations with substantial experience in delivering wrap-around services to victims of child human trafficking to provide services to victims and encourage cooperation with law enforcement.

''(c) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall submit an application to the Attorney General for a grant under this section in such form and manner as the Attorney General may require.

''(2) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application submitted under this subsection shall—

''(A) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought;

''(B) include a detailed plan for the use of funds awarded under the grant;

''(C) provide such additional information and assurances as the Attorney General determines to be necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section; and

''(D) disclose—

''(i) any other grant funding from the Department of Justice or from any other Federal department or agency for purposes similar to those described in subsection (b) for which the eligible entity has applied, and which application is pending on the date of the submission of an application under this section; and

''(ii) any other such grant funding that the eligible entity has received during the 5-year period ending on the date of the submission of an application under this section.

''(3) PREFERENCE.—In reviewing applications submitted in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), the Attorney General shall give preference to grant applications if—

''(A) the application includes a plan to use awarded funds to engage in all activities described under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b); or

''(B) the application includes a plan by the State or unit of local government to continue funding of all activities funded by the award after the expiration of the award.

''(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES SOLICITING DATA ON CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—No eligible entity shall be disadvantaged in being awarded a grant under subsection (a) on the grounds that the eligible entity has only recently begun soliciting data on child human trafficking.

''(d) DURATION AND RENEWAL OF AWARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall expire 3 years after the date of award of the grant.

''(2) RENEWAL.—A grant under this section shall be renewable not more than 2 times and for a period of not greater than 2 years.

''(e) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall—

''(1) enter into a contract with a nongovernmental organization, including an academic or nonprofit organization, that has experience with issues related to child human trafficking and evaluation of grant programs to conduct periodic evaluations of grants made under this section to determine the impact and effectiveness of programs funded with grants awarded under this section;

''(2) instruct the Inspector General of the Department of Justice to review evaluations issued under paragraph (1) to determine the methodological and statistical validity of the evaluations; and

''(3) submit the results of any evaluation conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) to—

''(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

''(f) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—An eligible entity awarded funds under this section that is found to have used grant funds for any unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost shall not be eligible for any grant funds awarded under the block grant for 2 fiscal years following the year in which the unauthorized expenditure or unallowable cost is reported.

''(g) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT.—An eligible entity shall not be eligible to receive a grant under this section if within the 5 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section, the grantee has been found to have violated the terms or conditions of a Government grant program by utilizing grant funds for unauthorized expenditures or otherwise unallowable costs.

''(h) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—The cost of administering the grants authorized by this section shall not exceed 5 percent of the total amount expended to carry out this section.

''(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a program funded by a grant awarded under this section shall be—

''(1) 70 percent in the first year;

''(2) 60 percent in the second year; and

''(3) 50 percent in the third year, and in all subsequent years.

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING; FULLY OFFSET.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to award not more than $7,000,000 of the funds available in the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund, established under section 3014 of title 18, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

''(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'child' means a person under the age of 18;

''(2) the term 'child advocacy center' means a center created under subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.);

''(3) the term 'child human trafficking' means 1 or more severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) involving a victim who is a child; and

''(4) the term 'eligible entity' means a State or unit of local government that—

''(A) has significant criminal activity involving child human trafficking;

''(B) has demonstrated cooperation between Federal, State, local, and, where applicable, tribal law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and social service providers in addressing child human trafficking;

''(C) has developed a workable, multi-disciplinary plan to combat child human trafficking, including—

''(i) the establishment of a shelter for victims of child human trafficking, through existing or new facilities;

''(ii) the provision of trauma-informed, gender-responsive rehabilitative care to victims of child human trafficking;

''(iii) the provision of specialized training for law enforcement officers and social service providers for all forms of human trafficking, with a focus on domestic child human trafficking;

''(iv) prevention, deterrence, and prosecution of offenses involving child human trafficking, including soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing human acts with children;

''(v) cooperation or referral agreements with organizations providing outreach or other related services to runaway and homeless youth;

''(vi) law enforcement protocols or procedures to screen all individuals arrested for prostitution, whether adult or child, for victimization by sex trafficking and by other crimes, such as sexual assault and domestic violence; and

''(vii) cooperation or referral agreements with State child welfare agencies and child advocacy centers; and

''(D) provides an assurance that, under the plan under subparagraph (C), a victim of child human trafficking shall not be required to collaborate with law enforcement officers to have access to any shelter or services provided with a grant under this section.

''(l) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY; SPECIALIZED VICTIMS' SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—No grant funds under this section may be awarded or transferred to any entity unless such entity has demonstrated substantial experience providing services to victims of human trafficking or related populations (such as runaway and homeless youth), or employs staff specialized in the treatment of human trafficking victims.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7101 note) is amended by striking the item relating to section 203 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 203. Victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program.''.

SEC. 104. DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.

The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 212(5) (42 U.S.C. 13001a(5)), by inserting '', including human trafficking and the production of child pornography'' before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in section 214 (42 U.S.C. 13002)—

(A) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, may make grants to develop and implement specialized programs to identify and provide direct services to victims of child pornography.''.

SEC. 105. INCREASING COMPENSATION AND RESTITUTION FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18.—Section 1594 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''that was used or'' and inserting ''that was involved in, used, or''; and

(ii) by inserting '', and any property traceable to such property'' after ''such violation''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', or any property traceable to such property'' after ''such violation'';

(2) in subsection (e)(1)(A)—

(A) by striking ''used or'' and inserting ''involved in, used, or''; and

(B) by inserting '', and any property traceable to such property'' after ''any violation of this chapter'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) TRANSFER OF FORFEITED ASSETS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Attorney General shall transfer assets forfeited pursuant to this section, or the proceeds derived from the sale thereof, to satisfy victim restitution orders arising from violations of this chapter.

''(2) PRIORITY.—Transfers pursuant to paragraph (1) shall have priority over any other claims to the assets or their proceeds.

''(3) USE OF NONFORFEITED ASSETS.—Transfers pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not reduce or otherwise mitigate the obligation of a person convicted of a violation of this chapter to satisfy the full amount of a restitution order through the use of non-forfeited assets or to reimburse the Attorney General for the value of assets or proceeds transferred under this subsection through the use of nonforfeited assets.''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO TITLE 28.—Section 524(c)(1)(B) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''chapter 77 of title 18,'' after ''criminal drug laws of the United States or of''.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 31.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 9703 (as added by section 638(b)(1) of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102–393; 106 Stat. 1779)) as section 9705; and

(B) in section 9705(a), as redesignated—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (I)—

(aa) by striking ''payment'' and inserting ''Payment''; and

(bb) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(II) in subparagraph (J), by striking ''payment'' and inserting ''Payment''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (B)—

(aa) in clause (iii)—

(AA) in subclause (I), by striking ''or'' and inserting ''of''; and

(BB) in subclause (III), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(bb) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(cc) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:

''(v) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement with respect to a violation of chapter 77 of title 18 (relating to human trafficking);'';

(II) in subparagraph (G), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(III) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) CROSS REFERENCES.—

(i) TITLE 28.—Section 524(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(I) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking ''section 9703(g)(4)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''section 9705(g)(4)(A)'';

(II) in paragraph (10), by striking ''section 9703(p)'' and inserting ''section 9705(o)''; and

(III) in paragraph (11), by striking ''section 9703'' and inserting ''section 9705''.

(ii) TITLE 31.—Title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(I) in section 312(d), by striking ''section 9703'' and inserting ''section 9705''; and

(II) in section 5340(1), by striking ''section 9703(p)(1)'' and inserting ''section 9705(o)''.

(iii) TITLE 39.—Section 2003(e)(1) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 9703(p)'' and inserting ''section 9705(o)''.

(B) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''9701. Fees and charges for Government services and things of value.
''9702. Investment of trust funds.
''9703. Managerial accountability and flexibility.
''9704. Pilot projects for managerial accountability and flexibility.
''9705. Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund.''.

SEC. 106. STREAMLINING HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 2516 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (a), by inserting a comma after ''weapons)'';

(B) in subparagraph (c)—

(i) by inserting ''section 1581 (peonage), section 1584 (involuntary servitude), section 1589 (forced labor), section 1590 (trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor),'' before ''section 1591'';

(ii) by inserting ''section 1592 (unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of trafficking, peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor),'' before ''section 1751'';

(iii) by inserting a comma after ''virus)'';

(iv) by striking ''., section'' and inserting a comma;

(v) by striking ''or'' after ''misuse of passports),''; and

(vi) by inserting ''or'' before ''section 555'';

(C) in subparagraph (j), by striking ''pipeline,)'' and inserting ''pipeline),''; and

(D) in subparagraph (p), by striking ''documents, section 1028A (relating to aggravated identity theft))'' and inserting ''documents), section 1028A (relating to aggravated identity theft)''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, child pornography production,'' after ''kidnapping''.

SEC. 107. ENHANCING HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING.

Section 505 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3755) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) PART 1 VIOLENT CRIMES TO INCLUDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—For purposes of this section, the term 'part 1 violent crimes' shall include severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)).''.

SEC. 108. REDUCING DEMAND FOR SEX TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''or maintains'' and inserting ''maintains, patronizes, or solicits'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or obtained'' and inserting ''obtained, patronized, or solicited''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or obtained'' and inserting ''obtained, patronized, or solicited''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''or maintained'' and inserting '', maintained, patronized, or solicited''; and

(B) by striking ''knew that the person'' and inserting ''knew, or recklessly disregarded the fact, that the person''.

(b) DEFINITION AMENDED.—Section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) is amended by striking ''or obtaining'' and inserting ''obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting''.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the amendments made by this section is to clarify the range of conduct punished as sex trafficking.

SEC. 109. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, defines a sex trafficker as a person who ''knowingly. . .recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, obtains, or maintains by any means a person. . .knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, that means of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion. . .or any combination of such means will be used to cause the person to engage in a commercial sex act, or that the person has not attained the age of 18 years and will be caused to engage in a commercial sex act'';

(2) while use of the word ''obtains'' in section 1591, United States Code, has been interpreted, prior to the date of enactment of this Act, to encompass those who purchase illicit sexual acts from trafficking victims, some confusion persists;

(3) in United States vs. Jungers, 702 F.3d 1066 (8th Cir. 2013), the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit ruled that section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, applied to persons who purchase illicit sexual acts with trafficking victims after the United States District Court for the District of South Dakota erroneously granted motions to acquit these buyers in two separate cases; and

(4) section 108 of this title amends section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, to add the words ''solicits or patronizes'' to the sex trafficking statute making absolutely clear for judges, juries, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials that criminals who purchase sexual acts from human trafficking victims may be arrested, prosecuted, and convicted as sex trafficking offenders when this is merited by the facts of a particular case.

SEC. 110. USING EXISTING TASK FORCES AND COMPONENTS TO TARGET OFFENDERS WHO EXPLOIT CHILDREN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall ensure that—

(1) all task forces and working groups within the Innocence Lost National Initiative engage in activities, programs, or operations to increase the investigative capabilities of State and local law enforcement officers in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of persons who patronize, or solicit children for sex; and

(2) all components and task forces with jurisdiction to detect, investigate, and prosecute cases of child labor trafficking engage in activities, programs, or operations to increase the capacity of such components to deter and punish child labor trafficking.

SEC. 111. TARGETING CHILD PREDATORS.

(a) CLARIFYING THAT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PRODUCERS ARE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS.—Section 2423(f) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''means (1) a'' and inserting the following: ''means—

''(1) a'';

(2) by striking ''United States; or (2) any'' and inserting the following: ''United States;

''(2) any''; and

(3) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: ''; or

''(3) production of child pornography (as defined in section 2256(8)).''.

(b) HOLDING SEX TRAFFICKERS ACCOUNTABLE.—Section 2423(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''a preponderance of the evidence'' and inserting ''clear and convincing evidence''.

SEC. 112. MONITORING ALL HUMAN TRAFFICKERS AS VIOLENT CRIMINALS.

Section 3156(a)(4)(C) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''77,'' after ''chapter''.

SEC. 113. CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3771 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(9) The right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement.

''(10) The right to be informed of the rights under this section and the services described in section 503(c) of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607(c)) and provided contact information for the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman of the Department of Justice.'';

(2) in subsection (d)(3), in the fifth sentence, by inserting '', unless the litigants, with the approval of the court, have stipulated to a different time period for consideration'' before the period; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking ''this chapter, the term'' and inserting the following: ''this chapter:

''(1) COURT OF APPEALS.—The term 'court of appeals' means—

''(A) the United States court of appeals for the judicial district in which a defendant is being prosecuted; or

''(B) for a prosecution in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

''(2) CRIME VICTIM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term'';

(B) by striking ''In the case'' and inserting the following:

''(B) MINORS AND CERTAIN OTHER VICTIMS.—In the case''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DISTRICT COURT; COURT.—The terms 'district court' and 'court' include the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.''.

(b) CRIME VICTIMS FUND.—Section 1402(d)(3)(A)(i) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting ''section'' before ''3771''.

(c) APPELLATE REVIEW OF PETITIONS RELATING TO CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)(2) of this section, is amended by inserting after the fifth sentence the following: ''In deciding such application, the court of appeals shall apply ordinary standards of appellate review.''.

(2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to any petition for a writ of mandamus filed under section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, that is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 114. COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2015''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMERCIAL SEX ACT; SEVERE FORMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS; STATE; TASK FORCE.—The terms ''commercial sex act'', ''severe forms of trafficking in persons'', ''State'', and ''Task Force'' have the meanings given those terms in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(2) COVERED OFFENDER.—The term ''covered offender'' means an individual who obtains, patronizes, or solicits a commercial sex act involving a person subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(3) COVERED OFFENSE.—The term ''covered offense'' means the provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a commercial sex act involving a person subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(4) FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term ''Federal law enforcement officer'' has the meaning given the term in section 115 of title 18, United States Code.

(5) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term ''local law enforcement officer'' means any officer, agent, or employee of a unit of local government authorized by law or by a local government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(6) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term ''State law enforcement officer'' means any officer, agent, or employee of a State authorized by law or by a State government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TRAINING AND POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS, AND JUDGES.—

(1) TRAINING.—

(A) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—The Attorney General shall ensure that each anti-human trafficking program operated by the Department of Justice, including each anti-human trafficking training program for Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers, includes technical training on—

(i) effective methods for investigating and prosecuting covered offenders; and

(ii) facilitating the provision of physical and mental health services by health care providers to persons subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(B) FEDERAL PROSECUTORS.—The Attorney General shall ensure that each anti-human trafficking program operated by the Department of Justice for United States attorneys or other Federal prosecutors includes training on seeking restitution for offenses under chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, to ensure that each United States attorney or other Federal prosecutor, upon obtaining a conviction for such an offense, requests a specific amount of restitution for each victim of the offense without regard to whether the victim requests restitution.

(C) JUDGES.—The Federal Judicial Center shall provide training to judges relating to the application of section 1593 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to ordering restitution for victims of offenses under chapter 77 of such title.

(2) POLICY FOR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—The Attorney General shall ensure that Federal law enforcement officers are engaged in activities, programs, or operations involving the detection, investigation, and prosecution of covered offenders.

(d) MINIMUM PERIOD OF SUPERVISED RELEASE FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT COMMERCIAL CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.—Section 3583(k) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''1594(c),'' after ''1591,''.

(e) BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS REPORT ON STATE ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROHIBITIONS.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics shall—

(1) prepare an annual report on—

(A) the rates of—

(i) arrest of individuals by State law enforcement officers for a covered offense;

(ii) prosecution (including specific charges) of individuals in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(iii) conviction of individuals in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(B) sentences imposed on individuals convicted in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(2) submit the annual report prepared under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(C) the Task Force;

(D) the Senior Policy Operating Group established under section 105(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(g)); and

(E) the Attorney General.

SEC. 115. SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING EMPOWERMENT ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act''.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (referred to in this section as the ''Council''), which shall provide advice and recommendations to the Senior Policy Operating Group established under section 105(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(g)) (referred to in this section as the ''Group'') and the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking established under section 105(a) of such Act (referred to in this section as the ''Task Force'').

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Council shall be composed of not less than 8 and not more than 14 individuals who are survivors of human trafficking.

(2) REPRESENTATION OF SURVIVORS.—To the extent practicable, members of the Council shall be survivors of trafficking, who shall accurately reflect the diverse backgrounds of survivors of trafficking, including—

(A) survivors of sex trafficking and survivors of labor trafficking; and

(B) survivors who are United States citizens and survivors who are aliens lawfully present in the United States.

(3) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint the members of the Council.

(4) TERM; REAPPOINTMENT.—Each member of the Council shall serve for a term of 2 years and may be reappointed by the President to serve 1 additional 2-year term.

(d) FUNCTIONS.—The Council shall—

(1) be a nongovernmental advisory body to the Group;

(2) meet, at its own discretion or at the request of the Group, not less frequently than annually to review Federal Government policy and programs intended to combat human trafficking, including programs relating to the provision of services for victims and serve as a point of contact for Federal agencies reaching out to human trafficking survivors for input on programming and policies relating to human trafficking in the United States;

(3) formulate assessments and recommendations to ensure that policy and programming efforts of the Federal Government conform, to the extent practicable, to the best practices in the field of human trafficking prevention; and

(4) meet with the Group not less frequently than annually, and not later than 45 days before a meeting with the Task Force, to formally present the findings and recommendations of the Council.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and each year thereafter until the date described in subsection (h), the Council shall submit a report that contains the findings derived from the reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (d)(2) to—

(1) the chair of the Task Force;

(2) the members of the Group;

(3) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, Appropriations, and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Judiciary of the Senate.

(f) EMPLOYEE STATUS.—Members of the Council—

(1) shall not be considered employees of the Federal Government for any purpose; and

(2) shall not receive compensation other than reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem allowance in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Council shall not be subject to the requirements under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(h) SUNSET.—The Council shall terminate on September 30, 2020.

SEC. 116. BRINGING MISSING CHILDREN HOME ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Bringing Missing Children Home Act''.

(b) CRIME CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 3702 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5780) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) a recent photograph of the child, if available;''; and

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)'';

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''60 days'' and inserting ''30 days''; and

(ii) by inserting ''and a photograph taken during the previous 180 days'' after ''dental records'';

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

(E) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of each report received relating to a child reported missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution;'';

(F) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated—

(i) by inserting ''State and local child welfare systems and'' before ''the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) grant permission to the National Crime Information Center Terminal Contractor for the State to update the missing person record in the National Crime Information Center computer networks with additional information learned during the investigation relating to the missing person.''.

SEC. 117. GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered grant'' means a grant awarded by the Attorney General under section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b), as amended by section 103.

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—All covered grants shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of a covered grant to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

(B) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ''unresolved audit finding'' means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of a covered grant that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive a covered grant during the following 2 fiscal years.

(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding covered grants the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years prior to submitting an application for a covered grant.

(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded a covered grant during the 2-fiscal-year period in which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

(i) deposit an amount equal to the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph and covered grants, the term ''nonprofit organization'' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(B) PROHIBITION.—The Attorney General may not award a covered grant to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a covered grant and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subsection available for public inspection.

(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts transferred to the Department of Justice under this title, or the amendments made by this title, may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this title, or the amendments made by this title, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than $20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or such Assistant Attorney Generals, Directors, or principal deputies as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host a conference.

(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food and beverages, audiovisual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all approved conference expenditures referenced in this paragraph.

(D) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this title, the Attorney General shall submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, an annual certification that—

(i) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued;

(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

(iv) includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

(4) PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts awarded under this title, or any amendments made by this title, may not be utilized by any grant recipient to—

(i) lobby any representative of the Department of Justice regarding the award of grant funding; or

(ii) lobby any representative of a Federal, State, local, or tribal government regarding the award of grant funding.

(B) PENALTY.—If the Attorney General determines that any recipient of a covered grant has violated subparagraph (A), the Attorney General shall—

(i) require the grant recipient to repay the grant in full; and

(ii) prohibit the grant recipient from receiving another covered grant for not less than 5 years.

SEC. 118. SAVE ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act of 2015'' or the ''SAVE Act of 2015''.

(b) ADVERTISING THAT OFFERS CERTAIN COMMERCIAL ACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1591(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting ''advertises,'' after ''obtains,''.

(2) MENS REA REQUIREMENT.—Section 1591(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the undesignated matter following paragraph (2), by inserting '', except where the act constituting the violation of paragraph (1) is advertising,'' after ''knowing, or''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1591(b) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''advertised,'' after ''obtained,''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''advertised,'' after ''obtained,''.

SEC. 119. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

The Attorney General shall make available, on the website of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a database for trafficking victim advocates, crisis hotline personnel, foster parents, law enforcement personnel, and crime survivors that contains information on—

(1) counseling and hotline resources;

(2) housing resources;

(3) legal assistance; and

(4) other services for trafficking survivors.

SEC. 120. EXPANDED STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CIVIL ACTIONS BY CHILD TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

Section 1595(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''not later than 10 years after the cause of action arose.'' and inserting ''not later than the later of—

''(1) 10 years after the cause of action arose; or

''(2) 10 years after the victim reaches 18 years of age, if the victim was a minor at the time of the alleged offense.''.

SEC. 121. GAO STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on each program or initiative authorized under this Act and the following statutes and evaluate whether any program or initiative is duplicative:

(1) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–164; 119 Stat. 3558).

(2) Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).

(3) Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.).

(4) Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.).

(5) Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), which shall include—

(1) a description of the cost of any duplicative program or initiative studied under subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations on how to achieve cost savings with respect to each duplicative program or initiative studied under subsection (a).

TITLE II—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Subtitle A—Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking

SEC. 201. AMENDMENTS TO THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 343(b)(5) (42 U.S.C. 5714–23(b)(5))—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting '', severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), and sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))'' before the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by inserting '', severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), or sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))'' after ''assault''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C) by inserting '', including such youth who are victims of trafficking (as defined in section 103(15) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(15)))'' before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in section 351(a) (42 U.S.C. 5714–41(a)) by striking ''or sexual exploitation'' and inserting ''sexual exploitation, severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), or sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))''.

Subtitle B—Improving the Response to Victims of Child Sex Trafficking

SEC. 211. RESPONSE TO VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.

Section 404(b)(1)(P)(iii) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(1)(P)(iii)) is amended by striking ''child prostitution'' and inserting ''child sex trafficking, including child prostitution''.

Subtitle C—Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking

SEC. 221. VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING DEFINED.

In this subtitle, the term ''victim of trafficking'' has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

SEC. 222. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE REPORT ON CHILD TRAFFICKING PRIMARY PREVENTION.

(a) REVIEW.—The Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, established under section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103), shall conduct a review that, with regard to trafficking in persons in the United States—

(1) in consultation with nongovernmental organizations that the Task Force determines appropriate, surveys and catalogs the activities of the Federal Government and State governments—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking;

(2) surveys academic literature on—

(A) deterring individuals from committing trafficking offenses;

(B) preventing children from becoming victims of trafficking;

(C) the commercial sexual exploitation of children; and

(D) other similar topics that the Task Force determines to be appropriate;

(3) identifies best practices and effective strategies—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking; and

(4) identifies current gaps in research and data that would be helpful in formulating effective strategies—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking shall provide to Congress, and make publicly available in electronic format, a report on the review conducted pursuant to subparagraph (a).

SEC. 223. GAO REPORT ON INTERVENTION.

On the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that includes information on—

(1) the efforts of Federal and select State law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking in the United States; and

(2) each Federal grant program, a purpose of which is to combat human trafficking or assist victims of trafficking, as specified in an authorizing statute or in a guidance document issued by the agency carrying out the grant program.

SEC. 224. PROVISION OF HOUSING PERMITTED TO PROTECT AND ASSIST IN THE RECOVERY OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

Section 107(b)(2)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting '', including programs that provide housing to victims of trafficking'' before the period at the end.

Subtitle D—Expanded Training

SEC. 231. EXPANDED TRAINING RELATING TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

Section 105(c)(4) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Appropriate personnel'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Appropriate personnel'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated, by inserting '', including members of the Service (as such term is defined in section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903))'' after ''Department of State''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) TRAINING COMPONENTS.—Training under this paragraph shall include—

''(i) a distance learning course on trafficking-in-persons issues and the Department of State's obligations under this Act, which shall be designed for embassy reporting officers, regional bureaus' trafficking-in-persons coordinators, and their superiors;

''(ii) specific trafficking-in-persons briefings for all ambassadors and deputy chiefs of mission before such individuals depart for their posts; and

''(iii) at least annual reminders to all personnel referred to in clauses (i) and (ii), including appropriate personnel from other Federal departments and agencies, at each diplomatic or consular post of the Department of State located outside the United States of—

''(I) key problems, threats, methods, and warning signs of trafficking in persons specific to the country or jurisdiction in which each such post is located; and

''(II) appropriate procedures to report information that any such personnel may acquire about possible cases of trafficking in persons.''.

TITLE III—HERO ACT

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Human Exploitation Rescue Operations Act of 2015'' or the ''HERO Act of 2015''.

SEC. 302. HERO ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The illegal market for the production and distribution of child abuse imagery is a growing threat to children in the United States. International demand for this material creates a powerful incentive for the rape, abuse, and torture of children within the United States.

(2) The targeting of United States children by international criminal networks is a threat to the homeland security of the United States. This threat must be fought with trained personnel and highly specialized counter-child-exploitation strategies and technologies.

(3) The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security serves a critical national security role in protecting the United States from the growing international threat of child exploitation and human trafficking.

(4) The Cyber Crimes Center of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement is a vital national resource in the effort to combat international child exploitation, providing advanced expertise and assistance in investigations, computer forensics, and victim identification.

(5) The returning military heroes of the United States possess unique and valuable skills that can assist law enforcement in combating global sexual and child exploitation, and the Department of Homeland Security should use this national resource to the maximum extent possible.

(6) Through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program, the returning military heroes of the United States are trained and hired to investigate crimes of child exploitation in order to target predators and rescue children from sexual abuse and slavery.

(b) CYBER CRIMES CENTER, CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT, AND COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 890A. CYBER CRIMES CENTER, CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT, COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT, AND CYBER CRIMES UNIT.

''(a) CYBER CRIMES CENTER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a Cyber Crimes Center (referred to in this section as the 'Center').

''(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Center shall be to provide investigative assistance, training, and equipment to support United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's domestic and international investigations of cyber-related crimes.

''(b) CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Child Exploitation Investigations Unit (referred to in this subsection as the 'CEIU').

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CEIU—

''(A) shall coordinate all United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement child exploitation initiatives, including investigations into—

''(i) child exploitation;

''(ii) child pornography;

''(iii) child victim identification;

''(iv) traveling child sex offenders; and

''(v) forced child labor, including the sexual exploitation of minors;

''(B) shall, among other things, focus on—

''(i) child exploitation prevention;

''(ii) investigative capacity building;

''(iii) enforcement operations; and

''(iv) training for Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel, upon request;

''(C) shall provide training, technical expertise, support, or coordination of child exploitation investigations, as needed, to cooperating law enforcement agencies and personnel;

''(D) shall provide psychological support and counseling services for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel engaged in child exploitation prevention initiatives, including making available other existing services to assist employees who are exposed to child exploitation material during investigations;

''(E) is authorized to collaborate with the Department of Defense and the National Association to Protect Children for the purpose of the recruiting, training, equipping and hiring of wounded, ill, and injured veterans and transitioning service members, through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program; and

''(F) shall collaborate with other governmental, nongovernmental, and nonprofit entities approved by the Secretary for the sponsorship of, and participation in, outreach and training activities.

''(3) DATA COLLECTION.—The CEIU shall collect and maintain data concerning—

''(A) the total number of suspects identified by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

''(B) the number of arrests by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, disaggregated by type, including—

''(i) the number of victims identified through investigations carried out by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

''(ii) the number of suspects arrested who were in positions of trust or authority over children;

''(C) the number of cases opened for investigation by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

''(D) the number of cases resulting in a Federal, State, foreign, or military prosecution.

''(4) AVAILABILITY OF DATA TO CONGRESS.—In addition to submitting the reports required under paragraph (7), the CEIU shall make the data collected and maintained under paragraph (3) available to the committees of Congress described in paragraph (7).

''(5) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CEIU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3).

''(6) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to accept monies and in-kind donations from the Virtual Global Taskforce, national laboratories, Federal agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and educational institutions to create and expand public awareness campaigns in support of the functions of the CEIU.

''(B) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Gifts authorized under subparagraph (A) shall not be subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation for competition when the services provided by the entities referred to in such subparagraph are donated or of minimal cost to the Department.

''(7) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the HERO Act of 2015, and annually for the following 4 years, the CEIU shall—

''(A) submit a report containing a summary of the data collected pursuant to paragraph (3) during the previous year to—

''(i) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

''(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

''(iii) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(iv) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

''(v) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

''(vi) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

''(B) make a copy of each report submitted under subparagraph (A) publicly available on the website of the Department.

''(c) COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Computer Forensics Unit (referred to in this subsection as the 'CFU').

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CFU—

''(A) shall provide training and technical support in digital forensics to—

''(i) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel; and

''(ii) Federal, State, local, tribal, military, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged in the investigation of crimes within their respective jurisdictions, upon request and subject to the availability of funds;

''(B) shall provide computer hardware, software, and forensic licenses for all computer forensics personnel within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

''(C) shall participate in research and development in the area of digital forensics, in coordination with appropriate components of the Department; and

''(D) is authorized to collaborate with the Department of Defense and the National Association to Protect Children for the purpose of recruiting, training, equipping, and hiring wounded, ill, and injured veterans and transitioning service members, through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program.

''(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CFU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraph (2).

''(4) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to accept monies and in-kind donations from the Virtual Global Task Force, national laboratories, Federal agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and educational institutions to create and expand public awareness campaigns in support of the functions of the CFU.

''(B) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Gifts authorized under subparagraph (A) shall not be subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation for competition when the services provided by the entities referred to in such subparagraph are donated or of minimal cost to the Department.

''(d) CYBER CRIMES UNIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Cyber Crimes Unit (referred to in this subsection as the 'CCU').

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CCU—

''(A) shall oversee the cyber security strategy and cyber-related operations and programs for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

''(B) shall enhance United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's ability to combat criminal enterprises operating on or through the Internet, with specific focus in the areas of—

''(i) cyber economic crime;

''(ii) digital theft of intellectual property;

''(iii) illicit e-commerce (including hidden marketplaces);

''(iv) Internet-facilitated proliferation of arms and strategic technology; and

''(v) cyber-enabled smuggling and money laundering;

''(C) shall provide training and technical support in cyber investigations to—

''(i) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel; and

''(ii) Federal, State, local, tribal, military, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged in the investigation of crimes within their respective jurisdictions, upon request and subject to the availability of funds;

''(D) shall participate in research and development in the area of cyber investigations, in coordination with appropriate components of the Department; and

''(E) is authorized to recruit participants of the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program for investigative and forensic positions in support of the functions of the CCU.

''(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CCU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraph (2).

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.''.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 890 the following:

''Sec. 890A. Cyber crimes center, child exploitation investigations unit, computer forensics unit, and cyber crimes unit.''.

(c) HERO CORPS HIRING.—It is the sense of Congress that Homeland Security Investigations of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement should hire, recruit, train, and equip wounded, ill, or injured military veterans (as defined in section 101, title 38, United States Code) who are affiliated with the HERO Child Rescue Corps program for investigative, intelligence, analyst, and forensic positions.

(d) INVESTIGATING CHILD EXPLOITATION.—Section 307(b)(3) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 187(b)(3)) is amended—

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

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) conduct research and development for the purpose of advancing technology for the investigation of child exploitation crimes, including child victim identification, trafficking in persons, and child pornography, and for advanced forensics.''.

SEC. 303. TRANSPORTATION FOR ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND RELATED CRIMES.

Chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking section 2421 and inserting the following:

"§ 2421. Transportation generally

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly transports any individual in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, with intent that such individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

''(b) REQUESTS TO PROSECUTE VIOLATIONS BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall grant a request by a State attorney general that a State or local attorney be cross designated to prosecute a violation of this section unless the Attorney General determines that granting the request would undermine the administration of justice.

''(2) REASON FOR DENIAL.—If the Attorney General denies a request under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall submit to the State attorney general a detailed reason for the denial not later than 60 days after the date on which a request is received.''.

TITLE IV—RAPE SURVIVOR CHILD CUSTODY

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Rape Survivor Child Custody Act''.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COVERED FORMULA GRANT.—The term ''covered formula grant'' means a grant under—

(A) part T of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg et seq.) (commonly referred to as the ''STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program''); or

(B) section 41601 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043g) (commonly referred to as the ''Sexual Assault Services Program'').

(2) TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''termination'' means, when used with respect to parental rights, a complete and final termination of the parent's right to custody of, guardianship of, visitation with, access to, and inheritance from a child.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require a State, in order to receive an increase in the amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants under this title, to have in place a law that terminates any obligation of a person who fathered a child through rape to support the child.

SEC. 403. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Men who father children through rape should be prohibited from visiting or having custody of those children.

(2) Thousands of rape-related pregnancies occur annually in the United States.

(3) A substantial number of women choose to raise their child conceived through rape and, as a result, may face custody battles with their rapists.

(4) Rape is one of the most under-prosecuted serious crimes, with estimates of criminal conviction occurring in less than 5 percent of rapes.

(5) The clear and convincing evidence standard is the most common standard for termination of parental rights among the 50 States, territories, and the District of Columbia.

(6) The Supreme Court established that the clear and convincing evidence standard satisfies due process for allegations to terminate or restrict parental rights in Santosky v. Kramer (455 U.S. 745 (1982)).

(7) Currently only 10 States have statutes allowing rape survivors to petition for the termination of parental rights of the rapist based on clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived through rape.

(8) A rapist pursuing parental or custody rights causes the survivor to have continued interaction with the rapist, which can have traumatic psychological effects on the survivor, and can make it more difficult for her to recover.

(9) These traumatic effects on the mother can severely negatively impact her ability to raise a healthy child.

(10) Rapists may use the threat of pursuing custody or parental rights to coerce survivors into not prosecuting rape, or otherwise harass, intimidate, or manipulate them.

SEC. 404. INCREASED FUNDING FOR FORMULA GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

The Attorney General shall increase the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants in accordance with this title if the State has in place a law that allows the mother of any child that was conceived through rape to seek court-ordered termination of the parental rights of her rapist with regard to that child, which the court is authorized to grant upon clear and convincing evidence of rape.

SEC. 405. APPLICATION.

A State seeking an increase in the amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants shall include in the application of the State for each covered formula grant such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require, including information about the law described in section 404.

SEC. 406. GRANT INCREASE.

The amount of the increase provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title shall be equal to not more than 10 percent of the average of the total amount of funding provided to the State under the covered formula grants under the 3 most recent awards to the State.

SEC. 407. PERIOD OF INCREASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall provide an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title for a 2-year period.

(b) LIMIT.—The Attorney General may not provide an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title more than 4 times.

SEC. 408. ALLOCATION OF INCREASED FORMULA GRANT FUNDS.

The Attorney General shall allocate an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title such that—

(1) 25 percent the amount of the increase is provided under the program described in section 402(1)(A); and

(2) 75 percent the amount of the increase is provided under the program described in section 402(1)(B).

SEC. 409. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

TITLE V—MILITARY SEX OFFENDER REPORTING

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Military Sex Offender Reporting Act of 2015''.

SEC. 502. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act is amended by inserting after section 128 (42 U.S.C. 16928) the following:

''SEC. 128A. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

''The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Attorney General the information described in section 114 to be included in the National Sex Offender Registry and the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website regarding persons—

''(1)(A) released from military corrections facilities; or

''(B) convicted if the sentences adjudged by courts-martial under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), do not include confinement; and

''(2) required to register under this title.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 128 the following:

''Sec. 128A. Registration of sex offenders released from military corrections facilities or upon conviction.''.

TITLE VI—STOPPING EXPLOITATION THROUGH TRAFFICKING

SEC. 601. SAFE HARBOR INCENTIVES.

Part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1701(c), by striking ''where feasible'' and all that follows, and inserting the following: ''where feasible, to an application—

''(1) for hiring and rehiring additional career law enforcement officers that involves a non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent minimum under subsection (g); or

''(2) from an applicant in a State that has in effect a law that—

''(A) treats a minor who has engaged in, or has attempted to engage in, a commercial sex act as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons;

''(B) discourages or prohibits the charging or prosecution of an individual described in subparagraph (A) for a prostitution or sex trafficking offense, based on the conduct described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) encourages the diversion of an individual described in subparagraph (A) to appropriate service providers, including child welfare services, victim treatment programs, child advocacy centers, rape crisis centers, or other social services.''; and

(2) in section 1709, by inserting at the end the following:

''(5) 'commercial sex act' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

''(6) 'minor' means an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

''(7) 'severe form of trafficking in persons' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).''.

SEC. 602. REPORT ON RESTITUTION PAID IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN TRAFFICKING OFFENSES.

Section 105(d)(7)(Q) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(d)(7)(Q)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after ''1590,'' the following: ''1591,'';

(2) by striking ''and 1594'' and inserting ''1594, 2251, 2251A, 2421, 2422, and 2423'';

(3) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(4) in clause (v), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(5) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

''(vi) the number of individuals required by a court order to pay restitution in connection with a violation of each offense under title 18, United States Code, the amount of restitution required to be paid under each such order, and the amount of restitution actually paid pursuant to each such order; and

''(vii) the age, gender, race, country of origin, country of citizenship, and description of the role in the offense of individuals convicted under each offense; and''.

SEC. 603. NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.

Section 107(b)(1)(B) of the Victims of Crime Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Subject'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.—Beginning in fiscal year 2017, and in each fiscal year thereafter, of amounts made available for grants under paragraph (2), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make grants for a national communication system to assist victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons in communicating with service providers. The Secretary shall give priority to grant applicants that have experience in providing telephone services to victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.''.

SEC. 604. JOB CORPS ELIGIBILITY.

Section 144(a)(3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3194(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) A victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)). Notwithstanding paragraph (2), an individual described in this subparagraph shall not be required to demonstrate eligibility under such paragraph.''.

SEC. 605. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE.

Section 566(e)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

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

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) assist State, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies, upon the request of such an agency, in locating and recovering missing children.''.

SEC. 606. ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall implement and maintain a National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking (referred to in this section as the ''National Strategy'') in accordance with this section.

(b) REQUIRED CONTENTS OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.—The National Strategy shall include the following:

(1) Integrated Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, including—

(A) the development by each United States attorney, in consultation with State, local, and tribal government agencies, of a district-specific strategic plan to coordinate the identification of victims and the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes;

(B) the appointment of not fewer than 1 assistant United States attorney in each district dedicated to the prosecution of human trafficking cases or responsible for implementing the National Strategy;

(C) the participation in any Federal, State, local, or tribal human trafficking task force operating in the district of the United States attorney; and

(D) any other efforts intended to enhance the level of coordination and cooperation, as determined by the Attorney General.

(2) Case coordination within the Department of Justice, including specific integration, coordination, and collaboration, as appropriate, on human trafficking investigations between and among the United States attorneys, the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(3) Annual budget priorities and Federal efforts dedicated to preventing and combating human trafficking, including resources dedicated to the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and all other entities that receive Federal support that have a goal or mission to combat the exploitation of adults and children.

(4) An ongoing assessment of the future trends, challenges, and opportunities, including new investigative strategies, techniques, and technologies, that will enhance Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to combat human trafficking.

(5) Encouragement of cooperation, coordination, and mutual support between private sector and other entities and organizations and Federal agencies to combat human trafficking, including the involvement of State, local, and tribal government agencies to the extent Federal programs are involved.

TITLE VII—TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2015''.

SEC. 702. DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.

(a) GRANT OR CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, and in consultation with the Administration on Children and Families and other agencies with experience in serving victims of human trafficking, shall award, on a competitive basis, a grant or contract to an eligible entity to train health care professionals to recognize and respond to victims of a severe form of trafficking.

(2) DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES.—An entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall develop evidence-based best practices for health care professionals to recognize and respond to victims of a severe form of trafficking, including—

(A) consultation with law enforcement officials, social service providers, health professionals, experts in the field of human trafficking, and other experts, as appropriate, to inform the development of such best practices;

(B) the identification of any existing best practices or tools for health professionals to recognize potential victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(C) the development of educational materials to train health care professionals on the best practices developed under this subsection.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Best practices developed under this subsection shall address—

(A) risk factors and indicators to recognize victims of a severe form of trafficking;

(B) patient safety and security;

(C) the management of medical records of patients who are victims of a severe form of trafficking;

(D) public and private social services available for rescue, food, clothing, and shelter referrals;

(E) the hotlines for reporting human trafficking maintained by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and the Department of Homeland Security;

(F) validated assessment tools for the identification of victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(G) referral options and procedures for sharing information on human trafficking with a patient and making referrals for legal and social services as appropriate.

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—An entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall design and implement a pilot program to test the best practices and educational materials identified or developed with respect to the recognition of victims of human trafficking by health professionals at health care sites located near an established anti-human trafficking task force initiative in each of the 10 administrative regions of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(5) ANALYSIS AND REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date on which an entity implements a pilot program under paragraph (4), the entity shall—

(A) analyze the results of the pilot programs, including through an assessment of—

(i) changes in the skills, knowledge, and attitude of health care professionals resulting from the implementation of the program;

(ii) the number of victims of a severe form of trafficking who were identified under the program;

(iii) of those victims identified, the number who received information or referrals for services offered; and

(iv) of those victims who received such information or referrals—

(I) the number who participated in follow up services; and

(II) the type of follow up services received;

(B) determine, using the results of the analysis conducted under subparagraph (A), the extent to which the best practices developed under this subsection are evidence-based; and

(C) submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services a report concerning the pilot program and the analysis of the pilot program under subparagraph (A), including an identification of the best practices that were identified as effective and those that require further review.

(b) DISSEMINATION.—Not later than 30 months after date on which a grant is awarded to an eligible entity under subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) collaborate with appropriate professional associations and health care professional schools to disseminate best practices identified or developed under subsection (a) for purposes of recognizing potential victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(2) post on the public website of the Department of Health and Human Services the best practices that are identified by the as effective under subsection (a)(5).

SEC. 703. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) The term ''eligible entity'' means an accredited school of medicine or nursing with experience in the study or treatment of victims of a severe form of trafficking.

(2) The term ''eligible site'' means a health center that is receiving assistance under section 330, 399Z–1, or 1001 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b, 280h–5, and 300).

(3) The term ''health care professional'' means a person employed by a health care provider who provides to patients information (including information not related to medical treatment), scheduling, services, or referrals.

(4) The term ''HIPAA privacy and security law'' has the meaning given to such term in section 3009 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300jj–19).

(5) The term ''victim of a severe form of trafficking'' has the meaning given to such

term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

SEC. 704. NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, and this title shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

TITLE VIII—BETTER RESPONSE FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking''.

SEC. 802. CAPTA AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) made by this section shall take effect 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) STATE PLANS.—Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)—

(A) in clause (xxii), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(xxiv) provisions and procedures requiring identification and assessment of all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102 (10)); and

''(xxv) provisions and procedures for training child protective services workers about identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with State law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters to serve this population;''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

''(17) The number of children determined to be victims described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxiv).''.

(c) SPECIAL RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended—

(A) by striking ''For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) SPECIAL RULE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4), a child shall be considered a victim of 'child abuse and neglect' and of 'sexual abuse' if the child is identified, by a State or local agency employee of the State or locality involved, as being a victim of sex trafficking (as defined in paragraph (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) or a victim of severe forms of trafficking in persons described in paragraph (9)(A) of that section.

''(2) STATE OPTION.—Notwithstanding the definition of 'child' in section 3(1), a State may elect to define that term for purposes of the application of paragraph (1) to section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4) as a person who has not attained the age of 24.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(2) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by inserting ''(including sexual abuse as determined under section 111)'' after ''sexual abuse or exploitation''.

(3) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Paragraph (5)(C) of subsection (a), as so designated, of section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended by striking ''inhumane;'' and inserting ''inhumane.''.

TITLE IX—ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PERSONNEL

SEC. 901. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—The term ''human trafficking'' means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

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

SEC. 902. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement a program to—

(1) train and periodically retrain relevant Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Department personnel that the Secretary considers appropriate, with respect to how to effectively deter, detect, and disrupt human trafficking, and, where appropriate, interdict a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking, during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities; and

(2) ensure that the personnel referred to in paragraph (1) regularly receive current information on matters related to the detection of human trafficking, including information that becomes available outside of the Department's initial or periodic retraining schedule, to the extent relevant to their official duties and consistent with applicable information and privacy laws.

(b) TRAINING DESCRIBED.—The training referred to in subsection (a) may be conducted through in-class or virtual learning capabilities, and shall include—

(1) methods for identifying suspected victims of human trafficking and, where appropriate, perpetrators of human trafficking;

(2) for appropriate personnel, methods to approach a suspected victim of human trafficking, where appropriate, in a manner that is sensitive to the suspected victim and is not likely to alert a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking;

(3) training that is most appropriate for a particular location or environment in which the personnel receiving such training perform their official duties;

(4) other topics determined by the Secretary to be appropriate; and

(5) a post-training evaluation for personnel receiving the training.

(c) TRAINING CURRICULUM REVIEW.—The Secretary shall annually reassess the training program established under subsection (a) to ensure it is consistent with current techniques, patterns, and trends associated with human trafficking.

SEC. 903. CERTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to Congress that all personnel referred to in section 402(a) have successfully completed the training required under that section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to Congress with respect to the overall effectiveness of the program required by this title, the number of cases reported by Department personnel in which human trafficking was suspected, and, of those cases, the number of cases that were confirmed cases of human trafficking.

SEC. 904. ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.

The Secretary may provide training curricula to any State, local, or tribal government or private organization to assist the government or organization in establishing a program of training to identify human trafficking, upon request from the government or organization.

SEC. 905. EXPANDED USE OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

Section 3014(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101 of this Act, is amended—

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

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) section 106 of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17616).''.

TITLE X—HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF AND EMPOWERMENT ACT

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Human Trafficking Survivors Relief and Empowerment Act of 2015''.

SEC. 1002. PROTECTIONS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

Section 1701(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd(c)) is amended by striking ''where feasible'' and all that follows, and inserting the following: ''where feasible, to an application—

''(1) for hiring and rehiring additional career law enforcement officers that involves a non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent minimum under subsection (g); or

''(2) from an applicant in a State that has in effect a law—

''(A) that—

''(i) provides a process by which an individual who is a human trafficking survivor can move to vacate any arrest or conviction records for a non-violent offense committed as a direct result of human trafficking, including prostitution or lewdness;

''(ii) establishes a rebuttable presumption that any arrest or conviction of an individual for an offense associated with human trafficking is a result of being trafficked, if the individual—

''(I) is a person granted nonimmigrant status pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(T)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T)(i));

''(II) is the subject of a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 107(b)(1)(E) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(E)); or

''(III) has other similar documentation of trafficking, which has been issued by a Federal, State, or local agency; and

''(iii) protects the identity of individuals who are human trafficking survivors in public and court records; and

''(B) that does not require an individual who is a human trafficking survivor to provide official documentation as described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of subparagraph (A)(ii) in order to receive protection under the law.''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on an amendment that I was pleased to include in the human trafficking legislation that was passed earlier today. The amendment was based on the Human Trafficking Survivors Relief and Empowerment Act, which I introduced several weeks ago.

It has a simple purpose. It provides an incentive for States to enact laws that allow human trafficking survivors to clear their criminal records of prostitution and other low-level, nonviolent crimes that they can reasonably demonstrate were the result of being trafficked.

Many States, including my home State of New Hampshire, have vacatur laws in place. However, we need to ensure that survivors of human trafficking have access to these types of protections no matter where they are rescued, or what State they were forced to commit crimes in.

When I first introduced this legislation, I shared the story of a young woman named Katie featured in a recent NPR story on vacatur laws. In the story, she spoke about her heartbreaking experience as a trafficking victim.

Katie talked about being raped at age 11, and at age 13 being forced into commercial sex.

She talked about having her skull cracked and ribs broken, and about the regular beatings that resulted in bruises and black eyes. She talked about 7 years of the worst kinds of physical and emotional torture, and being transported nearly 1,400 miles from her home.

But Katie also talked about her recovery—about rebuilding a life with her family and young son, about working hard to make a better life.

According to Katie, one of the most important things we can do for these survivors, these brave young men and women, is to give them the tools to start over.

As Katie told NPR, ''I'm not ever going to forget what I've done, but at the same time, I don't want it thrown in my face every time I'm trying to seek employment.''

Survivors of human trafficking are victims of a crime. Yet often it is the victims who are arrested, detained, prosecuted, and convicted.

Records of these crimes, can follow survivors for life. These records limit access to safe housing and good jobs. They can even bar access to car loans and educational opportunities. They leave trafficking survivors with few options, and in some cases drive individuals back to engaging in commercial sex.

Vacatur laws help victims start fresh. They are a critical part of recovery and should be available in every State, and my amendment will help us achieve that goal.

I will close by sharing comments that Katie's mom recently sent to my office. It think it clearly demonstrates what is possible when survivors are given the time and support they need to recover.

She wrote:

> As a mother and as a woman watching all those years, being totally overwhelmed by hopelessness AND helplessness, I can see a positive . . . . I think the 11 year old girl I lost is coming back to me . . . as a woman—a little battle weary but stronger and happier and filled with so much hope.

We want this kind of new beginning for every victim of trafficking. And that is exactly what this provision will help accomplish. I want to thank my colleagues for their support, and hope this bill will move quickly through the House and to the President for signature into law.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, widely recognized as the first genocide of the 20th century.

April 24, 1915 marked the beginning of a horrific period in our world's history and for the Armenian people. On this day, agents of the Ottoman Empire rounded up and executed Armenian community leaders, poets, and intellectuals. What ensued was the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government. From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the attempted destruction of the Armenian people for no reason other than their very existence.

Unfortunately, the events surrounding the Armenian genocide are fraught with denial. But the case is simple. When Raphael Lemkin coined the term ''genocide'' in the 1940s, he had what happened to the Armenians in mind as a definitive example.

Those who perished experienced some of the worst aspects of humanity. But the campaign to exterminate the Armenian people failed. And those who survived embodied the best qualities of the human spirit: hope, resilience, perseverance, and love. Some survivors made their way to America, and many of them built their new lives in Michigan. They have created thriving communities, built businesses, raised families, and contributed to the fabric of what makes the State of Michigan so great. Their descendants carry on these values, and the richness of their culture is part of what gives vibrancy to our State.

The Armenians in Michigan boast a community of well over 20,000. It is the largest in the Midwest, and I am proud to represent them. To commemorate the 100th anniversary, Michigan's Armenian community has organized a number of events, lectures, art exhibits, concerts, and vigils to remember the victims of the genocide, to educate their communities, and to look to the future. I applaud their efforts to preserve their culture and identity.

Over the last century, the Armenians of Michigan erected churches, established community centers, and built a day school. They also founded educational centers such as the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. International language and linguistics courses at Wayne State University are located in Manoogian Hall, which was named after the notable Detroit-Armenian philanthropist and businessman Alex Manoogian. These are just part of the Armenian community's contributions to Michigan.

While Armenians have found prosperity in their new home, they have not forgotten those who did not live to see what the future held for their people. Many of Michigan's Armenian community members have written books and recorded accounts of what happened to their families in 1915 in an effort to shed light and increase awareness. These stories will carry on for generations, and remind us all that if we do not recognize the atrocities of the past we risk blinding ourselves to the atrocities that could still occur today.

Charging toward a peaceful future requires making peace with the past. Denial does not serve our American values. Denial minimizes the great tragedy that fell upon the victims, the survivors, and their descendants. Over 40 States have affirmed the Armenian genocide, including Michigan. I have called on, and will continue to call on, the President to formally recognize that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people were in fact genocide.

Recognition of the Armenian genocide is long overdue. A crime like this casts a long shadow. This shadow can be conquered only by light—the light of truth that comes from fully acknowledging the full scale of the horror that the Armenians endured.

EARTH DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today is Earth Day, and on Earth Day it is important for all of us to reflect not only on how human activity impacts the environment but also how those impacts on the environment affect people.

Unfortunately, one of the impacts of climate change that is increasingly being documented by the military and intelligence communities is that climate change is a threat to our national security. This threat takes many forms. Perhaps the simplest manifestation is the threat of sea level rise on the Pentagon's 700 costal facilities. Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia is the largest naval base in the world, but the station and the surrounding community is being inundated by coastal

flooding from sea level rise. Norfolk is experiencing high tides 1½ feet higher than it did a century ago. This has already caused the naval base to have to abandon some piers, but perhaps the real worry is how flooding could prevent sailors from reaching the base during a weather event. One local minister quipped to the Washington Post that the local church that is now up for sale faced the prospect of putting ''the tide chart on their Web site'' so people would know whether they could get to church.

Norfolk and the Navy are exploring various solutions, including a costly flood gate proposal, but the reality is that Naval Station Norfolk and U.S. Navy infrastructure around the world is at threat around the world, and in a time of tightening budgets, that can have real impacts on military readiness.

A similar problem exists in my home State, in Annapolis, home to the U.S. Naval Academy. NOAA's 2014 ''Sea Level Rise and Nuisance Flood Frequency Changes Around the United States'' found that ''Annapolis and Baltimore, Maryland, lead the list with an increase in number of flood days of more than 920 percent since 1960.'' NOAA goes on to conclude that sea level rise in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay is the cause of these ''nuisance flooding'' events.

On Monday, I visited the Patuxant River Naval Air Station in Southern Maryland on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. I raised the issue of how sea level rise is expected to affect the important work this installation does to ensure our Navy's defense preparedness and aircraft testing and what sort of preparation and mitigation work they were doing to meet these imminent challenges.

Critical to the function of Pax River's operations is that the base be located at sea level, so if sea level is changing, even by just a few feet, they have to account for these changes and essentially raise the base. Fortunately, the Navy is already putting a lot of thought into this issue; however, the infrastructure adaptation and mitigation projects that are essential to keeping our military prepared are coming at the expense of the taxpayer.

Climate change is also a threat to national security because it can serve as a threat multiplier. For as long as there have been humans, there has been conflict over resources, especially when those resources are scarce and essential. Many national security and defense experts have commented on how climate change's impacts on food production, freshwater resources, and the destruction of critical infrastructure is contributing to political instability in a number of countries, particularly in developing countries where political leadership is already tenuous.

As former colonel and current Department of Defense consultant Pete Newell put it, ''As a precursor to conflict, lack of access to basic human needs is a major driver and it's only getting worse.''

Prolonged drought and other serious environmental disasters are also made more likely in a warming world, and these kinds of conditions can overwhelm governments and cause government collapse.

The potential of conflict, radicalism, and terrorism are heightened when states fail.

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Michael Mullin, was quoted in the DOD's 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review:

> The scarcity of and potential competition for resources . . . compounded by the influx of refugees . . . creates conditions of hopelessness that could lead to failed states and make populations vulnerable to radicalization.

CNA Corporation's Military Advisory Board issued a 2014 report titled ''National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change ''calling for political leadership to address the causes and impacts of climate change:

> The national security risks of projected climate change are as serious as any challenges we have faced . . . .Political posturing and budgetary woes cannot be allowed to inhibit discussion and debate over what so many believe to be a salient national security concern for our nation.

Scholars at U.C. Santa Barbara and Columbia University have shown how Syria is an example of how climate change can help create conditions that lead to conflict. The ongoing tragedy of ISIS cannot be explained by any one single cause, but studies are pointing to climate change as an important factor.

Between 2006 and 2010, Syria experienced its worst drought in decades. Reportedly this caused crop failure on 60 percent of Syria's arable land and the country lost 8o percent of its head of cattle.

Rural farmers had nowhere to go but to Syria's cities. Syria's Government, which was already dealing with 1 million displaced people from Iraq, was overwhelmed by an influx of 1 million people internally displaced by drought.

As we know all too well from recent history, failed states and the chaotic conditions within them are breeding grounds of terrorism and radicalism such as that practiced by ISIS.

Climate change helped create stresses on the Syrian Government it could not handle, and its collapse has helped lead to the emergence of ISIS.

Leaders and experts attribute other global conflicts to climate change. Ban Ki-moon holds that violence in Darfur was sparked by a decline in rainfall that devastated cattle herds. Others believe that the 2011 Arab spring relates to heat waves that forced cereal-exporting countries to take grain off the global market.

A severe drought in the Horn of Africa has starved off tens of thousands of Somalis, and many more are on the brink of starvation in crowded refugee camps nearby. This displacement and desperation can only compound other crises and issues, such as civil conflict, fragile societies, and underdevelopment.

Many Pacific Island nations, such as Kiribati and Tuvalu, are being swallowed up by the ocean.

While no single extreme weather event can be attributed to climate change, and the Earth has certainly experienced hurricanes and cyclones since the dawn of time, what is worth noting is the trend in increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather events is clear. Since 2000, there have been 18 category 5 hurricanes and cyclones—18 storms in the last 14 years. The previous 18 category 5 storms occurred over a 39-year period from 1961 to 2000. In other words, the phenomenon is becoming a more common occurrence in our world.

Last month, Cyclone Pam quite literally leveled the island nation of Vanuatu in the South Pacific. An overwhelming majority of the island's structures were destroyed. As the days went on and the media began to lose focus on the humanitarian crisis that was unfolding, access to food and freshwater became increasingly difficult for the people of Vanuatu. Foreign aid has slowly made its way to the stricken people of Vanuatu. The World Health Organization has noted a rise in illnesses related to lack of access to safe drinking water and exposure to mosquito-borne diseases.

We must remain mindful of the pace and quality of recovery efforts in Vanuatu. Cyclone Pam has created a situation that could very easily destabilize the government if conditions on the ground in Vanuatu do not continue to improve.

Extremist organizations feed on instability and chaos, and if the people of Vanuatu feel their government is not adequately addressing their needs in a timely fashion, concerned nations need to be vigilant of what forces may take hold.

As climate change worsens, more countries may become vulnerable to its effects. Lack of food, water, and living space is displacing and killing people.

To protect our national security, we need to listen to the Department of Defense and an emerging group of scholars who are showing the connections between climate change and conflict. That means heeding the warnings of humanitarian need, providing adequate aid to maintain stability during crises, and helping vulnerable countries build resilient infrastructure. But most fundamentally it means we need to fight climate change. Global warming pollution is harming our planet, harming nature, and endangering wildlife.

But Earth Day is not just about the Earth; it is also about the people inhabit it. Let's remember the most severe human impacts of climate, its impacts on our national security, and avert the worst affects of global warming.

Let's do justice to Earth Day and make fighting climate change a true national priority.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE SAINTS JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School girls varsity basketball team from Philadelphia, PA. After an undefeated 2014–2015 season, the Neumann-Goretti Lady Saints achieved the No. 1 rank in the Nation and were named the national champions of all high school basketball teams. This remarkable achievement demonstrates the fortitude and talent of the team, its leadership and the school.

Under head coach Andrea Peterson, the Lady-Saints dominated their regular season, securing their playoff berth when they earned their second consecutive Philadelphia Catholic League Championship. The Lady-Saints continued their streak, winning the PIAA District XII AA City Championship and earning a top seed in the Pennsylvania State tournament.

After earning wins with large margins in all four rounds of the Pennsylvania State tournament, the Neumann-Goretti team entered the State championship game against the Seton-La-Salle Rebels of Pittsburgh. Dominating the game with a score of 79–34, the Lady Saints earned the Pennsylvania State championship title. This monumental season resulted in national recognition by USA TODAY, ESPN, CBS MaxPreps, and Blue Star Media. The team was also named team of the year for the Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania region by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

I am proud to join the city of Philadelphia in celebrating the performance of senior players Ciani Cryor, Sianni Martin, A.J. Timbers, Christina Aborowa, Melanie Schoolfield, Kaschae Harris, and honorary team member Amanda Brett. I also congratulate returning players Felicia Aiyeotan, Erica Brown, Minika Glenn, Jabria Ingram, Alisha Kebbe, Jada Russell, Kamiah Smalls, Jaylen Durrett, Shayla Green, Daijah Parmley, and Chyna Wooten. I wish all of these players well as they continue their academic careers.

The Neumann-Goretti Lady-Saints, Head Coach Peterson, Assistant Coach Kat Scanlan, Ms. Letty Santarelli and the entire Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School should take great pride in this achievement. Their accomplishments are celebrated by the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I wish the team and the community every success in their future endeavors.•

JOB CORPS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the Job Corps program, which trains our Nation's young people to see and create a viable future. This year, they celebrate their 50th anniversary. In my State, Alaska, our Job Corps Center is now 20 years old. In that time, it has graduated over 5,000 students. At any of Alaska's hospitals, businesses, government offices, native corporations, contractors, electrical or telecom companies, nursing facilities, accounting firms, banks, water plants, and prestigious restaurants, you will always find successfully employed Alaska Job Corps graduates. These former students are now taxpayers and so proud of their achievements. I stand with them, as their proud Senator. These alumni look favorably upon their time at Alaska's Job Corps Center as a time that made an enormous difference in their lives; oftentimes the difference between safety and danger, success and failure, and wealth and poverty. This program works. It has a heart that never stops beating the supportive drumbeat of success and training for our young people.•

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:22 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, without amendment:

S.535. An act to promote energy efficiency.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 471. An act to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 21. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 25. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 471. An act to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and referred as indicated:

S. 782. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 710. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1035. A bill to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes.

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. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LEE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 1036. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans for the protection and recovery of sage-grouse species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 1037. A bill to expand the provisions for termination of mandatory purchase requirements under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 1038. A bill to clarify that no express or implied warranty is provided by reason of a disclosure relating to voluntary participation in the Energy Star program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH:

S. 1039. A bill to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans to achieve energy cost savings; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1040. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Academy of Sciences to study the vehicle handling requirements proposed by the Commission for recreational off-highway vehicles and to prohibit the adoption of any such requirements until the completion of the study, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 1041. A bill to eliminate certain subsidies for fossil-fuel production; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. REED):

S. 1042. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the

outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1043. A bill to ensure that transportation and infrastructure projects carried out using Federal financial assistance are constructed with steel, iron, and manufactured goods that are produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1044. A bill to enhance consumer access to electricity information and allow for the adoption of innovative products and services to help consumers manage their energy usage; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1045. A bill to protect 10th Amendment rights by providing special standing for State government officials to challenge proposed regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 1046. A bill to accelerate the adoption of smart building technologies in the private sector and key Federal agencies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 1047. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to review rulemaking proceedings of other Federal agencies for the potential to cause an adverse effect on the cost, time, or difficulty of complying with energy efficiency regulations, guidelines, or standards; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 1048. A bill to remove the authority of the Secretary of Energy to amend or issue new energy efficiency standards for ceiling fans; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 1049. A bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1050. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 by establishing a program to support the modernization, renovation, or repair of career and technical education facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1051. A bill to include county and municipal correctional facilities among medical facilities that qualify for designation as health professional shortage areas for purposes of the National Health Service Corps; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1052. A bill to require a study on the impact of State and local performance benchmarking and disclosure policies for commercial and multifamily buildings, to provide for competitive awards to utilities, States, and units of local government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1053. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to promote alternative fueled vehicle fleets and infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 1054. A bill to improve the productivity and energy efficiency of the manufacturing sector by directing the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with the National Academies and other appropriate Federal agencies, to develop a national smart manufacturing plan and to provide assistance to small- and medium-sized manufacturers in implementing smart manufacturing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1055. A bill to require the Administrator of General Services and the Secretary of Energy to set goals for deep energy retrofits in Federal buildings; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 1056. A bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1057. A bill to promote geothermal energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 1058. A bill to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1059. A bill to provide Dreamer students with access to student financial aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1060. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1061. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1062. A bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1063. A bill to amend title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a Federal energy efficiency resource standard for electricity and natural gas suppliers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. VITTER):

S. Res. 144. A resolution supporting the mission and goals of 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of, and services available to assist, victims and survivors of crime in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 145. A resolution supporting the designation of April 2015, as ''Parkinson's Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PERDUE, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 146. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 13 through April 17, 2015, as ''National Assistant Principals Week'' ; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 147. A resolution designating Donald A. Ritchie as Historian Emeritus of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 142

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 142, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 165

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 165, a bill to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 182

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to prohibit Federal education mandates, and for other purposes.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 483

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 483, a bill to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and for other purposes.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 615, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 682, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage orginator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 744

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 744, a bill to rescind certain Federal funds identified by States as unwanted and use the funds to reduce the Federal debt.

S. 898

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 922

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 922, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of foreign corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 925

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 925, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to convene a panel of citizens to make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding the likeness of a woman on the twenty dollar bill, and for other purposes.

S. 930

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 930, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

S. 957

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 957, a bill to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs.

S. 966

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 966, a bill to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration.

S. 967

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 967, a bill to require the Small Business Administration to make information relating to lenders making covered loans publicly available, and for other purposes.

S. 997

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, a bill to extend the authorization for the major medical facility project to replace the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Aurora, Colorado, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to manage the construction of such project, to transfer the authority to carry out future major medical facility projects of the Department from the Secretary to the Army Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

S. 1001

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1001, a bill to establish authorization levels for general business loans for fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

S. 1016

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1016, a bill to preserve freedom and choice in health care.

S. RES. 140

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 140, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

AMENDMENT NO. 290

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 290 proposed to S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 1049. A bill to allow the financing by United States persons of sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce today with my friend from Arkansas, Senator BOOZMAN, a bill which will increase our agricultural producer's competitiveness and exports into Cuba, a nation just 90 miles off our southern coast. This timely bill would make relatively simple changes to our country's burdensome regulations and help make our agricultural exporters more competitive at a time in which expanding sales and supporting prices is incredibly important.

When people think of Cuba, they don't usually think of North Dakota, but they should. When I traveled to Cuba with Senators TESTER and SANDERS last year, I saw first-hand just how compatible North Dakota's agricultural production is with the diet of the Cuban people. There are incredible export opportunities for North Dakota's pulse producers, along with exports of soybean products, corn, wheat, barley, beef, and more. Unfortunately, under current regulations, our government is preventing North Dakota's producers from competing in a market in which we should hold majority market share.

Yesterday, the Agriculture Committee held a hearing on opportunities and challenges for agricultural trade with Cuba. Aside from lifting the Cuba embargo altogether, the number one barrier we heard about was the fact that our exporters are prohibited from offering credit for sales into Cuba. Meanwhile, our competitors from Canada, Brazil, Vietnam, and Europe, are offering credit and pushing our farmers

out of a market in which we should be dominant.

The Agricultural Export Expansion Act would remove that barrier and put our producers on a more level playing field with our competitors. It modifies a provision of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act to allow for exporters and banks to offer private credit for agricultural exports to Cuba. Let me be clear: this bill does not allow for involvement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's export credit guarantee program or the Export-Import Bank, and no taxpayer dollars will be at risk if Cuba were to default on a deal. This bill simply allows the market and private industry to dictate the terms of sale, weighing all of the risks and benefits, like they do with every other country in the world.

With the current low commodity prices, we should be doing everything we can to support our agricultural producers, and to me this just makes sense. Even if Cuba were to buy all of their wheat from Kansas and soybeans from Arkansas, a bushel sold is a bushel sold, and all of our producers will benefit.

This bill is also good for the people of Cuba. Making trade more efficient and affordable will allow us to provide food to Cuba's population. Given our proximity and our agricultural industry's incredible diversity, we can support both the people of Cuba and our producers by removing this one unnecessary regulation. I hope our colleagues will join us in this important effort to help our producers be more competitive into this natural market.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1051. A bill to include county and municipal correctional facilities among medical facilities that qualify for designation as health professional shortage areas for purposes of the National Health Service Corps; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1051

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 ''National Health Service Corps Expansion Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. MEDICAL FACILITIES.

Section 332(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''(including care provided by a city or county health department to inmates of a county or municipal jail)'' after ''county health department''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''State correctional institution'' and inserting ''State, country, or municipal correctional institution''.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1057. A bill to promote geothermal energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today on the 45th anniversary of Earth Day, I am proud to introduce a pair of bills, S. 1057 and S. 1058, to promote clean energy and fight climate change.

The first bill is the Geothermal Energy Opportunities Act, or GEO Act for short. Clean, low-carbon geothermal energy can play a starring role in the fight against climate change, and this legislation encourages the development of the geothermal resource in a number of important ways.

The GEO Act helps prospective geothermal developers explore for and develop geothermal resources through a public-private grant program. As part of the partnership, developers report their findings, contributing to a nationwide map of geothermal potential that will reduce the risk and drive down the cost of geothermal energy for the future.

In many cases, Federal lands already under production for oil and gas also have a geothermal resource, and the GEO Act allows for the oil and gas leaseholders to coproduce such geothermal energy without going through an additional competitive lease process. It also fully incorporates the bipartisan Geothermal Production Expansion Act that I introduced with a number of my colleagues earlier this year. That provision would streamline the Federal geothermal leasing program to prevent speculative bidders from unproductively driving up the price of leases for developers of geothermal ''hot spots'' that extend into lands directly adjacent to their existing geothermal lease.

The Bureau of Land Management, which manages geothermal projects on Federal land under lease agreements, estimates about 250 million acres of Federal land contains geothermal power potential. Geothermal energy projects that are producing geothermal power under the BLM's management make up about half of the total geothermal generating capacity in the United States. The GEO Act takes important steps to speed the development of this tremendous clean energy potential on public lands.

I am also introducing the Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Act of 2015, along with my colleagues Senators MERKLEY, SCHATZ, and KING, to spur development of renewable electricity from the water power in oceans, rivers, and lakes. This bill reauthorizes the Department of Energy's marine renewable energy programs, including the national marine renewable energy research, development and demonstration centers around the country, one of which is run by Oregon State University in my home state. The Department of Energy estimates that there is enough potential energy in these nontraditional forms of hydropower to one day power millions of homes.

These two pieces of legislation will each promote the production of clean, domestic energy resources and in doing so help the United States lead the world in the fight against climate change. I strongly urge my colleagues to support both of them.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1057

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 ''Geothermal Energy Opportunities Act'' or the ''GEO Act''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL GOALS FOR PRODUCTION AND SITE IDENTIFICATION.

It is the sense of Congress that, not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of the Interior should seek to have approved more than 15,000 megawatts of new geothermal energy capacity on public land across a geographically diverse set of States using the full range of available technologies; and

(2) the Director of the Geological Survey and the Secretary of Energy should identify sites capable of producing a total of 50,000 megawatts of geothermal power, using the full range of available technologies.

SEC. 3. PRIORITY AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LAND.

The Director of the Bureau of Land Management, in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, shall—

(1) identify high priority areas for new geothermal development; and

(2) take any actions the Director determines necessary to facilitate that development, consistent with applicable laws.

SEC. 4. FACILITATION OF COPRODUCTION OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY ON OIL AND GAS LEASES.

Section 4(b) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) LAND SUBJECT TO OIL AND GAS LEASE.—Land under an oil and gas lease issued pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.) that is subject to an approved application for permit to drill and from which oil and gas production is occurring may be available for noncompetitive leasing under this section to the holder of the oil and gas lease—

''(A) on a determination that—

''(i) geothermal energy will be produced from a well producing or capable of producing oil and gas; and

''(ii) national energy security will be improved by the issuance of such a lease; and

''(B) to provide for the coproduction of geothermal energy with oil and gas.''.

SEC. 5. COST-SHARED EXPLORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To promote the goals described in section 2, the Secretary of Energy may conduct a federally funded program of cost-shared drilling with industry partners—

(1) to explore and document new geothermal resources in the United States; and

(2) to develop improved tools and methods for geothermal resource identification and extraction, with the goal of achieving material reductions in the cost of exploration with a corresponding increase in the likelihood of drilling success.

(b) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the program described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy may award cost-share grants on a competitive and merit basis to eligible applicants to support exploration drilling and related activities.

(2) PROJECT CRITERIA.—In selecting applicants to receive grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Energy shall—

(A) give preference to applicants proposing projects located in a variety of geologic and geographic settings with previously unexplored, underexplored, or unproven geothermal resources; and

(B) consider—

(i) the potential that the unproven geothermal resources would be explored and developed under the proposed project;

(ii) the expertise and experience of an applicant in developing geothermal resources; and

(iii) the contribution the proposed project would make toward meeting the goals described in section 2.

(c) DATA SHARING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Data from all exploratory wells that are carried out under the program described in subsection (a) shall be provided to the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior for—

(A) use in mapping national geothermal resources; and

(B) other purposes, including—

(i) subsurface geologic data;

(ii) metadata;

(iii) borehole temperature data; and

(iv) inclusion in the National Geothermal Data System of the Department of Energy.

(2) SHARING OF CONFIDENTIAL DATA.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, confidential data from all exploratory wells that are carried out under the program described in subsection (a) shall be provided to the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior for the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1), to be available for a period of time to be determined by the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 6. USE OF GEOTHERMAL LEASE REVENUES.

(a) AMOUNTS DEPOSITED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning in the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, any amounts received by the United States as rentals, royalties, and other payments required under leases pursuant to the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) (excluding funds required to be paid to State and county governments) and from new geothermal leases issued after the date of enactment of this Act shall be deposited into a separate account in the Treasury.

(b) USE OF DEPOSITS.—Amounts deposited under subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary of Energy for expenditure, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation, to carry out section 5.

(c) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—To promote the goals described in section 2, the Secretary of Energy may authorize the expenditure or transfer of any funds that are necessary to other cooperating Federal agencies.

SEC. 7. NONCOMPETITIVE LEASING OF ADJOINING AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES.

Section 4(b) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) (as amended by section 4) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) ADJOINING LAND.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) FAIR MARKET VALUE PER ACRE.—The term 'fair market value per acre' means a dollar amount per acre that—

''(I) except as provided in this clause, shall be equal to the market value per acre (taking into account the determination under subparagraph (B)(iii) regarding a valid discovery on the adjoining land), as determined by the Secretary under regulations issued under this paragraph;

''(II) shall be determined by the Secretary with respect to a lease under this paragraph, by not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date the Secretary receives an application for the lease; and

''(III) shall be not less than the greater of—

''(aa) 4 times the median amount paid per acre for all land leased under this Act during the preceding year; or

''(bb) $50.

''(ii) INDUSTRY STANDARDS.—The term 'industry standards' means the standards by which a qualified geothermal professional assesses whether downhole or flowing temperature measurements with indications of permeability are sufficient to produce energy from geothermal resources, as determined through flow or injection testing or measurement of lost circulation while drilling.

''(iii) QUALIFIED FEDERAL LAND.—The term 'qualified Federal land' means land that is otherwise available for leasing under this Act.

''(iv) QUALIFIED GEOTHERMAL PROFESSIONAL.—The term 'qualified geothermal professional' means an individual who is an engineer or geoscientist in good professional standing with at least 5 years of experience in geothermal exploration, development, or project assessment.

''(v) QUALIFIED LESSEE.—The term 'qualified lessee' means a person that is eligible to hold a geothermal lease under this Act (including applicable regulations).

''(vi) VALID DISCOVERY.—The term 'valid discovery' means a discovery of a geothermal resource by a new or existing slim hole or production well, that exhibits downhole or flowing temperature measurements with indications of permeability that are sufficient to meet industry standards.

''(B) AUTHORITY.—An area of qualified Federal land that adjoins other land for which a qualified lessee holds a legal right to develop geothermal resources may be available for a noncompetitive lease under this section to the qualified lessee at the fair market value per acre, if—

''(i) the area of qualified Federal land—

''(I) consists of not less than 1 acre and not more than 640 acres; and

''(II) is not already leased under this Act or nominated to be leased under subsection (a);

''(ii) the qualified lessee has not previously received a noncompetitive lease under this paragraph in connection with the valid discovery for which data has been submitted under clause (iii)(I); and

''(iii) sufficient geological and other technical data prepared by a qualified geothermal professional has been submitted by the qualified lessee to the applicable Federal land management agency that would lead individuals who are experienced in the subject matter to believe that—

''(I) there is a valid discovery of geothermal resources on the land for which the qualified lessee holds the legal right to develop geothermal resources; and

''(II) that thermal feature extends into the adjoining areas.

''(C) DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(I) publish a notice of any request to lease land under this paragraph;

''(II) determine fair market value for purposes of this paragraph in accordance with procedures for making those determinations that are established by regulations issued by the Secretary;

''(III) provide to a qualified lessee and publish, with an opportunity for public comment for a period of 30 days, any proposed determination under this subparagraph of the fair market value of an area that the qualified lessee seeks to lease under this paragraph; and

''(IV) provide to the qualified lessee and any adversely affected party the opportunity to appeal the final determination of fair market value in an administrative proceeding before the applicable Federal land management agency, in accordance with applicable law (including regulations).

''(ii) LIMITATION ON NOMINATION.—After publication of a notice of request to lease land under this paragraph, the Secretary may not accept under subsection (a) any nomination of the land for leasing unless the request has been denied or withdrawn.

''(iii) ANNUAL RENTAL.—For purposes of section 5(a)(3), a lease awarded under this paragraph shall be considered a lease awarded in a competitive lease sale.

''(D) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of the Geothermal Energy Opportunities Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this paragraph.''.

SEC. 8. LARGE-SCALE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.

Title VI of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 is amended by inserting after section 616 (42 U.S.C. 17195) the following:

''SEC. 616A. LARGE-SCALE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.

''(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

''(1) the Geothermal Technologies Program of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department has included a focus on direct use of geothermal energy in the low-temperature geothermal energy subprogram (including in the development of a research and development plan for the program);

''(2) the Building Technologies Program of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department—

''(A) is focused on the energy demand and energy efficiency of buildings; and

''(B) includes geothermal heat pumps as a component technology in the residential and commercial deployment activities of the program; and

''(3) geothermal heat pumps and direct use of geothermal energy, especially in large-scale applications, can make a significant contribution to the use of renewable energy but are underrepresented in research, development, demonstration, and commercialization.

''(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

''(1) to improve the components, processes, and systems used for geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy; and

''(2) to increase the energy efficiency, lower the cost, increase the use, and improve and demonstrate the applicability of geothermal heat pumps to, and the direct use of geothermal energy in, large buildings, commercial districts, residential communities, and large municipal, agricultural, or industrial projects.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) DIRECT USE OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.—The term 'direct use of geothermal energy' means systems that use water that is at a temperature between approximately 38 degrees Celsius and 149 degrees Celsius directly or through a heat exchanger to provide—

''(A) heating to buildings; or

''(B) heat required for industrial processes, agriculture, aquaculture, and other facilities.

''(2) GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP.—The term 'geothermal heat pump' means a system that provides heating and cooling by exchanging heat from shallow ground or surface water using—

''(A) a closed loop system, which transfers heat by way of buried or immersed pipes that contain a mix of water and working fluid; or

''(B) an open loop system, which circulates ground or surface water directly into the building and returns the water to the same aquifer or surface water source.

''(3) LARGE-SCALE APPLICATION.—The term 'large-scale application' means an application for space or process heating or cooling for large entities with a name-plate capacity, expected resource, or rating of 10 or more megawatts, such as a large building, commercial district, residential community, or a large municipal, agricultural, or industrial project.

''(4) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

''(d) PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program of research, development, and demonstration for geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy.

''(2) AREAS.—The program may include research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of—

''(A) geothermal ground loop efficiency improvements through more efficient heat transfer fluids;

''(B) geothermal ground loop efficiency improvements through more efficient thermal grouts for wells and trenches;

''(C) geothermal ground loop installation cost reduction through—

''(i) improved drilling methods;

''(ii) improvements in drilling equipment;

''(iii) improvements in design methodology and energy analysis procedures; and

''(iv) improved methods for determination of ground thermal properties and ground temperatures;

''(D) installing geothermal ground loops near the foundation walls of new construction to take advantage of existing structures;

''(E) using gray or black wastewater as a method of heat exchange;

''(F) improving geothermal heat pump system economics through integration of geothermal systems with other building systems, including providing hot and cold water and rejecting or circulating industrial process heat through refrigeration heat rejection and waste heat recovery;

''(G) advanced geothermal systems using variable pumping rates to increase efficiency;

''(H) geothermal heat pump efficiency improvements;

''(I) use of hot water found in mines and mine shafts and other surface waters as the heat exchange medium;

''(J) heating of districts, neighborhoods, communities, large commercial or public buildings (including office, retail, educational, government, and institutional buildings and multifamily residential buildings and campuses), and industrial and manufacturing facilities;

''(K) geothermal system integration with solar thermal water heating or cool roofs and solar-regenerated desiccants to balance loads and use building hot water to store geothermal energy;

''(L) use of hot water coproduced from oil and gas recovery;

''(M) use of water sources at a temperature of less than 150 degrees Celsius for direct use;

''(N) system integration of direct use with geothermal electricity production; and

''(O) coproduction of heat and power, including on-site use.

''(3) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall identify and mitigate potential environmental impacts in accordance with section 614(c).

''(e) GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants available to State and local governments, institutions of higher education, nonprofit entities, utilities, and for-profit companies (including manufacturers of heat-pump and direct-use components and systems) to promote the development of geothermal heat pumps and the direct use of geothermal energy.

''(2) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to proposals that apply to large buildings (including office, retail, educational, government, institutional, and multifamily residential buildings and campuses and industrial and manufacturing facilities), commercial districts, and residential communities.

''(3) NATIONAL SOLICITATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall conduct a national solicitation for applications for grants under this section.

''(f) REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on progress made and results obtained under this section to develop geothermal heat pumps and direct use of geothermal energy.

''(2) AREAS.—Each of the reports required under this subsection shall include—

''(A) an analysis of progress made in each of the areas described in subsection (d)(2); and

''(B)(i) a description of any relevant recommendations made during a review of the program; and

''(ii) any plans to address the recommendations under clause (i).''.

SEC. 9. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the progress made towards achieving the goals described in section 2.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums as are necessary.

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

S. 1058. A bill to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1058

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 ''Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Section 632 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17211) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking ''electrical''.

SEC. 3. MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 633 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17212) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 633. MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

''The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, shall carry out a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application to accelerate the introduction of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy production into the United States energy supply, giving priority to fostering accelerated research, development, and commercialization of technology, including programs—

''(1) to assist technology development to improve the components, processes, and systems used for power generation from marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy resources;

''(2) to establish critical testing infrastructure necessary—

''(A) to cost effectively and efficiently test and prove marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy devices; and

''(B) to accelerate the technological readiness and commercialization of those devices;

''(3) to support efforts to increase the efficiency of energy conversion, lower the cost, increase the use, improve the reliability, and demonstrate the applicability of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies by participating in demonstration projects;

''(4) to investigate variability issues and the efficient and reliable integration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy with the utility grid;

''(5) to identify and study critical short- and long-term needs to create a sustainable marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy supply chain based in the United States;

''(6) to increase the reliability and survivability of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies;

''(7) to verify the performance, reliability, maintainability, and cost of new marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy device designs and system components in an operating environment;

''(8) to coordinate and avoid duplication of activities across programs of the Department and other applicable Federal agencies, including National Laboratories and to coordinate public-private collaboration in all programs under this section;

''(9) to identify opportunities for joint research and development programs and development of economies of scale between—

''(A) marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies; and

''(B) other renewable energy and fossil energy programs, offshore oil and gas production activities, and activities of the Department of Defense; and

''(10) to support in-water technology development with international partners using existing cooperative procedures (including memoranda of understanding)—

''(A) to allow cooperative funding and other support of value to be exchanged and leveraged; and

''(B) to encourage the participation of international research centers and companies within the United States and the participation of United States research centers and companies in international projects.''.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION CENTERS.

Section 634 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17213) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) PURPOSES.—A Center (in coordination with the Department and National Laboratories) shall—

''(1) advance research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies;

''(2) support in-water testing and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, including facilities capable of testing—

''(A) marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy systems of various technology readiness levels and scales;

''(B) a variety of technologies in multiple test berths at a single location; and

''(C) arrays of technology devices; and

''(3) serve as information clearinghouses for the marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy industry by collecting and disseminating information on best practices in all areas relating to developing and managing marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy resources and energy systems.''.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 636 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17215) is amended by striking ''2008 through 2012'' and inserting ''2016 through 2019''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 144—SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF 2015 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, WHICH INCLUDE INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE RIGHTS, NEEDS, AND CONCERNS OF, AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST, VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 144

Whereas in 2013, there were more than 6,000,000 victims and survivors of violent crime and nearly 17,000,000 victims and survivors of property crime in the United States;

Whereas a just society acknowledges the impact of crime on individuals, families, schools, and communities by protecting the rights of crime victims and survivors and ensuring that resources and services are available to help rebuild the lives of the victims and survivors;

Whereas despite impressive accomplishments between 1974 and 2015 in increasing the rights of, and services available to, crime victims and survivors, and the families of the victims and survivors, many challenges remain to ensure that all crime victims and survivors, and the families of the victims and survivors, are—

(1) treated with dignity, fairness, and respect;

(2) offered support and services regardless of whether the victims and survivors report crimes committed against them; and

(3) recognized as key participants within the criminal, juvenile, Federal, tribal, and civil justice systems in the United States when the victims and survivors report crimes;

Whereas crime victims and survivors in the United States, and the families of the victims and survivors, need and deserve support and assistance to help cope with the often devastating consequences of crime;

Whereas during each year between 1984 and 2014, communities across the United States have joined Congress and the Department of Justice in commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week to celebrate a shared vision of a comprehensive and collaborative response that identifies and addresses the many needs of crime victims and survivors, and the families of the victims and survivors;

Whereas Congress and the President agree on the need for a renewed commitment to serving all victims and survivors of crime in the 21st century;

Whereas the theme of 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, celebrated during the week of April 19 through April 25, 2015, is ''Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims.'' and highlights the many challenges that confront crime victim assistance, justice, and public safety;

Whereas engaging communities in victim assistance is essential to promoting individual and public safety;

Whereas the United States must empower crime victims and survivors by protecting their legal rights and by providing them with quality, comprehensive services to help them in the aftermath of crime; and

Whereas the people of the United States recognize and appreciate the continued importance of—

(1) promoting the rights of, and services for, crime victims and survivors; and

(2) honoring crime victims and survivors and individuals who provide services for the victims and survivors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the mission and goals of 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing individual and public awareness of—

(A) the impact of crime on victims and survivors, and the families of the victims and survivors;

(B) the challenges to achieving justice for victims and survivors of crime, and the families of the victims and survivors; and

(C) the many solutions to meet such challenges; and

(2) recognizes that crime victims and survivors, and the families of the victims and survivors, should be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 145—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2015, AS ''PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH''

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 145

Whereas Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States;

Whereas there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, but the disease affects an estimated 500,000 to 1,500,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas every day Parkinson's disease greatly impacts millions of individuals in the United States who are caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals with Parkinson's disease;

Whereas the economic burden of Parkinson's disease is an estimated $14,400,000,000 each year, including indirect costs to patients and family members of $6,300,000,000 each year;

Whereas although research suggests that the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and exact progression of the disease remain unknown;

Whereas an objective test or biomarker for diagnosing Parkinson's disease does not exist;

Whereas a cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease does not exist;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and include tremors, slowness of movement, rigidity, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking, cognitive impairment, dementia, mood disorders, and a variety of other non-motor symptoms;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson's disease and the families of those individuals; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for Parkinson's disease and providing access to quality care to individuals with Parkinson's disease requires increased research, education, and community support services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2015, as ''Parkinson's Awareness Month'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of ''Parkinson's Awareness Month'';

(3) continues to support research to develop more effective treatments for Parkinson's disease and to ultimately find a cure for the disease;

(4) recognizes the individuals with Parkinson's disease who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals in the United States working to improve the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson's disease and the families of those individuals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 13 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2015, AS ''NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK''

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PERDUE, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 146

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA) have designated the week of April 13 through April 17, 2015, as ''National Assistant Principals Week'';

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decision-making to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling challenges, as well as supervise extra- and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, mediating conflicts, analyzing behavior patterns, providing interventions, and, when necessary, taking disciplinary actions;

Whereas since its establishment in 2004, the NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year Program recognizes outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who demonstrate success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization; and

Whereas the week of April 13 through April 17, 2015, is an appropriate week to designate as National Assistant Principals Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 13 through April 17, 2015, as ''National Assistant Principals Week'';

(2) honors the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role played by assistant principals in school leadership and ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 147—DESIGNATING DONALD A. RITCHIE AS HISTORIAN EMERITUS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 147

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie will retire from the United States Senate after serving with distinction, first as Associate Historian from 1976 to 2009, and then as Senate Historian from 2009 to 2015;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has dedicated his Senate service to preserving, protecting, and promoting the history of the Senate and its members;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has produced or guided production of numerous publications detailing the rich institutional history of the Senate;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has been instrumental in preserving, organizing, and making available to scholars the vast archival holdings of the Senate and its members;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has assisted in the Senate's commemoration of events of historical significance and in the development of exhibitions and educational programs on the history of the Senate and the Capitol;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has guided the Senate's comprehensive Oral History Project to capture and preserve the institutional memory of Senators, Senate officers, and Senate staff;

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has upheld the high standards and traditions of the Senate, and has performed his duties in a professional and nonpartisan manner; and

Whereas Donald A. Ritchie has earned the respect and esteem of the United States Senate; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That, effective June 1, 2015, as a token of the appreciation of the Senate for his long and faithful service, Donald A. Ritchie is hereby designated as Historian Emeritus of the United States Senate.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1129. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. WYDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 971, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program.

SA 1130. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1131. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1129. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. WYDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 971, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program; as follows:

On page 2, line 5, insert ''of the Social Security Act'' after ''1866E(e)(1)''.

SA 1130. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 32, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

''(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON DETENTION OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) until the Government of Iran releases to the United States the following United States citizens:

''(A) Saeed Abedini of Idaho, who has been detained in Iran on charges related to his religious beliefs since September 2012.

''(B) Amir Hekmati of Michigan, who has been imprisoned in Iran on false espionage charges since August 2011.

''(C) Jason Rezaian of California, who, as an Iranian government credentialed reporter for the Washington Post, has been unjustly held in Iran on vague charges since July 2014.

''(D) Robert Levinson of Florida, who was abducted on Kish Island in March 2007.

SA 1131. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1191, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 32, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

''(7) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BASED ON DETENTION OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a) until the Government of Iran releases to the United States the following United States citizens:

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''(B) Amir Hekmati of Michigan, who has been imprisoned in Iran on false espionage charges since August 2011.

''(C) Jason Rezaian of California, who, as an Iranian government credentialed reporter for the Washington Post, has been unjustly held in Iran on vague charges since July 2014.

''(D) Robert Levinson of Florida, who was abducted on Kish Island in March 2007.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BURR. 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 22, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Weathering the Storm: How Can We Better Communicate Weather to Enhance Commerce and Safety?''

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on

Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Nomination hearing for Vanessa Sutherland to be a Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety Board.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''State Department Reauthorization: Ensuring Effective U.S. Diplomacy within a Responsible Budget.''

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Securing the Border: Understanding Threats and Strategies for the Northern Border.''

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. BURR. 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 22, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR NO. 21

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, when the Senate resumes consideration of the Lynch nomination on Thursday, April 23, there be 2 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture; that if cloture is invoked, there be up to 2 hours of postcloture debate equally divided between the two leaders; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate convenes on Thursday, April 23, 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 leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Lynch nomination under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object. Sorry.

I withdraw the objection.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 23.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is nondebatable.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:34 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 23, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LOUISIANA HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS FROM THE SECOND DISTRICT

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, with March Madness behind us, I rise today to congratulate five high school basketball teams from my District that won Louisiana State Championships.

The first team I would like to recognize is the Madison Preparatory Academy Chargers from Baton Rouge, winners of the Class 1A Final this year. I would especially like to acknowledge Mr. Brandon Sampson, a senior guard who was named Most Outstanding Player and capped his high school career with an efficient 19-point game in which he shot 7-for-9 from the field. Mr. Joshua Anderson, a sophomore player added 18 points, four rebounds and three steals.

Next, I would like to congratulate Riverside Academy Rebels from Reserve, LA, who captured their third straight state championship with an 85–60 win in the Class 2A Championship. Mr. Jordan Andrews, named Most Outstanding Player, led Riverside (30–6) with a game-high 19 points. Mr. Herb McGee and Mr. Charvon Julien each added 17 points. Riverside is the first Louisiana boys squad to capture at least three consecutive titles since 2009.

Third are the L.B. Landry-O.P.Walker (Landry-Walker) College and Career Preparatory Charging Buccaneers from New Orleans. They have captured the boys' 4A championship title for the second consecutive season. The Charging Buccaneers also had a pair of players selected for the All-State team, including Mr. Lamar Peters, who was voted the Most Outstanding Player on the 4A boys squad. Mr. Peters averaged 19.7 points per game with 5.0 assists and was joined on the All-State list by teammate Mr. Keytaon Thompson, who scored the game-winning shot as time expired in the state title game.

The Scotlandville Hornets from Baton Rouge have reclaimed the Class 5A Championship title. Mr. Ja'Vonte Smart, a Hornet freshman earned the MVP honors after ending the night with a game-high 18 points and nine rebounds. Mr. Jordan Adebutu scored 11 points in the win, including a pair of free throws which ultimately put the game away. With this victory, the Hornets wrapped up their third state title in the past four years.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the Warren Easton Eagles from New Orleans, who captured the Class 4A state championship with a 46–42 victory. In addition to this being the first girls basketball state championship in the school's history, Easton also became the first public school from Orleans Parish to win a title in girls basketball. Warren Easton was one win away from an undefeated regular season, earning their No. 1 slot in The New Orleans Advocate's season-ending Super 10 rankings. I also would like to acknowledge Miss Kechell Figueroa and Miss Sabrina Banks for their selection onto the Girls All-State team.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR WILLIAM ''BILL'' BOGAARD ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding community leader, William ''Bill'' Bogaard, on his retirement as the Mayor of the City of Pasadena. After nearly four decades in public service including his 16 years as Mayor, Bill Bogaard leaves behind a legacy of respected leadership and dedicated public service.

Bill graduated from Loyola Marymount University and then heeded his first call to public service when he bravely served to protect our country as a U.S. Air Force Captain. He went on to Michigan Law School, and in 1971, Bill and his wife Claire moved to Pasadena, where they began a lovely family with their four children.

From 1978 to 1986, Bill served on the Pasadena City Council, including a rotation into the mayoral position for a two-year term from 1984 to 1986. The City Council changed its charter and in 1999, Bill became the City's first directly-elected Mayor. He served as Mayor for the opening of the Los Angeles to Pasadena Gold Line Light rail system and advocated for its expansion east as a Board member of the Gold Line Foothill Construction Authority. Bill also had a vision to revitalize neighborhoods surrounding the Gold Line stations, and through the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, he encouraged transit-oriented and affordable housing developments. These initiatives opened access to public transportation for thousands of residents in Pasadena and modernized several neighborhoods throughout the City.

In addition, Bill's efforts successfully kept Pasadena on the nation's map. He helped facilitate a new convention center that has attracted a wide variety of conferences to the City, exposing different industries to Pasadena and the resources of our local communities. He brought improvements such as an updated electrical system and additional aisles and accommodations to the nationally recognized Rose Bowl, which is home to the University of California-Los Angeles football team and the Rose Bowl Game. His work kept this stadium as a viable venue for so many historic games and events that have brought nationwide attention to the City each year.

In 2012, Bill's exceptional leadership abilities were recognized throughout the state, and he was elected by his fellow local elected officials as President of the League of California Cities. The City of Pasadena and the State of California are grateful to have had such a passionate and engaged public servant. We will continue to honor his legacy of community investment and revitalization, and we are thankful for his many years of strong leadership and unwavering commitment to our community.

ISAAC HULL CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the centennial anniversary of the Isaac Hull Chapter of National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Isaac Hull Chapter was organized on July 17, 1915, and will celebrate its centennial anniversary on July 17, 2015. Locally, the Chapter sponsors Good Citizenship Awards, the American History Essay contests, as well as many school, community, and veteran programs.

At this anniversary date, the Isaac Hull Chapter Officers are: Carolyn Baker Stubblefield, Regent; Julie Wood Barnes, Vice-Regent; Sarah Jane McClellan Gaston, Chaplain; Lael Nesmith Snyder, Secretary; Susan Hayes Burgess, Treasurer; Sharen Lawson Harvey, Assistant Treasurer; Carol Simcox Wood, Registrar; and Ada Joyce Quick White, Historian.

I look forward to the continued success of the Isaac Hull Chapter and I extend my best wishes on the occasion of its centennial celebration.

RECOGNIZING LEXMARK AS AN INDUSTRY LEADER IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABILITY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on Earth Day, to recognize the great accomplishments of the largest company headquartered in my District, Lexmark International, in the field of sustainability. Lexmark, one of the world's leaders in creating innovative document management solutions for the public and private sectors, has committed itself from its inception over 20 years ago to being an unsurpassed steward of the environment.

Conserving scarce resources has been the hallmark of Lexmark's approach to business. They have been leaders in driving more corporations toward better sustainability practices. They help organizations find solutions to conserve more and increase efficiency. These efforts include developing document management solutions that create less demand for

paper and award-winning programs for the remanufacturing and recycling of used toner cartridges.

For these bold business plans, Lexmark has received a wide range of environmental awards. These honors are an excellent reflection of the deep-seated commitment to environmental stewardship that permeates Lexmark, from the CEO to the salesman on the front lines. Corporate Responsibility Magazine, for example, has ranked Lexmark 35th in its listing of top U.S. corporate performers on a range of indicators including environmental protection and corporate governance.

Kentucky is rightly proud of its environmental heritage. We come by the nickname the ''Bluegrass State'' quite honestly. It is a land of diverse environments and lush, abundant natural resources. To partner with companies like Lexmark, which do so much to conserve our environment while being a source of employment to thousands of Kentuckians, is a source of great pride.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege for me to be able to recognize the outstanding civic and environmental record compiled by my friends at Lexmark. I offer my congratulations for your tremendous successes and offer my encouragement to continue to lead in this area.

RECOGNIZING THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS FUND

HON. MIKE BISHOP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund and its dedicated service to Michigan veterans and their families.

Founded in 2006, The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund was created to support Michigan-based servicemen and women who have served and continue to serve in defense of their nation. The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, an all-volunteer effort, has served the immediate needs of the men and women of the armed forces, by helping injured American vets pay their living expenses, granting assistance to the families of the fallen, and providing other necessities these courageous individuals, and their families, may need.

This organization has been a vital resource for the veteran community throughout the state of Michigan. Since its inception nearly a decade ago, The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund has raised over $4M through annual events and corporate and personal donations. An astounding 95 percent of all proceeds end up going directly to Michigan veterans. For these reasons and many others, I am proud to have been a supporter of the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund since its founding.

The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund is just one of many wonderful organizations that assist American veterans across our nation. We will continue to count on the tireless and selfless organizations, such as The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, for years to come, to ensure that when our service members return home they are properly and respectfully cared for.

RECOGNIZING ROYAL STUDIOS AS THE RECORDING HOME OF THE BILLBOARD HOT 100 #1 HIT, UPTOWN FUNK

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Royal Studios in Memphis, Tennessee for recording Uptown Funk, which has topped the Billboard Hot 100 for fourteen weeks and counting, marking the single as the longest-leading Billboard Hot 100 of the 2010s. Additionally, Uptown Funk's fourteenth week makes it only the Billboard's eighth single since the chart began in 1958 to hold the top spot for at least as long and places it in a seven-way tie for the second longest #1 hit in the history of the Chart. The only single among this elite group of eight to surpass Uptown Funk has held the #1 spot for sixteen weeks. The single also leads the Hot 100's Digital Songs, Radio Songs and Streaming Songs charts. In a raving endorsement of Uptown Funk's popularity, First Lady Michelle Obama with cast from the show ''So You Think You Can Dance'' performed a choreographed dance to the song as part of her ''Let's Move!'' initiative on the Ellen DeGeneres Show and at this year's White House Easter Egg Roll. The collaboration between Uptown Funk writer Mark Ronson, singer Bruno Mars and Royal Studios has swept the music scene in America and abroad, and has given listeners around the world a taste of the soulful sound that is unique to Memphis.

Uptown Funk is an example of born-and-bred Memphis musical talent. Ronson, a Grammy-winning artist and a noted producer for talents such as Adele and the late Amy Winehouse, traveled to Memphis in February 2014 looking to recruit singers for his music project. It was then that he visited Royal Studios and met owner Lawrence ''Boo'' Mitchell, the son of Memphis music legend and producer, Willie Mitchell, and decided to record at the iconic studio. Ronson enlisted Philip Lawrence and notable Royal Studios familiars Steve Jordan, Willie Weeks, Kevin Parker, Trombone Shorty, Mystikal and Michael Chabon to work on the single. Uptown Funk also features Bruno Mars's band member and Memphian, Kameron Whalum, who is the son of Pastor Kenneth Whalum of Olivet Baptist Church in Memphis and the nephew of Grammy-winning saxophonist Kirk Whalum.

The success of Uptown Funk is the latest chapter in the long and storied history of Royal Studios, one of the oldest music recording studios in the world. Housed originally in a movie theater built in 1915, Royal Studios was founded in 1957 and became the home of Hi Records and the Hi Rhythm Section. Since that time, numerous acclaimed artists have recorded there, including Willie Mitchell, Al Green, Ann Peebles, Bobby Blue Bland, Elton John, Robert Plant, Snoop Dogg and many others. The studio has also recorded for Hollywood films including Opportunity Knocks, Pulp Fiction, Good Will Hunting, The Book of Eli, Love Jones, Six Feet Under and other films and television shows. Uptown Funk marks Royal Studios' first #1 hit since Al Green's 1972 Let's Stay Together and the first Billboard 100 Hit out of Memphis since the 1976 hit Disco Duck by Rick Dees.

Uptown Funk continues Royal Studios' long tradition of musical excellence and showing the world what Memphis has to offer. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Memphis' Royal Studios as the recording home for the Billboard-chart topping single, Uptown Funk, and the dedicated work of Mark Ronson, Bruno Mars, Kameron Whalum, Lawrence ''Boo'' Mitchell and the entire Royal Studios family in producing a single with such a soulful Memphis sound that has reached listeners worldwide. Many people have noted that Uptown Funk will be one of the hottest hits this summer. If you don't believe them, just watch.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOB CORPS

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Job Corps. For five decades, Job Corps has helped millions of disadvantaged youths complete their high school education and transition into successful careers or higher education.

Since the 1960s, Job Corps has brought public agencies and private sector businesses together to help nearly 60,000 of our nation's poor and unemployed young people gain the skills necessary to build successful careers. More than 80 percent of Job Corps graduates obtain jobs, enroll in higher education or enter the military.

In the 11th District, the Cleveland Job Corps Center has been an integral part of the community for over 40 years. The first Job Corps women's center opened in Cleveland on April 9, 1965. The center's new campus opened in 2007 and now serves nearly 400 students each year, providing them with a safe and secure environment in which to further their education and gain valuable technical career skills.

Congratulations to Job Corps on 50 years of success. Its dedicated employees provide the continuity and quality training our students need to achieve their goals. The value of Job Corps is clear. Graduates are providing critical services for our economy and communities, and it is important to maintain our commitment to this exceptional program. I am excited to see the impact Job Corps will make in my district and our country in the years to come.

REMEMBERING PAUL TIPPS, OHIO LEADER

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Paul Tipps of Ohio who passed away yesterday afternoon.

Paul Tipps was a great leader when political giants dominated Ohio. Paul stepped down as Chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party in 1983, and Democrats with his help held the top five statewide offices, both houses of the state legislature, a majority of the state Supreme Court, and both U.S. Senate seats.

Originally from Cincinnati, Paul graduated from the University of Dayton and served as an officer in the U.S. Army. He helped C.J. McLin of Dayton begin his long time career in the state legislature, ran for Congress himself in 1968, and served six years as Chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Party. C.J.'s daughter Rhine McLin remembers that "Paul understood people and he understood politics."

Paul considered C.J. one of his political mentors along with legendary state House Speaker Vern Riffe and U.S. Senator John Glenn. John Glenn remarked that Paul "did great work as a civic activist through so many years" and that he and Annie Glenn had no better friend.

Paul served as Trustee of Wright State University and on the Board of Advisors at Ohio State's John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

Few have had as many successes as Paul and the secret to Paul's success was his ability to bring people together. I ask my colleagues to share in the memories of the extraordinary service of Paul Tipps and extend our most sincere condolences to all of Paul's family and friends.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLIFFORD BELL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Clifford Bell, my friend and former colleague and a beloved member of the Buffalo community. A public servant, Mr. Bell served for twelve years as a member of the Buffalo Common Council and chaired the Economic Development Committee.

A model citizen, Mr. Bell worked for 50 years in the dry cleaning business and then joined the Small business Development Center for the Buffalo State College. His commitment to local business does not end there, however, as he also personally led a delegation to France for the Mayor of Buffalo where he discussed international trade while representing five local businesses.

Mr. Bell's dedication to the community extends far beyond his political and economic endeavors as he also was an active member of various community groups. Mr. Bell has been a member of The Luther Church of Our Savior for over sixty years where he has held a number of various positions.

Mr. Bell has also chaired the Martin Luther King Celebration for 30 years, delivering incredible performances at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, and has been the recipient of over one hundred awards including the New York State Governor's Martin Luther King Senior's Award for his advocacy of civil rights and community work.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the life of Clifford Bell. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding Mr. Bell's outstanding history of service to the City of Buffalo and the people of the Western New York community.

HONORING RAY HACKETT ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NORWICH BULLETIN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary journalist in eastern Connecticut, Ray Hackett. After 40 years in journalism, the past 27 years at the Norwich Bulletin in Connecticut, Ray is retiring this month from the profession he has loved.

Ray's life journey included completing two tours for the United States Army in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and being awarded the Bronze Star when he was 19. Ray does not talk about his military service often, but his experiences have helped shape his reporting and influenced our region's conscience on the treatment of veterans returning home from war. Ray's account of the first time he visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, accompanied by his daughter, to see the names of his fallen comrades is moving and unforgettable.

Ray's first experience in journalism was spending ten years on radio, including time with Armed Forces Radio and Television. He joined the Norwich Bulletin in 1988, covering the city hall beat. Ray was promoted to serve as City Editor from 1994 to 2000 and moved to the opinion page in 2000, serving as Editorial Page Editor and focusing on politics.

As the influence of his political punditry grew, Ray became increasingly tapped as a moderator for political debates for races up and down the ticket. As a debate moderator, he became known for asking tough, thoughtful questions which gave the voters of eastern Connecticut much needed answers. He also connected candidates directly with the public by broadcasting editorial board meetings with all candidates during election cycles.

Ray's numerous honors include being named the three time GateHouse Media Editorial Writer of the Year in 2009, 2011, and 2013. He won awards in 2008, 2012, and 2013 from the Connecticut Society for Professional Journalism for editorial excellence. Additionally, Ray was awarded First Place for the Dear Governor project in 2010 from both the New England Newspaper & Press Association and the Associated Press Managing Editors Association.

In my view, one of Ray's accomplishments outshines even these honors bestowed by his colleagues—the dedicated push he made to bring U.S. Army Captain and Waterford native Arnold "Arnie" Holm's remains home to Connecticut. Captain Holm was killed in action in Vietnam in 1972, and his body never recovered. Working with Holm's friend Bill Cavalieri and his widow Margarete Holm, Ray kept up the drumbeat in the media to find Holm's remains and return them for proper burial. Decades after their passing, Holm's remains were discovered in 2011 at a helicopter crash site in the central highlands of Vietnam. In a fitting final chapter to this story, my office was notified this week that the headstone marking the grave of Holm and his two comrades was installed at Arlington National Cemetery.

Ray has said that his inspiration as a journalist has always been to "think like a reader" and "never forget, they all don't think like you." This approach has earned Ray access to readers of all stripes in eastern Connecticut and garnered their respect, even if disagreeing with his reporting or his opinions.

When Ray Hackett steps down this month from the Norwich Bulletin, eastern Connecticut will lose an irreplaceable asset—a reporter and editor who embraced the coverage of all 64 towns in the Second Congressional District, the diversity of our urban, suburban, and rural communities, and the politics and policy issues that animate discussions in our diners and at our kitchen tables across our region. Ray leaves a significant journalistic footprint in eastern Connecticut that will not be matched for a long time. Even in an era of a 24 hour news cycle, he represents a journalistic ethos marked by integrity in pursuit of impartial truth.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ray Hackett on an illustrious career and wishing him the best in a well-earned retirement.

HONORING ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, the State of Israel has flourished to become the preeminent democracy in the Middle East and today celebrates 67 years of independence; and

Whereas, Israel has been a dedicated partner to the United States, working with our Nation and other allies to build peace collaboratively and work toward common interests and goals including the safety, security and freedom of all people around the world; and

Whereas, Our Nation must continue to protect, strengthen and promote our close friend and ally Israel as we strive to achieve greater stability in the Middle East and around the world; and

Whereas, At 67, despite tremendous challenges, Israel demonstrates continually that principle and motivation are transforming forces allowing Israel to thrive; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Honorable LEONARD LANCE, the Honorable PETER ROSKAM, the Honorable DOUG LAMBORN and the Honorable LEE ZELDIN, Members of the House of Representatives and co-chairmen of the House Republican Israel Caucus, join Israel in celebration of its Independence Day.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF SUSIE WILSON

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues the Honorable ANNA ESHOO and the Honorable MICHAEL HONDA, to honor the life and achievements of a distinguished member of our community, Susanne ("Susie") Wilson. She has been a longstanding leader in the Santa Clara Valley as both a public official and a community advocate. Susie served as a member of the San

Jose City Council from 1973–1978. She also served as Vice-Mayor of San Jose from 1976–1978, she was a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for District 1 from 1979–1991; serving as Chairperson in 1982, 1986, and 1990.

Susie also served as Chair of the Valley Transit District Board, and was the first woman to become President of the Association of Bay Area Governments. She was a founding member in 1974 of California Elected Women for Education and Research (CEWEAR), as well as past President and life member. In 1990, she became a member of the Valley Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors, and has also served as its President. Susie has been a champion of social justice, and one of her important accomplishments was her success as Chair of the YWCA Villa Nueva Capital Campaign. Villa Nueva is a 63-family residential housing unit for low-income families, which houses transitional and affordable housing, mostly for single mothers and their kids. To honor Susie, the building was named in her honor when it opened in 1993.

As a long-time distinguished volunteer of the YWCA, a scholarship has also been named in her honor, the ''Susanne B. Wilson Scholarship Award,'' which is given each year to a young woman from one of the YWCA programs. For almost 40 years, Susie Wilson has been the driving force behind the YWCA of Silicon Valley. Susie's belief in the YWCA's mission of empowering women and eliminating racism makes her a fearless and tireless advocate to raise support, both morally and financially, for the YWCA. Since 1999 she has been CEO of WKW Mechanical Contractors, Inc. and a sole proprietor of a governmental consulting firm called, Solutions by Wilson, which she started in 1991 after she retired from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Susie Wilson has a superb record of community service as well as service to San Jose State University. Susie served as a lecturer during the 1980's; and in 1994, she was the first visiting professor for the ''Leader in Residence'' program at San Jose State University, teaching a senior seminar in the ethical issues of politics.

Susie also served as the Alumni Steering Committee for the Political Science Department, and has been a member of the Spartan Foundation since 1982, and was the Foundation's past President from 2004–2006. She has also lent regular support to the Don Edwards lecture series. Susie was one of the founders and participants of the ''Walk for Women of Sparta,'' the largest fundraiser by women for women athletes, which raised over $1 million for women athletic scholarships. She has also been active in the Spartan Foundation, a key fundraising organization of San Jose State University, and also served on the executive committee and board of directors. Susie also received the prestigious Tower Award from the university for the 1995–96 academic year.

Susie has also done work for numerous organizations, such as: the United Way, the Boy Scouts of America, and Cambrian Park United Methodist Church, the church she has attended for more than 30 years.

Susie was a founding member of the National Women's Political Caucus, a multipartisan, multicultural grassroots organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in the political field, designed to achieve equality for all women. Susie is also a member of the American Association of University Women, a leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.

It is evident by the many roles that Susie has taken on, that she is a vital member of the Silicon Valley community and an inspiration for women and men alike. Thus, it is our privilege to honor her as a significant person in the 19th Congressional District. We would like to take this occasion to thank Susie for her many gifts and contributions to the community of San Jose.

CONGRATULATING DR. RITA RICE MORRIS

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Rita Rice Morris on her twelve years of service to Shawnee State University.

Dr. Morris, the longest-serving president in the storied history of Shawnee State University, is leaving behind a distinguished record of invaluable contributions to the institution, the community, and most importantly the students.

During her tenure, Dr. Morris led the university through a period of unprecedented growth in enrollment, academic programming, and student services. Not constrained by the walls of Shawnee State, she oversaw the growth in partnerships and community support in Portsmouth and the region.

Importantly, Dr. Morris touched the lives of young people by improving access to higher education at Shawnee State University. Her twelve-year presidency shepherded in a period of record-breaking growth in both enrollment and degree attainment.

As Dr. Morris departs, Shawnee State University is a pioneering institution in new and innovative programs, including game design and digital simulation.

We are all grateful for Dr. Morris' strong leadership at Shawnee State and in southern Ohio. Again, I congratulate Dr. Rita Rice Morris on her presidency, and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

THE STRONGER ACT OF 2015

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as trade agreements have evolved to more accurately reflect international commerce, they've become more complex. This complexity limits U.S. ability to simultaneously oversee, implement, and enforce these agreements. For instance, in 2001, China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO). Nearly 15 years later, as outlined in the 2014 Special 301 Report, Chinese laws still call for mandatory intellectual property transfers from U.S. firms to Chinese parties—laws that are inconsistent with their WTO commitments. Similarly in Peru, the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement went into effect in 2009 and contained some of the strongest environmental protection and conservation provisions ever included in a trade pact. Implementation, however, has faced constant efforts to roll back progress.

These two examples do not necessarily demonstrate a lack of commitment to enforcing our trade agreements. They do, however, demonstrate that enforcement resources have not kept pace with the scope and complexity of our trade agreements. As a result, we have not been able to extract the full value of our agreements to the disadvantage of our businesses and workers. Looking ahead, some Trans-Pacific Partnership countries will need significant capacity building and technical assistance if they are to meet their new commercial, environmental, and labor obligations.

The STRONGER (Supplemental Trade Review, Oversight, Noncompliance and General Enforcement Resources) Act of 2015 would create an Enforcement Fund to support trade and development agencies for a narrow set of uses relating to the enforcement and implementation of our trade agreements. This fund would follow the precedents of the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund, and others that rely on a small portion of related tariff revenue to fund a multi-agency effort.

During the last five fiscal years, the United States has averaged $442 million in anti-dumping and countervailing duties (AD/CVD) that go to Treasury's General Fund. The Enforcement Fund would receive a small fraction of our annual AD/CVDs—never to exceed $30 million with a maximum transfer of $15 million annually—for the enforcement and implementation of our trade agreements.

Under the legislation, certain U.S. agencies would be authorized to use Enforcement Fund resources for the enforcement of current and future FTAs, the implementation and enforcement of WTO obligations to which the U.S. is a party, capacity building focused on effective implementation and compliance with FTA commitments (with priority given to environmental and labor commitments), and the monitoring and evaluation of U.S. capacity building efforts to ensure investments are spent wisely. Importantly, none of the funds could be used for negotiating new trade agreements. The STRONGER Act would also establish a set of requirements enabling continuous oversight and improvement in our trade capacity building investments.

SAN JACINTO DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most important events in Texas history. Yesterday, on April 21, Texans celebrated the 179th anniversary of San Jacinto Day.

On that day in 1836, approximately 900 Texian and Tejano volunteers overpowered a larger professional Mexican army of conscript soldiers, after defeats at the Battles of Goliad and the Alamo. These outnumbered volunteers succeeded because they were fighting

against tyranny and for their homeland. In the words of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the people's government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

The Texas Revolution proved the bonds of freedom are stronger than ethnicity, as many Tejanos and Texians sacrificed their lives for Texas' freedom at the Battles of Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, and San Jacinto. The war was not between Anglos and Hispanics, it was a struggle between all Texans and the unjust military dictatorship of Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana in Mexico City. Texians and Tejanos knew then what we know now—freedom requires sacrifice.

Texas culture places high honors on heroes willing to sacrifice their lives for a better life for their fellow man, and Texans are known around the world as an honorable people who respond to the call of duty. While our young people are answering today's calls of duty, we should not forget those who have bravely answered that call in the past.

With an understanding of where they came from, future Texans will continue to respond to calls to service, and Texans will continue to be respected and admired around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BENJAMIN HOCHFIELD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Benjamin Hochfield, who tragically passed away on November 24, 2014 at the young age of 43. A passionate family man and public servant, Mr. Hochfield was a prominent member of the Western New York community.

Mr. Hochfield touched many lives of various groups in Western New York. While working for Erie County Department of Environment and Planning and the County Attorney's office, he earned the respect and became close with many public officials and employees. He was a prominent figure in Buffalo's music community and an advocate for beautifying the Elmwood Village. His reach to members of the community was many and varied.

Mr. Hochfield had many passions in his life, but his first love was of music. From a young age Mr. Hochfield began studying piano and guitar. His passions led him to attend The Berkley College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts, where he further developed his craft. When he returned home to Buffalo, he continued his passion and played with several local bands, most notably with "Necktie Tourniquet."

Mr. Hochfield's passions continued with his endearment for gardening. Influenced by his loving wife Tracey, he spent hours beautifying the garden by her side. Their prized garden was featured during Buffalo's famous Garden Walk of 2014. Mr. Hochfield hand crafted a stone fountain at the center of their garden that helped attract individuals from all over the country to view their garden. Here is an account written for the Buffalo Rising paper by a neighbor of Mr. Hochfield.

When I first purchased my house on Norwood Avenue, almost 20 years ago, people told me that I was nuts. Upon moving in, the first thing that I noticed in the back "yard" of my house was a number of discarded purses (from purse snatchings) and gang graffiti tags.

Over the years my neighborhood has seen a drastic turnaround. It started with Elmwood Avenue rebounding, which in turn made the intertwined residential neighborhoods more desirable. Avenues and streets such as Norwood truly began to shine when home owners started to plant gardens, paint houses, and replace their front porches. Organizations such as Garden Walk contributed to the movement. Slowly but surely a healthy community began to take hold.

RECOGNIZING DR. BEVERLY WALKER-GRIFFEA AS SHE IS INSTALLED AS THE SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND FOR HER COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Walker-Griffea, President of Mott Community College, for her unwavering commitment to academic excellence and student success.

Dr. Walker-Griffea is the first female and first African American president in Mott Community College's history. A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dr. Walker-Griffea holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Child Development from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, a Master of Education in Guidance and Counseling from Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, and a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Broadcasting from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Dr. Walker-Griffea has demonstrated a passion for ensuring all students have access to quality, affordable, and effective learning experiences. As a long-time advocate for collegiate student success, Dr. Walker-Griffea has served community college students in various capacities for twenty years. Her long history in education includes serving as Vice President of Student Affairs at Thomas Nelson Community College in Hampton, Virginia; Dean of Student Development at Houston Community College-Central Campus; and Interim Dean of Health and Environmental Sciences at Spokane Community College.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea for her strong leadership and unyielding commitment to academic success and our community.

HONORING MRS. JENNIFER VIDLER AND THE 2015 WISE HONOREES

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, for 12 years, the greater Mesquite area has embraced the opportunity to honor many exceptional women in the community through the Women in Service and Enterprise (WISE) Award Luncheon and Style Show. Today I would like to honor this year's award recipient, Mrs. Jennifer Vidler, who is a shining example of a committed community advocate and servant. I would also like to recognize honorees Beth Gaddis, Debbie Jacobson, and Linda Pimentel for their valuable service and commitment to their community.

Jennifer Vidler has lived in Mesquite most of her life. She is a graduate of North Mesquite High School and proudly served in the United States Air Force as a Specialist. Afterwards, she studied cosmetology and graduated with a perfect score through the state board of exam. Her salon has been a Chamber of Commerce member for 15 years, and voted best salon several times. Jennifer has been a member and chairwoman for the Board of Adjustments for six years and now she is a Planning and Zoning Commissioner. She has been Vice President and then President of Old Town Mesquite/Community Heart of Mesquite. For the last nine years Jennifer has worked very hard with the fundraising, planning, and implementing of Kid Fish and Pumpkin Fest. For many years Jennifer led the decorations for Christmas on the Square by herself, before a few people came to help. She has worked hard to bring a Farmers Market to Mesquite, and this year will be the 2nd Annual Farmers Market on the Square. Jennifer says, "I truly love Mesquite and think it can only be even better."

Past WISE Award winners have served in a variety of ways, but they are united by the long-lasting impact they have made on their community. Their service, community involvement and dedication to enterprise continue to inspire younger generations.

Today, I would like to recognize all of the WISE honorees for their outstanding service and congratulate them on their awards. Thank you, ladies, for helping make our community, state, and country a better place.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of Colorado's most respected and valued organizations, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), on its 60th anniversary. Through collaborative cooperation, DRCOG speaks and leads with one voice while serving nine counties and 47 municipalities, and it stands as one of the three oldest

Councils of Government in the country. DRCOG serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Denver metropolitan region, skillfully serving nearly three million citizens in three broad-based areas: Regional Growth and Development, Transportation & Personal Mobility, and Aging & Disability Resources.

Currently, local governments are represented in a cooperative and comprehensive multi-modal transportation planning process for the entire region while incorporating state and federal practices and regulations. The Denver Regional Council's Mobility and Access Council (DRMAC) ensures people with mobility challenges have access to the community by increasing, enhancing, sharing, and coordinating regional transportation services and resources with a vision of mobility and access for all.

DRCOG's Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) has worked with the Department of Housing and Urban Development while leveraging the multi-billion dollar FasTracks transit system expansion already in place. The SCI just concluded its collaborative partnership of governmental, public and private-sector organizations to support the planning and implementation of its ideas to foster greater access to more economically diverse, multi-modal communities that will put less strain on our natural resources.

Now in its 40th year as the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA), DRCOG helps people live independently as long as possible in their own homes and communities. DRCOG contracts with community-based agencies to provide a broad continuum of services addressing the needs of the region's booming population of older adults and those living with disabilities. In coordination with other stakeholders, the AAA helps ensure that community leaders are aware of the needs of older adults, the benefits of community-based services, and the costs to taxpayers of failing to address needs of seniors in the region.

DRCOG has a long list of accomplishments shaping the region in a way that benefits us all. From helping transition the Valley Highway to what we know today as I–25, including the T-Rex project, to the discussion about where to relocate Stapleton Airport—which we know now as Denver International Airport. DRCOG helped establish the Mile High Compact to help shape growth in the metro area in an intelligent manner and designed mechanisms to protect the region's air quality through the oversight of the Regional Air Quality Council. From funding major highway and transit projects in the region to helping with the formation of RTD, DRCOG has been involved with seemingly every major regional issue and project.

Please join me in commending DRCOG. As their motto says, they make life better.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID SANES RODRIGUEZ

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, April 19th, marked the anniversary of the death of David Sanes Rodriguez. He was a civilian security guard, employed by the U.S. Navy, who died 16 years ago when two errant bombs were dropped from a fighter jet near his observation post on Vieques, Puerto Rico.

His tragic death spurred protests throughout Puerto Rico and the United States, and ultimately led to the halting of bombing on the island where countless shells and chemicals were dropped.

It is unconscionable that the American government could wreak such havoc on such pristine lands for so long. It is unimaginable that it would ignore the pleas of its own citizens for decades as they called for an end to the bombing of their land.

We must ensure that Sanes Rodriguez is not forgotten, and neither is the unnecessary destruction of vast parts of Vieques during the more than 60 years of live-fire bombing practice on the island.

As we also celebrate Earth Day this week, we must acknowledge another grim reality: decades of destructive shelling turned Vieques into one of the most toxic places on the planet. In the 16 years since Sanes Rodriguez was killed, lingering environmental and health concerns due to the bombings are still not being fully addressed.

Tens of thousands of bombs and toxic chemicals were dropped on Vieques during U.S. Navy training exercises. Some of those munitions contained depleted uranium and napalm. Contamination concerns led the Environmental Protection Agency to list the former Vieques training area as a Superfund site—basically designating it as a toxic dump.

I have grilled the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) about the alarming rate of cancer and other serious health conditions experienced by Viequenses as a result of the environmental damage caused by decades of military bombing. Amazingly, the agency has reported that it could not find "credible scientific evidence" to support a link between a generation of military pollutants and Vieques residents' poor health trends.

In March of 2013, I visited Vieques to witness for myself the consequences of decades of shelling and the impact it has had on the island. I met with citizens whose health has been harmed by living near the former bombing range. The people of Vieques live everyday with the legacy of the environmental destruction that was wreaked upon their land

Sanes Rodriguez's death, while tragic and unnecessary, was not meaningless. It opened the eyes of millions of Americans to the harm being inflicted upon Vieques. Our annual remembrance of his tragic death now serves another noble cause: environmental justice for Vieques.

On this important date for the people of Vieques, and as the world celebrates Earth Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in making sure this beautiful island is restored. I urge my colleagues to join me in addressing the health problems that six decades of bombings have imposed upon the residents who still call Vieques home.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD T. "FITZY" FITZPATRICK OF BOSTON, MA

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edward T. "Fitzy" Fitzpatrick, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 2222 of Boston, MA, and to commend him for over fifty years of dedicated service to the working men and women of this community.

The son of Joseph and Ann Fitzpatrick of Mattapan, Edward was born in Boston and lived in Mattapan. Edward attended St. Margaret's School in Dorchester, MA and graduated from Hyde Park High School. During high school and after graduation, Ed began his career at New England Telephone. His career at New England Telephone was put on hold while he honorably and bravely served in Vietnam.

Upon completion of his distinguished service to our country, Ed continued working for New England Telephone and began to gain the respect and admiration of his co-workers while fighting for their rights on the job. His leadership skills were evident and he was instrumental in the achievements of the IBTW and helped form the foundation for the move from the independent IBTW to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the charter of Local 2222. Local 2222 became well-known in the local labor movement and in political circles in Boston's working-class neighborhoods.

Ed held many positions in Local 2222 for many years including shop steward, chief steward, vice president and business agent. He became president of the Local in 1991 and held that position for 24 years until his retirement in March of 2015.

He is well-known for fiercely leading Local 2222 and 60,000 workers through a four month strike in 1989 that was one of the largest and most contentious union/management battles in decades. From the back of a pick-up truck with a loudspeaker, Ed motivated thousands to stand strong on the picket line and to battle for their rights and their families through one of the most successful strikes in U.S. history with his hallmark saying "Hang Tough." The striking workers in 1989 successfully resisted management demands and won health care coverage for all telephone workers in Boston.

Aside from being a fierce union leader, Ed is mostly known for his incredible dedication to those afflicted by drug and alcohol addiction. A legendary figure in Local 2222's "Membership Assistance" program, Ed's personal interventions and time has saved the lives, marriages, and phone company careers of countless workers caught in the grip of substance abuse. He has devoted his own personal time, day and night, to families and individuals struggling with addiction. He believes the most valuable thing you can give to another human being is your time and Fitzy makes the time for anyone in need. He not only works with the members of his union and their families but also spends three nights a week visiting and bringing the message of hope to the incarcerated in three local prisons.

Mr. Speaker, Fitzy is known for his diligent service to others from all walks of life. Ed was a recipient of the Caring Hearts Award from The Gavin Foundation in South Boston. He was also recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Correction at the State House for his tireless years of service to incarcerated individuals.

Ed has had the good fortune to be married to his wife, Joanne for 45 years; they are the proud parents of three children and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with Edward T. ''Fitzy'' Fitzpatrick's family, friends, and contemporaries to thank him for his remarkable service to his country, his community and to the working men and women of the Greater Boston area.

RECOGNIZING BOY SCOUT TROOP 6

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Boy Scout Troop 6 as they achieve the distinguished Centennial celebration in the storied history of scouting in America. Formed in 1915, Troop 6 is the oldest continuously operating scout troop in the Dan Beard Council, and now marks its 100th year.

Over those 100 years, scouting values have played an important role in our nation's history, contributing to the character development of millions of youth.

Leading boys from the first steps of Tenderfoot through the rank of Eagle Scout, through merit badges, summer camps, and service projects, Troop 6 has instilled character and moral compass in countless young men over its 100 years.

America and Ohio benefit from skills and values that scouting instills in our young men including self-reliance, a duty to God and country, appreciation of the outdoors, and committed citizenship. Our nation could benefit from more people taking the Scout Law to heart.

Troop 6 has shown a dedicated commitment to our community and nation, leading numerous service projects and supporting our military members.

Southwest Ohio is privileged to have such a distinguished scout troop. I look forward to Troop 6's next 100 years as they continue their legacy of service.

RECOGNIZING BILL AND DOROTHY BIZZINI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill and Dorothy Bizzini as the recipients of the Merced College Foundation's 2015 President's Medallion Award. Bill and Dorothy Bizzini have served their community with distinction, volunteering their time and donating to a wide range of causes and organizations in and around Merced County, California.

Bill and Dorothy Bizzini will have been married for 60 years in June and are the proud parents of four successful children. Bill and Dorothy graduated from Gustine High School. Dorothy earned a Registered Nursing Diploma from Sacramento Junior College and a B.A. in Nursing Education from CSU Sacramento. Bill majored in Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis. Bill and Dorothy were the first in their families to earn college degrees. They have owned and operated the Atwater Veterinary Clinic, providing quality medical care for both large and small animals, thus serving the needs of the area's farmers, ranchers, and community members since 1960.

Bill and Dorothy Bizzini have contributed their volunteer time by serving on many local, state, and national professional organizations and boards. Among these organizations are the Merced College Board of Trustees, the UC Merced Foundation, CSU Stanislaus Foundation, Atwater Chamber of Commerce, Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce, California Veterinary Medical Association, Atwater Methodist Church, Soroptimist Club of Atwater, Castle Air Force Base Community Council and Bloss Memorial Hospital Board of Directors.

The Bizzini's have always promoted education throughout their lives. In 2004 the Classroom Building at California State University Stanislaus was renamed Dorothy and Bill Bizzini Hall after a pledge of $1.35 million. Dorothy is currently on the University of California Merced Foundation's Board of Trustees and Bill served until 2012. Bill and Dorothy went to college on scholarships and they clearly understand how important it is to help others achieve a higher education.

Bill and Dorothy have inspired many others to follow their example of service above self, being active members of Rotary International and have attended 14 Rotary International Conventions. They have made numerous humanitarian trips to foreign countries, providing health services to families and children in Guatemala, Ghana, Venezuela, Mexico, El Salvador, Thailand and many other countries.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize the lifetime of commitment that Bill and Dorothy have given to the Merced County community. They are richly deserving of all honor and praise associated with the Merced College Foundation's President's Medallion.

STRENGTHENING TRADE-RELATED PROTECTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, when foreign countries selectively enforce their environmental rules to advantage their own companies, it undercuts U.S. companies and it harms the environment. Our trade negotiators should have the tools they need to adequately enforce environmental commitments.

The problem is proliferating. A survey conducted this year by the American Chamber of Commerce in China found that 57 percent—a multi-point increase from last year—of U.S. companies operating in China believed they were being unfairly targeted compared to their local competition. The U.S. should have the tools to correct such disadvantages. The Green 301 Act would be an important tool in this regard.

The Green 301 Act strengthens Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to strengthen the U.S. Trade Representative's ability to ensure that the law is applied equally, that bad actors are held accountable, and that good actors are not penalized for following the rules. By making sure U.S. companies aren't forced to play by a different and more costly set of rules abroad, we can bolster environmental protections and best practices, as well as U.S. exports. The selective enforcement of environmental laws damages both trade and our environment.

Specifically, the Green 301 Act would allow the U.S. to impose penalties on countries that fail to effectively enforce their environmental laws, that waived or otherwise derogated from their environmental laws, that fail to provide for judicial proceedings giving access to remedies for violations of their environmental laws, that fail to provide appropriate and effective sanctions or remedies for violations of their environmental laws, or that fail to effectively implement environmental commitments they agreed to with the United States.

Additionally, Section 301 enables outside groups to petition USTR to take action. Any outside organization may file a Section 301 request with USTR, which must then consult with the petitioners, and report back within 45 days on whether they will or won't act on the petition and why or why not. The Green 301 Act would ensure this process is expanded to environmental violations.

U.S. trade agreements attempt to limit these unfair double standards. Dozens of countries, however, fall outside our trade commitments. To level the playing field in these countries, and to stop a race to the bottom, Congress included Section 301 in the Trade Act of 1974. This section authorizes the U.S. to take action to remove ''any act, policy, or practice of a foreign government that . . . is unjustified, unreasonable, or discriminatory, and that burdens or restricts U.S. commerce.'' Congress later expanded Section 301 to deal specifically with IP issues, and later amended it to address labor standards. It is time that Congress expand it again to meet environmental challenges.

IN HONOR OF DR. NORMAN C. FRANCIS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an esteemed educator and outstanding civic leader, Dr. Norman C. Francis. As the nation's longest-serving university president, Dr. Francis will be retiring after 47 remarkable years as president of Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, Louisiana. A reception hosted by the Honorable Mary Landrieu and the Honorable Alexis Herman will be held in his honor on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Washington, DC.

Born and raised in Lafayette, Louisiana, Dr. Francis, the son of a barber and a homemaker, first set foot on the campus of Xavier University as a student in 1948 and immediately stood out among his peers as a leader in all areas of academic excellence. Foreshadowing the legacy he would later build on this very campus, his fellow classmates elected him class president each year of his undergraduate study and student body president his senior year. When he graduated with honors in 1952, Dr. Francis left Xavier knowing that he would return someday.

Later that year, Dr. Francis became the first African American to attend Loyola Law School in New Orleans. After graduating in 1955, he served our country with honor and distinction in the U.S. Army's Third Armored Division. After his honorable discharge, Dr. Francis worked on special assignment with the U.S. Attorney General to help desegregate federal agencies.

Following his completion of this assignment, Dr. Francis found himself at a crossroads. He had a promising legal career ahead of him yet he yearned to be of service in higher education. Choosing the latter, where he thought his talents could be of greater use, Dr. Francis returned to his alma mater, becoming dean of men in 1957. Rising quickly through the ranks, he became the first African American and first layman to serve as president of Xavier University in 1968.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Francis has revolutionized Xavier University in countless ways during his 47-year tenure as president. Under his leadership, the university's enrollment has more than doubled, its endowment has grown eight-fold, and its campus has expanded from only five buildings to sixteen buildings on more than sixty acres.

These changes are also reflected in the young leaders and model graduates that Xavier continues to produce. Xavier University is recognized as the leading producer of African American undergraduates who go on to complete medical school and one of the top three producers of African American Doctor of Pharmacy degree recipients. Xavier ranks first nationally in the number of African American students earning undergraduate degrees in biology and life sciences, chemistry, physics, and pharmacy.

Dr. Francis' sphere of influence has not been confined to the campus limits of Xavier University. A nationally recognized figure, Dr. Francis has served in advisory roles to eight U.S. presidents on education and civil rights issues. He has also served on 54 boards and commissions. He has received 42 honorary degrees from other universities and numerous awards and commendations in recognition of his leadership in higher education as well as his selfless service to his community and to our nation. In 2006, then-President George W. Bush honored Dr. Francis with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Norman C. Francis for his significant contributions to our nation and for his 47 outstanding years as President of Xavier University of Louisiana. His visionary leadership has helped transform this university for the better to provide students with a fulfilling college experience, a quality education focusing on academic excellence, and the necessary tools with which to live successful and productive lives.

HONORING CHIEF THOMAS LAWS

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Thomas Laws, the Fire Chief of Granite Falls, North Carolina. On May 1, 2015, Chief Laws will retire after thirty-two years of successful, dedicated service.

Chief Laws began his service in Granite Falls in 1982 as a firefighter. Just three years later, he was promoted to Chief. During his tenure, Chief Laws maintained a standard of excellence in firefighting equipment, tactics, and training. He was also instrumental in obtaining several program grants that have made the department what it is today. Thanks in large part to Chief Laws' dedication, the local fire department in Granite Falls consistently handled emergencies in a timely and efficient manner.

The exemplary leadership of Chief Laws is something that all of us can admire and respect. As such, I am proud to honor Fire Chief Thomas Laws for his faithful service to the people of Granite Falls and congratulate him on his retirement.

CELEBRATING ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC. GREAT LAKES REGION

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 95 years of service by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and to wish them well as they begin their 81st Annual Great Lakes Regional Leadership Conference tomorrow in Rosemont, Illinois.

The conference, led by Great Lakes Regional Director Michelle Porter Norman, will capture the essence of all that Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated embodies . . . to be "A Community Conscious, Action Oriented Organization". Their National Programs, including Z–HOPE, Stork's Nest and Elder Care, provide necessary assistance to members of our communities across the globe, to address societal ills, poverty, and health concerns of the day. It is expected to draw more than 700 members from across seven states—Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded in 1920 at Howard University in Washington, DC, in the belief that the social nature of Sorority life should not overshadow the real mission of progressive organizations. The international organization's more than 100,000 initiated members and affiliates have given millions of volunteer hours to educate the public, provide scholarships, support organized charities and promote legislation for social and civic change. Zeta Phi Beta has more than 800 chapters in the United States, Japan, Germany, England, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, the Caribbean and most recently Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

I send a sincere "thank you" to Zeta Phi Beta for your dedication to promoting academic excellence and instilling in your members a lifelong commitment to service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. SAUNDRA H. GLOVER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Saundra H. Glover on the occasion of her retirement from the University of South Carolina. Serving as Associate Dean for Health Disparities and Social Justice of the Arnold School of Public Health and Director of the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities (IPEHD), Dr. Glover has devoted her life to fighting inequity in health status and health care.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said at the 1966 National Convention of the Medical Committee for Human Rights: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." I profoundly agree with that view. While many bemoan the poor health status of many Americans and their lack of access to care, Dr. Glover spent decades working to correct this shocking and inhumane injustice.

In her fight to eliminate health disparities, Dr. Glover has brought to bear a plethora of weapons. She has conducted research, winning millions of dollars in grants and leading efforts to create the Health Disparities Research Network. She has been a prolific author, publishing dozens of articles in academic journals. She has been an educator, working to address the dearth of minority public health professionals and earning the South Carolina Rural Health Association's Excellence in Education Award. She has been a community leader, serving on the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) commissioner's health disparities advisory board and partnering with DHEC's Office of Minority Health on a number of statewide initiatives. In 2010, she was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute 21st Century Council, leading the health policy subcommittee.

In all of these endeavors, Dr. Glover has attacked the complicated problem of health disparities from a wide array of angles. Her publications have covered topics as diverse as HIV, mental health, diabetes, asthma, access to care, and health services delivery. IPEHD, under her directorship, has been engaged in research and community activities that address HIV, cervical cancer, head and neck cancers, prostate cancer, obesity, mental health, autoimmune diseases, musculoskeletal injuries, and environmental health. In all of her work, Dr. Glover has focused on identifying and developing partnerships, engaging vulnerable and underserved communities in research, prevention and intervention activities, and training underrepresented minorities in biomedical and behavioral research.

I am particularly grateful for Dr. Glover's role in organizing the James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Lecture Series. She has taken the lead in developing this annual lecture series to bring together academicians, clinicians, and community partners to share research and best practices on promoting health equity.

Recognizing the importance of turning knowledge into action, Dr. Glover has ensured that this lecture series include follow-up dialogue sessions to identify community-level action steps to address racial, ethnic, and residence-based disparities in HIV and cancer in South Carolina and across the country. The success and growth of these programs would not have been possible without Dr. Glover's leadership.

With all of these accomplishments, it is no surprise that Dr. Glover has garnered numerous honors and awards over the years. The University of South Carolina honored her with the Outstanding Black Alumni Award in 2004 and the Martin Luther King Faculty Social Justice Award for Exemplary Teaching, Research, and Service in 2010. She has also received national acclaim, winning the National Council of Negro Women's Living the Legacy Award in 2011, the Urban League's 2012 Tower Award for contributions to the betterment of humanity, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's MLK Community Service Award in 2013. We in South Carolina have been fortunate to have such a distinguished figure serving our community for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Glover on her well-deserved retirement. I wish her good health and Godspeed.

INTRODUCTION OF END RACIAL PROFILING ACT OF 2015

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the End Racial Profiling Act of 2015, along with additional cosponsors. This legislation represents a comprehensive federal commitment to healing the rift caused by racial profiling and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system at-large. This legislation is designed to enforce the constitutional right to equal protection of the laws by changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice of profiling.

This legislation can be traced back to the data collection efforts of the late 1990's that were designed to determine whether racial profiling was a fact rather than an urban legend. Based upon the work around that legislation, by September 11, 2001, there was significant empirical evidence and wide agreement among Americans, including President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft, that racial profiling was a tragic fact of life in the minority community and that the Federal government should take action to end the practice.

Moreover, many in the law enforcement community have also acknowledged that singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin had eroded the trust in law enforcement necessary to appropriately serve and protect our communities.

During our 112th Congress Judiciary Committee hearing on racial profiling, we approached the issue from the perspective of "smart policing" and what makes sense in a time of austerity for protecting public safety. I believe that it became clear during the hearing that enough agreement exists to allow us to re-open the bipartisan dialogue on racial profiling commenced by President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft.

Despite the fact that the majority of law enforcement officers perform their duties professionally and without bias—and we value their service highly—the specter of racial profiling has contaminated the relationship between the police and minority communities to such a degree that federal action is justified to begin addressing the issue. While the Department of Justice reissued a series of guidelines in December 2014 which were designed to end the practice of racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies, these measures still do not reach the vast majority of racial profiling complaints arising from the routine activities of state and local law enforcement agencies.

Further, the guidelines provide no enforcement mechanism or methods for identifying law enforcement agencies not in compliance and, therefore, fail to resolve the racial profiling problem nationwide. In this instance, there is no substitute for comprehensive federal anti-profiling legislation.

The End Racial Profiling Act is designed to eliminate the well documented problem of racial, ethnic, religious, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and national origin profiling. First, the bill provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by declaratory or injunctive relief. Second, the bill mandates that training on racial profiling issues as part of Federal law enforcement training, the collection of data on all routine or spontaneous investigatory activities that is to be submitted through a standardized form to the Department of Justice.

Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

Recent events in the wake of Ferguson, Missouri demonstrate that racial profiling remains a divisive issue in communities across the nation that strikes at the very foundation of our democracy. The deaths of Walter L. Scott—arising from a traffic stop—Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Antonio Zambrano-Montes—all at the hands of police officers—highlight the links between the issues of race and reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct. Ultimately, these men are tragic examples of the risk of being victimized by a perception of criminality simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion or national origin. These individuals were denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American.

Decades ago, in the face of shocking violence, the passage of sweeping civil rights legislation made it clear that race should not affect the treatment of an individual American under the law. I believe that thousands of pedestrian and traffic stops of innocent minorities and needless killings or use of excessive force by the police call for a similar federal response. The practice of using race or other characteristics as a proxy for criminality by law enforcement seriously undermines the progress we have made toward achieving equality under the law. Please join me in supporting this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Job Corps Program. With Westover Job Corps Center in Chicopee, Massachusetts within my district, I would like to say a few words on the successes that Job Corps have had over their distinguished history.

The Job Corps Program was created as a collaboration between the public and private sectors to help poor and unemployed young people gain the skills to enter the job market. Job Corps' educational model allows academic and vocational professionals to create self-paced work plans for their students. With their residential campuses, counselors, instructors, and advisors work with their students on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis to develop the life skills, financial literacy, and responsible citizenship that students require for the future. 80 percent of all Job Corps graduates are able to find employment, move onto higher education, or serve their nation in the Armed Forces. Over their 50 year history, more than 3 million jobless and underemployed people have benefitted from the unique opportunity that Job Corps offers.

Mr. Speaker, Job Corps remains a life-changing resource for thousands of at-risk, jobless, and disenfranchised youths around the country. I have personally seen the improvements that have been made to students' lives at Westover Job Corps Center over my tenure in Congress. I wish them continued success as they continue their great work in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITGO CORPUS CHRISTI REFINERY

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery. Since 1935, CITGO has been a dedicated leader to the City of Corpus Christi and to the people of Texas.

Driven by commitment to its core values of integrity, respect, and fairness, CITGO has been a shining steward and model example of the community. As a good corporate neighbor who has provided thousands of jobs and innumerable charitable contributions and volunteer work to the people of Corpus Christi, I am very proud to have CITGO here in the 27th District of Texas.

As a company rightly focused on people and opportunity, I encourage us all to take time today on April 15, 2015 to celebrate eight decades of CITGO's commitment to our community and to wish the Corpus Christi Refinery nothing but the best in the upcoming century.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND JAMES CALVIN HARRIS, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God who has been a longstanding source of inspiration, spiritual guidance, and moral leadership to the Columbus, Georgia community, the Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr. After sixty-four remarkable years of serving as Pastor of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus, Rev. Harris will be retiring this month. A celebration of his well-deserved retirement will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center in Columbus, Georgia.

James Calvin Harris was born in Lee County, Georgia on April 7, 1925 to Elijah and Viola Harris as one of seven children. In 1944, at the age of 18, he began serving our country with courage and distinction in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war, Mr. Harris moved to Chicago and worked as a baker and dishwasher but later returned to Georgia to pursue his education. He attended Albany State University and then studied at the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee.

His first church membership was St. Mathew Baptist Church in Lee County, which was pastored at the time by the late Reverend Allen A. Green. It was by this same pastor that Rev. Harris was licensed to the ministry on July 9, 1939 and ordained as a minister on August 10, 1949.

Early on in his career, he pastored at several churches across Georgia, sharing his passion for the teachings of Christ. Following the path that God set out for him, Rev. Harris eventually came to call Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church in Columbus his home. When he began preaching at the church, it was a small wooden building with only 100 members. Thanks to his dedication and enthusiasm, Rev. Harris has been able to build the Church's membership to over 1,000 and make several extensive renovations and additions.

Rev. Harris has always been popular with churchgoers because of the energy he brings to his sermons. Known by many as the ''singing and preaching'' pastor, Rev. Harris even authored and recorded an original song, ''God is a Battle Axe.'' During the Civil Rights Movement, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. often asked him to perform the song to offer encouragement at mass meetings. A charismatic evangelical leader and pioneer, Rev. Harris' spiritual zeal is both infectious and highly contagious.

Always pressing towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, to better improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Rev. Harris has worked tirelessly to promote Christian values and put them into action in his community. Throughout his career, Rev. Harris has played a leading role in many religious-affiliated and community-based organizations. He has also been honored with various awards and commendations too numerous to list here.

Rev. Harris has accomplished many things in his life but none of these would have been possible without the grace of God and his loving wife, Maggie, who met her eternal reward in 2012 after sixty-seven years of marriage; their seven children, one of whom is deceased; eleven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. On a personal note, I have truly been blessed by Rev. Harris' sage counsel and enduring friendship over the many years I have known him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the Reverend James Calvin Harris, Sr. for sixty-four wonderful years of leadership of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church, over seventy-five remarkable years of ministry, and a lifetime of selfless service to God, the church, and to humankind.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS CAUCUS AWARDS 2015

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, crime victims are not statistics.

They are real people with real stories who have had something bad happen to them.

As a former judge, I used to see victims in my courtroom every day.

Unfortunately, too often victims are left out of the criminal justice process.

They are also many times overlooked and forgotten in the legislative process.

When I came to Congress, victims did not have an advocate group of lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

That is why Congressman JIM COSTA, a Democrat from California, and I, a Republican from Texas, founded the Victims' Rights Caucus.

Supporting crime victims is a bipartisan issue.

This week is National Crime Victims' Rights week, and the Victims' Rights Caucus will recognize those tenacious groups and individuals whose life work is to support victims.

I was proud to nominate Truckers Against Trafficking for the Suzanne McDaniel Memorial Award for Public Awareness.

Much like the award's namesake, Truckers Against Trafficking has pioneered efforts in the victims' rights community.

Truckers Against Trafficking is a traveling nonprofit group that works to educate and raise awareness for trafficking in the trucking industry.

These truckers know what signs to look for in a trafficking victim and are proactive in their efforts to rescue these victims from their trafficker.

Congressman JIM COSTA (CA–16) recognized community leader Sergeant Jeff Kertson for the Allied Professional Award.

Sergeant Kertson oversees several units for the Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

This includes the domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, sex offender registration, missing persons/runaways units, as well as a predator program and task force.

Sergeant Kertson really goes above and beyond to make victim services a priority to ensure a safer Fresno community.

The Ed Stout Memorial Award honors the legacy of the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, Missouri, one of the Nation's oldest three victims' assistance organizations.

Ms. Mary Travers Murphy, nominated by Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS (NY–26), has been a champion for domestic violence victims in her community.

Her work as the Executive Director of the Family Justice Center of Erie County (FJCEC) raising funds for domestic violence victims has resulted in the opening of two suburban satellite FJCEC centers in Erie County.

Her efforts have strengthened her Erie community.

Another community leader that deserves recognition is Ms. Kerri True-Funk.

She was nominated for the Lois Haight Award of Excellence and Innovation by Congressman RODNEY DAVIS (IL–13).

Kerri is the Executive Director of Rape Advocacy, Counseling and Education Services (RACES).

Kerri has championed efforts of prevention and education, which makes her the perfect candidate for the Lois Haight Award, working to prevent crime before it happens.

Kerri deserves to be honored for her work with RACES—reducing the occurrence of sexual assault among individuals with disabilities through empowerment education.

Victim advocates are wonderful people.

Many of them I have met over the years are even more special because they have used their personal experience to help others.

That is what the recipient of the Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award did.

William Kellibrew, nominated by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON (DC), had a traumatic past but he chose to fight back.

He is the founder of the William Kellibrew Foundation (WKF), a community-driven partnership that advocates on breaking the cycles of violence and poverty.

The WKF provides support networks for victims while they rebuild their lives.

People like William are living examples of how survivors can use their experiences to empower others.

The Victims' Rights Caucus is also recognizing Robin Smith, the founder of Video Action.

Video Action produces training instructional videos to educate victim advocates.

Robin reaches a vast audience through her videos which has spread awareness about victims issues to victim advocates.

Every single one of these recipients are warriors fighting to protect innocent victims and prevent further crimes.

We thank them for what they do for not only their communities, but for our nation.

Restoring the lives of victims is not easy work, but it's the Lord's work, saving people one at a time.

And that is just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, I was at home in Wisconsin due to an unexpected family emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways: on roll call no. 162 (H. Con. Res. 25)—

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition—Yea.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS JOONDEPH, DUNCAN YOST, GARRETT KRAL, AND MITCHELL MONREAL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Joondeph, Duncan Yost, Garrett Kral, and Mitchell Monreal for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, DC office for the Spring 2015 session of Congress.

The work of these young men has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these four and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All four of our interns have made plans to continue their work next year with various organizations in both Colorado and Washington. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Chris Joondeph, Duncan Yost, Garrett Kral, and Mitchell Monreal for their service this spring.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE D'AGOSTINO RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today in my home town of Winter Park, Florida, we will lay to rest a Central Florida community leader and American Patriot, Jeanne D'Agostino Rodriguez.

It has been my privilege to know Jeanne and her family for more than four decades, and it has been my honor to call her my friend. She was a Republican stalwart, and a successful businesswoman with an untiring record of community service. We shared mutual passions for good government, family and faith and an appreciation of our Italian heritage.

The Rodriguez and D'Agostino families have been leading restaurateurs in Central Florida, beginning with their restaurant, La Cantina, which they sold and created the renowned Villa Nova restaurant which, over the years, received numerous culinary awards and was a Winter Park landmark.

Jeanne, who was preceded in death by her beloved husband John, and two brothers, was a respected business woman and community activist. In Central Florida politics, Jeanne was the Grand Dame of the Republican Party. She worked tirelessly to build the GOP in its lean beginning years in Florida and served in county and state Republican leadership positions. She was an early champion behind successful campaigns of Republican leaders including United States Senator Paula Hawkins and President Ronald Reagan. Some of Jeanne's many charitable endeavors were highlighted by her support for the Morning Star School and Bishop Grady Villas.

Jeanne is survived by her family who she loved so dearly, including her children: Mark Rodriguez and wife Kim; John Rodriguez and wife Vicki; her sisters, Florence Ross and Anna Belitz Powers; her grandchildren: Jordan, Jared, Jenna, Jillian, Rebecca and Elizabeth and by her great granddaughter Aylin.

Most of all, my friend Jeanne Rodriguez was an American Patriot. She loved our country and her family and was devoted in her Catholic faith.

Mr. Speaker, we have lost a great Central Floridian and American. I ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing Jeanne's memory as she is laid to rest today in Palm Cemetery in Winter Park, Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT OF 2015

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, to this day we, as a country, are still working through the devastating effects of the foreclosure crisis. This avoidable tragedy was caused in part by predatory lenders taking advantage of homebuyers who had little or no understanding of the purchases they were making. That is why, in recognition of Financial Literacy Month, I introduced legislation entitled, ''the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015.'' This bill would give first-time homebuyers who complete a Department of Housing and Urban Development or HUD-certified housing counseling course a discount on their Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage insurance premiums of 25 basis points (or 0.25 percent).

For many Americans, owning a home is the cornerstone of achieving the American Dream. Homeownership not only benefits the homeowner's family and surrounding community, it is also linked to improved health and school performance for children. Additionally, FHA provides the gateway to affordable housing for these individuals and families. However, for many prospective first-time homeowners, the process of purchasing real estate may be confusing and daunting and may leave uninformed buyers victims of unaffordable or predatory loans.

The Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015 would motivate first-time homebuyers to seek vital pre-purchase housing counseling to alleviate the confusion and fears associated with purchasing real estate. These housing counseling programs help prospective homebuyers understand their financing and down-payment options, evaluate their readiness for a home purchase and navigate what sometimes may be a confusing and difficult process. In fact, studies have shown that homebuyers who receive pre-purchase housing counseling courses are nearly one-third less likely to fall behind on their mortgage, and that housing counseling can improve prospective borrowers' access to affordable, prudent mortgage loans.

These programs are so important that just last week, HUD awarded more than $36 million in housing counseling grants to hundreds of national, regional and local organizations to help families and individuals with their housing needs and to prevent future foreclosures. Consequently, an additional benefit of housing counseling is a reduction in delinquencies or default by better-informed first-time homebuyers. The Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015 would encourage first-time homebuyers to take advantage of these critical counseling resources that can increase their financial literacy skills and capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that first-time homebuyers have the knowledge and tools necessary to be successful homeowners is an objective that we can all share. I would like to thank the Members of Congress who signed on as original co-sponsors of this bipartisan bill, including the Democratic and Republican Co-Chairs of the Financial Literacy Caucus, and urge my colleagues to join in our efforts to increase financial literacy by adding their names to the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2015.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOLITION AND ECONOMIC AND ENERGY CONVERSION ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, on Earth Day, I am introducing the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2015, a version of which I have introduced since 1994, after working with the District of Columbia residents who were responsible for the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion ballot initiative passed by D.C. voters in 1993. This version of the bill now requires the United States to immediately begin negotiating an international agreement to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons, to provide for strict control of fissile material and radioactive waste, and to use nuclear-free energy.

The bill continues to provide that the funds used for nuclear weapons programs be redirected to human and infrastructure needs, such as housing, health care, Social Security, restoring the environment, and creating carbon-free, nuclear-free energy. This conversion to a peace economy would occur when the President certifies to Congress that all countries possessing nuclear weapons have begun elimination under international treaty or other legal agreement.

The bill is particularly timely as countries of the world meet at the United Nations to review the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the possibility of a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

Our country still has a long list of urgent domestic needs that have been put on the back burner. As the only nation that has used nuclear weapons in war, and that still possesses the largest nuclear weapons arsenal, I urge support for my bill to help the United States reestablish our moral leadership in the world by redirecting funds that would otherwise go to nuclear weapons for urgent domestic needs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on April 13, 2015, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 145–147. Had I been present I would have voted ''nay'' on Roll Call Votes No. 145 and 146. I would have voted ''yea'' on 147.

Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 2015, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 148–153. Had I been present I would have voted ''yea'' on Roll Call Votes No. 150 and 153. I would have voted ''nay'' on Roll Call Votes No. 148, 149, 151 and 152.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

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 $18,151,967,217,887.84. We've added $7,525,090,168,974.76 to our debt in 6 years. This is over $7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

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 23, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 28

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine Untied States security policy in Europe.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the state of the insurance industry and insurance regulation.
SD–538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard
To hold hearings to examine the resources and priorities of the U.S. Coast Guard.
SR–253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.
SD–366

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine creating a more efficient and level playing field, focusing on audit and appeals issues in Medicare.
SD–215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the future of medical innovation for patients.
SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management
To hold hearings to examine the proper role of judicial review in the federal regulatory process.
SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on aviation safety and general aviation.
SR–253

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine securing the border, focusing on biometric entry and exit at our ports of entry.
SD–342

APRIL 29

9 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the National Guard and Reserve.
SD–192

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Homeland Security.
SD–342

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development
To hold hearings to examine opportunities for private investment in public infrastructure.
SD–538

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the King vs. Burwell Supreme Court case and congressional action that can be taken to protect small businesses and their employees.
SR–428A

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Homeland Security.
SD–138

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD–124

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine military space programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SR–222

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 248, to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.
SD–628

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's High Risk List and the Veterans Health Administration.
SR–418

APRIL 30

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States European Command programs and budget in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the National Institutes of Health.
SD–124

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 703, to reauthorize the weatherization and State energy programs, S. 720, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and S. 858, to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities.
SD–366

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining
To hold hearings to examine the Bureau of Land Management's final rule on hydraulic fracturing.
SD–366

MAY 5

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal government's role in wildfire management, the impact of fires on communities, and potential improvements to be made in fire operations.
SD–366

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 178, Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, as amended.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2311–S2359

Measures Introduced: Twenty-eight bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1036–1063, and S. Res. 144–147. **Pages S2351–52**

Measures Passed:

Medicare Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration Improvement Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 971, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an increase in the limit on the length of an agreement under the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S2318–19**

Cornyn (for Wyden) Amendment No. 1129, to make a technical correction. **Page S2319**

Steve Gleason Act: Senate passed S. 984, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiary access to eye tracking accessories for speech generating devices and to remove the rental cap for durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program with respect to speech generating devices. **Page S2319**

2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 144, supporting the mission and goals of 2015 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of, and services available to assist, victims and survivors of crime in the United States. **Page S2319**

Parkinson's Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 145, supporting the designation of April 2015, as "Parkinson's Awareness Month". **Page S2319**

National Assistant Principals Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 146, expressing support for the designation of the week of April 13 through April 17, 2015, as "National Assistant Principals Week". **Page S2319**

Historian Emeritus Donald A. Ritchie: Senate agreed to S. Res. 147, designating Donald A. Ritchie as Historian Emeritus of the United States Senate. **Page S2319**

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act: By a unanimous vote of 99 yeas (Vote No. 163), Senate passed S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2312–18, S2319–48**

Adopted:

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 157), Cornyn/Murray Amendment No. 1124, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, April 21, 2015, the amendment having achieved 60 affirmative votes, was agreed to.) **Pages S2313–16, S2320**

By a unanimous vote of 99 yeas (Vote No. 160), Brown Amendment No. 311, to direct the Attorney General to increase the amount provided under certain formula grants to States that have in place laws that terminate the parental rights of men who father children through rape. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, April 21, 2015, the amendment having achieved 60 affirmative votes, was agreed to.) **Pages S2331–32**

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 161), Burr Amendment No. 1121, to require the Secretary of Defense to inform the Attorney General of persons required to register as sex offenders. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, April 21, 2015, the amendment having achieved 60 affirmative votes, was agreed to.) **Pages S2320–26, S2332**

By 97 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 162), Grassley (for Kirk) Modified Amendment No. 273, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for

knowingly selling advertising that offers certain commercial sex acts. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, April 21, 2015, the amendment having achieved 60 affirmative votes, was agreed to.)

Pages S2326–29, S2332–33

Cornyn (for Klobuchar) Amendment No. 296, to stop exploitation through trafficking. **Pages S2333–37**

Cornyn (for Hoeven) Modified Amendment No. 299, to ensure that eligible entities that have only recently begun collecting data on child human trafficking are not precluded from being awarded certain grants. **Pages S2333–37**

Cornyn (for Sullivan) Amendment No. 279, to require the Attorney General of the United States to grant certain requests by State attorneys general to cross designate State and local attorneys to prosecute individuals for sex trafficking. **Pages S2333–37**

Cornyn (for Wicker) Amendment No. 1126, to direct the Attorney General to create a publicly accessible database for trafficking victims advocates that contains information about services for trafficking survivors. **Pages S2333–37**

Cornyn (for Flake) Amendment No. 294, to require a GAO study on the programs authorized by the bill. **Pages S2333–37**

Cornyn (for Cassidy/Peters) Amendment No. 308, to provide for the development and dissemination of evidence-based best practices for health care professionals to recognize victims of a severe form of trafficking and respond to such individuals appropriately. **Pages S2333–37**

Cornyn (for Portman) Amendment No. 1128, to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking. **Pages S2333–37**

Cornyn (for Brown) Amendment No. 310, to allow grants under the victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program to be used for assisting law enforcement agencies in finding homeless and runaway youth. **Pages S2333–37**

Cornyn (for Brown) Amendment No. 312, to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to expand the training for Federal Government personnel related to trafficking in persons.

Pages S2333–37

Cornyn (for Heller) Amendment No. 1122, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities. **Pages S2333–37**

Cornyn (for Shaheen) Amendment No. 303, to aid human trafficking victims' recovery and rehabilitation. **Pages S2333–37**

Rejected:

By 43 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 156), Leahy Amendment No. 301, relating to justice for victims of human trafficking. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, April 21, 2015, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.)

Pages S2316–18, S2319–20

By 45 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 158), Cornyn Amendment No. 1127, to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, April 21, 2015, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Page S2330**

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 159), Leahy Amendment No. 290, to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, April 21, 2015, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S2329–30, S2330–31**

Withdrawn:

McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1120, to strengthen the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act by incorporating additional bipartisan amendments.

Pages S2312–13

Essential Transportation Worker Identification Credential Assessment Act—Referral Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that H.R. 710, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, be discharged from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. **Page S2319**

Grand Canyon Bison Management Act—Referral Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that S. 782, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park, be discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works and be referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. **Page S2319**

Lynch Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, April 23, 2015, notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General; that there be 2 hours of debate, equally divided in the usual form, prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; that if cloture is invoked, there be up to 2 hours of post-cloture debate equally divided between the two Leaders, and that following the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. **Page S2359**

Messages from the House: Page S2351

Measures Referred: Page S2351

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S2351

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2352–53

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S2353–58

Additional Statements: Page S2351

Amendments Submitted: Page S2358

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S2358–59

Record Votes: Eight record votes were taken today. (Total—163) Pages S2319–20, S2330–33, S2338

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 4:34 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2359.)

Motion to Adjourn: Senate agreed to the motion to adjourn. Page S2359

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Transportation, after receiving testimony from Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEFENSE INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for defense innovation and research, after receiving testimony from Frank Kendall, Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Alan Shaffer, Acting Assistant Secretary for Development Research and Engineering, and Arati Prabhakar, Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: FEMA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), after receiving testimony from W. Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine reform of the defense acquisition system in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Heidi Shyu, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, Sean J. Stackley, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, and William A. LaPlante, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, 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 Air Force and Navy nuclear programs and the implementation of nuclear enterprise review recommendations in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Major General Garrett Harencak, USAF, Assistant Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Lieutenant General Stephen W. Wilson, USAF, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, Vice Admiral Terry J. Benedict, USN, Director, Strategic Systems Programs, and Yisroel E. Brumer, Director, Strategic, Defensive and Space Programs, Office of the Secretary, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, all of the Department of Defense; and Madelyn R. Creedon, Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

WEATHER COMMUNICATION TO ENHANCE COMMERCE AND SAFETY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine how to better communicate weather to enhance commerce and safety, after receiving testimony from Don Hermey, Manatee County Emergency Management, Bradenton, Florida; Jay Trobec, Keloland Television, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Ron Sznaider, Schneider Electric, Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Kim Klockow, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, Silver Spring, Maryland.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reauthorization of and potential reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, after receiving testimony from Michael Connor, Deputy Secretary of the Interior; Lewis Ledford, National Association of State Park Directors, Raleigh, North Carolina; Lynn Scarlett, The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, Virginia; and Reed Watson, Property and Environment Research Center (PERC), Bozeman, Montana.

NOMINATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Vanessa Lorraine Allen Sutherland, of Virginia, to be a Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, after the nominee testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee began consideration of S. 995, to establish congressional trade negotiating objectives and enhanced consultation requirements for trade negotiations, to provide for consideration of trade agreements, an original bill relating to extension of the trade adjustment assistance program, and amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the credit for health insurance costs of certain eligible individuals, an original bill to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and an original bill to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities.

STATE DEPARTMENT REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine State Department reauthorization, focusing on ensuring effective United States diplomacy within a reasonable budget, after receiving testimony from Heather Higginbotom, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

SECURING THE BORDER

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine securing the border, focusing on understanding threats and strategies for the northern border, after receiving testimony from Michael Fisher, Chief, Border Patrol, and John Wagner, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, both of Customs and Border Protection, and James C. Spero, Special Agent in Charge, Homeland Security Investigations Buffalo, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, all of the Department of Homeland Security; Dave Rodriguez, Director, Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, Office of National Drug Control Policy; and Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York, Department of Justice.

TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine tribal transportation, focusing on pathways to safer roads in Indian country, after receiving testimony from Michael Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Delbert A. McOmie, Wyoming Department of Transportation Chief Engineer, Cheyenne; J. Michael Chavarria, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Espanola, New Mexico; Rick Kirn, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, Poplar, Montana; and John Smith, Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes of the Wind River Indian Reservation, Fort Washakie, Wyoming.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 710, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, with an amendment.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 55 public bills, H.R. 1926–1980; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 219, were introduced. **Pages H2415–17**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2419–20**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Collins (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2359**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:55 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H2365**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Tom Tucker, Sisk Memorial Baptist Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina.

Page H2365

Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act: The House passed H.R. 1195, to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, by a yea-and-nay vote of 235 yeas to 183 nays, Roll No. 167.

Pages H2378–81

Rejected the Kuster motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 184 ayes to 234 noes, Roll No. 166. **Pages H2379–80**

Agreed to:

Kuster amendment (No. 1 printed in part D of H. Rept. 114–74) that was debated on April 21st that requires the CFPB Director to include representatives of minority- and women-owned small business concerns in the membership of the Small Business Advisory Board, and to include financial institutions predominantly serving traditionally underserved communities and populations and their interests in the membership of the Credit Union Advisory Council and Community Bank Advisory Council (by a recorded vote of 244 ayes to 173 noes, Roll No. 165). **Page H2378**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Takai wherein he resigned from the Committee on Natural Resources. **Page H2381**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 219, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H2381**

Protecting Cyber Networks Act: The House passed H.R. 1560, to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, by a recorded vote of 307 ayes to 116 noes, Roll No. 170.

Pages H2381–98

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence printed in the bill shall be considered as read. **Page H2386**

Rejected the Rice (NY) motion to recommit the bill to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 183 ayes to 239 noes, Roll No. 169.

Pages H2396–97

Agreed to:

Nunes amendment (No. 1 printed in part A of H. Rept. 114–88) that makes technical changes to several sections of the bill and clarifies the authorization for the use of defensive measures. Further clarifies the liability protections for network monitoring and sharing and receipt of cyber threat indicators and defensive measures. **Page H2391**

Cárdenas amendment (No. 2 printed in part A of H. Rept. 114–88) that instructs the SBA to provide assistance to small businesses and small financial institutions to participate under this section, instructs the SBA to generate a report about such entities participation, and instructs the federal government to engage in out reach to encourage small business and small financial institution participation.

Pages H2391–92

Carson (IN) amendment (No. 3 printed in part A of H. Rept. 114–88) that adds the requirement that the Inspector General report on current procedures pertaining to the sharing of information, removal procedures for personal information or information identifying a specific person, and any incidents pertaining to the improper treatment of information.

Pages H2392–93

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 5 printed in part A of H. Rept. 114–88) that directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to provide a report to Congress on the actions taken by the Federal Government to remove personal information from data shared through the programs established by this statute. **Pages H2394–95**

Mulvaney amendment (No. 4 printed in part A of H. Rept. 114–88) that sunsets the provisions of the bill after 7 years (by a recorded vote of 313 ayes to 110 noes, Roll No. 168). **Pages H2393–94, H2395–96**

H. Res. 212, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1560) and (H.R. 1731), was agreed to by a recorded vote of 238 ayes to 182 noes, Roll No. 164, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 237 yeas to 179 nays, Roll No. 163. **Pages H2368–78**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, April 23. **Pages H2398**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today and appears on page H2378.

Senate Referrals: S. 984 was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means. S. 971 was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce. **Page H2414**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and six recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2376–77, H2377–78, H2378, H2380, H2380–81, H2395–96, H2397, and H2397–98. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Committee Meetings

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE U.S. GRAIN STANDARDS ACT

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing to review reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE LIVESTOCK MANDATORY REPORTING ACT

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture held a hearing to review reauthorization of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a markup on Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, FY 2016; and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill, FY 2016; and a Report on the Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2016. The Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, FY 2016 was ordered reported, as amended. The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill, FY 2016 was ordered reported, as amended. The Report on the Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY 2016 passed, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016''. H.R. 1735 was forwarded to the full committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016''. H.R. 1735 was forwarded to the full committee, without amendment.

EXAMINING THE CHALLENGES FACING NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOOLS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Challenges Facing Native American Schools''. Testimony was heard from Melissa Emrey-Arras, Director of Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a markup on the ''Ratepayer Protection Act''. The ''Ratepayer Protection Act'' was forwarded to the full committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a markup on the ''Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters (TROL) Act''. The ''Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters (TROL) Act'' was forwarded to the full committee, as amended.

A SURVEY OF GLOBAL TERRORISM AND TERRORIST FINANCING

Committee on Financial Services: Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing held a hearing entitled ''A Survey of Global Terrorism and Terrorist Financing''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN: CAN'T TRUST, CAN WE VERIFY?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Nuclear Agreement with Iran: Can't Trust, Can We Verify?''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION: TIER RANKINGS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled ''Accountability and Transformation: Tier Rankings in the Fight Against Human Trafficking''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

POACHING AND TERRORISM: A NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a hearing entitled ''Poaching and Terrorism: A National Security Challenge''. Testimony was heard from Judith G. Garber, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International and Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State; Robert Dreher, Associate Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and John Cruden, Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice.

STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES ON THE BIOTERRORISM THREAT

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a hearing entitled ''Strategic Perspectives on the Bioterrorism Threat''. Testimony was heard from Marisa Raphael, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Emergency Planning and Response, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and public witnesses.

ACQUISITION OVERSIGHT: HOW EFFECTIVELY IS DHS SAFEGUARDING TAXPAYER DOLLARS?

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency held a hearing entitled ''Acquisition Oversight: How Effectively Is DHS Safeguarding Taxpayer Dollars?''. Testimony was heard from Michele Mackin, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office; Chip Fulghum, Acting Deputy Undersecretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security; and a public witness.

INNOVATIONS IN SAFETY SINCE THE 2010 MACONDO INCIDENT

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Innovations in Safety Since the 2010 Macondo Incident''. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Brian Salerno (USCG, Retired), Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S PART 83 REVISIONS AND HOW THEY MAY ALLOW THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT TO CREATE TRIBES, NOT RECOGNIZE THEM

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs held a hearing entitled ''The Obama Administration's Part 83 Revisions and How They May Allow the Interior Department to Create Tribes, not Recognize Them''. Testimony was heard from Senator Blumenthal; Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S EXCESS URANIUM MANAGEMENT PLAN

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on the Interior held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Department of Energy's Excess Uranium Management Plan''. Testimony was heard from John Kotek, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Nuclear Energy, Department of Energy; David Trimble, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

ENHANCING CYBERSECURITY OF THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Enhancing Cybersecurity of Third-Party Contractors and Vendors''. Testimony was heard from Tony Scott, Chief Information Officer and Administrator, Office of Electronic Government and Information Technology, Office of Management and Budget; Donna K. Seymour, Chief Information Officer, Office of Personnel Management; Gregory C. Wilshusen, Director of Information Security Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Eric A. Fischer, Senior Specialist in Science and Technology, Congressional Research Service.

AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1806, the ''America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015''. H.R. 1806 was ordered reported, as amended.

SMALL BUSINESS, BIG THREAT PROTECTING SMALL BUSINESSES FROM CYBER ATTACKS

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Small Business, Big Threat: Protecting Small Businesses from Cyber Attacks''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A REVIEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled ''A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Authority''. Testimony was heard from Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works; Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers; and William Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tennessee Valley Authority.

PHILADELPHIA AND OAKLAND: SYSTEMIC FAILURES AND MISMANAGEMENT

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Philadelphia and Oakland: Systemic Failures and Mismanagement''. Testimony was heard from Linda Halliday, Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; Danny G.I. Pummill, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

THE 2015 TAX FILING SEASON AND GENERAL OPERATIONS AT THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on the 2015 tax filing season and general operations at the Internal Revenue Service. Testimony was heard from John Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service.

THE EXPANDING AMERICAN TRADE WITH ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing on the expanding American trade with accountability and transparency. Testimony was heard from Penny S. Pritzker, Secretary, Department of Commerce; Jacob J. Lew, Secretary, Department of the Treasury; and Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture.

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE BUDGET PERMANENT SELECT

Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture held a hearing on Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence budget. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD–124.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on building on the successes of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP–21) to deliver safe, efficient, and effective public transportation services and projects, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on airport issues and infrastructure financing, 9:45 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Health Care, to hold hearings to examine the impact of the medical device tax on jobs, innovation, and patients, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anne Elizabeth Wall, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, Brodi L. Fontenot, of Louisiana, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, and Rafael J. Lopez, of California, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, 2 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy, to hold hearings to examine the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 993, to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, veterans treatment services, mental health treatment, and substance abuse systems, and the nominations of Sally Quillian Yates, of Georgia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, Kara Farnandez Stoll, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, and Roseann A. Ketchmark, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, to hold hearings to examine the Administration's Central American minors refugee/parole program, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: business meeting to consider S. 552, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control, S. 957, to increase access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs to help create jobs, S. 958, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for team and joint venture offers for certain contracts, S. 966, to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration, S. 967, to require the Small Business Administration to make information relating to lenders making covered loans publicly available, S. 999, to amend the Small Business Act to provide for improvements to small business development centers, S. 1001, to establish authorization levels for general business loans for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and an original bill entitled, ''SCORE for Small Business Act of 2015'', 10 a.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on United States Customs and Border Protection budget, 8 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, markup on appropriations bill, FY 2016, 11 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, hearing on Federal Emergency Management Agency budget, 10 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, hearing on Programs Supporting Native Americans budget, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel, markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 9:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 10:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, markup on H.R. 1735, the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016'', 12 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Protecting America's Workers: An Enforcement Update from the Mine Safety and Health Administration'', 9 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''Title II: 21st Century Workforce'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Combatting the Opioid Abuse Epidemic: Professional and Academic Perspectives'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Examining Regulatory Burdens—Regulator Perspective'', 9:15 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 237, the ''FTO Passport Revocation Act of 2015''; H.R. 500, the ''Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act''; H.R. 907, the ''United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015''; H.R. 1493, the ''Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act''; H.R. 1567, the ''Global Food Security Act of 2015''; H. Res. 50, calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014; and H. Con. Res 40, encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing entitled ''The U.S. Rebalance in East Asia: Budget Priorities for FY 2016'', 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing entitled ''The Devastating Impacts of Wildland Fires and the Need to Better Manage our Overgrown, Fire-prone National Forests'', 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Hydraulic Fracturing: Banning Proven Technologies on Possibilities Instead of Probabilities'', 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on draft legislation to improve reproductive treatment provided to certain disabled veterans; draft legislation to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit an annual report on the Veterans Health Administration; H.R. 1769, the ''Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015''; H.R. 271, the ''COVER Act''; H.R. 627, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 1369, the ''Veterans Access to Extended Care Act of 2015''; and H.R. 1575, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways And Means, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1891, to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes; H.R. 1890, the ''Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015''; H.R. 1892, to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes; H.R. 1907, to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes, 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, hearing on Department of Energy and Department of Homeland Security budget, 9 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing will be closed.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine the Armenian genocide and the ongoing quest for justice, 1:30 p.m., 2175 Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 23

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General. At approximately 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination. At approximately 1:30 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, April 23

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 1731—National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue.

HOUSE

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