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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 11, 2016, at 4 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2016

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 8, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY HULTGREN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1016

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) at 10 o'clock and 16 minutes a.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord have mercy.
Our Nation awakens to more news of deadly violence around the country. Fear of safety from such violence prevails in many places.

Fear of You, O Lord, is the beginning of wisdom. Bless the Members of this people's House with such wisdom. As they continue the work of this assembly, guide them to grow in understanding in attaining solutions to our Nation's needs.

Bless those as well charged with protecting and serving our country. They, too, need wisdom and insight into the pressure points of insecurity among our citizens.

Lord have mercy.
May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

JUSTICE WILL BE DONE

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, we are all stunned by the events last night in Dallas, and we are all outraged. An attack on the people who protect us is an attack on all of us.

Our hearts are with the Dallas Police Department. Our hearts are with the victims, and especially with their loved ones. They wear the badge, too. I know that to be a cop's wife or a cop's husband is to prepare for the worst, but who could fathom such horror as this.

There is no cause or context in which this violence, this kind of terror, is justified—none at all. There will be a temptation to let our anger harden our divisions. Let's not let that happen. There is going to be a temptation to let our anger send us further into our corners. Let's not let that happen. That script is just too easy to write. It is too predictable. Let's defy those predictions.

A few perpetrators of evil do not represent us. They do not control us. The blame lies with the people who committed these vicious acts and no one else. As the President rightfully said: Justice will be done.

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

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



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H4551

We also have to let healing be done as well.

This has been a long week for our country. It has been a long month for America. We have seen terrible, terrible, senseless things.

Every Member of this body, every Republican and every Democrat, wants to see less gun violence. Every Member of this body wants a world in which people feel safe, regardless of the color of their skin. That is not how people are feeling these days.

Sometimes we disagree on how to get there. Sometimes we disagree passionately on how to get there. But in having this debate, let's not lose sight of the values that unite us. Let's not lose sight in our common humanity, the values that brought those protestors to the streets of Dallas, the values that brought those protestors to the streets of Washington last night.

Respect, decency, compassion, humanity, if we lose those fundamental things, what is left? We need to take a moment here for reflection, for thought, for prayer, for justice, for action.

Right now, let's let justice be done, and also let healing occur, too.

TRAGEDY IN DALLAS

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the ambush and murder of police officers during a peaceful protest is a tragedy that tears at the heart of every American.

I agree with the Speaker that episodes like this must not harden our divisions, but should unify us as a country. We are all horrified by this despicable act of violence, and we share in the shock and grief for the officers killed, their loved ones, and the entire Dallas community.

When these officers left their homes earlier in the day, there was always the chance that they would be in danger. Right now, we don't even know the names of all of them. The names have not been released. But I do want to acknowledge DART Officer Brent Thompson and those whose names are yet to be released, as well as those who are wounded, including one civilian.

Many questions have yet to be answered. But whatever the motivation of the perpetrators of this horrible crime, it is clear that those perpetrators of this vile act have an agenda of evil.

The past few days have seen too much death and too much heartbreak. As Reverend Martin Luther King wrote:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

That, of course, reminds me of our glorious song of St. Francis, which is the anthem of my city of San Francisco, that I call upon now. St. Francis appealed to the Lord:

Make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is darkness, may I bring light. Where there is hatred, may I bring love. Where there is despair, may I bring hope.

I associate myself with the remark of our Speaker when he referenced our President: "Justice will be done." Justice must be done. Also, mercy must be done.

As we do that, as we seek mercy and justice, I also want to reference a remark of the mayor of Dallas when he said we must get to the root causes of what happened last night.

In that spirit, I want to also acknowledge Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile. We have to get the facts and get to the root causes of what caused these tragedies.

In the spirit of Martin Luther King and of St. Francis of Assisi, we must continue to do the work of nonviolence and demand an end to senseless killing everywhere. We must do so sharing our common values, our faith, and the dignity and worth of every person, the spark of divinity that lives in all of them, and our tremendous, tremendous grief in the loss of life.

Just, in particular, for the families of the police officers, thank you. Thank you for sharing your loved ones with us. We pray that it is a comfort to you that so many people mourn your loss and are praying for you at this sad time.

PATIENT ACCESS TO DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ACT OF 2016

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the House on the passage of H.R. 5210, which it passed this week. This legislation provides relief to durable medical equipment providers in competitively bid areas until October 1, 2017. Competitive bidding was created by the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003.

H.R. 5210 extends the current phase-in of competitively bid DME prices to noncompetitively bid areas. This is vital to ensure that Congress has enough time to monitor current phase-in of noncompetitively bid DME prices and their effect in rural areas.

In January of 2016, the competitive bidding program began its nationwide rollout, and, as a result, many areas, including rural areas, saw a significant cut in prices, which is now jeopardizing access to durable medical equipment for many beneficiaries.

The First Congressional District of Georgia has numerous durable medical device companies that provide services throughout all of southeast Georgia. With many parts of my district being rural communities, evidence suggests that the current structure of CMS' proposed pricing of DMEs would significantly harm these communities. That is why H.R. 5210 is so important.

I commend my Georgia colleague, Representative PRICE, for offering this

bill, and I commend my House colleagues for passing this measure.

I encourage the Senate to begin consideration of this measure so rural beneficiaries in need of durable medical equipment are not unduly harmed by CMS' proposals.

WE NEED WORDS OF HEALING INSTEAD OF WORDS OF HATE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes—not all the time, but sometimes—out of chaos we can find our purpose. It is going to be my prayer this night and for the next few nights that this body can see clearly that our purpose is to lead our Nation away from the edge of the mare's nest of fear and a response to fear that creates even more fear.

We do so by understanding that words matter. Words matter. They can do damage.

I grew up in public housing in Texas right outside of Dallas, Texas, and in the projects they would say: Sticks and stones may break my words, but words can never hurt me. It wasn't true when I was a boy, and it is not true today.

Words can hurt; words can horrify; words can hinder; but words can also heal. One of the things we need more today than we have in the immediate past, are words of healing instead of words of hate.

DALLAS TERRORISM TRAGEDY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep sadness at the horrific spectacle that took place in Dallas, where members of the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas Rapid Transit System were singled out for terrorist activity during what had been a civil protest, ironically, about officers themselves. They stood in the gap—even keeping order—as their fellow officers were falling—as they were being protested in the march over recent tragic events that had happened elsewhere in our Nation. As the sniper shots rang out, and as they saw their brothers falling, these Dallas officers still responded to their internal call to duty to protect not themselves, but the innocent demonstrators that were also in that line of fire.

Mr. Speaker, time and again, America's police show their commitment to all lives, and we know they will continue to do so. Like any government agency, they need accountability when they do wrong also; but we find that the vast and great number of contacts with police and all lives of Americans are for the positive and well-being of their security.

We find in John 15:13:

Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

The now five officers whose lives have been taken in the line of duty have shown that greater love. Our country uplifts to God these five lives lost, those injured or still in medical peril, their families and loved ones who suffer beside them, for comfort and healing. We are more indebted to them all than we can ever express.

□ 1030

HARMONIZE AND MOBILIZE THROUGH TRAGEDY

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER).

Mr. CLEAVER. I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, when a nation experiences a tragedy like the one we have just witnessed, it can either further polarize, weaponize, and fragmentize, or it can harmonize and mobilize.

The House of Representatives of the United States must choose the latter. When reason fails, as it sometimes does, in my world, it is time to pray. We have multiple religious affiliations in this body, but all of us believe in something that would condemn any kind of violence, even verbal violence. The world is watching what we do, and we shouldn't waste time watching over our ideology.

A little boy closed his finger in the door and began to cry. His name was Bob. He began to cry and cry and cry, and his parents ran in. His other brother, Billy, was also crying. The parents thought both of them were hurt, but when they looked at Billy, they said, "You haven't been hurt. Why are you crying?"

He said, "I am helping Bob cry."

This whole Nation is crying, and those of us here, in our hearts, are helping the people of Dallas cry.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BELLEFONTE HIGH SCHOOL'S RED RAIDERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the players and coaches of the Bellefonte High School Red Raiders baseball team, in Pennsylvania's Fifth District, for their PIAA Class AAA championship 2-0 win over Susquehanna Township.

It is Bellefonte's first State title in baseball in school history. Remarkably, the Red Raiders started this year with a 1-7 record. When most teams would have lost heart and the will to win, these young men served as an inspiration.

At the championship game, Dom Masullo pitched a complete game, allowing five hits and struck out five batters. Colton Burd stole second and scored on a single by Tyler Kreger to give the Red Raiders a 1-0 lead. Bellefonte pushed its lead to 2-0 after Garrett Reiter scored.

Coach Dan Fravel offered this observation, saying, "I don't know why you would play the game if you don't plan on winning every game. That's just my mentality, and it's a compliment to them as a group. I've watched them play the last couple of years. I knew that there were talented kids on the team, and they know how to win."

Congratulations, Red Raiders, on your historic win. We are very proud of you.

THE PREVENTION OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, America is hurting. The hearts of Americans are made heavier by the acts of violence that are driven by anger and fear and hate and insensitivity. We need to step up and heal as a nation with lives lost innocently, with the lives of those who protect us day-to-day lost tragically, with those pulled aside for routine traffic stops end up in a scenario where life oozes from them senselessly. America hurts. We need to come together as a nation. We need to understand that there is so much that unites us, far more than what divides us. Respect for each other must drive and compel and challenge us as a society, as a nation, to do far better.

Congress needs to lead in that regard. We need to be part of that coming together to understand through intellect, concern, compassion, through our wisdom—through our hearts that are burning with love—that love conquers hate. We can accomplish that with the prevention of gun violence. Let's come together and heal.

GOLDEN GOOSE AWARD

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Edward Knipling and Raymond Bushland, who are two scientists who posthumously received this year's Golden Goose Award for their research into the screwworm fly.

No doubt, many people have never heard about the screwworm fly, but my father and grandfather, both cattlemen, often told me stories of how devastating these pests were to their herds. By laying eggs in animal wounds, the screwworm could kill a full-sized cow in less than 2 weeks, costing ranchers millions of dollars in losses each and every year.

Using funds provided by the USDA, Dr. Knipling and Dr. Bushland focused on sterilizing the insects. Thanks to their efforts over 20-plus years, the screwworm population was eradicated in the U.S. by 1982, leading to healthier livestock markets and lower beef prices for consumers after only \$250,000 in basic research.

As vice chairman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I am pleased these men will be honored this year, and I hope my colleagues will keep their story in mind as the House considers how to use scientific research in the Nation's collective interest.

REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, we mourn the loss of the police officers in Dallas, and we pray for the recovery of those who are still in the hospital, trying to heal.

As a brother of two police officers and as the son of a police officer, this is every family member's worst nightmare to think that, when you see them off to work, you may never see them come home. So we stand here, this House, with the families.

We think about Sergeant Scott Lungner, back in Hayward, California, who lost his life on July 22 of last year. It is also not inconsistent, as we mourn the deaths of these police officers, to also ask for justice without delay for Alton Sterling of Louisiana and for Philando Castile of Minnesota. That is not inconsistent.

What is inconsistent, though, is to have a moment of silence or to make a call for justice but then to do nothing further in this Chamber—the one place in the world where we can make the greatest difference to reduce gun violence. I hope this House answers that call and does not stand silent any longer but, actually, recognizes why we are here—to keep the public safe and to act.

MOURNING SLAIN DART POLICE OFFICER BRENT THOMPSON

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

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, the entire Nation is aghast and shocked and in mourning about what happened in Dallas, Texas, last evening.

One of the officers who was killed was an officer named Brent Thompson. He was a constituent of mine from Corsicana, Texas, and was a graduate of Corsicana High School. He was 43 years old. He had just gotten married 2 weeks earlier. He was a Dallas Area Rapid Transit officer, a DART officer, and he was shot—targeted—in cold blood by, apparently, an organized effort to target police officers, perhaps even Anglo police officers, in Dallas.

We need to pray for his family, and we also need to take a look at our society and make a decision that we should respect, admire, and support those who defend us.

Our prayers go out to Officer Thompson's family.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LIFE IN DALLAS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, my heart breaks, as do the hearts of my colleagues, over the terrible tragedy that took place last night and for the victims of the horrific violence that we have seen in the last few days and weeks.

We are better than this. We can do better than this. In this body, we must do better than this.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON S. 2943, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 809, I offer a motion.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Thornberry moves that the House take from the Speaker's table the bill S. 2943, with the House amendment thereto, insist on the House amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

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

This is a motion to request a conference on S. 2943, the National Defense Authorization Act. This is a procedural motion, which will allow the House and the Senate to conference our differences. The House passed its bill on May 18, by a vote of 277-147. The Senate subsequently passed its bill.

I hope that the House will support this motion and allow us to proceed to conference.

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

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Conferees on S. 2943 will be appointed at a later time.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 524, COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2016

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 809, I call up the

conference report on the bill (S. 524) to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 809, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of July 6, 2016, at page H4392.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the conference report to accompany S. 524.

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

There was no objection.

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

The simple truth is that we are in the midst of a real epidemic. Nearly every 12 minutes, someone in America dies of a drug overdose. The CDC reports over a quarter billion opioid prescriptions were written in the year 2012. The abuse of prescription painkillers and heroin has impacted, virtually, every single community. It is an epidemic that has no boundaries and does not discriminate. In my State of Michigan, we are seeing 10 times as many deaths today as there were 15 years ago. Sadly, the number continues to surge; but behind every statistic is a person who was loved, part of a family and community, and, yes, who was lost too soon.

□ 1045

It is a frightening reality, but we have to face this epidemic head on, and today's vote is an important step forward. Since the beginning of this process, our focus has been, and continues to be, on attacking this public health crisis from every side, from zeroing in on treatment for addiction and overdoses to reforming prescription practices in the delivery of medicines and working with law enforcement of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Specifically, this conference report addresses prevention care by requiring HHS to create an interagency task force to address chronic and pain management care and by reauthorizing NASPER, a piece of legislation the House has passed with very large bipartisan support.

The conference report addresses treatment by ensuring opioid reversal medication is accessible to patients, their family members and, yes, first responders as well. These medications are key to stopping the overdose epi-

demical and getting these patients into proper treatment to become productive members of our society.

The conference report also ensures proper oversight and accountability by including the majority leader's OPEN Act.

The conference report, as a whole, touches on the spectrum of issues driving the opioid crisis. While there is no one solution, we are making progress in addressing a problem that has rapidly grown.

So I want to thank all my colleagues—certainly on the Energy and Commerce Committee that I chair and those off—for working to advance these important bipartisan bills that will make a real difference in our communities.

I am also proud that our final package has achieved the support of over 200 of the Nation's leading advocacy groups, groups from across the country that are focused on recovery. These advocates are on the front lines in this epidemic and truly appreciate the positive impact that our solutions will have in every community.

There is an urgency to our work as drug overdose deaths surge in Michigan and beyond. We owe this effort to the past, present, and, sadly, future victims of the opioid epidemic; our neighbors, friends, family across every part of the family in every demographic group. So let's come together and get the job done. What we are doing will save lives.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

After much thought, I have decided to support the conference report on S. 524. It is not perfect and does not nearly do enough from a funding perspective, but it makes some important steps that would allow us to begin to address the opioid addiction crisis that is impacting our Nation.

The American people are desperate for relief from the opioid epidemic currently devastating our country, and they are depending on this Congress to act. By now, we have all heard the stories: young people taken from their families in their prime; babies born suffering from the cruel effects of opioid withdrawal; and parents who have lost the ability to care for their families as they battle their addiction.

To treat this epidemic as anything less than a national crisis would be a terrible mistake. And even though we have already lost far too many lives to overdoses, we still have an opportunity to save many more.

This conference report includes many important policies that have bipartisan agreement. For example, we will now allow patients and doctors to choose to partially fill their opioids so that excess medicines are not dispensed unnecessarily. This will reduce the number of unused pills in circulation, which will reduce the risk of misuse, diversion, and overdose.

The conference report also allows nurse practitioners and physician assistants to treat individuals with

opioid use disorders with buprenorphine.

This final report also includes important and proven programs to address prevention, treatment, and recovery; but just changing policies alone won't be enough. This legislation takes only a small step at a time when the American people need us to run.

Mr. Speaker, how can we truly help the American people without giving them the resources to fight this epidemic?

We cannot wait while lives continue to be destroyed by opiate addiction and while treatment options remain out of reach.

Congressional Democrats, Mr. Speaker, have long advocated for more funding in this package and have even proposed bipartisan policies to offset the cost, but Republicans have stubbornly refused to commit essential funding as part of this overall bill. Time and again they have rejected efforts to make a real difference by going beyond the important policy changes in this bill and actually supporting significant funding to properly take on this growing national epidemic today. Instead, Republicans have committed to increasing funding through the appropriations process, and we will certainly make sure that they live up to the repeated promises they have made in this regard.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this conference report to S. 524. This conference report is one of the proudest moments I have had as an elected Member of this body. I believe there are numerous challenges that our community healthcare providers face, and this bill helps them address those challenges.

As a lifelong pharmacist, I believe the key first steps to address this opioid epidemic is education, improvement of treatment, and a reliance on State PDMP programs. This bill does all of that.

Many of my colleagues have opposed this conference report and this bill because it does not authorize enough money or it doesn't provide every provision they want. There are things that I would have changed in this bill, but we have all had an opportunity to amend these provisions, and this has created a bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation. Overall, this should not be the end of this conversation, but this bill is a good bill and addresses many of the problems Americans face with opioid addiction.

I would like to commend leadership from both Chambers on this bill, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Comprehensive Addiction

and Recovery Act. There is no question that we have an opiate epidemic sweeping our communities throughout Wisconsin and the rest of the Nation.

I spent the better part of the last year holding listening sessions back home in my congressional district in western and north central Wisconsin, getting feedback from law enforcement, healthcare providers, treatment centers, and families that have been impacted by drug addiction and the opioid addiction to ensure that this legislation that we have pending before us today doesn't get too far out ahead of what they actually need.

There are a lot of good policy changes in this bill, but one thing that is lacking that the gentleman also pointed out is the resource aspect of this. They do need tools. They do need additional resources.

I am hoping that later in the year, whether it is through a continuing resolution or the funding of these operations, that we can find in a bipartisan way the increase of necessary resources for folks back home so that they can get out ahead of this curve and do an adequate job of turning the trend line away.

I am also supportive because the legislation before us contains the Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act. Jason Simcakoski was a veteran who died at the Tomah VA Medical Center a couple of years ago due to an opioid drug overdose. We have, in this legislation, a continuation of reforms that are being implemented to ensure that all of our veterans, whether in Wisconsin or throughout the Nation, are getting the care and the treatment they need; that we continue down the road of revamping the pain management practices at places like Tomah. I am confident that with the provisions in here, if we do this the right way, that Tomah and the VA system could be a model of proper pain management practices not just within the VA system, but throughout the entire healthcare system.

There is no question we haven't done a good job of managing pain as a nation. That is true of whether it is in the VA. It is true whether it is in the private health sector. This legislation before us today gives us an opportunity to continue down that road and do a much better job.

The Jason Simcakoski Act, for instance, will call for clinical practice guidelines to be instituted throughout the entire VA system. It enhances pain management education and training for our healthcare providers. It improves realtime tracking and access to data on opioid usage. It also expands opiate safety initiatives throughout all the VA centers.

It expands the patient advocacy program, which is particularly important because I think the families are the first line of defense when it comes to the care and treatment of all our veterans. They know what is working and what isn't. They need greater input and better lines of communication to

help affect the course of treatment that is impacting the veterans in their life.

It also calls on the VA to explore more complimentary and alternative forms of medicine to deal with pain management so we are not just loading our veterans up with a cocktail of prescription drugs, which oftentimes lead to addiction which can lead to meth and heroin usage.

I also think that this legislation gives us an opportunity to establish that strong partnership that needs to exist at the Federal, State, and local level, including private entities, so we can do a better job on the opioid addiction problem throughout our Nation.

This is an all-hands-on-deck moment. As a former special prosecutor who had to deal in the criminal system with a lot of it, our response cannot just be a criminal justice response. It has to be a public health response or we lose this battle going into it.

I think this legislation does provide crucial tools to help us make that pivot, but we also need the crucial resources; and that is something that we are going to have to address as this year progresses.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation. I appreciate the hard work that the committees and those involved have put into this legislation. But it will be a work in progress, and we have to continue to listen to the folks on the ground back home to ensure that they are getting the help and support that they need.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Chairman UPTON's leadership and partnership throughout this important effort.

Today is a proud day in our Nation's history. Today the House will complete its work on a comprehensive legislative package to combat the terrible epidemic of opioid abuse, which is ravaging our country.

We have all heard the grim statistics. 129 people die every day from drug overdose. That is more than 47,000 a year. These people are our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. They come from all walks of life and all communities. They need our help. Today, the House is answering the call.

The conference report we are considering today represents a truly comprehensive response to the opioid epidemic. It includes provisions from 18 bills passed by the House in May and addresses all facets of the epidemic. It permits the government to make grants for purposes of prevention, treatment and recovery, overdose reversal through the use of FDA-approved and appropriately labeled drugs and devices, and law enforcement and investigative purposes.

Significantly, the conference report preserves the provisions of the Judiciary Committee's flagship bill, H.R.

5046, which passed this House in May by an overwhelming 413-5 vote. This historic legislation, which was sponsored by Crime Subcommittee Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER, creates a comprehensive Justice Department grant program to help States fight opioid addiction. It authorizes \$103 million annually over 5 years for the grant program. It directs precious taxpayer dollars responsibly by leveraging and streamlining existing programs, and it is fully offsetting the legislation in compliance with the House's CutGo proposal.

The conference report authorizes this funding for a wide variety of anti-opioid activities, including drug courts which have proven to be highly successful and which I support. In fact, it is my expectation, Mr. Speaker, that drug courts will continue to receive funding levels in future years similar to current funding levels.

In addition to H.R. 5046, this conference report contains provisions from three other Judiciary Committee bills, including H.R. 5052, the OPEN Act, which increases the transparency and accountability of the comprehensive opioid abuse grant program in H.R. 5046; H.R. 4985, the Kingpin Designation Improvement Act, which protects classified information from disclosure when a drug kingpin challenges his designation as such in a Federal court; and H.R. 5048, the Good Samaritan Assessment Act, which requires the GAO to study State and local Good Samaritan laws that protect caregivers, law enforcement personnel, and first responders who administer opioid overdose reversal drugs or devices from criminal or civil liability, as well as those who contact emergency service providers in response to an overdose.

In addition, the Judiciary Committee moved as part of this package S. 32, the Transnational Drug Trafficking Act. That legislation, which has already been signed into law, improves law enforcement's ability to pursue international drug manufacturers, brokers, and distributors in source nations. Federal prosecutors can now use the important tools in that bill to pursue foreign drug traffickers who are poisoning American citizens.

Along with the excellent legislation prepared by our sister committees, spearheaded by Chairmen UPTON, MILLER, and KLINE, these bills make substantial policy changes within the Federal agencies responsible for fighting addiction. They take real steps to address the opioid epidemic and provide real relief for a real problem affecting real Americans. Members of this body should be proud of these accomplishments.

□ 1100

I would like to stress, Mr. Speaker, that opposition to this conference report on the basis of funding is wrong and misguided. As I stated, this legislation authorizes \$103 million just for Justice Department programs.

Under the leadership of Chairmen ROGERS, CULBERSON, COLE, CRENSHAW, and DENT, the House Committee on Appropriations has responded admirably to this epidemic by allocating hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for these programs. The CJS appropriations bill contains \$103 million in funding for the DOJ program. The Labor/HHS bill, released Wednesday, contains \$581 million to address opioid and heroin abuse, which is above even the President's budget request. The Financial Services and General Government bill has funded High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas and Drug-Free Communities Support Programs at record highs. Nobody can come to this floor and credibly claim that the House is not putting its money where its mouth is.

I thank my colleagues for their support and hard work. Yesterday we received a letter signed by 233 addiction stakeholder groups, endorsing the conference report to S. 524. I urge everyone to support this conference report.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank him for his excellent work in bringing this bipartisan legislation to the floor. With all due respect to Mr. GOODLATTE, I credibly come to the floor to say that this bill does not provide the funding that we need to address the opioid crisis in our country.

I thank Mr. UPTON again. I know this is his last year as chairman of the committee. I thank him for his openness, his willingness to work in a bipartisan way, and I do think that this is a good piece of legislation. It is lacking one thing: the resources to get the job done.

I also come to the floor as an appropriator, and to hear Mr. GOODLATTE say what is coming out of here and coming out of there, in our subcommittee on Labor/HHS, we call it the lamb-eat-lamb committee because there was no good place to take money from. We had carefully and economically husbanded the resources in such a way, when we did budget agreements, to use the money very well for its purposes: the investments in education and health, et cetera.

So when an emergency comes along like the opioid epidemic, like Zika, like Flint, these are emergencies, and by tradition, this House has always declared emergencies—whether a natural disaster or otherwise—to say that funding would not be lamb-eat-lamb within the appropriations process and take funds from very needed initiatives that Congress had agreed to in our own authorizations otherwise.

So it had been my intention for us to come to the floor to oppose this bill to be able to sustain a Presidential veto until there would be resources. But in the spirit of this day, we come to the floor instead to say let's move the

process along, but let's also say that there are other issues, like opioids, and Zika, and Flint that we really have to address in the near term.

The opioid epidemic, as it has been said by the distinguished chairman and ranking member and others, is such an important challenge to the well-being of our country. While you may say Flint is in Michigan and Zika is down south, the fact is they affect all of us. But opioids are right there in all of our communities, and all of the Members of Congress immediately see the need for the authorization but also for the funding.

The opioid conference report includes many important authorizing provisions in a bipartisan way, but it does not include the new funds that are essential to saving lives from opioids.

Around a dozen law enforcement people were at the White House yesterday talking about the opioid epidemic. Many people outside of the Congress support the principles in this bill. But do you know that some of those law enforcement officials are having separate fundraisers of their own in order to help people address their opioid challenge?

We are just not living up to our responsibility in a timely fashion. Within the next week, hopefully, we will leave with some additional funding. The President has asked for \$1.1 billion to address the problem. The distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary says that the appropriators are putting more than that in certain cases in opioids; but if they are taking it out of other priorities, other investments in the health and well-being and the security of the American people, we are doing this at the expense of other good investments.

We will not stop fighting until America's families have the prevention, treatment, and recovery resources they need to overcome the opioid epidemic, and that is why for today, although the votes are there to sustain a Presidential veto, we don't encourage that.

We encourage our cooperation today with the hope and the promise that Mr. ROGERS, whom we all respect—I served with him on Appropriations—and Mrs. LOWEY can come to terms in a way that does not have the opioid epidemic funded at the expense of other investments important to the American people. It is a priority. It is an emergency. In other cases we have had emergency spending for just that.

When we do budget agreements, as we did last year—very difficult staying under the caps and the rest—it was not with the idea that there would be a \$1.1 billion need for opioids or \$1.9 billion need for Zika funding or there wouldn't be hundreds of millions of dollars for Flint. These are extraordinary emergencies. They should be treated that way.

Nonetheless, I congratulate Mr. UPTON and Mr. PALLONE and all who had a role in putting this legislation together. I hope that it is just a first

step that in the very, very near future we will have money to match the values that are contained in this legislation.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 21 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 22½ minutes remaining.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, a partner in this effort from day one.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I would briefly like to discuss with my friend and partner in this effort, the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, how the conference report encourages innovation by allowing alternative therapies to qualify for funding while also requiring evaluation and reporting on the effectiveness of all authorized programs.

In my district, some nonprofit organizations are using animal-assisted psychotherapy to successfully address mental health and personal development needs, including for veterans, and animals have also helped prison inmates achieve life-changing developments.

It is my understanding that these and other alternative therapies are eligible for funding under the grant programs contained in the conference report. And I would ask the gentleman from Michigan: Is that your understanding as well?

Mr. UPTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOODLATTE. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. UPTON. Absolutely is the answer, yes. Section 601, the State demonstration grants for comprehensive opioid abuse response, is designed to allow States the flexibility to do what is right and aid in establishing a comprehensive response. Under this grant, we emphasize prevention and treatment, but those are not the only two ways to address the opioid epidemic. Recovery, like the good work that Chairman GOODLATTE cited in his district, as it is in mine, is equally as important.

We need a comprehensive response to the crisis that should leave no stone unturned in our quest for helping those in need. I want to thank the chairman for his help in that effort, and I absolutely agree with his reading of the bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues argue that we will pass this authorization bill today, and then sometime down the line we will provide funding through the regular appropriations process. But the problem is that that response does not match the urgency of the crisis.

To understand why, let's just take a quick look at the 2016 appropriations

process. While the fiscal year 2016 began on October 1, 2015, the omnibus fiscal year 2016 appropriations act did not become law until December 18, 2015. If, as expected, the fiscal year 2017 process is similar, it will be at least 6 months before we can provide funding through the fiscal year 2017 appropriations process; and that is 6 months in which more people will die from potentially preventable overdose deaths and more individuals and families in need of treatment options will be unable to access them.

There is also no guarantee that additional funds will be made available through the appropriations process. The fiscal austerity policies of my Republican colleagues also make this option untenable. Due to the sequestration caps demanded by the Republicans, an increase in spending for one program can only occur with the cutting of funding for another program.

While the Republicans will say they introduced a Labor/HHS bill with \$500 million in funding for a comprehensive State grant program for substance abuse treatment, what they don't say is that to provide that funding, we will have to agree to cut funding for other critical programs. The Republican Labor/HHS appropriations bill proposes eliminating funding for ObamaCare, title X family planning services, education programs, and employment training and development programs.

Not only are these cuts objectionable, we don't have to make such choices. We have bipartisan pay-fors available to offset the direct appropriations of funding now, and we cannot afford to wait. So this is truly an urgent crisis, and we should treat it as such by providing critical funding immediately. Failure to act will unacceptably lead to more deaths, and our communities cannot afford to wait any longer.

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a fellow conferee and member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this conference report. It is a great step forward in the fight against the scourge of drug addiction. I was proud to serve on the conference committee that crafted this package, and I thank Chairman UPTON and Chairman GRASSLEY for their tremendous leadership on the issue.

This measure includes language that I authored with my Democratic colleague, Congressman SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of the Hudson Valley in New York State, that targets opioid addiction's strong ties to prescription drug abuse and the issue of overprescription. It is one part of a comprehensive plan that will make serious progress on this challenge that strains law enforcement and taxpayer resources and cuts too many lives tragically short.

This package comes the same week we secured passage of a landmark overhaul of our Nation's mental health care system. These are major priorities of the American people, and this is how Congress should work, gaining ideas and insight from the constituencies across the Nation and working together in a bipartisan fashion to address the important issues confronting the United States.

On this very sad day, given the horrific events in Dallas last night, we are reminded that a great many issues face our country. I hope the spirit of cooperation that secured this week's productivity will guide us on the other challenges we face as a nation. I want to work on what unites us in the United States and on the priorities of all Americans. This conference report is one of those priorities, and I urge a "yes" vote.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I said before, this conference report does include important and proven programs to address prevention, treatment, and recovery with regard to opioid abuse, and I did want to mention a few.

There is authorization to create a grant program for eligible entities to promote the prescribing of opioid reversal drugs, naloxone, in conjunction with opiates for patients at an elevated risk of overdose.

There is a program to reauthorize SAMHSA grants for the funding of residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorders.

There is a demonstration grant program to States to streamline State requirements and procedures in order to assist veterans who have completed military emergency medical technician training to meet requirements for becoming an emergency medical technician in the State.

There is also a State grant program to increase the implementation of standing orders for opioid overdose reversal medication, again, naloxone.

As I have said before, there are a number of very important programs here that authorize grants to States to deal with the prevention, treatment, and recovery from opioids. But, again, these programs will not be effective without some significant funding provided pursuant to those authorizations. So I want to stress, again, as Democrats, we support this bill because it does have authorization for many programs that will help with opioid addiction, but we need to hold the Republicans' feet to the fire to make sure that this funding is actually provided.

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

□ 1115

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN), a fellow conferee and a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. MEEHAN. I thank the chairman for his leadership on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics are staggering. We are losing 120 a people a day to opioid abuse.

Earlier this year, southeastern Pennsylvania lost an accomplished young man, John Decker, who succumbed to his battle with addiction. As a teenager, John injured his knee playing basketball. His physician prescribed opioids to manage the pain after surgery. John became addicted to the painkillers and moved on to using heroin.

I introduced the John Thomas Decker Act with the goal of preventing injured youth and adolescent athletes from getting addicted to opioids and turning to heroin. But I use John's name because it is not about statistics; it is to demonstrate that we are talking about real people and struggling families here.

The legislation, which is included in section 104 of the conference report, directs the United States Department of Health and Human Services to study what information and resources are available to youth athletes and their families regarding the dangers of opioid use and abuse, nonopioid treatment options, and how to seek addiction treatment. The Department must report its findings and work with stakeholders to disseminate resources to students, parents, and those involved in treating sports injuries, and that is how this can work together with things that are already happening in the community.

I want to acknowledge what is going on in communities all across the country.

Just last week, I visited Adapt Pharma, a constituent company, in Radnor, Pennsylvania. The company makes a Narcan nasal spray and is providing the antidote to high schools. Adapt Pharma and the National Association of School Nurses are working together to ensure that educational materials are available to students and their families about prescription drug abuse as well as treatment and recovery options that will work perfectly in tandem with this particular section.

So, whether you are young athletes, pregnant mothers, struggling veterans, or suffering families, so many are going to be helped.

I urge my colleagues to stand with the families who have suffered the effects of addiction and support the conference report.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the dean of the House and the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the crisis of opioid abuse and addiction clearly requires our immediate attention. I believe that that is now happening.

I am grateful for the tireless work of my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee. I thank Chairman GOODLATTE;

Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee chairman, JIM SENSENBRENNER; Crime Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee ranking member, SHEILA JACKSON LEE; and their staffs. And I also congratulate Congresswoman SUZAN DELBENE, who worked so hard to ensure this bill would find promising approaches to opioid abuse that were pioneered in her district. Finally, I wish to thank the ranking member, FRANK PALLONE of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and his staff for their assistance and coordination in this effort.

Our work has focused on the need to address an urgent crisis. In my State of Michigan, there were 1,745 drug overdoses in the year 2014, and more than half of those overdose deaths were caused by opioids and heroin. Each day, 78 Americans die from an opioid overdose.

Fortunately, we now have a better way of addressing issues of addiction, and we know that incarceration is not the answer. For instance, the Judiciary Committee's Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee held a hearing last year that examined, among other things, the promising use of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion approach employed in cities such as Seattle, Washington, and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

We know that there are effective ways to get addicts to treatment and to quickly provide them with needed services that address their addiction and prevent recidivism, and we know that evidence-based treatment and alternatives to incarceration work.

Title II of this bill reflects much of this approach in the grant program, as reported by the Judiciary Committee and passed by the House in May of this year. While I have supported this effort, I have also supported alternative approaches that provide separate grant programs for many of these worthy purposes.

Regardless of which approach we take, we must do more than simply authorize funding. We must provide real dollars that are urgently needed by those fighting this crisis, and I am disappointed that this bill does not do this.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the great State of Michigan (Mr. TROTT), a fellow conferee.

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the conference report that we are considering today. And as my colleague, Mr. CONYERS, just mentioned, 1,745 individuals died of a drug overdose in Michigan in 2014, and 449 of those individuals were in my home district in Oakland and Wayne Counties. So a disproportionate number of people were affected.

As has been mentioned, this bill contains some good solutions toward fighting this epidemic: a comprehensive grant program, changes to existing law, and some new programs to help

end the tragedies. Some have suggested, however, that our response is inadequate or too small of a step to fight this problem. I disagree.

Let me say to those people who are listening, particularly those who have suffered from addiction or lost a loved one through the tragedy of an overdose, that Republicans and Democrats and the President recognize this epidemic. We are united in our commitment to defeat the abuse and tragedy. We in Congress will revisit our programs and solutions and the money we are spending to make sure that they are making a difference, and we will revisit the solutions and make sure that adequate resources are in place so we can end the terrible drug abuse and heroin overdoses that are affecting our communities.

I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to serve on the conference committee.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to stress that President Obama recently announced additional actions to expand access to treatment, strengthen prescription drug monitoring, enable safe disposal of unneeded drugs, and accelerate research on pain and opioid misuse and overdose. The President, I think, has made it clear that addressing this epidemic is a priority for his administration.

While Federal agencies have been using their authority to take every available action they can, Congress needs to provide additional funding to make lifesaving treatment available to everyone who needs it. The President has called for \$1.1 billion in new funding to help Americans who want treatment wherever they live. Every day that passes without congressional action to provide these additional resources is a missed opportunity to get treatment to those who want it, help prevent overdoses, and support communities across the country impacted by this epidemic.

Recovery from opioid and other substance use disorders is possible, and many Americans are able to recover because they get the treatment and care they need. But too many still are not able to get treatment. That is why the President has called on Congress to provide the resources needed to ensure that every American with an opioid use disorder who wants treatment can get it and start on the road to recovery.

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), also a conferee and a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. We all have experienced the opioid epidemic in some way, whether it is through family, friends, or heartbreaking stories from constituents back home.

Opioid addiction is prevalent in our veteran community, and I am proud many of my provisions to help our heroes were included in this legislation. I want to thank the chairman for including those provisions in this particular conference report.

My bills, the PROMISE Act and COVER Act, will update the clinical practice guidelines used to treat our servicemembers for pain management and provide a pathway forward to implement complementary and integrative health alternatives within the VA.

With this bill, we can help our struggling heroes and others battling addiction across the Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 14 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 14½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI), my partner in terms of a contiguous border and also a conferee.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. This vital bill will help address the prescription drug epidemic we have seen plague our communities for so long.

Dozens of Americans die each day from prescription drug overdoses. This has to stop. It is time for us to come together as a nation to tackle the issue that has infected every fabric of our society.

I am very honored to have served on this conference committee for the bill, and I am thankful it is being considered today by the House.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have seen the opioid epidemic's effects on our Nation's veterans. Veterans are more vulnerable to chronic pain, more susceptible to addiction, but some VA facilities still overprescribe these powerful drugs. I have seen the problem firsthand with veterans coming into my office, often carrying a large box or bag of pills.

In my home State of Indiana, the DEA raided the VA Medical Center in Marion after noticing the volume of narcotics and opioids purchased by the facility.

For too long, the VA has relied too heavily on opioids to treat chronic pain. This bill addresses that by requiring the VA and the DOD to focus on improving their prescribing practices. It includes my piece of legislation requiring the VA to report to State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs, which are important and effective tools for stopping overprescription. It also allows the VA to consider nonopioid treatments for veterans with chronic pain.

Mr. Speaker, there is a long battle ahead of us—we have got a long way to go, and a lot of damage has been done—but this bill represents an important step forward as we seek to stop overprescription and opioid addiction in our country.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS).

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, across the United States, we are faced with a substance abuse epidemic that results in overdose, addiction, and far too many deaths.

From opioids to heroin, no community—not even Orange County, the place that I have called home for over 50 years—is immune. Last year, the number of deaths in Orange County caused by drug overdose rose to 400, the highest level in at least a decade. More than two-thirds of these untimely deaths involved opioids. Nationwide, nearly 130 people die every single day from drug abuse.

Though this is a nationwide epidemic, there is not a one-size-fits-all cure to addiction. That is why this legislation is so important. I thank all of my colleagues who have worked so intently on these lifesaving policies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure so that we can send it to the President's desk. As soon as this law is implemented, it will save lives and help Americans suffering from addiction reclaim their lives.

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

I just want to again point out that the effort here is not only bipartisan, but we are also working with the administration to try to address this epidemic. And one of the things that we were trying to do with the legislation, but it became unnecessary because of the President's executive action, was with regard to bup.

□ 1130

This is a painkiller, if you will, that is used as an alternative to the addictive painkillers that cause the opiate problem. And until recently, under the law, a physician could only have up to 100 patients to whom he was administering bup, but now, in the last week or so, the President announced that that cap has been lifted to 275.

Now, in the legislation, we do expand the types of providers who can treat opioid dependence using bup, but, at the same time, it was necessary, I believe, to raise that cap because there is a waiting list—a rather extensive waiting list—for people who would like to take advantage of bup. So I just wanted to say that that is one of the most important things that actually was done by the President.

And it is very important for us to work together not only in terms of what we authorize, but also providing the funding for many of these programs, both what we are now author-

izing pursuant to grants in this legislation, as well as what the administration is doing through agency action.

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I commend the chairman, the ranking member, the conferees, on this work that they have accomplished.

The opioid and heroin epidemic has hit western Pennsylvania hard. Nothing brings this crisis into sharper focus than when you are speaking with a parent who has lost a child, or a family member watching a loved one go through revolving doors of treatment and still be slipping away.

This conference report has been a bipartisan, all-hands-on-deck effort reflective of the collaboration we see happening at the grassroots of our communities. I am pleased to see the conference report include the provision my colleague from across the aisle, Congressman KEATING, and I championed in the House legislation to establish coprescribing guidelines for overdose antidotes such as naloxone.

I am also pleased with how this legislation gives the proper focus to our veterans. This conference report is a necessary step in moving forward to address this crisis. Let us continue to work together to combat this deadly scourge. I urge its passage.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I will say that, after thoughtful consideration, I not only support the conference report, but I would urge my colleagues on the Democratic side to support the conference report.

While I continue to believe that we cannot turn the tide on this epidemic without dedicated additional resources for States, the underlying policies included in this bill are important steps forward.

As you know, Democratic conferees, along with the Democratic leadership, have worked tirelessly these past few weeks to try to include money for States to help treat our communities who are suffering. Republicans still, so far, refuse to commit the essential funding as part of this overall bill, but they have committed to increasing funding through the appropriations process, and I will continue to fight to ensure that they stand by that commitment.

The American people are desperate for relief. We must answer their call and continue our efforts in Washington, and one way to do that, certainly, is to pass this conference report.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank my friend and partner, Mr. PALLONE. We moved a majority of these bills

through the committee on a bipartisan basis. We had those votes here on the floor, a very strong vote as the process moved.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is about treatment. It is about prevention. It is about recovery, helping law enforcement, particularly with our drug courts, and it adds new resources to help communities suffering from this terrible opioid epidemic.

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act represents the most serious and comprehensive effort ever undertaken by this body to tackle the problem. CARA is a bipartisan blend of the best ideas from the House and the Senate. These bills passed with a combined 494 votes in the House and the Senate and, coupled with the great work led just this week by the House Appropriations Committee to add \$581 million to help fund and prioritize these programs, it shows that we are tackling the problem head-on.

Now, this is an authorization bill, not an appropriation bill. That is why, coupled with the appropriators, I think that we will get the job done. As I have said, at the end of the day, the money will be there.

So those on the front lines fighting the opioid epidemic deserve a strong vote in the people's House. I would urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I just want to add my voice and thank Mr. UPTON, as the chair of the conference, and Mr. PALLONE, and all of the conferees, for what I thought was a significant historical moment.

We have passed legislation, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, with no mandatory minimums. Our CARA bill speaks about grants, helping people overcome their addiction, but more importantly, helping communities. My community alone is suffering from something called Kush. That is not heroin, but all of these issues have to be confronted as a health epidemic.

I thank the gentleman for accepting my amendment dealing with other drugs, about dealing with a public health epidemic, and I ask for support of the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the conference report for S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act.

The conference report is the product of a long process of consultation and hard work between Congress and experts and advocates representing a wide range of interests—including victims, addiction treatment specialists, and law enforcement.

In many respects, this bill is a compromise—but it does reflect advances in our approach to substance addiction issues.

As a Member of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic I have worked with my colleagues to come together with a comprehensive legislative package to address this national epidemic.

I was an original cosponsor of the lead legislative measure and primary contribution of the House Judiciary Committee, H.R. 5046, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Reduction Act, and I was a cosponsor of the predecessor bill, which is substantially similar to the Senate-passed version of S. 524.

The text of H.R. 5046 is largely incorporated into the conference report, and would establish a grant program, to be administered by the Department of Justice, to assist states and local governments, particularly by helping criminal justice agencies to tackle the opioid problem from a variety of angles.

It would encourage the development of alternatives to incarceration that provide treatment as a solution to the underlying motivation for criminal behavior or conduct associated with mental disorders.

Combined with other treatment programs under the jurisdiction of other Committees, the approach Congress is taking with the crisis of heroin and other opioids is thoughtful and comprehensive.

I hope it signals a departure from some of the failed approaches concerning other drug crises in the past.

For instance, our response to the surge in crack cocaine in the 1980s was to enact draconian mandatory minimum penalties with vastly disparate treatment for crack and powder cocaine.

At that time, Congress took action that we are still trying to rectify.

At one point, more than 80 percent of the defendants sentenced for crack offenses were African American, despite the fact that more than 66 percent of crack users are white or Hispanic.

As we work on other legislation to address the enforcement and sentencing disparities related to the crack issue, we must re-examine our approach to that and other drug issues.

I am grateful for the assistance of my colleague, BOB GOODLATTE, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for working with me to include in this bill my amendment to express the sense of the Congress that an effective and fiscally responsible approach to addressing substance abuse epidemics—no matter which drug is involved—requires treating such epidemics as a public health emergencies emphasizing prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Provided in Section 708 of the Report, the Sense of Congress Regarding Treatment of Substance Abuse Epidemics expresses that decades of experience and research have demonstrated that a fiscally responsible approach to addressing the opioid abuse epidemic and other substance abuse epidemics requires treating such epidemics as a public health emergency emphasizing prevention, treatment and recovery.

Indeed, we must adopt a public health approach with regard to substance abuse issues going forward.

And I am heartened that, in this bill, we are not raising sentences or impacting mandatory minimums that add to mass incarceration, but we are supporting proven anti-addiction mechanisms.

However, the conference committee had the opportunity to do even more—as is necessary given the urgency of the current crisis—and provide real money, right now, to implement the programs the bill authorizes.

Unfortunately, this bill does not do that and our communities remain in dire need of re-

sources to save lives that are in immediate jeopardy.

That is the unfinished business of this effort and we must not rest until we have done all that we can in Congress to help protect our communities from opioid abuse.

In contrast to the way we are dealing with the opioid crisis is the ill-advised strict "law-enforcement" centered approach Congress took in addressing crack cocaine crisis in the 1980s that that we are still trying to rectify.

At one point, more than 80 percent of the defendants sentenced for crack offenses were African American, despite the fact that more than 66 percent of crack users are white or Hispanic.

While we are now engaged in a comprehensive "public health" approach centered on public health in addressing the crisis involving heroin and other opioids, we must not forget that there is unfinished work to be done to address the enforcement and sentencing disparities related to the crack cocaine.

We are not raising sentences or impacting mandatory minimums but we are funding anti-addiction mechanisms such as treatment alternatives to incarceration.

We are not adding to mass incarceration—with all of the related and devastating collateral consequences—but instead we are incentivizing state and local governments to prevent, treat, and heal.

That is what we should be doing, and that is what we should have done for crack and cocaine addicts.

But it is not too late—we should find a way, before this Congress adjourns sine die to apply this more comprehensive approach, including treatment alternatives, to those suffering from crack and cocaine addiction.

LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY JACKSON LEE

1. Regarding bipartisan comprehensive legislation:

H.R. 953—Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2015

Rep. SENSENBRENNER, F. JAMES, JR. [R-WI-5] (Introduced 2/12/15) 124 Cosponsors (84 Dems—including S.J.L., 40 Reps) *No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties

H.R. 3719—"Stop the Overdose Problem Already Becoming a Universal Substance Epidemic Act of 2015" or the "STOP ABUSE Act of 2015"

Rep. GUINTA, FRANK C. [R-NH-1] (Introduced 10/08/2015) 8 Cosponsors (4 Dems, 4 Reps) *No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties

H.R. 4697—Prevent Drug Addiction Act of 2016

Rep. ESTY, ELIZABETH H. [D-CT-5] (Introduced 03/03/2016) 2 Cosponsors (Reps) *No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties

2. Legislation to improve pain management practices:

H.R. 4499—the "Promoting Responsible Opioid Prescribing Act of 2016" and as the "PROP Act of 2016"

Rep. MOONEY, ALEXANDER X. [R-WV-2] (Introduced 02/09/2016) 31 Cosponsors (18 Rep, 13 Dem) *No Sentencing Enhancements or Penalties

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's words. I was very pleased to work with her on the successful amendment that we added in the conference as part of this agreement, and I look for its swift passage today.

I yield back the balance of my time.
 Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report of S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA). Families devastated by opioid addiction deserve action, and this legislation will take some important steps to reduce the toll on our communities. None of our districts is immune to this epidemic that is causing so much death and heartache.

The conference report includes elements from both the bipartisan House and Senate versions of their respective opioid measures recently approved almost unanimously. It includes provisions that incorporate prevention tactics and expanded access to treatment, recovery support services, and overdose reversals. Additionally, the report encourages criminal justice agencies to integrate and sustain Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs.

Although this report includes vital and much needed measures, we cannot pretend that it will solve the problem. I am disappointed that this legislation does not include adequate funding to fully help us get ahead of this crisis.

During conference, my Democratic colleagues from both chambers offered amendments that would provide funding for the authorizations within the package. Unfortunately, they were turned down, so we must continue to fight for the resources necessary to meaningfully implement this package.

I request my colleagues to support this report and to continue to work on a bipartisan basis to provide the resources needed to save lives.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 809, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the conference report.

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

Mr. UPTON. 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, this 15-minute vote on the adoption of the conference report will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to permit closed conference meetings on S. 2943, if offered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 5, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 399]
 YEAS—407

Abraham	Bishop (UT)	Byrne
Adams	Black	Calvert
Aderholt	Blackburn	Capps
Aguiar	Blum	Capuano
Allen	Blumenauer	Cárdenas
Amodei	Bonamici	Carney
Ashford	Boustany	Carson (IN)
Babin	Boyle, Brendan	Carter (GA)
Barletta	F.	Carter (TX)
Barr	Brady (PA)	Castor (FL)
Barton	Brady (TX)	Castro (TX)
Bass	Bridenstine	Chabot
Beatty	Brooks (IN)	Chaffetz
Becerra	Brownley (CA)	Chu, Judy
Benishek	Buchanan	Cicilline
Bera	Buck	Clark (MA)
Beyer	Bucshon	Clarke (NY)
Bilirakis	Burgess	Clawson (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Bustos	Clay
Bishop (MI)	Butterfield	Cleaver

Clyburn	Herrera	Beutler
Coffman	Hice, Jody B.	
Cohen	Higgins	
Cole	Hill	
Collins (GA)	Himes	
Collins (NY)	Hinojosa	
Comstock	Holding	
Conaway	Honda	
Connolly	Hoyer	
Conyers	Hudson	
Cook	Huelskamp	
Cooper	Huffman	
Costa	Huizenga (MI)	
Costello (PA)	Hultgren	
Courtney	Hunter	
Cramer	Hurd (TX)	
Crawford	Israel	
Crenshaw	Issa	
Crowley	Jackson Lee	
Cuellar	Jeffries	
Culberson	Jenkins (KS)	
Curbelo (FL)	Jenkins (WV)	
Davidson	Johnson (GA)	
Davis (CA)	Johnson (OH)	
Davis, Danny	Johnson, E. B.	
Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	
DeFazio	Jolly	
DeGette	Jones	
DeLauro	Jordan	
DeBene	Joyce	
Denham	Kaptur	
Dent	Katko	
DeSantis	Keating	
DeSaulnier	Kelly (LL)	
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	
Deutch	Kelly (PA)	
Diaz-Balart	Kennedy	
Dingell	Kildee	
Doggett	Kilmer	
Dold	Kind	
Donovan	King (IA)	
Doyle, Michael	King (NY)	
F.	Kinzinger (IL)	
Duckworth	Kline	
Duffy	Knight	
Duncan (SC)	Kuster	
Duncan (TN)	Labrador	
Edwards	LaHood	
Ellison	LaMalfa	
Elmiers (NC)	Lamborn	
Emmer (MN)	Lance	
Engel	Langevin	
Eshoo	Larsen (WA)	
Esty	Larson (CT)	
Farenthold	Latta	
Farr	Lawrence	
Fitzpatrick	Lee	
Fleischmann	Levin	
Fleming	Lewis	
Flores	Lieu, Ted	
Forbes	Lipinski	
Fortenberry	LoBiondo	
Foster	Loeb sack	
Fox	Lofgren	
Frankel (FL)	Long	
Franks (AZ)	Loudermillk	
Frelinghuysen	Love	
Fudge	Lowenthal	
Gabbard	Lowe	
Gallego	Lucas	
Garamendi	Luetkemeyer	
Garrett	Lujan Grisham	
Gibbs	(NM)	
Gibson	Luján, Ben Ray	
Goodlatte	(NM)	
Gosar	Lummis	
Gowdy	Lynch	
Graham	MacArthur	
Granger	Maloney,	
Graves (GA)	Carolyn	
Graves (LA)	Maloney, Sean	
Graves (MO)	Marchant	
Grayson	Marino	
Green, Al	Matsui	
Griffith	McCarthy	
Grijalva	McCaul	
Grothman	McClintock	
Guinta	McCollum	
Guthrie	McDermott	
Gutiérrez	McGovern	
Hahn	McHenry	
Hanna	McKinley	
Hardy	McMorris	
Harper	Rodgers	
Harris	McNerney	
Hartzler	McSally	
Heck (NV)	Meadows	
Heck (WA)	Meehan	
Hensarling	Meeks	

Smith (NJ)	Upton	Welch
Smith (TX)	Valadao	Westenstrup
Smith (WA)	Van Hollen	Westerman
Speier	Vargas	Westmoreland
Stefanik	Veasey	Whitfield
Stewart	Vela	Williams
Stivers	Velázquez	Wilson (FL)
Stutzman	Visclosky	Wilson (SC)
Swalwell (CA)	Wagner	Wittman
Takano	Walberg	Womack
Thompson (CA)	Walden	Woodall
Thompson (PA)	Walker	Yoder
Thornberry	Walorski	Yoho
Tiberi	Walters, Mimi	Young (AK)
Tipton	Walz	Young (IA)
Titus	Wasserman	Young (IN)
Tonko	Schultz	Zeldin
Torres	Watson Coleman	Zinke
Trott	Weber (TX)	
Tsongas	Webster (FL)	

NAYS—5

Amash	Gohmert	Sanford
Brooks (AL)	Massie	

NOT VOTING—21

Bost	Green, Gene	Poe (TX)
Brat	Hastings	Rogers (AL)
Brown (FL)	Hurt (VA)	Takai
Cartwright	Kirkpatrick	Thompson (MS)
Cummings	Nadler	Turner
Delaney	Nugent	Waters, Maxine
Fincher	Payne	Yarmuth

□ 1157

Mses. VELÁZQUEZ and MOORE changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:
 Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 399.

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 399, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 399 on agreeing to the Conference Report on S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DALLAS SHOOTING

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleagues from Texas for joining me.

The calculated ambush and murders of the Dallas law enforcement officers during a peaceful protest in downtown Dallas last night was a disgraceful act of violence. It happened in my district. I live less than five blocks away.

My prayers and sympathy go out to the families of the officers slain and the victims of the shooting.

Our response going forward—not just in Dallas, but across our Nation—will be more important now than ever before.

My thoughts and prayers are also with the families of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, who violently lost their lives this week as well.

We must de-escalate violence. This recent violence serves as a stark reminder that relations between law enforcement and the communities they serve remains extremely tense, and we must do everything we can not to inflame this tension even further. We need to recognize the root cause of this tension and work to end the divisiveness between law enforcement and citizens.

I do also want to commend the Dallas Police Department, Dallas Police Chief David Brown—a constituent and someone I work with very closely—and the Dallas Area Rapid Transit for their brave and swift response to the shooting. These officers are among some of the most capable and professional law enforcement officers in the country, and I commend them for their bravery during this incident.

Mr. Speaker, I ask not just for a moment of silence but also for firm action. We need to bring meaningful legislation to the floor that will help bridge the divide between law enforcement and our communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise for a moment of silence.

MOTION TO CLOSE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON S. 2943, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, I move that meetings of the conference between the House and Senate on S. 2943 may be closed to the public at such times as classified national security information may be broached, provided that any sitting Member of Congress shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule XXII, the motion is not debatable, and the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 14, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 400]

YEAS—397

Abraham	Black	Byrne
Adams	Blackburn	Calvert
Aderholt	Blum	Capps
Aguilar	Bonamici	Capuano
Allen	Boustany	Cárdenas
Amodie	Boyle, Brendan	Carney
Ashford	F.	Carson (IN)
Babin	Brady (PA)	Carter (GA)
Barletta	Brady (TX)	Carter (TX)
Barr	Brat	Castor (FL)
Bass	Bridenstine	Castro (TX)
Beatty	Brooks (AL)	Chabot
Becerra	Brooks (IN)	Chaffetz
Benishek	Brownley (CA)	Chu, Judy
Bera	Buchanan	Cicilline
Beyer	Buck	Clark (MA)
Bilirakis	Bucshon	Clarke (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Burgess	Clawson (FL)
Bishop (MI)	Bustos	Clay
Bishop (UT)	Butterfield	Cleaver

Clyburn	Hice, Jody B.	Mullin	Swalwell (CA)	Veasey	Westmoreland
Coffman	Higgins	Mulvaney	Takano	Velázquez	Whitfield
Cohen	Hill	Murphy (FL)	Thompson (CA)	Visclosky	Williams
Cole	Himes	Murphy (PA)	Thompson (PA)	Wagner	Wilson (FL)
Collins (GA)	Himnosa	Napolitano	Thornberry	Walberg	Wilson (SC)
Collins (NY)	Holding	Neal	Tiberi	Walden	Wittman
Comstock	Hoyer	Neugebauer	Tipton	Walker	Womack
Conaway	Hudson	Newhouse	Titus	Walorski	Woodall
Connolly	Huffman	Noem	Tonko	Walters, Mimi	Yarmuth
Conyers	Huizenga (MI)	Nolan	Torres	Walz	Yoder
Cook	Hultgren	Norcross	Trott	Wasserman	Yoho
Cooper	Hunter	Nunes	Tsongas	Schultz	Young (AK)
Costa	Hurd (TX)	O'Rourke	Upton	Watson Coleman	Young (IA)
Costello (PA)	Hurt (VA)	Olson	Valadao	Weber (TX)	Young (IN)
Courtney	Israel	Palazzo	Van Hollen	Wenstrup	Zeldin
Cramer	Issa	Pallone	Vargas	Westerman	Zinke
Crawford	Jackson Lee	Palmer			
Crenshaw	Jeffries	Pascrell			
Crowley	Jenkins (KS)	Paulsen			
Cuellar	Jenkins (WV)	Payne			
Culberson	Johnson (OH)	Pearce			
DeSantis	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi			
DeSaulnier	Johnson, Sam	Perlmutter			
DesJarlais	Jolly	Perry			
Deutch	Jordan	Peters			
Diaz-Balart	Joyce	Peterson			
Dingell	Kaptur	Pingree			
Doggett	Katko	Pittenger			
Dold	Keating	Pitts			
Donovan	Kelly (IL)	Pocan			
Doyle, Michael F.	Kelly (MS)	Poliquin			
Duckworth	Kelly (PA)	Pompeo			
Duffy	Kennedy	Posey			
Duncan (SC)	Kildee	Price (NC)			
Edwards	Kilmer	Price, Tom			
Ellison	Kind	Quigley			
Ellmers (NC)	King (IA)	Rangel			
Emmer (MN)	King (NY)	Ratcliffe			
Engel	Kinzinger (IL)	Reed			
Eshoo	Kline	Reichert			
Esty	Knight	Renacci			
Farenthold	Kuster	Ribble			
Farr	Labrador	Rice (NY)			
Fitzpatrick	LaHood	Rice (SC)			
Fleischmann	LaMalfa	Richmond			
Fleming	LaMort	Rigell			
Flores	Lance	Roby			
Forbes	Langevin	Roe (TN)			
Fortenberry	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (KY)			
Foster	Larson (CT)	Rohrabacher			
Fox	Latta	Rokita			
Fox	Lawrence	Rooney (FL)			
Frankel (FL)	Levin	Ros-Lehtinen			
Franks (AZ)	Lewis	Roskam			
Frelinghuysen	Lipinski	Ross			
Fudge	LoBiondo	Rothfus			
Gallego	Loeb	Rouzer			
Garamendi	Loeb	Roybal-Allard			
Garrett	Lofgren	Royce			
Gibbs	Long	Ruiz			
Gibson	Loudermill	Ruppersberger			
Gohmert	Love	Rush			
Gohmert	Lowenthal	Russell			
Goodlatte	Lowey	Ryan (OH)			
Gosar	Lucas	Salmon			
Gowdy	Luetkemeyer	Salmon			
Graham	Lujan Grisham	Sanchez, Linda T.			
Granger	Maloney, Carolyn	Sanchez, Loretta			
Graves (GA)	Maloney, Sean	Sanford			
Graves (LA)	Malone	Sarbanes			
Graves (MO)	Marino	Scalise			
Grayson	Matsui	Lynch			
Green, Al	McCarthy	Schakowsky			
Green, Gene	McCaul	Schiff			
Green, Gene	McClintock	Schrader			
Griffith	McCollum	Schweikert			
Grijalva	McHenry	Scott (VA)			
Griffith	McKinley	Scott, Austin			
Grothman	McMorris	Scott, David			
Guinta	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner			
Guthrie	McNerney	Serrano			
Gutiérrez	McSally	Sessions			
Hahn	Meadows	Sewell (AL)			
Hanna	Meehan	Sherman			
Hardy	Meeks	Shimkus			
Harper	Meng	Shuster			
Harris	Messer	Simpson			
Hartzer	Mica	Sinema			
Heck (NV)	Miller (FL)	Sinema			
Heck (WA)	Miller (MI)	Sires			
Hensarling	Moore	Slaughter			
Herrera Beutler	Moolenaar	Smith (MO)			
	Mooney (WV)	Smith (NE)			
	Moore	Smith (NJ)			
	Moulton	Smith (TX)			
		Smith (WA)			
		Speier			
		Stefanik			
		Stewart			
		Stivers			
		Stutzman			

NAYS—14

Amash	Johnson (GA)	McDermott
Blumenauer	Jones	McGovern
DeFazio	Lee	Polis
Gabbard	Lieu, Ted	Welch
Honda	Massie	

NOT VOTING—22

Barton	Hastings	Takai
Bost	Huelskamp	Thompson (MS)
Brown (FL)	Kirkpatrick	Turner
Cartwright	Marchant	Vela
Cummings	Nadler	Waters, Maxine
Delaney	Nugent	Webster (FL)
Duncan (TN)	Poe (TX)	
Fincher	Rogers (AL)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAULSEN) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1208

So the motion to close portions of the conference was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRESIDENTIAL ALLOWANCE MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1777) to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958", with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

(a) *FORMER PRESIDENTS.*—*The first section of the Act entitled "An Act to provide retirement, clerical assistants, and free mailing privileges to former Presidents of the United States, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1958 (commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958") (3 U.S.C. 102 note), is amended by striking the matter preceding subsection (e) and inserting the following:*

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Each former President shall be entitled for the remainder of his or her life to receive from the United States—

"(1) an annuity at the rate of \$200,000 per year, subject to subsection (c); and

“(2) a monetary allowance at the rate of \$200,000 per year, subject to subsections (c) and (d).

“(b) DURATION; FREQUENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The annuity and allowance under subsection (a) shall each—

“(A) commence on the day after the date on which an individual becomes a former President;

“(B) terminate on the date on which the former President dies; and

“(C) be payable by the Secretary of the Treasury on a monthly basis.

“(2) APPOINTIVE OR ELECTIVE POSITIONS.—The annuity and allowance under subsection (a) shall not be payable for any period during which a former President holds an appointive or elective position in or under the Federal Government to which is attached a rate of pay other than a nominal rate.

“(c) COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.—Effective December 1 of each year, each annuity and allowance under subsection (a) that commenced before that date shall be increased by the same percentage by which benefit amounts under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased, effective as of that date, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

“(d) LIMITATION ON MONETARY ALLOWANCE.—“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the monetary allowance payable under subsection (a)(2) to a former President for any 12-month period—

“(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), may not exceed the amount by which—

“(i) the monetary allowance that (but for this subsection) would otherwise be so payable for such 12-month period, exceeds (if at all)

“(ii) the applicable reduction amount for such 12-month period; and

“(B) shall not be less than the amount determined under paragraph (4).

“(2) DEFINITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘applicable reduction amount’ means, with respect to any former President and in connection with any 12-month period, the amount by which—

“(i) the sum of—

“(I) the adjusted gross income (as defined in section 62 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of the former President for the most recent taxable year for which a tax return is available; and

“(II) any interest excluded from the gross income of the former President under section 103 of such Code for such taxable year, exceeds (if at all)

“(ii) \$400,000, subject to subparagraph (C).

“(B) JOINT RETURNS.—In the case of a joint return, subclauses (I) and (II) of subparagraph (A)(i) shall be applied by taking into account both the amounts properly allocable to the former President and the amounts properly allocable to the spouse of the former President.

“(C) COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.—The dollar amount specified in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be adjusted at the same time that, and by the same percentage by which, the monetary allowance of the former President is increased under subsection (c) (disregarding this subsection).

“(3) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

“(i) the terms ‘return’ and ‘return information’ have the meanings given those terms in section 6103(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(ii) the term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of the Treasury’s delegate.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—A former President may not receive a monetary allowance under subsection (a)(2) unless the former President discloses to the Secretary, upon the request of the Secretary, any return or return information of the former President or spouse of the former President that the Secretary determines is necessary for purposes of calculating the applicable

reduction amount under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

“(C) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Except as provided in section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may not, with respect to a return or return information disclosed to the Secretary under subparagraph (B)—

“(i) disclose the return or return information to any entity or person; or

“(ii) use the return or return information for any purpose other than to calculate the applicable reduction amount under paragraph (2).

“(4) INCREASED COSTS DUE TO SECURITY NEEDS.—With respect to the monetary allowance that would be payable to a former President under subsection (a)(2) for any 12-month period but for the limitation under paragraph (1), the Administrator of General Services, in coordination with the Director of the United States Secret Service, shall determine the amount of the allowance that is needed to pay the increased cost of doing business that is attributable to the security needs of the former President.”

(b) SURVIVING SPOUSES OF FORMER PRESIDENTS.—

(1) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF MONETARY ALLOWANCE.—Subsection (e) of the first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958 is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “\$20,000 per annum,” and inserting “\$100,000 per year (subject to paragraph (4))”; and

(B) in the second sentence—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) by striking “or the government of the District of Columbia”; and

(II) by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) shall, after its commencement date, be increased at the same time that, and by the same percentage by which, annuities of former Presidents are increased under subsection (c).”

(2) COVERAGE OF WIDOWER OF A FORMER PRESIDENT.—Subsection (e) of the first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958, as amended by paragraph (1), is amended—

(A) by striking “widow” each place it appears and inserting “widow or widower”; and

(B) by striking “she” and inserting “she or he”.

(c) SUBSECTION HEADINGS.—The first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958 is amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by inserting after the subsection enumerator the following: “WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS.—”;

(2) in subsection (f), by inserting after the subsection enumerator the following: “DEFINITION.—”;

(3) in subsection (g), by inserting after the subsection enumerator the following: “AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—”.

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or an amendment made by this Act shall be construed to affect—

(1) any provision of law relating to the security or protection of a former President or a member of the family of a former President; or

(2) funding, under the Former Presidents Act of 1958 or any other law, to carry out any provision of law described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 4. TRANSITION RULES.

(a) FORMER PRESIDENTS.—In the case of any individual who is a former President on the date of enactment of this Act, the amendment made by section 2(a) shall be applied as if the commencement date referred in subsection (b)(1)(A) of the first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958, as amended by section 2(a), coincided with such date of enactment.

(b) WIDOWS.—In the case of any individual who is the widow of a former President on the date of enactment of this Act, the amendments

made by section 2(b)(1) shall be applied as if the commencement date referred to in subsection (e)(1) of the first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958, as amended by section 2(b)(1), coincided with such date of enactment.

SEC. 5. APPLICABILITY.

For a former President receiving a monetary allowance under the Former Presidents Act of 1958 on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, the limitation under subsection (d)(1) of the first section of that Act, as amended by section 2(a), shall apply to the monetary allowance of the former President, except to the extent that the application of the limitation would prevent the former President from being able to pay the cost of a lease or other contract that is in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act and under which the former President makes payments using the monetary allowance, as determined by the Administrator of General Services.

Mr. CHAFFETZ (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 Utah?

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

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 without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 4372. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 Rochester Street, Bergen, New York, as the Barry G. Miller Post Office.

H.R. 4960. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 525 N Broadway in Aurora, Illinois, as the “Kenneth M. Christy Post Office Building”.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2340. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate concurs in the House amendment to the bill (S. 764) “An Act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.”, with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 114-187, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, and in consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individuals as members of the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico:

The Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) (Energy and Natural Resources).

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) (Finance).

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), for the purpose of inquiring of the majority leader the schedule for the week to come.

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and noon for legislative business. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

□ 1215

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business today.

The House will also consider the fiscal year 2017 Interior appropriations bill, sponsored by Representative CALVERT.

Additionally, the House will consider the Separation of Powers Restoration Act, sponsored by Representative RATCLIFFE, as well as three bills related to Iran, thanks to the work of Representatives POMPEO and ROYCE. The House will also consider the Conscience Protection Act, authored by Representative DIANE BLACK.

Mr. Speaker, it is likely that several additional items will be added to the schedule for next week, and Members will be advised of the final schedule as soon as possible.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, normally, the colloquy between the majority leader and myself on the schedule might be lengthier than it will be today. This week has been a sobering week, a sad week.

I want to congratulate Speaker RYAN on the comments that he made this morning. He said that “every Republican and every Democrat wants to see less gun violence.” He then went on to say: “Sometimes we disagree on how to get there. Sometimes we disagree passionately on how to get there.” He went on to say: “But in having this debate, let’s not lose sight of the values that unite us. Let’s not lose sight in our common humanity.” He then said: “We need to take a moment here for reflection, for thought, for prayer, for justice, for action.”

Mr. Speaker, the majority leader and I have had a brief conversation on the floor. He said to me—and I agree—that we need to sit down together and try to see how we can bring this country and this House together on a way forward

to, as the gentlewoman from Texas said, decrease the tensions that exist between citizens and law enforcement officers, to ensure the safety not only of those officers but of Alton Sterling, who lost his life, and of Philando Castile, who lost his life—an instance that appeared to be horrifying and unacceptable.

I think all of us in this House and all Americans, Mr. Speaker, like the majority leader has suggested to me—and I have responded—should come together to de-escalate the tensions in our society, the confrontations that we see too often, the rash rhetoric—the hateful rhetoric in some cases—that is being used. I thank the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, for what I believe to be his very sincere and heartfelt thoughts along those lines.

So we will not engage in a colloquy today of differences but in a colloquy that will, with prayerful consideration, try to serve the people of this country and each and every individual in this country towards a safer, more assured life in America.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his words and our conversation prior.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. Too many families are mourning losses this week. I believe all Americans are praying for the families—for the innocents who have been murdered in ambush. It is a time for this Nation to heal; it is a time for this Nation to unite; and it is a time for justice to be done. I think, for that to start, this House needs to be an example. I thank the gentleman for being accepting of and for being willing to work together as we have so many times before.

As we know in this House, people come from many different parts of this Nation and have expertise. I have sat and had a conversation with DAVE REICHERT, who has tremendous expertise; and I have had conversations with JOHN LEWIS. There is an ability within this House to help this Nation unite and heal the wounds that are out there, and I thank the gentleman for being willing to be a part of that.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

My hope, Mr. Speaker, is that all of us will be willing to be a part of that solution, not of the problem.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2016, TO MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, July 11, 2016, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

SWIFT AND SURE JUSTICE FOR THE THIN BLUE LINE

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud and sad citizen of Dallas, Texas. I am so proud of that thin blue line that keeps all of our citizens safe, including my wife, my son, my daughter. I am so sad for the fallen, their families, their sons, their daughters, their spouses. It is a time of mourning; it is a time of prayer; but it is also a time of justice—swift and sure justice—for anyone who engaged in this act of evil.

Mr. Speaker, it is also a time for healing, and it is a time to remember Martin Luther King’s dream, which should be America’s dream, that, one day, our children will grow up to be judged by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin.

I dream also that, one day, we may decide that it is not a controversial statement to say that all lives matter, because it is not a time for us, it is not a time for them. It is only a time for we, the people, to treasure all life and respect the dignity of all of God’s children.

It is time to look into our hearts and ask the fundamental question: Today, will I promote a color-conscious society, or will I promote a colorblind society? Today, will I exploit the wound, or, today, will I attempt to heal the wound?

May the God who gave us life and liberty heal the wounded of our Nation, heal the wounded of the city of Dallas, lift up the families of the fallen, and bless our land with greater peace and greater understanding.

JUSTICE FOR ALL

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, all of us were deeply shocked and heartbroken to learn of the assassination of five police officers in Dallas last night. Nothing can ever justify the cold-blooded murders of those who have sworn to protect and serve. Such an act does nothing to bring back those who were killed by police in previous days—killings that also shocked the conscience of our country.

Violence only begets violence, not justice.

The killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile at the hands of law enforcement officers were horrifying and unacceptable. Their families deserve a full investigation and for justice to be served—just as those five fallen officers deserve justice. Justice for all—those officers who were shot in Dallas and their families deserve that.

As we mourn, we remember that the way we bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice is by bending it together. In the days ahead, let us focus on what unites us and on our shared determination to see justice prevail.

Black lives matter. Law enforcement officers' lives matter. Justice matters. Life matters.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDEN PRAIRIE GIRLS' LACROSSE TEAM

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I did 1 year ago, to congratulate the Eden Prairie girls lacrosse team on their high school State championship.

The Eagles demonstrated incredible perseverance as they rallied from a five-goal deficit, scoring six of the next seven goals to tie the championship game at halftime. That run, coupled with a very impressive second half defensive display, lifted the Eagles to an 11-9 victory. Co-coaches Judy Baxter and Beth Patterson have every reason to be proud of their team's resilience throughout the season and the tournament.

It was the Eagles' strong leadership from their upperclassmen that actually made the team difficult to beat. Leading that offensive effort, senior forward Sara Woodring scored two goals and had five assists; and senior defender Payton Borg led the Eagles' defense, allowing only two goals in the second half.

Mr. Speaker, achieving a high school State championship title is an impressive accomplishment, but even more admirable is the Eagles' ability to maintain a commitment throughout the season to their schoolwork and other obligations outside of the classroom. The team's parents, teachers, and fellow Eagle students are very proud of their accomplishments.

Once again, congratulations to the Eden Prairie girls lacrosse team for their winning championship.

CHILCOT REPORT

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was impressed this week with the release of the long-awaited Chilcot report from the United Kingdom's inquiry into the Iraq war.

While the main conclusions of the report should be familiar to all of us—that the U.S. and Britain justified the invasion of Iraq with flawed and manipulated intelligence and that subsequent preparations for post-invasion Iraq were woefully inadequate and mismanaged—it is, nonetheless, an overdue public accountability of British

leadership and a detailed and searing rebuke that no member of the Bush administration has ever undergone.

During his news conference, Mr. Blair said: "I express more sorrow, regret, and apology than you can ever believe."

Mr. Speaker, what is the chance that we will ever hear those same remorseful and contemplative words from Mr. Bush? Mr. Cheney? Mr. Rumsfeld? It is virtually nonexistent.

God forgive us and them for our indifference. Iraq never will.

Mr. Speaker, I was impressed this week with the release of the long-awaited Chilcot Report, the United Kingdom's inquiry into the Iraq War.

While the main conclusions of the report should be familiar to all of us by now—that the U.S. and Britain justified the invasion of Iraq on both flawed and manipulated intelligence and that subsequent preparations for post-invasion Iraq were woefully inadequate and mismanaged—it is nonetheless an overdue public accountability of British leadership, a detailed and searing rebuke that no member of the Bush administration has ever undergone.

The invasion of Iraq in 2003 was the worst foreign policy decision ever made by an American president, a decision that cost the U.S. trillions of dollars and that led to the deaths of over a million people, including 4,500 American servicemembers and scores of Iraqis.

Moreover, the ripple effect across the Middle East from that single event 13 years ago has been brutal and violent, spawning terrorist groups like ISIS and mirroring U.S. foreign policy in a region we continue to misunderstand.

For me, and for a number of others in this chamber who boldly spoke against the war before it even began, this report has enormous resonance.

And it was cathartic to watch former Prime Minister Tony Blair's news conference, where he appeared if not exactly repentant, at least deeply affected by the report's scathing criticism.

President Bush and the other architects of the war have never deigned to present themselves before the public to explain, much less atone for, their actions and decisions.

Meanwhile, House Republicans have been far more determined to waste this body's time and resources investigating Benghazi, Hillary Clinton's emails, or the IRS rather than the biggest foreign policy disaster of the last quarter century.

Indifference, Mr. Speaker. That's what the Iraq War has amounted to: a regrettable blip on an otherwise sterling American reputation abroad. That's what President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Secretary Rumsfeld, and the rest of the political elite who enabled their actions would have you believe.

But while they continue to enjoy their comfortable retirement, free of punishment or official censure, Iraq continues to burn.

Perhaps you think a Chilcot Report of our own would be futile, now that the American people popularly regard the Iraq War as a profound mistake.

But public censures have their uses, not the least being that they serve as a warning to those who would forget or ignore our past missteps. An American Chilcot Report would certainly check those voices now calling for increased military action in Iraq and Syria.

Over the past 5 days, during the final week of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, over 320 people have been killed in Baghdad. This is just the latest of Iraq's horrors, Mr. Speaker, horrors that we wrought with our senseless and criminal invasion 13 years ago.

During his news conference, Mr. Blair said "I express more sorrow, regret and apology than you can ever believe."

Mr. Speaker, the chances of ever hearing the same remorseful and contemplative words from Bush, Cheney, or Rumsfeld are virtually non-existent. God forgive them and us for such indifference, for Iraq never will.

DEFENDING FREEDOMS PROJECT: RAIF BADAWI

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, June 17 marks the fourth anniversary of the arrest of Saudi Arabian blogger Raif Badawi. He is a prisoner of conscience who has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for his writings.

These days, Raif is not doing well. Recently, he resorted to a hunger strike to protest his lack of access to medical care, which, thankfully, he is receiving now, but his family remains extremely concerned for his health.

During the holy month of Ramadan, King Salman pardoned many prisoners. His Majesty should also pardon Raif and Raif's former lawyer, Waleed Abulkhair, a human rights advocate who is serving a 15-year sentence for crimes such as a lack of respect for authorities and creating an NGO without permission.

It is ridiculous. I understand that Saudi Arabia is an ally, Mr. Speaker, but the United States must not be silent while these men sit in prison. Saudi Arabia will not achieve security or stability by repressing peaceful dissent.

□ 1230

HONOR, RESPECT, AND DIGNITY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a resident of Texas, representing parts of Houston, Texas, which includes the headquarters of the Houston Police Department, the Nation's heart is heavy and saddened.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Dallas and to the families who have lost their fallen heroes.

We respect all of those who are on the front line of allowing the American people to protest. We understand the young people, who are many colors and backgrounds, who felt compelled to protest the loss of life of two individuals. The law enforcement officers respected that, too. They understood the pain of Mr. Castile and Mr. Sterling's deaths.

Always in America, we have been able to come as protesters under the Constitution, but we recognize that law and order is the standard of this Nation.

As I pray for these families, I ask the Congresspersons to rise to the level of leaders and leadership to seek out unity. As I just spoke to the head of my police department, I extended my hand to be able to work together with community and police to bring us together because that is why we are a great Nation.

In Houston on Sunday, we will march and mourn for those fallen, but we will be praying for nonviolence in this Nation. What I will say, Mr. Speaker, is that the words that are ugly of those who want to divide us, I will not hear them and I will not listen to them. I will only embrace and bring us together.

I will tell the young people whose faces I saw last evening in Washington, who were an array of mosaic colors, backgrounds, and religions, that we love you and we thank you for this protest of nonviolence. We will stand against violent gun behavior, thugs, and terrorists. Americans want unity, respect, and human dignity for all.

BUILD UNITY

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, that which has occurred in Dallas, Texas, gives a sad meaning to the term "in the line of duty."

In the line of duty, there are husbands who will not return home. In the line of duty, peace officers will not return home. Although I don't know the gender of all of them, I want to make sure I cover them all; so let me say that, in the line of duty, there are peace officers who will not return home.

Those husbands and wives and children had every reason to believe that their loved ones would return home. They are in pain, and I want them to know that we suffer together. All of us in this country suffer whenever any one of us is taken by violence. Innocent people in this country are suffering. People of good will are suffering. Families are suffering.

My prayer is that, out of this adversity, we can build a unity that will afford us the opportunity to develop the harmony necessary for the people of the greatest Nation in the world to live together.

We have to span these chasms that divide us, and forgiveness is in order, but we must also make sure that justice is done. All who are associated with the dastardly deeds that occurred with reference to Dallas must be arrested, convicted, and must be prosecuted to the fullest extent that the law allows. There can be no exceptions.

The time has come now for those who are suffering to receive our prayers and

our sympathies, and I regret that "in the line of duty" has taken on a different meaning for them.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON S. 2943, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees on S. 2943:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the Senate bill and the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. THORNBERRY, FORBES, MILLER of Florida, WILSON of South Carolina, LOBIONDO, BISHOP of Utah, TURNER, KLINE, ROGERS of Alabama, FRANKS of Arizona, SHUSTER, CONAWAY, LAMBORN, WITTMAN, GIBSON, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Messrs. GARAMENDI, JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. PETERS.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Messrs. NUNES, POMPEO, and SCHIFF.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of sections 571-74 and 578 of the Senate bill, and sections 571, 573, 1098E, and 3512 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. WALBERG, GUTHRIE, and SCOTT of Virginia.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of sections 3112 and 3123 of the Senate bill, and sections 346, 601, 749, 1045, 1090, 1095, 1673, 3119A, and 3119C of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. LATTA, JOHNSON of Ohio, and PALLONE.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of sections 828, 1006, 1007, 1050, 1056, 1089, 1204, 1211, 1221-23, 1231, 1232, 1242, 1243, 1247, 1252, 1253, 1255-58, 1260, 1263, 1264, 1271-73, 1276, 1283, 1301, 1302, 1531-33, and 1662 of the Senate bill, and sections 926, 1011, 1013, 1083, 1084, 1098K, 1099B, 1099C, 1201, 1203, 1214, 1221-23, 1227, 1229, 1233, 1235, 1236, 1245, 1246, 1250, 1259A-59E, 1259J, 1259L, 1259P, 1259Q, 1259U, 1261, 1262, 1301-03, 1510, 1531-33, 1645, 1653, and 2804 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ROYCE, ZELDIN, and ENGEL.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of sections 564 and 1091 of the Senate bill, and sections 1097, 1869, 1869A, and 3510 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MCCAUL, DONOVAN, and THOMPSON of Mississippi.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 829J,

829K, 944, 963, 1006, 1023-25, 1053, 1093, 1283, 3303, and 3304 of the Senate bill, and sections 598, 1090, 1098H, 1216, 1261, and 3608 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GOODLATTE, ISSA, and CONYERS.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of sections 601, 2825, subtitle D of title XXVIII, and section 2852 of the Senate bill, and sections 312, 601, 1090, 1098H, 2837, 2839, 2839A, subtitle E of title XXVIII, sections 2852, 2854, 2855, 2864-66, title XXX, sections 3508, 7005, and title LXXIII of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. COOK, HARDY, and GRIJALVA.

From the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of sections 339, 703, 819, 821, 829H, 829I, 861, 944, 1048, 1054, 1097, 1103-07, 1109-13, 1121, 1124, 1131-33, 1135, and 1136 of the Senate bill, and sections 574, 603, 807, 821, 1048, 1088, 1095, 1098L, 1101, 1102, 1104-06, 1108-11, 1113, 1259C, and 1631 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. CHAFFETZ, RUSSELL, and CUMMINGS.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of section 874 of the Senate bill and sections 1605, 1673, and title XXXIII of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SMITH of Texas, WEBER of Texas, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of sections 818, 838, 874, and 898 of the Senate bill, and title XVIII of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. CHABOT, KNIGHT, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 541, 562, 601, 961, 3302-07, 3501, and 3502 of the Senate bill, and sections 343, 601, 731, 835, 1043, 1671, 3119C, 3501, 3504, 3509, 3512, and title XXXVI of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HUNTER, ROUZER, and SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of sections 706, 755, and 1431 of the Senate bill, and sections 741, 1421, and 1864 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ROE of Tennessee, BOST, and TAKANO.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of section 1271 of the Senate bill, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BRADY of Texas, REICHERT, and LEVIN.

There was no objection.

DEFENDING RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the First

Amendment Defense Act and the importance of defending religious liberties in America. And I don't know that there has ever been a greater time for us to address this than right now. We have, unfortunately, become accustomed in this country of the news similar to what we woke up to this morning where we see one tragedy after another. Certainly racial tensions are extremely high in this country. Anger is high.

We face a number of other issues across this country, like greed and self-centeredness, a disregard for authority and personal property and the rule of law. We see corruption in so many different places, including our government at all levels, be it on the local level, the State, or here on the national level as well.

□ 1245

Things like immorality and abuse. And, yes, we hear a lot these days, especially days like today, a lot of people talking about gun violence. But, Mr. Speaker, I am convinced at the core of my being that we cannot address these type of issues by turning our backs on God and by kicking God out of the public square.

And, yet, we are seeing an increase of hostility in this country toward people of faith and the right that people have under the First Amendment to express those beliefs in the public square without fear of intimidation, without fear of being punished by our government.

Mr. Speaker, all of this concerns me greatly, and I know it concerns many people not only in the people's House, but all across our Nation. I think many people don't realize that, even according to the Scriptures, the institutions of family, as well as church and government, have been instituted by God. These are not creations of man. And I think many of us, Mr. Speaker, forget the reality of this.

In fact, the reason that government was created by God in the first place is because He knew that we, as human beings, need boundaries within which to live, and those boundaries actually comprise a civil society. And so we have government given to us as a great gift to enable us to have a tangible understanding of right and wrong and the boundaries within which to live, and if we get outside those boundaries, government is there for correction and to keep us within certain boundaries of behavior. That is what comprises a civil society.

But, of course, the problem of all of this, Mr. Speaker, is that we realize that government itself is comprised of human beings, and if human beings within government themselves are corrupt, then everyone suffers; and so it becomes extremely important for us to understand the purpose of government and why it exists and why it has such an influence on all of our lives.

On the other side, I guess, of the coin—perhaps not totally the other side, but certainly within the context

of this discussion—is, in fact, people of faith. Mr. Speaker, I have been involved in this battle personally for very closely, nearly 15 years, but I find these days people of faith are very much intimidated, scared to get involved. And there are all sorts of reasons for this. I hear all kinds of excuses, but some of the bigger excuses that I hear frequently is people say we have that separation of church and State. Of course, we know, Mr. Speaker, that that is not in the Constitution, and, yet, we have heard it over and over and over and over to the extent that many people today actually believe that there is a separation that prohibits people of faith from being involved, be it in government or in multiple other avenues and areas of our society.

And so that kind of erroneous thinking has an impact on something like the First Amendment and the right of the people to have belief and belief of conscience, and the right to exercise those beliefs publicly; but I also see, indeed, because of the growing hostility that is becoming more and more evident, that people are fearful of our government. People are fearful to stand up.

There are multiple examples, multiple examples. I had a radio program for 12 years and I dealt with this type of thing on a regular basis, but the examples go everywhere from a baker to photographers, some of whom have actually lost their businesses because they chose to stand on their First Amendment right to exercise their businesses according to the dictates of their faith, and they have ended up losing their businesses.

We have examples of valedictorians scared to offer a prayer or to express their beliefs in their valedictorian speech. We have workplace intimidation. We could go on and on and on, Mr. Speaker, a long time, talking about this, but the concern is highlighted by judicial leanings that we are seeing these days.

I think it is more important now than ever that we understand that the First Amendment is the first amendment. It is our first liberty. It is the foundation upon which so much else rests. If the First Amendment is altered or chipped away at continually, then I am fearful that our entire Nation will suffer massive consequences and change as a result.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a few moments to not only support the First Amendment Defense Act and the importance of defending religious liberties, but I think within that understanding, that context, now more than ever with the issues that we are watching, I want to kind of draw a word picture of why this is so important and why our Founders, why our Nation was actually established on these principles that we seem today so willingly to walk away from.

But we have, I believe, a moral obligation to defend our First Amendment

and to defend the rights of people to believe what they believe and to exercise those beliefs publicly without fear of intimidation, let alone punishment.

I go all the way back to begin with, Mr. Speaker, our very first President, George Washington. Many of us probably had to memorize portions of his Farewell Address, but, you know, I have tried to place myself in that context many times, and the reality is that many within our country, when Washington was stepping down, were fearful. We had never had another President in our country at that time, and George Washington had done a superb job. People were anxious of the thought of him leaving, and it had never happened. We had never passed the baton from one President to another at that time.

Washington, in his Farewell Address, Mr. Speaker, made this statement: "Of all the dispositions and habits that lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports."

Indispensable. Those are strong words: indispensable supports, religion and morality.

He went on, Mr. Speaker, and he said this—and I think a lot of people overlook this comment, but he said: "In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness."

In other words, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is totally fair to say that George Washington, in his Farewell Address, literally stated that you could not claim to be a patriot if you didn't understand the role of religion and morality in American culture and those indispensable pillars upon which our Nation rests. Amazing words that, unfortunately, we tend to overlook.

Well, George Washington did pass the baton, and for the first time in our Nation's history we had another leader. His name was John Adams. Many of us know a lot about John Adams and some of the things that he did and said, but probably one of the most famous quotes from Adams was this one, Mr. Speaker—and if this paper here represents the Constitution, it was Adams who said: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

I think those are enormously significant words. I mean, we all know that our Constitution basically is a contract. It is a contract between our government and we, the people; and that contract says that our government is not going to be overly intrusive into our lives, that we will have limited government and maximum freedom. That is the contract. John Adams said that that contract, that Constitution, was written for a moral and religious people, that it is totally inadequate for the government of any other.

So, Mr. Speaker, I recall—it has been several years ago now—I was actually in a meeting with Governor Huckabee,

and he made a statement that for years now has just bubbled inside me, and it actually has become a changing moment in my life to understand what our Founders meant when they gave us the importance of religion and morality.

But let's suppose we have two towns, a town A and a town B. Let's just suppose, Mr. Speaker, that town A is what we may refer to as a secular town. It is a town that, for the most part, has ignored the role of religion and morality. They, more or less, have kicked God out of the public square.

What kind of behavior would we expect, Mr. Speaker, from town A here?

Well, if we ponder that and if we look historically at this type of scenario, we will find that this type of society, for the most part, has greater incidence of things like violence, robbery, crime, gang violence, broken families, and all these types of things seem to go on the rise.

Now, here is the important question, Mr. Speaker, that I think we have got to address when we are looking at something like this: What is the role of government toward town A?

Well, if you think about it, of necessity, government must be very much involved in town A because there are so many problems here. We need more law enforcement because we have got so much more crime. We need more judges because we have got all these different things that are happening here, and there are conflicts between one another. Of necessity, government must be very much involved in town A.

Now, let's go over here to town B. Let's just suppose town B is a town that, for the most part, has embraced a Judeo-Christian worldview, much like our Founders gave us. Many people here representing this House of Representatives probably grew up in a town B. I like to refer to this as a Mayberry type of a town. Not that everyone in town B is a person of faith or a religious person, but there is a certain worldview that is embraced in this town that embraces, that is accepted within this culture, this community, things like the Golden Rule, where we are going to treat one another the way we ourselves want to be treated.

Now, let's just say, for example, that this town B accepts certain values along those things. Now, what kind of behavior do we expect out of town B?

Well, not everyone over here is perfect by any means, but overall, many of us can go back and we can look 20, 30, 40, 50 years ago, the difference of life then compared to life now, when we did have more of a town B-type understanding in our country, and there was less crime. Families did stay together more. We didn't suffer with the same extent of issues like gang violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and these type of things.

So, Mr. Speaker, now the question is: What is the response of government to town B?

Well, it is not nearly as great. The reason being, Mr. Speaker, the primary

difference between these is what I believe our Founders gave us. In town B you have a group of people who are capable of self-governing their own lives with an authentic understanding of right and wrong because there is deeply held religious, moral convictions that dictate the conduct of these individuals. I believe it is totally fair to say that I believe our Founders gave us the indispensable pillars of religion and morality because they understood that it is only within this context that we can have limited government.

The role of government in this town is much less because you have self-governing people, and it is only within a context of self-governance that we are able to have limited government. Thereby, the understanding of the statement by John Adams that says our Constitution, that contract of limited government—John Adams said our Constitution was written for a moral and religious people; it is totally inadequate for a government of any other.

Mr. Speaker, it is my conviction, and I believe consistent with our Founders, to say that it is impossible to have limited government in a secular society. I don't know that that is even a possibility.

□ 1300

So we, as Members of this House and this governing body, be it Federal or on the State level or even local level, have a moral obligation to defend our First Amendment, because therein grows the roots of religion and morality that are absolutely essential to our system and form of government.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for us also to be reminded that we have a tremendous religious heritage in this country that has carried us faithfully since our founding that we must not depart from.

I remember coming across a statement a few years ago. In fact, this was in 1950. I would be curious to know, Mr. Speaker, how many of my colleagues were alive in 1950, but I would venture to say it is quite a number.

I came across a court ruling by the Supreme Court of the State of Florida. It was a decision that they made in 1950. In that decision, Mr. Speaker, the Florida Supreme Court actually made this statement. By the way, they were referring to our Founders. But that court in Florida said:

A people uneducated about the sovereignty of God, the ethics of Jesus, and the Ten Commandments, could never have evolved the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, or the Constitution.

They went on and said:

There is not one, solitary, fundamental principle of our democratic policy that did not stem directly from the basic moral concepts embodied in the Ten Commandments.

Mr. Speaker, I read that. In our lifetime, and that of many Representatives, a State supreme court was making a comment like that. I compare it to this. I cannot imagine any court in America making a decision with those

kinds of words. They would be ruled unconstitutional quicker than we could imagine. Yet, in our lifetime, we had State supreme courts making decisions such as this.

My, we have come a long, long way from understanding the role that religion and morality play in supporting our entire system of governance.

Mr. Speaker, as I begin to land the plane here and wind down, I am just reminded, of course, that many know that I have been a pastor for many years. So this whole issue is very, very close to me personally.

People of faith understand that they have a responsibility, according to the Scripture, to be salt and light in the world in which they live. Regardless of what country—anywhere in the world—we have a Biblical mandate to be salt and light in our world, and I take that very seriously.

So, when we see our First Amendment rights being challenged or chipped away, it is an alarming thing, because we have a responsibility, in accordance with our faith, to take a stand for those things which we believe, and to do so out loud.

Just from that perspective, Mr. Speaker, it is alarming. But the beautiful thing is, here in America, we are blessed to live in a nation where our system of government does not work without involvement from the people. Our whole system is reliant on the people of this great country to step up to the plate and engage it. That is the concept behind those powerful words, "we, the people." This is our country. It is our turf. It is we, the people.

So, we have a system of government that does not work unless we, the people, get involved in one capacity or another, whether it is voting or whether it is running for office or a million other things to be done in between. That is the way our system works.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just emphasize the importance that we have to maintain those principles that allow all of us, regardless of religious beliefs, regardless of those who have no religious beliefs, but also remembering those who do have religious beliefs, that this is a country where the First Amendment protects all of us. This is a country where the First Amendment Defense Act applies to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close with a quote. Right out these doors is Statuary Hall. Sometime back late one evening, I had some spare moments, and I came back over here to the Capitol and was walking alone. I was virtually all by myself here in these great Halls. I went into Statuary Hall, and I started reading and going to one statue after another. I went around reading about those individuals, and I came to one, James Garfield.

Mr. Speaker, many people don't know much about Garfield these days, but he is the only minister to ever be elected President of the United States of America.

I stood before that statue and I looked at him and, Mr. Speaker, I was

reminded of a statement. I actually have come to be a great admirer of Garfield. It seems to me that everything I have read from him has been powerful. He seemed to have a keen awareness and understanding of the role of what I am talking about today: the role of religion and morality in American society and culture and our entire system of government.

Garfield made this statement, Mr. Speaker, and I believe it is more applicable today than it has been in any day in which we have lived. Here is what he said:

“Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave and pure, it is because the people demand these qualities to represent them in the national legislature.”

Then, he said this, Mr. Speaker:

“If the next centennial does not find us a great nation . . . it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.”

What a powerful statement.

Mr. Speaker, being reminded of that statement, I would ask us today: How can we, the people be involved, be it in the enterprise, the culture, or the morality of the Nation? How can we, as Garfield said, be involved in controlling the political forces if we do not have the First Amendment protections to do so? How can we be engaged if we continue to chip away at the right of people to believe what they believe and to exercise those beliefs within the public square without fear of intimidation or punishment?

Mr. Speaker, I believe now more than ever is the time for us not to chip away at our First Amendment rights, but to defend them and protect them and ensure that those rights are maintained for all Americans now and for the next generation and for as long as this Nation exist.

Mr. Speaker, as the First Amendment Defense Act comes before this body in the weeks to come, I hope and pray that we will stand behind it.

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

TRAGEDY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, might I ask how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 32 minutes remaining.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much my friend, Mr. HICE, who preceded me.

It is a very sad day around the country. So much in the way of sympathy

and prayers for the victims' families in Dallas are greatly appreciated.

As someone who grew up looking forward to visits to the big city of Dallas, it is deeply troubling to see what has happened there. The Dallas police chief said that the suspect said he wanted to kill White people, especially White police officers.

I was listening in the cloakroom to a press conference going on now with some of our African American Members of Congress defending Black Lives Matter and discussing the unfairness in America for African Americans in this country.

I don't know the races of the officers that were shot. Apparently, the suspect said he wanted to shoot and kill White officers, but I know there are a lot of officers in Dallas of a lot of different races.

I had the opportunity, if you want to call it an opportunity, of trying a murder case for 10 weeks in Dallas. I worked with some incredible Dallas police officers. Because of my background, I continue to have great respect for law enforcement officers.

There was something that we had seen since the protest days of the sixties and seventies: calling police officers pigs and calling them all kinds of names. People—terrorists from those days that have now grown up and even teaching college—wanted to kill pigs, wanted to kill police officers back then. Back then it wasn't a race issue; it was just killing what they called pigs.

Having served 4 years in the Army after Vietnam, we weren't ever in combat in my 4 years, but we knew what it was to be spit at, to be ridiculed, and at times to be told not to wear your uniform off post because people hate you so much. So I have some empathy for what officers have gone through.

The evil and the hatred that brought about 9/11, killing thousands of precious lives, taking so many innocent lives here, had a result that I didn't expect: it brought America together. September 12, there on our town square in Tyler, Texas, people of all walks, age, race, gender—it didn't matter—came together. We sang together, we prayed together, and even all held hands together.

□ 1315

As I have said before, the thing I loved about that day was there was no—there were no hyphenated Americans on September 12 of 2001. We were Americans, without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age. None of that mattered. We were Americans. We had been attacked, and we were wanting to stand together.

In all our sympathy for those who died on 9/11, the day after, it felt good to be together. For about 3 months our churches were filled and people were asking God to bless America again, and it felt good to be together as Americans.

Nobody from organizations like Freedom from Religion dared show their

face that day because people across America were begging God for His protection, for His blessings, as He has through most of our Nation's history.

There is an article that has already come out today from the Federalist publication. It says:

“Five Takeaways From the Dallas Police Chief's Press Conference. Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings and Dallas Police Chief David Brown held a press conference Friday morning in the wake of the sniper shooting during a Black Lives Matter protest in downtown Dallas that killed at least five officers and injured seven more and two civilians.”

The five takeaways, they say, are, number 1: “Police Killed a Suspect With a Robot Carrying a Bomb.”

Number 2: “Gunman Said he Wanted to ‘Kill White People, White Officers.’”

Number 3: “Brown and Rawlings Were Unclear About Number of Suspect/s and their Descriptions.”

Number 4: “Brown said Police Don't Feel Support Most Days, but Need It Now.”

Number 5: “Brown and Rawlings Asked for Prayer.”

I appreciate my fellow Members of Congress feeling the need to have a press conference today and, again, to support the movement of Black Lives Matter and the injustices that have happened at the hands of police officers.

As I have said many times during my adult life, including especially during my days as a District Judge handling felony cases where humans are involved, there will be mistakes and wrongdoing. And no matter what profession, there will be people who do wrong.

But I have always taken solace in the fact—what I believe is the fact—that amongst law enforcement, those who would do wrong or who may be prejudiced in their motivation, the numbers are so much fewer percentage-wise than in the general population.

That is why over the last 7½ years it has grieved me greatly to see our President rebuff the opportunity to bring us together as a nation anytime an incident involved a police officer, his knee-jerk reactions repeatedly, whether it was saying that the police acted stupidly or jumping onto the bandwagon against police, when it turned out the police were in the right.

There have been instances where they were not, and there are some on video where it clearly appears they did terribly wrong and reacted terribly wrong. And when that happens, perpetrators, wrongdoers are to be punished without regard to race, creed, color, gender, national origin. That doesn't matter.

It seems, as long as we have groups like Black Lives Matter, who will just become unnerved and inflamed when a Democratic candidate for President says all lives matter and chastise him for saying all lives matter, to the point that he has to withdraw his belief that all lives matter and go back to saying,

you're right, you're right, it's just Black lives matter.

That is nowhere near approaching the dream that Martin Luther King, Jr., had just about 2½ miles down the Mall here in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

So we had people, after 9/11, return to loving and appreciating and an outpouring of support for first responders, law enforcement, because they saw that, when push came to shove, the huge majority of law officers put their own life at risk for the benefit of others without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin, gender, age. They don't care. Their job is to serve and protect, and they do an amazing job.

I just keep going back to the statement of the police chief, that police don't feel support most days, but they need it now. But when elected officials contribute to stoking the flame of hatred and animosity toward our law enforcement, then people that don't have the reasoning ability that most of our elected officials have get stoked. They get inflamed. And we don't need anybody coming out and blaming guns before that person even knows what kind of guns were used.

I know we have friends that keep saying, if you are on the no-fly list, which means if you are on the list that has a great deal of arbitrariness to it, to the point that this administration will not even tell Congress how they decide who goes on the no-fly list, and even though they won't tell us how to get off the no-fly list if you are arbitrarily and mistakenly put on it, as Ted Kennedy and so many others have been, that is a formula for disaster for totalitarianism.

We don't need an arbitrary list that is concocted in secret with the secret way of getting off that we are not aware of. That is not the way you go about trying to take away people's civil rights to keep and bear arms.

After seeing the disaster in Dallas, there are a number of things I knew. One is that the people in Texas—most of them, except for the agitators, so many that have come in from outside, but most of them—will respond and show their love and support for our law officers because we love law abiding in Texas.

I hope and pray, Mr. Speaker, that we can stop the divisiveness. There is nothing wrong with arguing. There is nothing wrong with debate. That is how we got our Constitution—a lot of yelling and fussing, bickering, came together. There is nothing wrong with disagreeing.

Until one person in this Congress or in the White House has 100 percent lock on God's truth all the time, then we need to argue, we need to debate. I would submit we need to be prayerful in how we approach what we should do, but it is good to debate.

I grew up in a family of four kids. We argued, fussed, bickered, but we came together as a family, and still do. In times of hurting, we still come to-

gether, and that is what we need to do as a nation.

I look forward to the day when there is no group that includes a race color, a skin color, in its name. I look forward to that day when it just doesn't matter. And it seems clear to me that as long as we keep calling out distinctions between ourselves with matters of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, that there will continue to be bias and prejudice further engendered.

I have seen video, including those recently, where I was horrified to see what happened. I didn't care what color the officer was. I didn't care what color the victim's skin color was. I was horrified that a victim would be treated as victims have been recently.

I look forward to the day when the percentage of people committing crimes, according to race, have no need of being kept because it doesn't matter. We care about how you act, not how you look. But as long as those numbers keep being kept, they need to all be looked at.

We need to get to the bottom of not just why so many African Americans are being killed in America—as we see from the numbers the FBI puts out, the huge majority are from other—the lives are taken by other African Americans. And I look forward to my friends getting upset about that someday, about the numbers of deaths in cities controlled by African Americans that have made it hard to possess guns unless you are a criminal.

I have people that want to constantly point to our justice system and say: See how unfair it is?

Well, in my court—I was asked just last week: Did you have any capital murder cases? Have you ever had cases where you had to look someone in the eye and pronounce the death sentence?

I had two. I tried three capital cases. They take a long time to try because—particularly with the jury selection.

Someone—the same person said skeptically: And let me guess; both of those were Black.

I look forward to the day when people don't skeptically assume that everything is about race. As it just so happens, the two of the three capital murder cases where I had to sentence someone to death, they were White defendants. The one case where the defendant did not get the death penalty, though he was convicted of murder, happened to be African American.

I had an issue raised by a defense attorney on a death penalty case out of another court, but in our county, and they were wanting—and I was subpoenaed as a witness to testify about the disproportionate number of African Americans who had not been allowed to be grand jury foremen.

□ 1330

When they actually got the list of my grand jury—the judge doesn't pick the grand juries. Those are selected by grand jury commissioners of different

racess, creeds, colors, and national origin. As long as they are American citizens, they picked the grand juries, and then the only thing the judge picks in Texas is the foreman. After they got the list of grand juries that I have presided over and they saw that there was disproportionately more African Americans who had been foremen of the grand juries, they told me they didn't want me as a witness because clearly I was not going to help their case.

But when I selected a foreman of a grand jury, I didn't care what their color was. I knew we needed good, sound leadership. Every person I ever selected as a foreman of a grand jury I knew was a caring, intelligent, and upstanding leader in our community. I didn't care what their color was.

Jesus said: "Greater love has no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." He certainly would know; He did exactly that. I love that being the first thing on the plaque for Father Damien, one of the two statues that we have in the Capitol from Hawaii.

Abraham Lincoln on September 5, 1864, said: "In regard to this Great Book"—and he capitalized "Great" and "Book," talking about the Bible—"I have but to say, I believe the Bible is the best gift God has given to man. All the good Saviour"—and I know that term offends so many, but this was Abraham Lincoln's own words. "All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book," the Bible. "But for this Book we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."

Mr. Speaker, I want to finish with a verse and a personal incident. Since Abraham Lincoln and most all of our Presidents have highly commended the use of the Bible as getting this Nation on track when we become dislodged, disoriented, and divisive, we go to Matthew 22:35: And one of them who was a lawyer—being a lawyer, you figure, leave it to lawyers to try to stir up trouble. One of them who was a lawyer tested Him by asking Him: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Some people wonder about it. What does He mean, on those two commands, love God, love each other, hang all the law and the prophets? What does He mean, all the law and the prophets hang on those two commands?

If you were to outline the Ten Commandments that God gave us and that most of our leaders in history have believed came from God, himself—and that is why Moses up here, directly above me, facing me, is the only full

face of the greatest lawgivers in the history of the world. It is because, at one time, all of the Supreme Court thought those Ten Commandments were great commandments. Now, probably at least four would say that maybe five or six were okay. But for most of our history, they have felt those ten were great commandments.

If you do an outline or you categorize all of those Ten Commandments, they all fit neatly under two categories: one, love God; and number two, love each other.

That came home very clearly to me years ago when my mother had a brain tumor. We knew it would eventually take her. The doctors had made that clear. They made clear that there was nothing more that could be done. Mother had said that she wasn't interested in seeing more doctors because they had said the same thing.

Since she was my lifelong English teacher—but especially my eighth grade English teacher—and she loved poetry, I threw one of her poems back at her from Dylan Thomas: “Rage, rage against the dying of the light . . . Do not go gentle into that good night.”

Mother wrote back. She was thrilled that I paid attention. But she quoted from another poem called “Thanatopsis” that talked about living with such faith that, at the end of life, you can lie down on the couch wrapped in covers around you.

Well, the doctors said: We don't think she has got all that much longer to live. They weren't quite accurate; but she had been reduced, this incredibly brilliant woman, to a wheelchair. It took her a long time to say things. This incredibly brilliant woman put herself through Baylor, 2½ years. Her parents lived right there by the campus, so she could work full-time and go to school. I didn't know until after she passed she was a member of a big honor society there.

But anyway, she loved our kids, and she loved our spouses. One weekend we decided, let's just have the four immediate children go back to Mount Pleasant and spend the weekend with Mom, and we did.

That Saturday morning, we sat around the breakfast table for hours like we did years before. We told stories, we laughed, and we made good-natured fun of each other. We would disagree, and then we would come back around and kid and love each other. We went on for 3 or 4 hours. Mother didn't say anything. But finally Mother said, “This,” and we all got quiet. We would stay there all night if it took it to hear what Mother had to say. And she got out, “is my favorite thing.”

That is all she had to say. When I left later that weekend to drive back to Tyler, it became clear that, if you were a heavenly parent, wouldn't you want your children loving you and loving each other? And all the law hang on those two: love your parent; love each other. It takes care of things. Then what Jesus said made perfect sense.

I look forward to the day when Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream will be fulfilled and nobody will care about Black lives matter and White lives matter. Nobody will care what color people are, and we will come together again without any hyphenation as Americans. But as long as we have leaders who continue to pick at a scab and refuse to let it heal, then our law officers are in danger, our country is in danger, and this little experiment with a democratic Republic is in severe jeopardy.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, July 11, 2016, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5944. A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the 2015 Annual Report on the Farm Credit System, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 2252(a)(3); Public Law 92-181, Sec. 5.17(a)(3) (as amended by Public Law 100-399, Sec. 901(m)); (102 Stat. 1003); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5945. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Jeffrey W. Talley, United States Army Reserve, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5946. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General David L. Mann, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5947. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Financial Stability Oversight Council's 2016 annual report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5322(a)(2)(N); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 112(a)(2)(N); (124 Stat. 1396); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5948. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report entitled “2015 Actuarial Report on the Financial Outlook for Medicaid”, pursuant to 42

U.S.C. 1396 note; Public Law 111-3, Sec. 506(c); (123 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5949. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Chromium Propionate; Extension of the Comment Period [Docket No.: FDA-2014-F-0232] received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5950. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(d)(1); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1; (86 Stat. 619); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5951. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Chile, Transmittal No. 16-39, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b)(1); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(b) (as amended by Public Law 106-113, Sec. 1000(a)(7)); (113 Stat. 536); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5952. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-431, “Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5953. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-432, “Sale to Minors Penalty Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5954. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-430, “New Bethany Baptist Church Real Property Tax Exemption Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5955. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-429, “Fair Shot Minimum Wage Amendment Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5956. A letter from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5957. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, transmitting the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas 2015 management report and financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; Public Law 97-258, Sec. 9106; (96 Stat. 1044); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5958. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the report entitled “Preventing Nepotism in the Federal Civil Service”, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); Public Law 95-454, Sec. 202(a) (as amended by Public Law 101-12, Sec. 3(a)(7)); (103 Stat. 17); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5959. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "Customer Service Tests of Seven Large Agencies Show Mixed Results"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5960. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "Certification of Fiscal Year 2016 Total Local Source General Fund Revenue Estimate (Net of Dedicated Taxes) in Support of the District's Issuance of \$431,815,000 in General Obligation Bonds (Series 2016A)"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5961. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting notification that the Department has made additional payments to eligible local governments under the FY 2016 Payments in Lieu of Taxes Program, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 6901-6907, as amended; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5962. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE414) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5963. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Trawl Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE426) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5964. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Hook-and-Line or Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE430) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5965. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE496) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5966. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Longnose Skate in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 150818742-6210-02] (RIN: 0648-XE589) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5967. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, Na-

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE462) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5968. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE457) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5969. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE415) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5970. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE392) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5971. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2016 and 2017 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 150818742-6210-02] (RIN: 0648-XE130) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5972. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; 2016 and 2017 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 150916863-6211-02] (RIN: 0648-XE202) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5973. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Gag Management Measures [Docket No.: 160211104-6339-02] (RIN: 0648-BF70) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5974. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off of Alaska; Observer Coverage Require-

ments for Small Catcher/Processors in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fisheries [Docket No.: 150904827-6233-02] (RIN: 0648-BF36) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5975. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Gathering of Certain Plants or Plant Parts by Federally Recognized Indian Tribes for Traditional Purposes [NPS-WASO-AILO-15846; PX.XVPAD0522.0.1] (RIN: 1024-AD84) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5976. A letter from the National President, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, transmitting the 2015 Financial Statement and Annual Report of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5977. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Country-by-Country Reporting [TD 9773] (RIN: 1545-BM70) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5978. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Geographical Areas Included in the "North American area" for Purposes of I.R.C. 274(h) (Rev. Rul. 2016-16) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5979. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Settling Forth Rules for the DL Program and 6-year Remedial Amendment Cycle System (Rev. Proc. 2016-37) received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5980. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB notice — Proposed Qualified Intermediary Agreement [Notice 2016-42] received July 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5981. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report entitled "Part D Plans Generally Include Drugs Commonly Used by Dual Eligibles: 2016" (OEI-05-16-00090), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395w-101 note; Public Law 111-148, Sec. 3313(a)(2); (124 Stat. 477); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 985. A bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotio to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products; with an amendment (Rept. 114-671). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3250. A bill to amend the

Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prevent the abuse of dextromethorphan, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-672). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. HECK of Washington):

H.R. 5684. A bill to authorize modification or augmentation of the Second Division Memorial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. VELA):

H.R. 5685. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to incentivize efficient nutrient management practices and to clarify the citizen suit provisions of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 5686. A bill to prohibit the pricing of consumer products and services that are substantially similar if such products or services are priced differently based on the gender of the individuals for whose use the products are intended or marketed or for whom the services are performed or offered; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 5687. A bill to eliminate or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Financial Services, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Homeland Security, 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. TOM PRICE of Georgia (for himself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 5688. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a temporary exception to the application of the Medicare long-term care hospital site neutrality provisions for certain spinal cord specialty hospitals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 5689. A bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

H.R. 5690. A bill to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 5691. A bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Elie Wiesel for placement in the United States Capitol; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H.R. 5692. A bill to restore the effective use of group actions for claims arising under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, section 1977 of the Revised Statutes, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. FARR, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 5693. A bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other statutes to clarify appropriate liability standards for Federal antidiscrimination claims; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, the Judiciary, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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. GRAHAM (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 5694. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish guidelines for a model elder abuse registry and to provide grants to States for establishing and operating such a registry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. VELA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 5695. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Veterans' 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 Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 5696. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support innovative technology partnerships; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself and Mr. OLSON):

H.R. 5697. A bill to prohibit any officer or employee of the Federal Government who has exercised extreme carelessness in the handling of classified information from being granted or retaining a security clearance; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5698. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish an incubator and accelerator grant program for veterans and members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 5699. A bill to award grants to school food authorities for the purchase of equipment for school meal programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5700. A bill to support the education of Indian children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5701. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and title 5, United States Code, to permit leave to care for an adult child, grandchild, or grandparent who has a serious health condition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 5702. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow the Secretary of Education to award Federal Pell Grants to students dually or concurrently enrolled at an eligible institution that is a public institution of higher education and a secondary school, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 5703. A bill to establish a grant program in the Department of Defense to increase the number of women and underrepresented minorities in Department of Defense military and civilian leadership positions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 5704. A bill to extend the duration of Military OneSource Program services for members of the Armed Forces upon their separation or retirement from the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VELA:

H.R. 5705. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms and explosives and Federal firearms and explosives licenses and permits to known or suspected terrorists; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 5706. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to the state of mind required for certain offenses involving defense information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms.

NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H. Res. 815. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that governments should assure that all travelers departing for or returning from a destination where mosquito transmission of the Zika Virus is occurring will be informed of symptoms of the Zika Virus, the measures that should be taken to protect against mosquito bites, and inform women who are pregnant or may become pregnant to seek the advice of their physician prior to travel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. WOODALL, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. WALZ, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. HUDSON):

H. Res. 816. A resolution expressing support for the designation of August 16, 2016, as "National Airborne Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 5685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, commonly referred to as the "Commerce Clause" of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 5686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 5687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 18

"To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing power . . ."

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 5688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Consistent with the understanding and interpretation of the Commerce Clause, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation in accordance with Clause 3 of Section 8, Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 5689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 5690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 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. COHEN:

H.R. 5691.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5692.

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 Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5693.

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 Ms. GRAHAM:

H.R. 5694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 5695.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 5696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

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. MCCAUL:

H.R. 5697.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5698.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 5699.

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. RUIZ:

H.R. 5700.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5701.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TAKANO:

HA. 5702.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 5703.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to provide for the common defense.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 5704.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to provide for the common defense.

By Mr. VELA:

H.R. 5705.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 5706.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 376: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 377: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 429: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 430: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 532: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 555: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 921: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 932: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 985: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 1005: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. LEE, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1095: Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. GALLEGO, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1310: Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1454: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1516: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 1600: Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2096: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2173: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 2302: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 2342: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2380: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 2403: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. RENACCI, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2477: Mr. SANFORD.

H.R. 2612: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2622: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2737: Mr. PALMER, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. BRAT, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2903: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 2980: Mr. MARINO and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 3095: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 3099: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 3119: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 3178: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 3179: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. ADAMS, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3223: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 3235: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3355: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 3381: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 3455: Ms. MOORE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3526: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 3742: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 3861: Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 3882: Mr. PIERLUISI and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 3929: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 4013: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 4069: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 4151: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4237: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 4469: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 4514: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 4535: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 4584: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MARINO, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. LONG, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 4621: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 4632: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 4653: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 4717: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 4731: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 4794: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 4813: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 4828: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. SALMON, and Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 4867: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 4927: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 4932: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 4992: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GIBSON, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 5025: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 5166: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 5167: Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 5172: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 5191: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5221: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 5235: Mrs. TORRES.

H.R. 5271: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 5283: Ms. NORTON and Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 5287: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5292: Mr. FORBES and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5373: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 5405: Ms. MOORE and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5457: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 5466: Mr. STIVERS, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 5474: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 5482: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.

H.R. 5486: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 5494: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 5504: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 5506: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 5528: Mr. KLINE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. ADAMS, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 5529: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. POCAN, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 5530: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KLINE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 5558: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 5560: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 5578: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 5583: Mr. RIBBLE and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 5598: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RICHMOND, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5600: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 5606: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 5607: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 5617: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 5620: Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 5621: Mr. PETERS, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. BARR, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. YODER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. REED, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. HILL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WILLIAMS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. MARINO, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. LONG, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. BARTON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DENT, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 5628: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 5644: Ms. GRAHAM and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 5654: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. WALKER.

H.R. 5676: Mr. RUSH, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOLD, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5683: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.J. Res. 22: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.J. Res. 52: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H. Con. Res. 51: Mr. HASTINGS.

H. Con. Res. 132: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Con. Res. 141: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H. Res. 62: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. MATSUI.

H. Res. 220: Mrs. CAPPAS.

H. Res. 396: Mr. HASTINGS.

H. Res. 686: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 728: Mr. ROHRBACHER and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H. Res. 750: Ms. GRAHAM.

H. Res. 754: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H. Res. 782: Mr. VEASEY.

H. Res. 784: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H. Res. 810: Miss RICE of New York.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. HENSARLING

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Financial Services in H.R. 4992 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Foreign Affairs in H.R. 5119 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. CHAFFETZ

The provisions of H.R. 5631, the Iran Accountability Act of 2016, that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House Rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. HENSARLING

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Financial Services in H.R. 5631 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Foreign Affairs in H.R. 5631 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 4 by Mr. AGUILAR on H.R. 2867: Ms. Wilson of Florida.

Petition 5 by Mrs. LOWEY on H.R. 5044: Mr. Cicilline, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Takano, Mr. Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico, Mr. Polis, Mr. Keating, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. Norcross, Mr. Sires, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. ESTY, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. CAPPAS, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. LEE, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FARR, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HOYER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr.

