This being the day fixed by the 20th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, for the meeting of the 115th Congress of the United States, the Representatives-elect met in their Hall, and at noon were called to order by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Hon. Karen L. Haas.

Very Reverend Paul Ugo Arinze, St. John Vianney Roman Catholic Church, Janesville, Wisconsin, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and ever-living God, as this 115th Congress is gavelled in to begin its proceedings and debates of the 115th Congress, first session of the United States House of Representatives, we ask You to send down Your spirit upon the men and women of this Nation, we ask You to send down Your spirit to listen to each other and to work with each other.

May they always show forth in their lives and works the ideals of our country—loyalty that is borne of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy; loyalty to their families, loyalty to their constituents, loyalty to the Constitution, and loyalty to our country—loyalty that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when truths and rights are in jeopardy.

Grant them new forms of friendship and new opportunities for service.

May they always show forth in their lives and works the ideals of our country: one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The CLERK. The Representatives-elect and their guests will please remain standing and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk 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.
The Clerk. Credentials, regular in form, have been received showing the election of:
The Honorable JENNIFER GONZALEZ-COLON as Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a term of 4 years beginning January 3, 2017;
The Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON as Delegate from the District of Columbia;
The Honorable MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO as Delegate from Guam;
The Honorable STACEY E. PLASKETT as Delegate from the Virgin Islands;
The Honorable AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN as Delegate from American Samoa; and
The Honorable GREGGORIZIO SABLAN as Delegate from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk. Pursuant to law and precedent, the next order of business is the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 115th Congress.

Nominations are now in order.

The Clerk recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMorris Rodgers).

Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Whether you are from the Evergreen State or the Badger State, we gather here on the House floor representing very diverse backgrounds and walks of life. This house, the people’s house, the center of our government, is where views and beliefs of millions are represented, where ideas are considered, debated, and crafted into laws. No one understands this better than our Speaker of the House, PAUL RYAN. He truly is the people’s Speaker because he understands the responsibility given to this body by our Founders. It is our responsibility to protect the Constitution and the balance of power so that representative government, the rule of law, and equal opportunity for all is protected here in this Chamber by the people and for the people.

Just over a year ago, when he picked up that gavel, Speaker RYAN challenged us to raise our gaze, to respect this institution and open up the legislative process which best represents the will of the people, to be accountable to the people we represent, to be men and women of integrity, to serve our country with a sense of purpose, and to empower everyone to reach their full potential.

Speaker RYAN knows that the healthy competition of ideas between our passionate and talented members is an asset of representative government. As Speaker, PAUL RYAN made a commitment to getting this institution working, and as a result, we have had more conference committees and more bipartisan achievements. He put this majority to work on bold policy solutions that united us. Under his leadership, this think tank of ideas was able to the people we represent, to be the will of the people, to be accountable to the people and for the people.

The Clerk. Four hundred thirty-four Representatives-elect have recorded their presence. A quorum is present.
to find common ground without compromising conservative principles.

Together, after crossing our districts and listening to Americans of all walks of life, we developed A Better Way, our vision for a confident America—policies that solve the biggest challenges of our time; policies that trust, not the government, to make their own decisions and pursue their own dreams.

Speaker PAUL D. RYAN said the day he was called upon for this role, "Nothing could be more inspiring than a job well done. Nothing could stir the heart more than real, concrete results."

In this critical moment in our Nation’s history, as our unified Republican government begins to take its place, we have an opportunity to think big, to reimagine our government from the top to the bottom, and to put the people back at the center of it. It is a time to act with a sense of purpose to rebuild the American idea and reclaim the people’s voice.

There is no better leader for the people’s House in that calling than PAUL D. RYAN. But through all of it, the man from Janesville never forgets where he came from and who he works for. He insists he will not express any bias on his constituents for "our employees." He insists on all of us calling him "PAUL." But make no mistake, today and every day we are honored to call him "Mr. Speaker."

As chair of the Republican Conference, I am directed by the vote of that conference to present for election to the House of Representatives for the 115th Congress the name of the Honorable PAUL D. RYAN, a Representative-elect from the State of Wisconsin.

The CLERK. The name of the Honorable PAUL D. RYAN, a Representative-elect from the State of Wisconsin, is put forth for the election to the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 115th Congress.

Are there further nominations? There being no further nominations, the Clerk appoints the following tellers:

The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY);

The gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN);

The tellers will come forward and take their seats at the desk in front of the Speaker’s rostrum.

The roll will now be called, and those responding to their names will indicate by surname the nominee of their choosing.

The Reading Clerk will now call the roll.

The tellers having taken their places, the House proceeded to vote for Speaker.

The following is the result of the vote:

[Roll No. 2]

RYAN (WI—239)

Adams

Abraham

Aderholt

Albon

Alexander

Amash

Amodei

Arrington

Babin

Baird

Biggs

Bilirakis

Binken

Bishop (MI)

Bishop (UT)

Blackburn

Bump

Burke

Bush

Byrne

Carter (GA)

Carter (TX)

Chabot

Chaffetz

Coffman

Cole

Collins (GA)

Collins (NY)

Conaway

Cook

Costello (PA)

Cramer

Crawford

Culver

Curry

Cvetko

Daggett

Daggett

Davis, Rodney

Denham

DeSantis

Desjardins

Dixon

Duffy

Gallo

Gallagher

Gallo

Gallagher

Garrett

Gibbs

Giddings

Gidley

Gowdy

Granger

Graves (GA)

Graves (LA)

Graves (MO)

Grothman

Guthrie

Hagner

Hale

Harrington

Hartzler

Hice, Jody B.

Hollingsworth

Hudson

Hunt

Huber

Hurst

Inouye

Johnson (Ks)

Johnson (WI)

Johnson (OH)

Johnson, Sam

Jones

Jordan

Kalikak

Katz

Kelly (Ks)

Kelli (PA)

King (IA)

King (NY)

Kinzinger

Knight

Knight

Koster (TX)

Kuster

LaHood

LaMalfa

LaMalfa

Lange

Latta

Lawson (Mi)

LoBiondo

Long

Long

Losekamp

Luetkemeyer

MacArthur

Marchant

Marino

Marshall

Mast

McCaskill

McCaul

McCaul

McCaul

McClintock

McHenry

McHugh

McIntyre

McInnis

McInnis

McKean

McMullin

McNew

McNerney

Meehan

Messer

Meyers

Miller

Mooers

Mooney (Wv)

Moore

Mulvaney

Murphy (PA)

Myers

Nunes

Olsen

Olson

Palazzo

Parrish

Parker

Perry

Petencher

Poe (TX)

Pouliquen

Ponzio

Porter

Pottinger

Pruitt

Pugh

Putnam

Quigley

Ratcliffe

Reichert

Renacci

Reichert

Ross

Royce (CA)

Rothfus

Ross

Roukema

Rouzer

Royce (CA)

Russell

Rutherford

Saul

Schall

Schwartz

Sensenbrenner

Sessions

Shimkus

Shuster

Simpson

Smith (OK)

Smith (NJ)

Smith (Va)

Smucker

Sinclair

Skinner

Skinner

Slaughter

Solomon

Solomon

Spencer

Stevens

Taylor

Tedder

Thompson (PA)

Thornberry

Tiberi

Tipton

Trott

Turner

Valadao

Wagner

Walberg

Walden

Walker

Walters, Mimi

Weber (TX)

Weber (FL)

Westrup

Westerman

Wilson (Sc)

Wittman

Woodall

Yoder

Yoho

Young (Ak)

Young (La)

Zeldin

Zinke

PELOSI—189

DeGette

Delaney

DeLauro

DeLauro

DeMings

DeSaulnier

Deutch

Dingell

Doggett

Doyle, Michael

F

Rahool

Repellis

Katy

Ryan

Foster

Frankel (Fl)

Fuentes

Gabard

Gallego

Garamendi
The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI)
The gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOUCK)
The gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. STOPA)
The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SMITH)
The gentleman from Hawaii (Ms. TAKAI)
The gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GRAHAM)
The gentleman from the District of Columbia (Mr. CONEGHIAN)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—0

NOT VOTING—2

Ryan (WI) Schrader

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. PLASKETT (during the roll call). Madam Clerk, parliamentary inquiry.

The CLERK. The gentlewoman will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Clerk, I rise because neither my name nor the names of the five Representatives of the separate territories, duly elected by collectively 4 million Americans, our names were not called, and I ask as a parliamentary inquiry as to why not at this time at this juncture in the United States that the territories do not have a voice on this floor?

The CLERK. As the Clerk advised on January 6, 1999, Representatives-elect are the only individuals qualified to vote in the election of the Speaker.
but I hope that we will each be humble enough to accept the good faith of others. I hope, too, that we will find wisdom from the Scriptures. It says to minister to the needs of God’s creation, humanity, and nature is an act of worship. I believe, therefore, in the need is to dishonor the God who made us.

In that spirit, in order to meet the needs of the American people, House Democrats pledge to seek common ground wherever we can to forge a bipartisan path forward on job-creating infrastructure, make taxes and foreign trade fair to American workers, help Americans balance work and family life, and to drain the swamp of Big Money from our campaigns.

All of these provisions President-elect Trump has pledged, and we will seek common ground, but we will stand our ground wherever in good conscience we must. If there is an attempt to destroy the guarantee of Medicare, harm Medicaid, Social Security, or the Affordable Care Act, Democrats will stand our ground.

If there is an assault on clean air and clean water, civil rights, women’s rights, children’s rights, if Democrats and their immigrant families face the nightmare of deportation, Democrats will stand our ground. If there is an attempt to silence our voices for common-sense gun violence prevention, with Gabby Giffords here in the Chamber as our witness, Democrats will stand our ground.

Many of us just celebrated Christmas, the birth of Christ. Sharing in our humanity, God enabled us to participate in his divinity. This spark of divinity is acknowledged in every faith tradition. In recognizing the spark in others, we reaffirm it in ourselves. Honoring that spark of divinity, we are commanded to respect the dignity and worth of all of God’s children and to work together for the common good.

In that spirit, I offer my congratulations to the Speaker of this new Congress, a proud son of Wisconsin, PAUL RYAN.

PAUL RYAN is a leader of principle, immersed in ideas and gifted with experience. As we all know, PAUL RYAN has had the full breadth of experience on Capitol Hill, from Tortilla Coast waiter to Hill staffer to Congressman. He went on to be a sincere and proud advocate for his point of view as chairman of the Budget Committee and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

In a place as demanding as the Speakership, I know he gathers strength daily from the family he loves so dearly, from his wife, Janna; his children, Liza, Charlie, and Sam; and their entire family.

Let us acknowledge the Ryan family.

Mr. Speaker, God bless them. God bless you. God bless Wisconsin. God bless the House. God bless the United States of America.

This is the people’s House. This is the people’s gavel. In the people’s name, it is my privilege to hand the gavel to the Speaker of the House, PAUL D. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I will be relatively brief. I want to thank Madam Leader. You know, I stood in this spot very, very many times. It, today, thought of all the things I had. Part of it has to do with all the new faces in the House. You look at all the proud spouses, these beaming children at their best, people’s parents, it is hard, if not impossible, to resist this rush of enthusiasm.

There is no sense of foreboding in this House today. There is only the sense of potential. It kind of reminds you that, no matter how long you have been here, you haven’t seen it all. So I just want to say to our new Members and to their families: Thank you, congratulations, and welcome.

To my own priest, Father Paul, thank you for being here with us today.

And to my center, my family—Janna, Liza, Charlie, Sam—thank you for all that you have done to make this all possible. Thank you.

There is no reason for optimism, and that is what we have already achieved by meeting here this moment. Just months ago, our country held a great electoral contest, and at times it was a little intense. As you all know, when you are in the heat of it, in the heat of the kind of campaign we had, you start to wonder: Will the temper ever cool? Will the system still hold? Does our old, rich tradition still have that magic? Well, it turns out it does.

The clash of opinions, the hue and cry of campaigns, the rancor and the dissension, in the end, they all dissolve in the silent and peaceful transfer of power. So, in just a few weeks’ time, we will welcome a new President who offers us yet another new beginning, a new chance to work toward a more perfect Union.

For all of our arguments and all of our differences, we are all united by a deep, abiding love of our country. It is this slender but sturdy thread that holds us together. We always seem to forget this, but it has never failed us.

That is why, when the votes are counted and the people have spoken, we all accept the verdict. We come back from the campaign trail, we pack up the yard signs, and today—today, as one body—we pledge allegiance to one flag: the red, the white, and the blue.

And that is the only thing that we have in common. I don’t care what your party is, find one person in this House who doesn’t want the best for America. Find one person in this House who does not want to see help given to the unemployed to cross the finish line. Why cannot you find one person in this building—not one. And that, that is a true cause for celebration.

Now, we have a lot to build on; but that being said, this is no time to rest on our laurels, but to redouble our efforts. It is no secret that millions and millions of Americans across this country are deeply dissatisfied with their current situation. They have looked to Washington for leadership, and all they have gotten is condescension. For years, they have suffered quietly, quietly amid shuttered factories and shattered lives. But now, now they have let out a great roar. Now we, their elected representatives, must listen.

So I want to say to the American people: We hear you. We will do right by you, and we will deliver. We will honor you because you have honored us. We take this sacred trust seriously. It is not enough to say that the condition of your birth should not determine the outcome of your life, no matter how much we mean it.

In a few years’ time, I hope that the people will say of this 115th Congress that didn’t we do so much to give to this beautiful American idea; we made it a reality for everyone. We are not here to be; we are here to do. We are here to improve people’s lives, grow our economy, keep us safe, improve our health care and our infrastructure, fight poverty, and restore self-government.

Friends, we have got our work cut out for us. As your Speaker, I intend to keep this place running at full speed. When I came into this job, I promised to restore regular order, get that committee system working again, hold regular House and Senate conferences, because only a fully functioning House can really, truly do the people’s business.

We have made some pretty good progress on that front. Take our work on finding cures for deadly diseases or beating back that opioid epidemic or our work on mental health. These are all things that we are all proud of. These efforts were directed by the committees and crafted by our Members—all through regular order. There is still a lot of work to do, like having a fully functioning Appropriations process, for example.

So, to the minority, I want to say this: We have never shied away from our disagreements, and I do not expect anyone to do so now. But however bright a contrast that we draw between the two, it must not hurt the common ground that we share. We must never shy away from making progress for the American people wherever we can. As your Speaker, I promise to uphold the rights of the minority. I promise to hear you out and let you have your say. If I had to sum it up, it would be this: Agreement whenever possible but, at all times, respect.

And to the majority, especially to our returning Members, I want to say this: This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This is the kind of thing that most of us only dreamed about. I know because I used to dream about this a lot. The people have given us unified
government, and it wasn’t because they were feeling generous. It was because they want results. How could we live with ourselves if we let them down? How could we let ourselves down?

I have, for many months, been asking our Members to raise their gaze and aim high. Now, today, this Congress, let us raise our gaze, but rather, reach for that brighter horizon and deliver. This old Chamber might look the same, but in the hushed whispers, in the whirl of activity, you can feel the winds of change. As I stand here next to that portrait of good old George Washington, I am reminded of a line from one of his favorite plays: “The spirit of the people is not in mortals to command success, but we'll do more . . . we'll deserve it.”

From one of his favorite plays: “ ’Tis winds of change. As I stand here next to that portrait of good old George Washington, I am reminded of a line from one of his favorite plays: “The spirit of the people is not in mortals to command success, but we’ll do more . . . we’ll deserve it.”

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Republican Conference, I am directing by that conference to notify the House officially that the Republican Members have selected as majority whip the gentleman from Louisiana, the Honorable Steve Scalise.

MINORITY WHIP AND ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Democratic Caucus, I have been directed to report to the House that the Democratic Members have selected as minority whip the gentleman from Maryland, the Honorable Steny Hoyer, and as assistant Democratic leader, the gentleman from South Carolina, the Honorable James Clyburn.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBER-ELECT

The SPEAKER. Will the Representatives-elect present themselves in the well of the House and take the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The Speaker administered the oath of office to the officers of the House.

The Members-elect rose, and the Chair will swear in the Members-elect en masse.

The Members-elect will rise and raise their right hands.

The Members-elect rose, and the Speaker administered the oath of office to them as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE SENATE

The resolution was agreed to.
Resolved, That the committee of two Members or groups of Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee of two Members, or groups of Members, on the part of the Senate, to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that may be pleased to make.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 3

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Without objection, pursuant to House Resolution 3, the Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members to the committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and
The gentlewoman from California (Ms. MCEARTHY) and
The representative of Wisconsin as Speaker, and Karen L. HAAS, a citizen of the State of Maryland as Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, and the Clerk of the House of Representatives to join with the Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to constitute rules of the House at the end of the Congress.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to open the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER AND THE CLERK

Mr. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 4
Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected Paul D. Ryan, a Representative from the State of Wisconsin as Speaker, and Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland as Clerk, of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 5
Resolved, That the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fourth Congress, including applicable provisions of law or concurrent resolution that constitute rules of the House at the end of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, are adopted as the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, with amendments to the standing rules as provided in section 2, and with other orders as provided in sections 3, 4, and 5.

SEC. 2. CHANGES TO THE STANDING RULES.

(a) DECORUM.—
(1) In clause 3 of rule II, add the following new paragraph:

(g) The Sergeant-at-Arms is authorized and directed to impose a fine against a Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner for the use of an electronic device for still photography, sound recording, or broadcasting in contravention of clause 5 of rule XVII and any applicable Speaker’s announced policy on electronic devices.

(2) A fine imposed pursuant to this paragraph shall be $500 for each offense and $2,500 for any subsequent offense.

(b) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall promptly notify the Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner, the Speaker, the Chief Administrative Officer, and the Committee on Ethics of any such fine.

(c) Such Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may appeal the fine in writing to the Committee on Ethics not later than 30 calendar days or five legislative days, whichever is later, after notification pursuant to subdivision (A).

(1) Upon receipt of an appeal pursuant to subdivision (B), the Committee on Ethics shall have 30 calendar days or five legislative days, whichever is later, to either dismiss the fine or allow it to proceed. Upon a determination regarding the appeal or if no appeal has been filed within the period specified in subdivision (B), the chair of the Committee on Ethics shall promptly notify the Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner.

(2) The Chief Administrative Officer may make to ensure the most effective coordination of oversight plans submitted by committees to the House the authorization and oversight plans submitted by committees to the House to the Speaker, the Majority Leader, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Minority Leader, the Committee on Appropriations, the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and the Chief Administrative Officer. The Speaker shall promptly notify the Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner.

(2) The Chief Administrative Officer is authorized to establish policies and procedures for the implementation of this paragraph.

(2) In clause 4 of rule II, add the following new paragraph:

(d)(1) Upon notification from the chair of the Committee on Ethics pursuant to clause 3(g)(3)(B), the Chief Administrative Officer shall deduct the amount of any fine levied under clause 3(g) from the net salary otherwise due the Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner.

(d)(2) A fine imposed pursuant to this paragraph shall be $500 for a first offense and $2,500 for any subsequent offense.

(d)(3) Each such plan may include, with respect to the programs and agencies within the committee’s jurisdiction—

(1) Recommendations for the consolidation or termination of such programs or agencies that are duplicative, or inconsistent with the appropriate roles and responsibilities of the Federal Government;

(2) Recommendations for changes to existing law related to Federal rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting such programs and agencies that are inconsistent with the authorities of the Congress under Article I of the Constitution; and

(3) A description of other oversight activities as the committee may consider necessary.

(4) In the development of such plan, the chair of each committee shall coordinate with other committees of jurisdiction to ensure that programs and agencies are subject to routine, comprehensive authorization efforts.

(5) Not later than March 31 in the first session of a Congress, after consultation with the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform shall report to the House the authorization and oversight plans submitted by committees to the House. Such plans shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committees on Appropriations, and other committees of jurisdiction, and to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) a list of such programs or agencies with lapsed authorizations that received funding in the prior Congress in the case of a program or agency with a permanent authorization, which has not been subject to a comprehensive review by the committees of jurisdiction;

(B) a description of each such program or agency to be authorized in the next Congress;

(C) a description of each such program or agency to be authorized in the current Congress; and

(D) recommendations for changes to existing law for moving such programs or agencies from mandatory funding to discretionary appropriations, where appropriate.

(5) Each such plan may include, with respect to the programs and agencies within the committee’s jurisdiction—

(A) Recommendations for the consolidation or termination of such programs or agencies that are duplicative, or inconsistent with the appropriate roles and responsibilities of the Federal Government;

(B) Recommendations for changes to existing law related to Federal rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting such programs and agencies that are inconsistent with the authorities of the Congress under Article I of the Constitution; and

(C) A description of other oversight activities as the committee may consider necessary.

Realization and government reform, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Chief Administrative Officer. The Speaker shall promptly notify the Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner.

(2) The Chief Administrative Officer is authorized to establish policies and procedures for the implementation of this paragraph.

(2) In clause 2 of rule XXI, add the following new paragraph:

(g) An amendment to a general authorization and oversight plan for that committee’s jurisdiction—

(1) in clause (a) of section 6104 of title 31, United States Code (as added by the General Authorization and Oversight Plan Act of 2014) must identify the budget authority and budget outlay for the authorization and oversight plan, and must include—

(A) a list of each program or agency that is to be authorized or reauthorized as a result of the budget authority or budget outlay identified in the authorization and oversight plan;

(B) a description of each such program or agency to be authorized in the current Congress;

(C) a description of each such program or agency to be authorized in the current Congress; and

(D) recommendations for changes to existing law related to Federal rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting such programs and agencies that are inconsistent with the authorities of the Congress under Article I of the Constitution; and

(E) A description of other oversight activities as the committee may consider necessary.

(2) In the development of such plan, the chair of each committee shall coordinate with other committees of jurisdiction to ensure that programs and agencies are subject to routine, comprehensive authorization efforts.

(3) Not later than March 31 in the first session of a Congress, after consultation with the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform shall report to the House the authorization and oversight plans submitted by committees to the House. Such plans shall be submitted simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Committees on Appropriations, and other committees of jurisdiction, and to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) a list of each such program or agency to be authorized in the next Congress;

(B) a description of each such program or agency to be authorized in the current Congress;

(C) a description of each such program or agency to be authorized in the current Congress; and

(D) recommendations for changes to existing law related to Federal rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting such programs and agencies that are inconsistent with the authorities of the Congress under Article I of the Constitution; and

(E) A description of other oversight activities as the committee may consider necessary.

(3) In clause 2 of rule XXI, add the following new paragraph:

(c) AMENDMENTS TO APPROPRIATION BILLS.—In clause 3 of rule XXI, add the following new paragraph:

(a) An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if proposing a net increase in the level of budget authority in the bill.

(b) Duplication of Federal Programs.—In clause 3(e) of rule XXI, add the following new subparagraph:

(c) On a joint resolution that establishes or reauthorizes a Federal program, a statement indicating whether any such program is known to be duplicative of another such program, including an explanation of whether any such program was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111-139 or was subsequently enacted as part of the legislative history of Federal Domestic Assistance (published pursuant to section 6104 of title 31, United States Code)
(e) Recognition of Members.—In clause 6 of rule I, strike "The Speaker shall rise to put a question but may state its sitting.".

(2) In clause 6(d) of rule XIII, strike "walk out of or across" and insert "exit or cross".

(3) In clause 1(a) of rule XX, strike "from their seats and" and insert "or otherwise indicate from their seats and".

(b) Convoking Outside the Hall of the House.—In clause 12 of rule I, strike "whenever" and insert "if".

(g) Temporary Presiding Authority Clarification.—In clause 2(a) of rule II, insert "in the absence of a Member acting as Speaker pro tempore pursuant to clause 8(b)(3)(A) of rule I," after "tempore."

(h) Continuing Litigation Authorities.—In clause 8 of rule II, add the following new paragraph:

"(c) The Speaker, a committee, or the chair of a committee authorized during a recess under clause 1(b) to act in a litigation matter is authorized to act as the successor in interest of the House, the Speaker, such committee or the chair of such committee of a prior Congress, respectively, with respect to such litigation matter, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to ensure continuation of such litigation matter.".

(i) Claiming Staff Access to the House Floor.—In clause 5 of rule IV, strike "shall remain at the desk and"

(j) Member Records.—In clause 6 of rule VII

(1) redesignate paragraphs (a) and (b) as subparagraphs (1) and (2);

(2) designate the existing sentence as paragraph (a);

(3) in paragraph (a) (as so designated), insert "as described in paragraph (b)" after "Resident Commissioner"; and

(4) add at the end the following new paragraph:

"(b) Records created, generated, or received by the congressional office of a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, in the performance of official duties are exclusively the personal property of the individual Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner and, respectively, not a Government record, and is under the control of such record.

(k) Response to Subpoenas.—Amend rule VIII to read as follows—

"RULE VIII

RESPONSE TO SUBPOENAS

"1.(a) When a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House is properly served with a judicial subpoena or order, such Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee shall comply, consistently with the privileges and rights of the House, with the judicial subpoena or order as hereinafter provided, unless otherwise determined under this rule.

"(b) For purposes of this rule, 'judicial subpoena or order' means a judicial subpoena or judicial order directing appearance as a witness relating to the official functions of the House, the production or disclosure of any document relating to the official functions of the House.

2.(a) Upon receipt of a properly served judicial subpoena or order, a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House shall promptly notify the Speaker in writing of its receipt together with either:

"(1) a determination as to whether the issuance of the judicial subpoena or order is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House; or

"(2) a statement that such Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House intends to make a determination with respect to the matters described in subparagraph (1).

"(b) The certification required by paragraph (a) shall promptly be before the House by the Speaker.

"(c) Except as identified in paragraph (b) or otherwise ordered by the House, upon notification to the House that a judicial subpoena or order is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House, the Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House shall comply with the judicial subpoena or order by supplying copies.

"(d) Under no circumstances may minutes or transcripts of executive sessions, or evidence of their occurrence thereto be disclosed or copied. During a period of recess or adjournment of longer than three days, the Speaker may authorize compliance or take such other action as the Speaker considers appropriate under the circumstances. Upon the reconvening of the House, all matters that transpired under this clause shall promptly be laid before the House by the Speaker.

"4. Nothing in this rule shall be construed to deprive, condition, or waive the constitutional privileges or rights applicable or available at any time to a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House, or of the House itself, or a committee of the House, or of the House as a legislative body, or any employee of the House, or of the House itself, to assert such privileges or rights before a court in the United States.

(j) Requirements for Subcommittees.—Amend clause 5(d)(2) of rule X to read as follows:

"(2)(A) A committee that maintains a subcommittee on oversight may have not more than six subcommittees.

"(B) The Committee on Appropriations may have no more than seven subcommittees.

"(C) The Committee on Armed Services may have not more than seven subcommittees.

"(D) The Committee on Foreign Affairs may have not more than seven subcommittees.

"(E) The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform may have not more than seven subcommittees.

"(F) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure may have not more than six subcommittees.

(m) Committee Hearings.—In clause 2(g)(2)(D) of rule XI, insert "the Committee on Homeland Security" after "Armed Services".

(n) Referrals to the Court of Claims.—

(1) In clause 1(a)(1) of rule XII—

(A) insert "or", or referring a claim to the Court of Claims;

(2) in clause 3 of rule XVIII—

"(b) insert "or", or referring a claim to the Court of Claims.

(o) Committee Reports Submitted Pursuant to Federal Law.—Clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIV is amended by striking "accompanying company document—" and all that follows and inserting "accompanying company document (showing by appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions proposed)—".

(p) Authority to Postpone Record Votes on Certain Motions.—In clause 8(a)(2) of rule XX

(1) redesignate subdivisions (E) through (H) as subdivisions (G) through (J), respectively;

(2) insert after subdivision (D) the following new subdivisions:

"(E) The question of adopting a motion to recommit.

"(F) The question of adopting a motion to concur in a Senate amendment, with or without amendment.

(3) In subdivision (G) (as redesignated), strike "subdivision (A), (B), (C), or (D)" and insert "subdivisions (A) through (F)".

(q) Conforming Guidelines for Five-Minute Voting.—In clause 9 of rule XX—

(1) in paragraph (a), insert "or" after the semicolon and add the paragraphs (b) and (c) and insert the following:

"(b) if in the discretion of the Speaker Members would be afforded an adequate opportunity to vote—

"(1) on any question arising after a report from the Committee of the Whole without debate or intervening motion; or

"(2) on the question of adoption of a motion to recommit (or ordering the previous question thereon) arising without intervening motion or debate other than debate on the motion.

(r) Electronic Availability.—In clause 3 of rule XXIX, strike "in electronic form at a location designated by the Clerk on the House Administration" and insert "at an electronic document repository operated by the Clerk".

(s) Comparative Prints for Bills or Joint Resolutions Considered on Floor.—Effective December 31, 2017, in rule XXI, add at the end the following new clause:

"12.(a)(1) Before a bill or joint resolution proposing to repeal or amend a statute or part thereof may be considered, there shall be made available on a publicly available website of the House an easily searchable electronic comparative print that shows how the bill or joint resolution would change current law, showing (to the greatest extent practicable) by appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions proposed.

"(2) Before an amendment in the nature of a substitute may be considered if the amendment proposes to repeal or amend a statute or part thereof, there shall be made available on a publicly available website of the House an easily searchable electronic comparative print that shows (to the greatest extent practicable) how the amendment proposes to change current law, showing by appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions proposed.

(t) Committee reports a bill or joint resolution, before the bill or joint resolution may be considered with text different from the text reported, there shall be made available on a publicly available website of the House a document that shows, by appropriate typographical devices, the differences between the text of the bill or joint resolution as proposed to the text of the bill or joint resolution as reported.

(u) Appointment of Chair.—Clause 1 of rule XVIII is amended by inserting ", Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner" after "Member".

(v) Separate Orders.

(a) Holman Rule.—During the first session of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, any
reference in clause 2 of rule XXI to a provi-
sion or amendment that retrenches expendi-
tures by a reduction of amounts of money
covered by the bill shall be construed as ap-
plying to a provision or amendment (of-
ferrad after the bill has been read for amend-
ment) that retrenches expenditures by—
1. the reduction of amounts of money in the
bill;
2. the reduction of the number and salary of
the officers of the United States; or
3. the reduction of the compensation of any
person paid out of the Treasury of the
United States.
(b) STAFF DEPOSITION AUTHORITY.
(1) During the One Hundred Fifteenth Con-
gress, in making a standing committee
(other than the Committee on House Admin-
istration or the Committee on Rules), and
the chair of the Permanent Select Com-
mittee on Intelligence, upon consultation
with the ranking minority member of such
committee, may order the taking of deposi-
tions, including pursuant to subpoena, by a
member or counsel of such committee.
(2) Depositions taken under the authority
prescribed in this subsection shall be subject
to regulations issued by the chair of the
Committee on Rules and printed in the Con-
gressional Record.
(3) At least one member of the committee
shall be present at each deposition taken
under the authority prescribed in this sub-
section, unless—
1. the witness to be deposed agrees in
writing to waive this requirement; or
2. the committee authorizes the taking of
a deposition without the presence of
the chair of a standing committee, pro-
vided that the House is not in session on
the day of the deposition.
(c) INDEPENDENT PAYMENT ADVISORY
BOARD.—Section 1899A(d) of the Social Secu-
rity Act shall not apply in the One Hundred
Fifteenth Congress.
(d) PROVIDING FOR TRANSPARENCY WITH
RESPECT TO MEMORIALS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE V OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED
STATES.—With respect to any memo-
rial presented under clause 3 of rule XII pur-
porting to be an application of the legisla-
ture of a State calling for a convention for
proportioning the Representation in the Con-
stitution of the United States pursuant to Article V
or a rescission of any such prior applica-
tion—
1. the chair of the Committee on the Judi-
cial shall, in the case of such a memorial
presented in the One Hundred Fourteenth
Congress or the One Hundred Fifteenth
Congress, designate any such memorial
for public availability by the Clerk; and
2. the Clerk shall make such memorials as
are designated pursuant to paragraph (1)
publicly available in electronic form, orga-
nized by year and year of receipt, and
shall indicate whether the memorial was
designated as an application or a rescission.
(e) SPENDING REDUCTION AMENDMENTS IN
APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.—
1. During the reading of a general appro-
priation bill for amendment in the Com-
mittee of the Whole House on the state of the
Union, it shall be in order to consider one
bloc amendments proposing only to transfer
appropriations from an object or objects in
the bill to a spending reduction account. When
an amendment is offered under this para-
graph, such amendments may amend por-
tions of the bill not yet read for amendment
(following disposition of any points of order
against them), and shall provide for a divi-
sion of the question in the Whole House or in the Committee of the Whole.
2. Except as provided in paragraph (1), it
shall not be in order to consider an amend-
ment to a spending reduction account in the
House or in the Committee of the Whole
House on the state of the Union unless it in-
cludes a spending reduction account as the
subject of the amendment. An order to report a
spending reduction account shall be decided
without intervening motion.
3. A general appropriation bill may not be
considered in the Committee of the Whole
House on the state of the Union unless it in-
cludes a spending reduction account as the
subject of the amendment. An order to report a
general appropriation bill to the House shall
constitute authority for the chair of the Com-
mittee on Appropriations to add such a sec-
tion to the bill or modify the figure con-
tained therein.
4. For purposes of this subsection, the term
"spending reduction account" means an
account in a general appropriation bill that
bears that caption and contains only
1. a recitation of the amount by which an
applicable allocation of new budget author-
ity under section 302(b) of the Congressional
Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of
new budget authority proposed by the bill; or
2. an account in a general appropriation
bill—
(a) that retrenches expenditures by—
1. the reduction of amounts of money in
the bill;
2. the reduction of the number and salary of
the officers of the United States; or
3. the reduction of the compensation of any
person paid out of the Treasury of the
United States; or
(b) "Veterans Accounts Identified for Ad-
vance Appropriations" in an aggregate
amount not to exceed $66,385,032,000 in new
budget authority.
1. The term "advance appro-
priations" means any new discretionary budg-
et authority provided in a general appro-
priation bill or joint resolution contain-
ing one or more "spending reduction ac-
counts (other than the General Appropria-
tions), or amendment thereto or conference re-
port thereon, that first becomes available for the
fiscal year following fiscal year 2017.
2. The point of order shall be decided
without intervening motion.
3. The point of order shall be in or-
der to consider any bill or joint resolution
reported by a committee, or amendment thereto or conference re-
port thereon, that would cause a net increase in direct spending in excess of $5,000,000,000 in any of the 4 consecutive 10-fiscal year periods be-
commencing with the first fiscal year that is 10 fiscal years after the current fiscal year.
4. LIMITATION.—This subsection shall not
apply if the bill, as amended, exceeds an ap-
propriation account.
5. No point of order shall be in or-
order to consider any bill or joint resolution
reported by a committee, or amendment thereto or conference re-
port thereon, that would cause a net increase in direct spending in excess of $5,000,000,000 in any of the 4 con-
secutive 10-fiscal year periods described in paragraph (1).
6. For purposes of this subsection, the levels of
net increases in direct spending shall be de-
termined on the basis of estimates provided
by the chair of the Committee on the Budget.
7. The term "spending reduction account" means an
account in a general appropriation bill that
bears that caption and contains only
1. a recitation of the amount by which an
applicable allocation of new budget author-
ity under section 302(b) of the Congressional
Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of
new budget authority proposed by the bill; or
2. an account in a general appropriation
bill—
(a) that retrenches expenditures by—
1. the reduction of amounts of money in
the bill;
2. the reduction of the number and salary of
the officers of the United States; or
3. the reduction of the compensation of any
person paid out of the Treasury of the
United States; or
(b) "Veterans Accounts Identified for Ad-
vance Appropriations" in an aggregate
amount not to exceed $66,385,032,000 in new
budget authority.
1. The term "advance appro-
priations" means any new discretionary budg-
et authority provided in a general appro-
priation bill or joint resolution contain-
ing one or more "spending reduction ac-
counts (other than the General Appropria-
tions), or amendment thereto or conference re-
port thereon, that first becomes available for the
fiscal year following fiscal year 2017.
2. The point of order shall be decided
without intervening motion.
3. The point of order shall be in or-
order to consider any bill or joint resolution
reported by a committee, or amendment thereto or conference re-
port thereon, that would cause a net increase in direct spending in excess of $5,000,000,000 in any of the 4 consecutive 10-fiscal year periods described in paragraph (1).
4. For purposes of this subsection, the levels of
net increases in direct spending shall be de-
termined on the basis of estimates provided
by the chair of the Committee on the Budget.
“Member” includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

(2) The Committee on House Administration shall promulgate regulations to carry out this subsection.

(k) NUMBERING OF BILLS.—In the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, the first 10 numbers for bills (H.R. 1 through H.R. 10) shall be reserved for assignment by the Speaker, and the second 10 numbers for bills (H.R. 11 through H.R. 20) shall be reserved for assignment by the Majority Leader.

(1) INCLUSION OF CITATIONS FOR PROPOSED REPEALS AND AMENDMENTS.—To the maximum extent practicable and consistent with established conventions, amendments that add or subtract text in a bill or joint resolution proposing to repeal or amend any law or part thereof not contained in a codified title of the United States Code shall include, in parentheses immediately following the designation of the matter proposed to be repealed or amended, the applicable United States Code citation (which may be a note in the United States Code), or, if no such citation is available, an appropriate alternative citation to the applicable law or part.

(m) BROADENING AVAILABILITY OF LEGISLATIVE DOCUMENTS IN MACHINE-READABLE FORMATS.—The Committee on House Administration shall promulgate regulations to broaden the availability of legislative documents in machine-readable formats in the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress to facilitate access to information produced by the House and its committees.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER ORGANIZATION TRANSparency REFORM.—

(1) PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND EXPENSES THROUGH ACCOUNT OF ORGANIZATION.—A Member of the House of Representatives and an eligible Congressional Member Organization may agree to establish an account under paragraph (1)(B), and includes the identification of such Member of the House of Representatives who enters into an eligible Congressional Member Organization with the Committee on Administration, in accordance with the terms and conditions which would apply under the program if the Organization were the employing office of the employee.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration (hereafter referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall promulgate regulations as follows:

(A) USE OF MRA.—Pursuant to the authority of section 101(d) of the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Assistance Act (2 U.S.C. 593(b)), the Committee shall prescribe regulations to provide that an eligible Congressional Member Organization may use the amounts transferred to the Organization’s dedicated account under paragraph (1)(B) for the same purposes for which a Member of the House of Representatives may use the Members’ Representation Allowance, except that the Organization may not use such amounts for franked mail, official travel, or leases of space or vehicles.

(B) NONINFRINGEMENT OF LIMITATIONS ON NUMBER OF SHARED EMPLOYEES.—Pursuant to the authority of section 101(d) of the House of Representatives Administrative Reform Technical Assistance Act (2 U.S.C. 593(h)), the Committee shall prescribe regulations to provide that an employee of the office of a Member of the House of Representatives who is covered by an agreement entered into under paragraph (1) between a Member and an eligible Congressional Member Organization for the salary and related expenses of the Member’s office and the Organization for purposes of such section, and shall include in such regulations appropriate accounting practices, including the oversight of the dedicated account of the House of Representatives who enters into an agreement with such an Organization under paragraph (1) does not employ more employees than the Member is authorized to employ under such section.

(C) PARTICIPATION IN STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—The Committee on Administration shall promulgate regulations to provide that, in the case of an employee who is covered by an agreement entered into under paragraph (1) between a Member of the House of Representatives and an eligible Congressional Member Organization who and participates in such program while carrying out duties under the agreement—

(i) any funds made available for making payments under the program with respect to the employee shall be transferred to the Organization’s dedicated account under paragraph (1)(B); and

(ii) the Organization shall use the funds to repay a student loan taken out by the employee, under the same terms and conditions which would apply under the program if the Organization were the employing office of the employee.

(D) ACCESS TO HOUSE SERVICES.—The Committee shall prescribe regulations to ensure that an eligible Congressional Member Organization has appropriate access to services of the House.

(E) OTHER REGULATIONS.—The Committee shall promulgate such other regulations as may be appropriate to carry out this subsection.

(3) ELIGIBLE CONGRESSIONAL MEMBER ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “eligible Congressional Member Organization” means, with respect to the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, an organization meeting each of the following requirements:

(A) The organization is registered as a Congressional Member Organization with the Committee on House Administration.

(B) The organization has a single member of the House of Representatives to be responsible for the administration of the organization, including the administration of the account administered under paragraph (1)(B), and includes the identification of such Member with the statement of organization that the organization files and maintains with the Committee on House Administration.

(C) At least 3 employees of the House are assigned to work for the organization.

(D) During the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, at least 30 Members of the House of Representatives used a portion of the Members’ Representation Allowance of the Member for the salary and related expenses of an employee who was a shared employee of the Member’s office and the organization.

(E) The organization files a statement with the Committee on House Administration and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives certifying that it will administer an account in accordance with paragraph (1).

(F) SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENCY.—

(1) POINT OF ORDER.—During the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, it shall not be in order for a Member or an employee of the House, or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that reduces the actuarial balance by at least .01 percent of the present value of future taxable payroll of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund established under section 201(a) of the Social Security Act for the 75-year period utilizing the most recent annual report of the Board of Trustees provided pursuant to section 201(c)(2) of the Social Security Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a measure that would improve the actuarial balance of the combined balance in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for the 75-year period utilized in the most recent annual report of the Board of Trustees pursuant to section 201(c)(2) of the Social Security Act.

(p) SUBCOMMITTEES.—Notwithstanding clause 5(d) of rule X, during the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress the Committee on Agriculture may have not more than six subcommittees.

SEC. 4. COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND HOUSE OFFICES.

(a) HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP.—House Resolution 24, One Hundred Tenth Congress, shall apply in the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress in the same manner as such provision applies in the One Hundred Tenth Congress except that the commission concerned shall be known as the House Democracy Partnership.

(b) TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE.—Sections 1 through 7 of House Resolution 1451, One Hundred Tenth Congress, shall apply in the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress in the same manner as such provisions applied in the One Hundred Tenth Congress, except that—

(1) the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission may, in addition to collaborating closely with other professional staff members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, consult closely with staff members of other relevant committees; and

(2) the resources of the Committee on Foreign Affairs which the Commission may use shall include all resources which the Committee is authorized to obtain from other offices of the House of Representatives.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS.—Section 1 of House Resolution 895, One Hundred Tenth Congress, shall apply in the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress in the same manner as such provision applies in the One Hundred Tenth Congress, except that—

(1) the Office of Congressional Ethics shall be treated as a standing committee of the House for purposes of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)).
Mr. McCARTHY moves to lay on the table the motion to refer. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table. The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 184, not voting 21, as follows:

* * *

Mr. MCCARTHY (during the reading).

Mr. GARAMENDI and Mrs. DAVIS of California charged their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to table 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. RENACCI, Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 3.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI and Mrs. DAVIS of California charged their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to table 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. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the time allocated to me be controlled by the esteemed gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I also include in the RECORD a section-by-section analysis of the resolution.

H. RES. 5
ADOPTING THE RULES FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS
SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS
Section 1. Resolved Clause.

This section provides that the Rules of the 114th Congress are the Rules of the 115th Congress, except for the amendments contained in the resolution. All orders contained in sections 3, 4, and 5.

Section 2. Changes to the Standing Rules.

Decorum. Subsection (a) authorizes the Sergeant-at-Arms to impose a fine against a Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner for the use of an electronic device for photography, audio or visual recording, or broadcasting on the House floor in contravention of rule XVI. A fine for a first offense will be $500 and $2,500 for subsequent offenses. A fine will be assessed at the higher amount, regardless of whether it is connected to any other offense by time or proximity.

The subsection provides that any Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who has been assessed a fine may appeal the fine in the House by March 31 of the first session of Congress.

Amendments to Appropriation Bills. Subsection (c) codifies the standing order from the 112th, 113th, and 114th Congresses prohibiting an amendment to a general appropriation bill to increase a net increase in budget authority in the bill.

Duplication of Federal Programs. Subsection (d) codifies the standing order from the 113th and 114th Congresses that requires committee reports to include a statement on whether any provision of the measure establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal government known to be duplicative of another Federal program. The subsection also eliminates unnecessary language regarding the authorization of a committee chair to request that the Government Accountability Office perform a duplication analysis of any bill or joint resolution referred to that committee, and makes technical changes.

Recognition of Members. Subsection (e) eliminates from the rules outdated references to physical mobility. This is a clarification to address whether Members who are physically unable to stand.

Convening Outside the Hall of the House. The subsection makes current rules governing provisions with current practice regarding convening outside the Hall of the House.

Temporary Presiding Authority Clarification. Subsection (f) clarifies the authority of a Speaker pro tempore appointed under clause 8(b)(3)(A) of rule I takes priority over the Clerk's authority to preserve order and decorum pending the election of a new Speaker.

Continuing Litigation Authorities. Subsection (h) authorizes the House, the Speaker, a committee or chair of a committee to carry forward litigation from the previous Congress to the next Congress in any continuing litigation matter in which the House, the Speaker, the committee or chair of a committee, respectively, was previously authorized to carry forward. This subsection automatically continues previously authorized litigation authority and fully empowers the successor in interest to take all steps necessary to carry forward during the new Congress, thereby eliminating the need for a separate resolution authorizing the continuation of such litigation.

Clarifying Staff Access to the House Floor. Subsection (i) conforms the standing rules to the current practice that staff accompanying Members on the floor are not required to remain at the desk.

Member Records. Subsection (j) adds language to the definition of "Records of the House" to clarify the ownership of congressional office records of a Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner, and to codify the longstanding custom regarding congressional office records under which such records have been recognized to be the personal property of the Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner.

The latter do not belong to the House, because the Rule expressly defined House "records" to exclude "records of the House under which such records have been recognized to be the personal property of the Member, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner." The prior rules of the House drew a distinction between the records of House committees and officers, on the one hand, and congressional office records of Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner, on the other. The subsection also clarifies that congressional office records are the personal property of the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who creates, generates, or receives them, in accordance with longstanding House custom and prior pronouncements. See, e.g., H. Con. Res. 307, 110th Cong. (2008); H. Res. 673, 111th Cong. (2010); H. Res. 2, 115th Cong. (2017).

Clarifying staff access to the House floor. Subsection (k) clarifies and streamlines procedures governing notification of, and access to, properly served judicial subpoenas and judicial orders directing appearance as a witness relating to the official functions of the House or compelling the production of any document relating to the official functions of the House.

The subsection continues the practice of granting authority to respond to subpoenas without the necessity of a House vote, and streamlines the notification process to eliminate inefficiencies. The recipient of a properly served judicial subpoena or judicial order compelling testimony or production of documents relating to the official functions of the House must promptly notify the Speaker of the record relating to the subpoena or order and must determine whether the subpoena or order is a proper exercise of the jurisdiction of the court and is not related to the official functions of the House. In keeping with current practice, the notification to the Speaker must either...
Changes to Existing Law.

session.

subcommittees. The subsection omits the obsolete requirements for the Clerk of the House to provide a copy of rule VIII to the court and for copies of judicial subpoenas to show the entire text of the rule.

committee allocations) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of new budget authority proposed by the bill, or if no such allocation is in effect.

context of Section 9(c) is subsumed within the official functions of the courts. The subsection also provides that a Ramseyer print shall show the entire text of a provision in its entirety.

the House that exceeds an applicable allocation of new budget authority under section 302(b) (Appropriations subcommittee allocations) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of new budget authority proposed by the bill, or if no such allocation is in effect.

Committee on the Judiciary, electronically available, organized by State of origin and year of receipt, and indicate whether the measure is contemplated under Article V of the Constitution.

Subsection (a) allows Delegates and the Resident Commissioner to serve as chair of the Committee on the Whole.

Section 3. Separate Orders.

Holman Rule. Subsection (a) provides a new standing order for the first session of the 115th Congress based on the "Holman Rule," most of which was removed from the standing rules in 1983. This standing order functions as an exception to clause 2 of rule XXI to allow provision changing law in certain limited circumstances beyond those permitted by the rules. The subsection also provides that the proviso in a general appropriation bill or an amendment therefor may contain legislation to retrench expenditures by (1) reducing the amount of the salaries of Federal employees, or (3) reducing the compensation of any person paid by the Treasury. The subsection also provides that a standing order must be offered after the reading of the bill and must comply with all applicable rules of the House, such as the germaneness rule. The subsection also provides that the reinstatement of the Holman rule will provide Members with additional tools to reduce spending during consideration of the regular general appropriation bills.

Staff Deposition Authority. Subsection (b) carries forward and modifies provisions from the 114th Congress to provide the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and each standing committee of the 115th Congress (except for the Committees on Rules and House Administration) the authority to order a deposition by a member of Congress, or the committee counsel of such committee. The authority provided under this subsection extends for the entirety of the 115th Congress.

Depositions taken under this authority are subject to regulations issued by the chair of the Committee on Rules and printed in the Congressional Record.

The subsection modifies the member attendance requirement, which applies unless (1) the witness waives the requirement or (2) the committee authorizes the taking of a specified deposition without the presence of a member during a specified period and the deposition occurs on a day that the House is not in session.

The subsection authorizes a committee to authorize the taking of one or more such depositions of one or more specified witnesses at any point over the course of a specified period of days, such as a district work period.

Independent Payment Advisory Board. Subsection (c) carries forward a provision from the 113th Congress that prohibits the Independent Payment Advisory Board or to repeal the provision in its entirety.

Providing for Transparency with Respect to Memos of Understanding. Subsection (d) carries forward and modifies provisions from the 114th Congress that clarify the procedures of the House regarding the receipt of Article V memorials from the States by directing the Clerk to make each memorial transmitted by them the responsibility of the Committee on the Judiciary, electronically available, organized by State of origin and year of receipt, and indicate whether the measure is contemplated under Article V of the Constitution.

In submitting each memorial to the Clerk, the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary will include a transmission letter that indicates the measure is being transmitted by the memorializing state legislature or other party, as it is only state legislatures that are contemplated under Article V of the Constitution.
Committee on the Budget made an adjustment to the allocation levels or limits contained in the most recently adopted budget resolution.

Discussion of Directed Rule Makings. Subsection (a) carries forward and modifies the requirement that committee reports on bills or joint resolutions include a list of directed rule makings required by the measure or a statement that the measure contains no directed rule makings. The subsection carries forward the definition of "directed rule making" to include those rule makings specifically directed to be completed by a provision in the legislation, but does not include a grant of authority making specific content mandatory. The prior standing order only required an estimate of the number of direct rule makings.

Exercise Faculties for Former Members. Subsection (j) continues the prohibition on access to any exercise facility that is made available exclusively to Members, former Members, or their spouses to any former Member, former officer, or spouse who is a lobbyist registered under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

Numbering of Bills. Subsection (k) reserves the first 10 numbers for bills (H.R. 1 through H.R. 10) for assignment by the Speaker and the second 10 numbers (H.R. 11 through H.R. 20) for assignment by the Minority Leader.

Inclusion of U.S. Code Citations for Proposed Repeals and Amendments. Subsection (l) continues to add, to the maximum extent practicable, a requirement for parallel citations for amendatory instructions to Public Laws and Statutes at Large that are not classified in the U.S. Code.

Broadening Availability of Legislative Documents in Machine-Readable Formats. Subsection (m) directs the Clerk to instruct the appropriate officers and committees to continue to advance government transparency by taking further steps to publish documents of the House in machine-readable formats.

Congressional Member Organization Transparency Reform. Subsection (n) carries forward the rule making provisions from the 114th Congress by allowing participating Members to enter into agreements with eligible Congressional Member Organizations for the purpose of paying salaries and expenses. The Committee on House Administration is required to promulgate regulations, consistent with current law, to carry out this subsection.

Social Security. Subsection (o) carries forward from the 114th Congress a point of order against legislation that would reduce the actuarial balance of the Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Trust Fund, but provides an exemption to the point of order if a measure improves the overall financial health of the combined Social Security trust funds. This subsection would protect the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund from diversion of its funds to finance a broken Disability Insurance trust fund system.

Subcommittees. Subsection (p) waives clause 5(d) of rule X to allow the Committee on Agriculture to organize its subcommittees, which is consistent with authorities in the 115th Congress.

Treatment of Consequences of Federal Land. Subsection (q) provides that any provision in a bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report requiring or authorizing a conveyance of federal land to a State, local government, or tribal entity, shall be considered as providing new budget authority, decreasing revenues, increasing mandatory spending, or increasing outlays.

Section 6. Committees, Commissions, and House Offices.

House Democracy Partnership. Subsection (a) reauthorizes the House Democracy Assistance Commission, now known as the House Democracy Partnership.

Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. Subsection (b) reauthorizes the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Office of Congressional Ethics. Subsection (c) reauthorizes the Office of Congressional Ethics. Subsection (d) waives clause 5(d) of rule X to include those rule makings specifically directed to be completed by a provision in the legislation, but does not include a grant of authority making specific content mandatory. The prior standing order only required an estimate of the number of direct rule makings.

House Democracy Partnership. Subsection (a) authorizes the House Democracy Partnership for assignment by the Speaker and the first 10 numbers for bills (H.R. 1 through H.R. 10) to the Speaker and the second 10 numbers (H.R. 11 through H.R. 20) to the Majority Leader.


Subsection (a) authorizes a total amount for the provisions of this section.

Subsection (b) authorizes a total amount for the provisions of this section.

Subsection (c) authorizes a total amount for the provisions of this section.

Subsection (d) authorizes a total amount for the provisions of this section.


Subsection (a) repeals certain provisions of law.

Subsection (b) repeals certain provisions of law.

Subsection (c) repeals certain provisions of law.

Subsection (d) repeals certain provisions of law.

Section 9. Additional Orders of Business.

Reading of the Constitution. Subsection (a) allows the Speaker to recognize Members for the reading of the Constitution on any legislative day through January 13, 2017. Subsection (b) carries forward the consideration of the Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017. Subsection (c) carries forward the consideration of the Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2017 under a closed rule.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today is an exciting day, a brand new 115th Congress. Here in the House of Representatives, we have new Members of Congress who are bringing their families, coming to Washington with a sense of exuberance, but mostly with what I believe is respect for the American people who sent them here, respect for the people who elected each of us with the thoughts and ideas from our districts back home, all the way to the election of the President-elect of the United States of America, Donald Trump.

So we do this every 2 years. We reorganize the House of Representatives. We start anew. We start fresh. We start with the best ideas that are brought forth, and we try and bring the teams together. That is what Republicans have done. That is what Democrats are doing. We get up, we go up, we work our teams up, literally the amount of teams and who is on each side, and that is how we determine who is elected the Speaker of the House. It is from the majority party. In this case, today we elected the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), a great young leader for not just our party, but for our country.

So today what we do is we show up and we exercise our constitutional rights, our duties, our views, the ideas that we have, the ideas that we were sent here to exercise, and the ideas of our majorities, of the bodies, of the groups that we represent.

So today those men and women who gather together with their ideas and their plans and project ideas and help projects and move our country forward over the next 2 years. I think that what we are saying today is important. That is, we are trying to change the direction that this country has been going for at least 2 years, and some could argue for 8 years. We are trying to change that direction because the American people have given Republicans an opportunity to lead in the United States House of Representatives, in the United States Senate, and in the Presidency of the United States.

I believe that we are looking at those elected officials, including the newly elected President, at the next generation of leaders, people who will lead us to a better America for, people who are counting on us to, yes, as the saying goes, Make America Great Again, but, more importantly, to live up to the challenges of our times. We have it, so I believe that the American people have said we expect you to go to Washington and make tough decisions, not easy decisions, but to do things that are in our best interest rather than in the best interest of a government.

Well, that is what this experiment is about. This experiment takes place every 4 years with the election of a Presidency and perhaps every 2 years with new Congress.

Mr. Speaker, during the first 7 years of the Obama administration, they had an opportunity, the House, to send to the President, to forge a path that they felt would be best for the American people. Perhaps based on the things or the things that they heard. What happened is that Federal regulations added up to an average of 81 new major regulations per year for a total of 556 regulations, at least 220 of which contained new burdens on individuals and businesses with an annual cost of $108 billion.

We see things differently. That is why you are going to see not only in this new package, but by the way that we do business here in the House of Representatives, that we look at regulations differently; that we work based upon the law, the intent of the law, not the intent of a regulator who would, as I would suggest, see things perhaps differently than others would see them.

So while it sounds like these are staggering numbers and they do a lot of damage on our country, it is not too late to change that. It is not too late to evaluate the way things have been done and the way that things should be done.

So we have a lot of work to do. We have a lot of work to do not just about rules and regulations but about the day-to-day business, the progress of GDP, and the growth of jobs and job creation in this country.

For the first time in a long time, we will have a President-elect—and, obviously who will, I believe, work with the United States Congress forthrightly and find the avenues of consensus between the House of Representatives and between the United States Senate to push this body.

I met with Mr. Trump earlier in the year when he was just a candidate for the Presidency, and he told me point blank: It is not so much that I am opposed to what you guys are doing in Congress; it is more to me I think you could be forced into making more tough decisions.

He said: I think Congress gets away from doing the tough things. They do...
the easy lift rather than the things that will be better for the American people, because proud people sent us up here.

That is the standard that, I believe, we should adopt to have and be prepared for in these next 2 years: tough, straightforward work that is meaningful, that can move our country forward, that will propel a generation to believe not only in a great day’s pay and a hard day’s work, but, more importantly, leading to something that will make us stronger and yet stronger the next day with a clear sense of what the country is made of. From a Nation and a people who deeply believe that America’s greatest days are in our future and they are willing to give that to the next generation. That is why we are here.

We have a lot of new Members who bring ideas, Mr. Speaker. They come here to Washington full and brimming with ideas about things that they would like to see happen. Well, what are we going to do is we are going to make sure that we are ready to do business with them, that we are open and prepared for them.

So you will see that this package carries forward many of the rules from the previous Congresses and builds on House Republicans’ efforts to streamline House processes, increase transparency, and improve accountability. Specifically, it preserves the important reforms that were made in three previous Congresses. It also adds perfecting amendments in order to help us further advance and share our ideas and goals of transparency.

We think this is important. We think the ideas that are contained within this package will help propel not only us in better decisionmaking, but the American people will buy into what we are doing.

Fairness is important for all of us. As chairman of the Rules Committee, it is my hope that I will continue to be open, that the Rules Committee will be open to hearing from every single Member. We will welcome them. They will know that they are in the right place to not only share their ideas, but one where they can receive feedback on those ideas and help participate in what we do.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are here to do today to do, the new rules package for the 115th Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Will the gentleman yield?

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman knows, there is a provision in the rules that are proposed which are not in the rules of the last Congress, which give us great pause because we think it tends to put Members in a difficult place from a constitutional perspective and from a freedom-of-speech perspective. Of course, one of which I speak is the rule that relates to empowering the Sergeant at Arms to levy fines.

May I ask the gentleman first: Did the Rules Committee find that there was any precedent for such a provision in rules historically?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. I would like to refer to something which I believe has been mentioned, and if not, I would be very pleased to do it.

The House has delegated fining authority, section 1103 of the Manual, where the House incorporates, by reference, title I of the Ethics in Government Act. This section, if a financial disclosure is filed late, the filer is subject to a $200 filing fee. It is a fine by another name that is administered by the House Ethics Committee.

So what I am suggesting to you is we have seen where there has been the backup of rules that have been backed up by the levying of a fine, and I believe that is what the gentleman is seeking.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman, and will the gentleman yield again?

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas.

The gentleman referred to a fee that was levied, apparently, for a late filing of a financial disclosure statement that is required under the rules. We are troubled, however, by the fact that this is not a fee in the sense; it is a penalty for taking an action which is obviously directed toward that action, which we see as speech and transparency to the American people.

One of the things that concerns us most, Mr. Speaker, is that there appears to be no due process; that is to say, the Sergeant at Arms can make an individual determination as to whether or not the rule has been violated without any opportunity given to the Member to explain or deny the allegations that are made on which the fine would be based.

Mr. SESSIONS. I appreciate the gentleman asking me.

As a matter of fact, we believe this may have been addressed yesterday by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Meadows), who specifically, in our Conference, brought this issue up. It is my understanding, as I further consult my assistant who is well briefed on this, that the Meadows amendment has allowed a process which allows an appeal to the Ethics Committee that would be outside of the person who originally made the fine present, would go to the Ethics Committee for them to assess that challenge as necessary.

Mr. HOYER. If I might, that was adopted last night?

Mr. SESSIONS. I believe that is correct, sir.

Mr. HOYER. So it is not in the rules as disclosed?

Mr. SESSIONS. It would be in this package that I believe we have today. It was not in what was originally brought forth, publicly available, and then changed last night when that was then posted on the Rules Committee Web site. Yes, sir.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you for that response.

I have one additional question. We look forward to what happens next. Frankly, the only one we could come up with was the gag rule that was adopted in the 19th century which precluded the introduction of legislation which would abolish slavery in the various States. That rule was in place for a number of years until ultimately repealed.

This rule, we believe, Mr. Speaker, seeks to gag Members of the House of Representatives. It seeks to undermine transparency to the extent that it relates to communications devices which can—and at the point in time the grievance, from your perspective, occurred, we were in recess, as the gentleman understands.

Mr. SESSIONS. I raise a point of order.

Mr. HOYER. If I may conclude, as the gentleman knows, and I won’t say thousands, but hundreds of pictures were taken just an hour ago on this floor. Hundreds. We were in session, not in recess.

Mr. SESSIONS. If I could address that, and I want to do this very gingerly because I do not want to start a battle here. The gentleman and I both know that that was a deep, deep feeling that many Members on your side had about a particular issue. It resulted in what could be seen as—and I saw it as—a protest. Look, we are used to that in this body, people being upset. We are not used to people violating the rule, and it already was a rule that you cannot use, for recording purposes, those devices. We did not make this up. That was already a rule. So it became an advent of a protest.

We are simply trying to say—and I am not trying to get you to change your viewpoints at all—but I think it would be wise, and I believe we will not always be in the majority. I believe some day there will be a change where the Democrats will be in the majority. I would be for this same rule, for the sake of the Speaker and the leadership and the person sitting in that chair. I can look at myself in a mirror because I was a part of this thinking. How do we say to Members a gag order says you cannot utter bad things? This, if you are willing to pay the fine and you want to do that, that is not a gag order. That is a violation of a rule. If you would like to participate in that, go for it all you want. But I don’t think it is the right thing. So we tried to limit, in my opinion, very carefully to say we are going to make this a fine.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for a response, and I appreciate his feelings and, I think, his intellectually honest feelings.

Mr. SESSIONS. I take it that way, and I know the gentleman does, too. That is why we are using my time right now, and I assume the gentleman does, too.

That is why we are using my time right now, and I assume the gentleman does, too. That is why we are using my time right now, and I assume the gentleman does, too.
his opening comments talked about transparency and talked about openness.

Mr. SESSIONS. I sure did.

Mr. HOYER. And the Speaker talked about, just after noon, about respecting each other's views and hearing one another's views and considering one another's views, even though we disagree with them. I share the Speaker's view on that. Very frankly, I think the gentleman is correct; it was a protest which gave rise to this rule which I think is ill-advised, but I understand the difference.

The protest was because—and as Rules chairman, the gentleman probably knows this better than anybody else—we asked for an amendment that we thought 85 to 90 percent of the American people were for. We didn't get transparency, we didn't get openness, and we did not get an opportunity to express our views. That is why we are so concerned because we think, frankly, any deference to a gag rule: to shut us down, to shut us out, and to shut us up. But I appreciate the gentleman's view.

Mr. SESSIONS. I appreciate what the gentleman is saying. The gentleman understands we tried to say because if the shoe were on the other foot, I am telling you I would still be on this foot and this shoe. I think the gentleman understands that because he has been in the position of not only responsibility but power, and he did not misuse his power nor his judgment, and I do not think we are. But we are trying to lay out, ahead of time, what it would be. I thank the gentleman very much for his feedback to me.

I would add one more thing. I have always, during the years I have been the Rules Committee chair, tried to make the committee open to anybody that would choose to come up, to speak as long as they would like to speak, as long as they move forward with their ideas without commanding the committee, telling us what to do, and I would hope that we continue to do that. As I told the gentleman years ago, I am open to his feedback.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his patience and for participating in this session.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield my time such as I may consume; and I thank my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) for yielding me the customary time, and I want to wish everybody a happy new year. I hope, circumstances notwithstanding, that we can have one.

I want to talk now on what the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) was talking about. I have been pretty concerned here since the day we did what was a protest regarding some of the actions we are looking at. Last night, in what I thought was a moment of peace, the ploy put into the rules package a gutting of the Office of Congressional Ethics, which was totally unconstitutional in the fact that they were not going to get rid of it, but they took everything it had from them and forbade them having on their committee a person who could talk to the press and forbade them talking to the press.

Mr. Speaker, that is a gag order. That is against the constitutional right that we have. It was only an hour ago that all of us raised our right hand and swore that we were going to uphold the Constitution and almost not an hour later, we are struggling to defy it. This is not new for me. I have been very concerned about this since we were here in June and had our protest.

Now, it is our job, and we all said we were going to protect the Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic. But we may have enemies right here in the room, which is troubling to me, because of what happened last night. I appreciate that cooler heads prevailed and that part was taken out because it was described in the Rules Committee as, “What the heck do they think they are doing now?” So this whole change did not last even 24 hours. In conjunction with that, I need to go back to what happened here on the House floor.

We tried for years to try to do the simplest kinds of things on gun control measures: background checks, closing loopholes, coming up with absolutely nothing. We live in a country now where doctors are forbidden from asking in patients if there are guns in the home. Doctors can ask if there are drugs in the home or any other thing that may cause great harm, but they are not allowed, by law, to ask if there are guns in the home. We have gone so far in the gun culture here that 335 million Americans own over 320 million guns, and that is life now in the United States.

So what we were trying to do, what we thought made the most eminent sense, was to almost guarantee that not a single American man, woman, or child would be hurt by a gun. We called it go fly, no buy. There is such eminent sense in it. But because we are shut out—and I know there is a lot of openness talk going on today, but in the Rules Committee there is none. We didn't have an open rule all year, over this critical issue. We don't get amendments. We don't get to talk. We were desperate to try to do something about the carnage in this country.

Because it was overwhelming to us, we decided something had to be done about letting terrorists who couldn't get on airplanes have guns. So we gathered our people. I think it was totally spontaneous. There was no great plan. There was no vote to do it. We vote here and talked peacefully. The microphone were turned off, and C-SPAN shut it down. I couldn't hear what was going on. Because of the times we live in, some of our enterprise Members, they took their iPhones and streamed what was going on on the floor. Then Facebook took it up, and then C-SPAN got it from their stream and the whole country saw what was going on here. It was basically for the first time.

And one of the things in the Constitution that we all revere today is the right of peaceful assembly. There were no threats, no action, no violence, no anything. We just said, if we have no bill, we will have no break. Everybody understood exactly what we were trying to do.

So now what we are getting to, which again is totally unconstitutional, is to decide to fine Members of Congress for doing what we did. In other words, their free speech does not work on the floor of the House of Representatives, when we are the people who swear to uphold the Constitution.

It was really an amazing sight for the people of America to see that kind of thing going on here where we are so concerned about what we say and how long we have to say it. So the rules of the House that we are doing today say you are going to punish a sitting Member, but not in the way that the Constitution says you can do that.

If you are going to punish a Member in the House, the whole House has to vote on it. But there is no provision in the Constitution to allow anybody other than the leader of this House to fine a Member.

The idea of your doing that so that people can have due process is ridiculous. If you are brought up on ethics charges, you have lawyers. It was proposed simply to get at us and to say to the minority: Keep your place over there; you know where you belong.

So I have talked to numerous lawyers and constitutional experts, and I know that was unconstitutional. I think I have said enough about it, but I think we will have more to say on another day.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 121/2 minutes remaining. Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who is the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentlewoman, and, again, I thank the gentleman from Texas for being generous with his time.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned by a number of controversial provisions included by the majority in the rules they have proposed for the 115th Congress.

First, reinstating the Holman rule would make it easier for the majority to circumvent the current legislative process in order to fire or cut the pay
of Federal employees. It undermines civil service protections. It goes back to the 19th century. Republicans have consistently made our hardworking Federal employees scapegoats, in my opinion, for lack of performance of the Federal itself, and this rules change will enable them to make shortsighted and ideologically driven changes to our Nation’s civil service.

Secondly, I am deeply concerned by the rules changes regarding decorum in this House. The chairman was generous enough to have that discussion with me. When the cameras were turned off in this House, there was no way to communicate with the American people other than by something that I didn’t know existed, and that was the streaming of the debate that was going on. As the ranking member of the Rules Committee pointed out, it was peaceful, it was honest, and it was deeply held. Now you seek to impose fines and ethics charges against any Member who broadcasts to the American people what takes place in the people’s House while it is in recess and deny Americans access to their Congress.

Thirdly—and I am very concerned about this and I will talk to the chairman further about it at some point in time—these rules continue the Republican policy of denying a voice to the people of the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

When I was majority leader, we allowed them to vote in the Committee of the Whole. It showed them respect, it gave them a reason to come to the floor, and it gave them an opportunity to have their constituents see how they felt on a particular issue by putting their name up on the board. I regret that we were unable to continue that policy and I will talk to the chairman about it further.

Millions of American citizens will not be able to have their delegates and resident commissioner represent their views during the consideration of amendments in the Committee of the Whole. I find this deeply disturbing that Republicans had been planning to use this rules package to strip away the independence of the Office of Congressional Ethics.

When Democrats took the majority in 2007, we created this body to ensure that the strongest ethical standards are upheld in this House, and that partisanship could never get in the way of those standards.

I am glad that public pressure led Republicans to abandon this ill-conceived proposal. The American people deserve a Congress whose rules reflect what is best about our country—fair, just, and honorable.

This package does not meet that test.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CLYBURN), who is the whip of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the proposed changes to the rules of the House that are before us today. I have long maintained that the Affordable Care Act is the Civil Rights Act of the 21st century. Repealing the Affordable Care Act and putting discrimination back into health care is a step history will not forgive.

While the majority has included a new rule limiting the consideration of legislation which increases direct spending in billions, they have specifically exempted from this rule any spending that may flow from repeal the Affordable Care Act.

They are admitting in their own rules that their proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act will be devastating for the Federal deficit and the national debt. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that full repeal of the ACA will increase the deficit by $1.27 trillion. The Rules Committee has proposed to the House a rule that defies all those expectations.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), who is the chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Well, it is a new year, but it is the same old games from our Republican colleagues. This time they are using the official rules of the House to further their media and to gag Members of the Democratic Caucus, which you all know includes taking away healthcare coverage for millions of Americans, putting insurance companies back in charge of healthcare decisions, and raising costs for taxpayers in this country.

Among all the power grabs and cynical ploys in this rules package, there is a very telling sign in their priorities. They know that their plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act won’t just create chaos for American families and their health care; it will also blow a huge deficit in our Nation’s budget—a huge deficit in our Nation’s budget—the height of irresponsible governing.

But they apparently won’t let that get in the way of political games. So, today, the majority is giving themselves a pass. They wrote a rule that allows them to ignore the huge financial impact that is a defense to our healthcare system. They are, once again, putting themselves above the law and crushing everyday Americans under their shoes.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ), who is the vice-chair of the Democratic Caucus.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the partisan and free-speech-crushing Republican rules package governing the 115th Congress.

I had such high hopes that we would start off 2017 by working together on bipartisan reforms and improvements to the procedures that govern this body. Instead, I am disappointed, but not surprised, to find that House Republicans would rather undermine the trust and integrity of this institution by these dangerous proposed changes in the rules package, changes that truly undermine the very foundation of our Constitution.

The American public deserves transparency and honesty in the way that their elected officials govern themselves. Instead, this rules package is a dangerous step towards silencing free speech and open debate in the very place that should be the shining example for the world. These rules changes frighten me. We can’t stand by and allow the very core of our democracy to be shredded.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the rules package.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the chair of the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, this rules package sets a disturbing tone for our new session of Congress. It requires authorizing committees to propose programs that should be removed from mandatory to discretionary.

Now, what does that mean? Mandatory programs must be funded—must. Discretionary programs do not have to be funded. It is a calculated move to cut vital programs like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Pell grants.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I know that we do not even have the discretionary money—the dollars to support the current programs in place. Medical research at the National Institutes of Health has been cut by $7.5 billion since 2003.

These rules also deny Members their freedom of speech. They institute potentially unconstitutional mechanisms to punish Members for speaking their minds on the floor of this House and delivering a message to people. Our constituents elect us to speak our minds on the floor of this House.

It is wrong, it is disgraceful, and it is the wrong way to start a new session. This represents the total denunciation of what our jobs are as Members of Congress.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SWALWELL), who is the co-chair of the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

Ms. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today begins the House Republicans’ efforts to end the guarantee of Medicare, an earned benefit giving our seniors healthcare security.
also marks a united effort by House Democrats to protect it.

Taking away this healthcare guarantee from our seniors hurts not just the seniors but everyone in the family. It is a family matter. Ending Medicare will leave their children and grandchildren who have to shoulder the responsibility of picking up the costs of their parents’ health care.

Many of those children are millennials, millions of whom now have health care thanks to the Affordable Care Act—health security that is also under threat due to the incoming administration and this Republican House. These efforts will further jeopardize the health security of millennials who are paying into it and expecting to receive benefits when they get older.

We are obligated to protect the health security of all Americans, young and old. Help hold the health and economic security of families together.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), who is the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, as Joe Friday used to say: “Just the facts, ma’am.”

Let’s oppose H. Res. 5 because this is a backdoor effort to move away from the Affordable Care Act. The act does work, it continues to work, and the statistics bear it out. It has increased the solvency of the Medicare, Social Security trust fund by 10 years. 137 million Americans now have access to preventive care, which saves us costs in the long run. Wee to those who decide that they are going to make fundamental alterations to this without explaining to the American people what they mean.

Medicaid at one time in Johnson’s vision was supposed to be for the poor. Medicaid, because of long-term care, dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, and nursing homes, has quickly become a middle class benefit. Early intervention saves costs in the long run, and that is precisely what the Affordable Care Act was intended to do, and it has been successful. When you look today at the Affordable Care Act and how it has worked, there are 20 million more Americans who now have health insurance.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, we might remind ourselves of this today as well. This is also a sneaky effort to alter Medicare and its guarantee, and next it will be on Social Security. What we want to understand here is, because of the Affordable Care Act and the solvency of the trust funds, that Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act have all now been wed. You can’t change one without making alterations to the other.

Here is another consideration: you could not hope, if you were in your 40s today, to take out collegiate benefits for your children and simultaneously taking care of aged parents. So let me boldly assert—and I think it bears up under scrutiny—the reason that Mom and Dad are not living in your attic is because of Social Security, Medicaid, and now the Affordable Care Act.

We have heard a lot about repeal, repeal, and repeal. I guarantee you in an actuarial sense, as an individual who pays a lot of attention to this, you are going to have a great deal of difficulty touching one of these entitlements without touching the others.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for extending the time.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the resolution that would establish a point of order against any legislation that would undo the Affordable Care Act that have provided millions of Americans with affordable access to quality health care.

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today we are seeing just how far House Republicans are willing to go to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The party that claims to be fiscally responsible is now landing a punch to the House so that it can be fiscally reckless in its dangerous assault on the Affordable Care Act.

House Republicans know that repealing the ACA will increase direct spending and the deficit by $3 trillion, and this cynical rules proposal shows that Republicans want to hide the true costs of their repeal plans from the American people.

Now, repealing the ACA would take away health care from about 20 to 30 million people. It would increase healthcare costs for everyone else. Premium growth for Americans in employer-sponsored plans has slowed since the ACA became law.

If the ACA had not been enacted and average growth remained the same, job-based premiums would be a projected $3,600 higher today.

Repeal will also harm hospitals. The hospital industry has warned that repealing the ACA could cost hospitals $165 billion and trigger an “unprecedented public health crisis.” Since the ACA was enacted, uncompensated care costs have declined for hospitals by approximately 21 percent. These costs cripple hospitals and are passed on to our country in the form of higher prices.

Mr. Speaker, repeal would also harm the 55 million seniors and people with disabilities enrolled in Medicare. In addition to ensuring free preventive services for Medicare beneficiaries and closing the prescription drug donut hole, the ACA lengthened the solvency of the Medicare trust fund by 11 years.

Reforms in the ACA helped slow the rate of healthcare cost growth in Medicare, which means Medicare seniors pay less today than they would have if the ACA weren’t enacted. Medicare spending was $473 billion less from 2009 to 2014, compared with spending if pre-ACA cost growth trends had continued. Repeal would reverse these gains and shift costs to seniors who simply cannot afford it.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans say they are fiscally responsible and that government spending is out of control, but today they will vote to add $3 trillion in the deficit with their repeal bill. Their assault is not logical. I urge all Members to vote against this GOP hypocrisy.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), one of the distinguished members of the Rules Committee.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about free speech. There is not one thing in this rules package that interferes with any Member’s right of free speech. In fact, what it does is guarantee our right of free speech because it provides a way for disciplining people who violate the rules of decorum. Every time one of us breaks the rules of decorum, we rob the right of free speech from other Members.

The rules of decorum are not new. They go back to the beginning of our constitutional government in Mr. Jefferson’s Manual. As technology has proceeded in this world, our rules have kept up. We haven’t created any new sanction. We created a new way to make the sanction be effective. With new affirmative sanctions, we cannot have free speech on this floor. Every Member of this House should be concerned about maintaining the decorum of the House.

The package also contains very important provisions, such as removing outdated references to physical mobility, codifying that those Members who cannot stand due to age, infirmity, or disability are not required to do so.

The package provides that by December 31, 2017, each bill, joint resolution, or amendment in the nature of a substitute will have a searchable, comparative print that shows how the proposed legislation will change current
law. This will enhance transparency in our process so that Members and the general public will know what we are doing.

The package contains a provision championed by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), a provision that restores the Holman rule to the House. This provision, which lasted almost a century, until it was removed in 1983, will allow the Congress to easily reform the Federal Government and cut down on bureaucracy.

I was pleased the rules package also includes an important effort to address unauthorized appropriations, an issue I have championed as a member of the Rules Committee. I think it is very important for Congress to appropriate money to any Federal agency that has not gone through the appropriations process or has seen their authorization expire.

Thanks to provisions included in this package, it is my hope that each of our standing committees will make a better effort to address unauthorized programs and ensure that Congress is providing diligent oversight of the Federal bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, the American people sent this body to this body to make real changes on their behalf. We must adopt these rules today so that we can go about the people’s business. I urge my colleagues to support these rules so the House can address the many important issues awaiting our attention so that we can all, each and every one of us, have real free speech.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from Alabama, as much as I appreciate his enthusiasm, what he is proposing here—and I say this to my dear friend from Texas as well—with respect to speech, would be unprecedented, unconstitutional, and unnecessary.

It is unprecedented. You heard Representative HOYER review this earlier. The Parliamentarian has researched this. Shame on this House of Representatives for imposing these kind of restrictions on its Members.

It is unconstitutional because it directly violates Article I, section 6 of the Constitution where it specifically says, with respect to speech and debate, that those shouldn’t be impeded in the House. And this rule does that. It also says, with respect to one’s salary, which this rule specifically goes after, if you tamper with the salary, that can only be done through the law. It is in the Constitution. That requires both Chambers and the President to do that. That rule is blatant.

What it does also is ignore hundreds of petitions from all across the country from people who only ask for a vote. And that is why this rule is unnecessary.

All we have asked for is a vote.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee has a number of bright and able young, new members. One of them is a brand new member of our Republican leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the rules of the House for the 115th Congress. In fact, let’s just look at it and say that this package benefited from thorough discussion within the Republican Conference and thoughtful debate strengthened this resolution, as we adopted cogent amendments offered by several members of our conference.

As a member of the House Rules Committee, I have seen how strong, smart rules promote the effectiveness of this body as we work on behalf of 320 million Americans.

The rules for the 115th Congress govern the House of Representatives, and this package also reminds us of our priority. Therefore, this resolution works to make legislation easier for everyday Americans to access and understand. It also updates outdated policies so that our rules better reflect the realities of today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these rules. As we embark on a new Congress, it is critical that we begin under the guidance of documents that emphasize and improve our service to every American and move forward with a better future and a brighter tomorrow as we look forward to the proper role of this body.

When we look to the role of this body, people are watching. Our voice is heard above the fray. Fear not, for anyone to say different is just making a political show of a good set of rules.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 5.

This rules package contains a special provision exempting the Affordable Care Act from normal budget rules, giving the Republicans an easier path to repealing the Affordable Care Act without an alternative.

The reason this exception is needed is because the regular budget process in the rule provides that, when legislation is passed which increases spending, it must be paid for to avoid increasing the deficit.

We should not facilitate that debacle by granting this exemption found in the rule, which would add billions to the deficit and jeopardize lifesaving insurance coverage for tens of millions of hardworking Americans.

We should vote “no” on this rule.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), one of our bright, young members of the Rules Committee.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, adopting the rules of the House is not a non-partisan exercise, but it is a critically important undertaking that will allow the new, unified Republican government to do the job the American people elected us to do. By adopting these rules, we demonstrate that House Republicans are committed to enacting an agenda that will install conservative, free-market principles to grow our economy, restore prosperity, and increase opportunities for all Americans.

H. Res. 5 takes important steps toward achieving these goals and will provide increased transparency, enhance accountability, and will build on previous efforts by Republicans to streamline the process. This is a fair package that will empower Members and allow all voices to be heard, regardless of status or seniority.

The House should serve as a model for the rest of the country on the fair and equal treatment of all Americans, and this package eliminates outdated rules to adequately address the physical needs of all Members.

This year marks an impetus on congressional oversight, maintains decorum, slows the growth of unauthorized appropriations, ensures
mechanisms are in place to control spending, reduces redundancy in the Federal Government, and lowers the national debt.

Now is the time to lead the country out of years of historic economic stagnation, roll back years of job-killing regulation, return to a system of limited government, and reform the way Congress works.

As we begin this Congress, I look forward to working with my House and Senate colleagues, the incoming President, and the American people to reign in a Federal bureaucracy, provide oversight to agencies, restore the proper balance of powers, and reestablish a "government of the people, by the people, for the people.")

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 and 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES).

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, for 8 years, House Republicans have governed under the philosophy: obstruction today, obstruction tomorrow, obstruction forever.

This irresponsible approach to governance has now resulted in a Republican Congress and Majority here in Washington, DC. The culture of obstruction has ended, but the culture of destruction is just getting started. House Republicans plan to destroy Social Security, destroy Medicare, destroy the Affordable Care Act, destroy the social safety net, and destroy the ability of duly elected Members of the House of Representatives to vigorously engage in speech and debate in the people's House.

This proposed set of rules is unfair, unjust, unacceptable, unconstitutional, and unconscionable. Every Member who truly cares about doing the people's business should vote it down.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from dozens of legal scholars expressing their strong concerns with the language in H. Res. 5 that permits the Sergeant at Arms to punish and fine Members of the House. January 3, 2017.


Mr. Speaker, I rise in protest of the procedures and policies for these rules changes.

The changes would give an administrative officer the power to do what no single Member of Congress could do—act alone to punish and fine another Member. The unprecedented delegation of systematic authority to assess fines to officers of the House—in this case the Sergeant at Arms and the Chief Administrative Officer—removes the power from where it belongs: the Members themselves acting as a body. Article I, Section 5 of the Constitution provides that "Each House may punish its Members for disorderly or disruptive conduct in the Chamber." Which conduct is deemed subject to House Ethics Committee review.

The amendments also authorize the Speaker to fine Members for still photography, audio or visual recording, and the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Committee on Ethics, and the Chief Administrative Officer to establish implementing procedures and policies for these rules changes.

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The Supreme Court held in Powell v. McCormack, 395 U.S. 496 (1969) that this type of constitutional authority cannot be used to abrogate other parts of the Constitution.

The unprecedented delegation of the House punishment power to an administrative officer is designed to restrict activity that is at the core of the First Amendment freedom of speech, and the Members' rights under the First Amendment, Clause II, Article I. The rules would sharply limit the ability of Members to video record proceedings on the House floor, offending the spirit if not the text of constitutional requirements. In this regard, we would note that federal courts have previously held there is a First Amendment right to video record city council meetings and that similar governmental rules include a number of potentially vague or overbroad terms (e.g., "use of an exhibit to impede" and "denial of legislative instructional rights"—the fine device for the constitution of the process concerns. The fact that the proposed rules would amend late last evening to allow a limited appeal to the Ethics Committee—a provision providing that a Member, officer or employee of the House may not engage in "disorderly or disruptive conduct in the Chamber," which such conduct is deemed subject to House Ethics Committee review.

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January 3, 2017

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H21

State University College of Law; Julie Seaman, Associate Professor of Law Emory University School of Law; David B. Cruz, Professor of Law, University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

Sanford Levinson, W. St. John Garwood and W. St. John Garwood Jr. Centennial Chair in Law, University of Texas Law School; Shira A. Dvoskin, Professor of Law, Michigan State University College of Law; Robert K. Mergenthaler, Frank G. Haggin Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School; Peter M. Shane, Jacob E. Davis & Jacob E. Davis II Chair in Law, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law; Joseph P. Tomain, Dean Emeritus and the Wilbert & Helen Ziegler Professor of Law, University of Cincinnati College of Law; Suzianne D. Painter-Thorne, Associate Professor of Law, Mercer Law.

Mike Steenbell, Bell Distinguished Professor of Law, Mitchell I Hamline School of Law; Deborah Pearlstein, Associate Professor of Constitutional Law, Cardozo School of Law; William D. Rich, Associate Professor of Law, University of Akron School of Law; Gregory P. Magarian, Professor of Law, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law; Dakota S. Radeish, Associate Professor, Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the majority in the House today. Why would you choose to open this session of this most democratic body, the people's House, by imposing punitive measures to gag debate and reduce accountability and transparency in our government?

Many of you say it is outrage at the sit-in that has brought these rules. The sit-in was one demonstration, borne of frustration from the carnage that was going unanswered by the House majority, to plead, to take a vote on two commonsense, bipartisan bills. Is that so threatening that in response we have these draconian measures?

The stunning silence of Republicans in this House in the face of the public health crisis of gun violence is now met with these unprecedented rules. We can both uphold the Constitution and give voice to the American people. These rules should be rescinded, and that is what we should do.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 5. Here is a body in this rule change, and I ask that the Members vote "no" on H. Res. 5.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) to discuss our motion to commit.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, not just my colleague but my classmate. We came to the Congress together in 1987. I want to thank her for her leadership. I want to thank her for never giving up or giving in but for keeping the faith. Now, I know that well often, but I come because I remember reading someplace that Benjamin Franklin, a Founder of this Nation, once said, "It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority and he made sure the right to dissent is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. So today I rise to question the right of House Republicans to institute fines which may violate the First Amendment and have a chilling effect on Members who disagree with the proceedings of this body.

House leadership denied the will of the people to bring strong gun violence legislation to the floor. As a last resort, we staged a sit-in here in the well to give voice to their mandate. As Members of Congress, we have a sworn duty to speak up and to speak out if we do not believe the action of this body represents the will of all Americans.

We should never, ever give up the right to protest for what is right, what is good, and what is necessary. We were elected to stand on the courage of our convictions, not merely to run and hide. We must use our voices, our voices, and the power vested in us by the people of this Nation to speak the truth as we see it, regardless of the penalties.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I am not afraid of a fine. I have been fined before. Many of us have been fined before. During the 1960s, I was arrested and jailed 40 times, beaten, left bloody and unconscious on the march from Selma to Montgomery. But no Congress, no body to the power to tell us that we cannot stand up, speak up, and speak truth to power. We have a right to dissent. We have a right to protest for what is right.

Regardless of rule or no rule, we cannot and will not be cowed. At the end of this debate, I will offer a motion to strike the section that silences the call for gun violence prevention.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I also oppose this rule as an infringement on Members' rights to express themselves. The rule says that, if you take a photograph, the Sergeant at Arms can dock your pay and find you guilty without a hearing. Well, that is wrong. And the next step would be you can't take a sketch of what is happening and publish that sketch. And the next thing after that would be you can't take notes and repeat what is spoken in this House.

This proposal is a direct response to JOHN LEWIS. Mr. Lewis is an American hero. He is the most heroic person to serve in this House maybe ever, and don't forget this is an attack on him for doing what he calls good trouble.

When the civil rights leader and African Americans couldn't vote, he went to Selma and he marched, and he was beaten and he was arrested. And he led his Democrats on the floor when we tried to find a way to get a vote through the regular order no fly, no buy. If you were a terrorist on the terrorist list, you could not get a gun.

JOHN LEWIS is trying to protect America once again and taking to the floor of this House in protest. It is wrong. I support JOHN LEWIS. I applaud the gentleman for taking his ethics proposal and ditching it. It was the wrong optics and the wrong thing to do. This is, too.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader of whom we are extremely proud.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I join our colleague Mr. LEWIS in praising the gentlewoman's leadership as ranking member, formerly chair, of the Committee on Rules.

It is an honor to serve in this House. Every day we step foot on the floor is an exciting moment because we have been sent here by our constituents to represent, as I said earlier, their hopes and their hurts. To serve with John Lewis is something beyond a privilege. To call him colleague is something that is an honor for all of us. To call him friend is a joy in our lives.

I thank Mr. Lewis for his leadership on so many issues, but for speaking out so consistently on this public health issue of gun violence in our country, we could not be better served. When, in fact, the sit-in on the floor occurred under his leadership and with his inspiration, the leadership on the Republican side said it is a publicity stunt. Well, that is wrong. And the next step would be you can't take a sketch of what is happening and publish that sketch. It is not a publicity stunt. It is about conveying truth to
the American people. And that is exactly what the Republican leadership does not want the American people to hear: the truth about obstacles to legislation coming to the floor that would reduce gun violence in our country.

So with this rule that has come to the floor that is outrageous in so many ways. Some ways are very esoteric and may mean nothing on first glance to the American people, but let me tell you a few things as to why you, as a person in our country, should be interested in what is happening on the floor today.

You would expect that, after an election that was so hard fought and so focused on the economic security and stability of America’s families, the first order of business would have been to say how can we find a bipartisan path to greater economic growth that creates jobs—good-paying jobs—increases salaries, and contributes to the financial stability of America’s working families?

There is, a perception that they will be able to buy a home, again address the aspirations of their children, whether that is at college or other training for the workforce, and also to retire with dignity.

Instead, we have a rule that starts, first, a proposal that was so outrageous that the Republicans even had to back off of it. Even the President-elect, Donald Trump, criticized the first actions of the Republicans in the House, so they backed off of that for that moment. For the moment they backed off their attempt to harm the way we deal with ethics violations in the Congress. We should be draining the swamp. They are backing off.

I am here because we are talking about, again, a big public health issue: gun violence in our country. When Members of Congress spoke and the response from the public was so great, Republicans decided that, in this rule today, they would do something so outrageous. It is a violation of freedom of speech on the House floor. It is an insult to the intelligence of the American people that they should not be able to hear this. It violates the Constitution by saying the Sergeant at Arms can take money out of your salary if he doesn’t like your behavior on the floor. It is absolutely ridiculous.

But our distinguished colleague from Georgia (Mr. Lewis) has spoken, as have other spokes to that point. I want to just go to another point, and it is a health issue as well, and that is what every family in America should be concerned about about what is happening in this rules package today.

I recently heard over the weekend from my friend that a grandchild of that family was diagnosed with leukemia—3 years old, diagnosed with leukemia. What does that mean and what does this rule mean to that child’s life? Well, this rule with a setup to overturn the Affordable Care Act. What the Affordable Care Act is doing for that child is to say you cannot be discriminated against because you have a pre-existing medical condition, which that child will have for life. Insurance companies cannot have limits on your annual or lifetime limits on what kind of benefits you can receive—you are 3 years old, a whole lifetime of benefits.

Up until you are 26 years old, you can be on your parent’s policy. That would be eliminated as well. The issues go on and on and that would affect that child.

If that child’s grandparent is on Medicare, how does it affect them? It means, in that regard, that they just can’t afford it, whether it is lifetime limits. Oh, we are going to keep up preexisting conditions. You are? At what cost and to whom? We would like to see that proposal. So far we haven’t. So for many reasons that are, as I say, too insignificant to baseball to go into.

Think about your own life, you out there who said: Keep your government hands off of my Medicare. They want to put their hands not only on your Medicare, but to squeeze the guarantee right out of it, the lifeblood of what Medicare is, a guarantee.

They want to block grant Medicaid. Do you understand that if you have a senior in your family who is in need of long-term health care, whether it is because of one physical disability or another? Like my paternal grandmother’s and Alzheimers. At least 50 percent of the benefits of Medicaid go to long-term health care?

So families in America who want them to overturn the Affordable Care Act, and all that that means for Medicare and Medicaid and their budget to boot, you are going to have Mom and Dad, as Richard Neal says, living in your house. You are going to be taking care of them right there and then. That may be a welcome sense of community to you or it may not. It may deprive you of opportunity that you want to provide for your children because of an ideological view of Republicans that we should not have Medicaid and Medicare, which are pillars of economic security in our families.

The very idea that in this bill they want to take mandatory money and turn it into discretionary money, subjecting it to the will of the Congress in terms of appropriations, says that they have their eye on Social Security as well. So be very, very vigilant, be very, very aware. I don’t want you to be very, very scared, but there is reason to be if the Republicans work their will based on the blueprint they have both in this bill, this rules package they are bringing to the floor, as well as what they have in their budget.

Even their nominee for President, Donald Trump, has dissociated himself—in the campaign anyway—from what they want to do to Medicare and Social Security and the rest. We will see how that holds up as we go forward. But you can be sure that the Democrats will have a big, bright, relentless spotlight on what is happening here because they are still out there and your families, whether it is a child who is sick, a worker who gets benefits in the workplace which now
will be diminished, or a senior citizen who relies on Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

There is a lot at stake. There is an ideological difference between Democrats and Republicans on these issues. I would hope everyone would be able to agree to disagree and find common ground on ways to address these issues. In order for the American people to weigh in, they have to know, which takes us back to what Mr. Lewis was talking about—they have to know. If it is the determination of this body that the Sergeant at Arms can effectively silence the voice of Members on the floor deducting a penalty from their paycheck, which is totally unconstitutional—but I guess that doesn’t matter to the devotees of the Constitution that what they are doing is unconstitutional—then how will the public know?

There is a method to this madness. It is not just about the sit-in on guns. As Ms. Slaughter mentioned, it is about what other ways they will deprive us of community programs, taking away the health care the American people rely on, not threatening their financial stability by undermining what they have paid into, systems that they have paid into, now being subjected to the whims of an ideological majority. I urge a “no” vote. I thank, again, our colleague, Mr. Lewis, for his extraordinary leadership over time and up to the minute today, and I look forward to following his lead as we go forward.

I thank the gentlewoman (Ms. Slaughter), our ranking member, for her leadership as well.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for a purpose of an unanimous consent request.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I oppose this rule because of what it does to Federal employees and to the rights of the elected Members of this body.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rules for the 115th Congress proposed by the Majority.

This rules package ushers in a new era of unified Republican government.

One in which facts—when inconvenient—do not matter and Members are subject to the interpretation of the Majority.

Freedom of speech—a right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution—has been redefined and curtailed by this resolution to accommodate the Majority’s crackdown on dissent.

Under a unified Republican government, witch hunts against federal employees and the agencies for which they work are empowered and encouraged.

The Psalmist has already engaged in a stunning overreach during his transition by demanding the names of federal employees and scientists who have worked on projects he dislikes.

We know the Majority would like to gut the functionality of the federal government. The dangerous and indiscriminate cuts of Sequestration are evidence enough of that.

However, this rules package provides them with the surgical tools necessary to reach into the inner workings of the federal government and cut at each part and employee that runs afoul of their ideological agenda.

I will oppose this resolution, and I cannot see how anyone who calls themselves a friend to federal employees could support the Majority’s proposed rules for the 115th Congress.

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

I include in the RECORD a description of the many troubling Republican rules changes in the House rules package for the 115th Congress.

H. Res. 5, the House rules package for the 115th Congress, contains a number of troubling provisions. Most concerning is that instead of taking action to address the gun violence epidemic, Republicans have responded to the Democratic sit-in of last June by instituting an offensive and possibly unconstitutional gag rule punishing Members who violate the Democratic sit-in on during the 115th Congress. H. Res. 5 authorizes the Sergeant at Arms to fine Members for the use of photographic and audio or visual recording devices on the floor. Fines are set at $500 for first offenses, $1,250 for each subsequent offense and the Chief Administrative Officer is instructed to deduct such fines from the Member’s salary.

The resolution also makes “disorderly or disruptive conduct” in the Chamber an offense for which Members and staff can be referred to the Ethics Committee. There are serious constitutional questions concerning whether fines can be deducted from Members’ pay, and whether the House can delegate the responsibility of Members to House officers, but most importantly this change has the potential to have a chilling effect that would silence the Minority party and the millions of citizens they represent.

H. Res. 5 will also dramatically expand the Republican Majority’s investigative powers, giving nearly every committee the ability to haul private citizens to Washington to be deposed by Republican staff. After spending six years demonstrating their eagerness to spend taxpayer money on wasteful, political projects with which Republicans disagree, perhaps most worrisome is the potential use of the Holman Rule to persecute career employees for doing their jobs during the Obama Administration.

H. Res. 5 also intentionally hides the cost of repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), by preemptively waiving the Majority’s own long-standing point of order against the direct spending on any ACA repeal legislation. The rules package extends a point of order against considering legislation that would increase direct spending by $5 billion or more in any of the four 10-year periods following the decade after passage of the legislation. Repealing the ACA will result in increased direct spending and would very likely violate this long-term spending point of order, so H. Res. 5 includes a carve-out exempting ACA repeal legislation from the point of order entirely.

On top of that, H. Res. 5 permits the Budget Chair to apply this waiver to any other legislation she wishes.

To add to the provision waiving the budgetary point of order against legislation repealing the ACA, an amendment to H. Res. 5 was adopted late last night that continues this Republican practice of disregarding fiscal responsibility by requiring the House to ignore the fiscal effects of the sale or transfer of Federal land to a State, local government, or tribal entity this time was included to simplify the process for authorizing the transfer of land, and would also apply to instances when direct spending component of the legislation is irrelevant such as a sale or transfer without knowing its total cost.
Democrats also find H. Res. 5’s change to the rules to make it easier for the Majority to continue its wasteful, taxpayer-funded lawsuits in future Congresses very unfortunate. This change takes the unprecedented step of providing blanket authority for the House, Speaker, or a committee chair to carry forward any litigation from the previous Congress. Previous rules packages had specified matters to be carried over, ensuring a level of transparency and review that will be absent following this rules change. This completely permits the Majority to more easily shield its abuse of the legal process from public scrutiny.

H. Res. 5 includes several rules changes that, while not necessarily problematic on their face, have the potential to be abused by the Majority. First, H. Res. 5 allows HB 92, the post-9/11ניוsometime where you might find a doctor, but not necessarily a good one. ObamaCare. Stanford University does not take ObamaCare. Stanford University School of Medicine in California does not take ObamaCare.

It is a discriminatory system. It is a system of personal property of the individual Members and, unlike Committee materials, are not records of the House. While this is a codification of a longstanding policy, the rule change could be exploited by the Majority to store materials in Member offices in order to circumvent requirements that they share House records with the Majority. Second, while not a concern in the 114th Congress, for example, in relation to the Republicans’ Planned Parenthood investigation. Moreover, this change could lend legitimacy to a defeated Member’s decision to refuse to hand over constituent casework files to his or her successor, which appears to have happened last year.

Democrats will monitor the Majority’s implementation of these new rules to ensure they are used to assist in the effective operation of the House. This is not to prevent Members of the Majority Party from representing and serving their constituents.

First, they were very concerned with the Republican Conference’s adoption of an amendment to the Rules package late last year that would have stripped the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) of its independence by placing it under the authority of the Ethics Committee, thereby eliminating its role as an effective Congressional watchdog. It would have effectively gutted the OCE by prohibiting it from investigating anonymous complaints, prohibiting it from having a role in the consent of the American people.

Democrats were very concerned about losing a vote. The Democrat majority certainly did not come under the rule that the barrel of ideas. And always remember that because you shut out the number of Congresspersons from being a part of what is happening here, that you are shutting out the voices of over half of the American public. Remember, too, that we did get a million more votes in the election previous to this one than you did, and we deserve to speak. Anyway, I want to make that as clear as I possibly can.

I urge a “no” vote on the previous question, and “no” on the motion to commit, and “no” on the resolution. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, for showing up today, not only for expressing their views. The Democrat majority certainly did show up and give us lots of things to think about, which is good. The new year deserves an opportunity for us to hear some of their thoughts and ideas. I will tell you that it went across the board.

I am still stunned that Republicans are blamed for the failures of ObamaCare when, in fact, it is ObamaCare that we are going to amend and we are going to change. Many of the people who came to the floor of the House today know that hundreds—well, tens of hundreds of children’s hospitals across the country won’t take ObamaCare. Stanford University School of Medicine in California does not take ObamaCare.

It is a system of mutual respect for each other, discipline of rules and order and procedures, mutual respect for each other, the opportunity to hear and be heard, but, really, the opportunity with an open process, a process that is given to the minority and one that is given to the majority.

Any rule that has been promulgated in this body is not done on a partisan basis because, see, my majority has people who disagree with necessarily some in our party, too. We did not try and stop anybody from voicing what they would voice, but a rule of decorum has been placed upon that. That is what separates this body from any other bodies in the world, and that is what will continue to gain the admiration not only of the American people, but people around the world. It is something that I cherish and I believe that must happen.

Mr. COHEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COHEN. Under the rule, if I took a still photograph of just an individual—of a friend—on the floor, would it not come under the rule that the Sergeant at Arms would then be directed to fine me $500 even though there was no question about decorum being in jeopardy?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, in reclaiming my time, I would like to read to the gentleman what is the statement:
The use of personal electronic footage not only breaches decorum but provides an avenue to exploit official business for political and personal gain.

If that is personal gain, it would not be allowed.

House video footage can be used for news or public affairs programs but is prohibited from being used for commercial or political purposes.

I would encourage the gentleman, as I would if this were a pending violation or something else—we have lots of people who are members of the Sergeant at Arms—to go grab your favorite individuals with the Sergeant at Arms and review with them the things which you believe would be in the context of how that Member would come in. Inasmuch as just a picture would be taken, they may say, “but not with a flash.” If it were disruptive, then I would consider that to be a violation. If it were taken in the back and with no one else around, I can’t tell the gentleman as I am not the officer in charge of that; but they are trained in this, and they have been trained very well.

I do appreciate the gentleman’s asking. I hope he suggests that the gentleman ask that question based upon his own usage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this package.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on strong opposition to H. Res. 5, the Rules Package for the 115th Congress, because it will require unprecedented changes to the Standing Rules and cost the American people countless dollars through direct spending and drastic and unnecessary deficit increase.

I am deeply concerned by House Republicans’ decision in the dead of night to strip constituents and hide the true cost of their shameless efforts to cost the American people through bipartisan action, including making serious and unprecedented change to the Medicare guarantee.

The potential chilling effect of these rules changes raises serious First Amendment concerns.

The Rules package makes another dangerous and unprecedented change to the House rules by introducing H. Res. 5, which extends a point of order against considering legislation that would increase direct spending by $5 billion or more in any of the four 10-year periods following the decade after passage of the legislation.

Despite the widely acknowledged fact that repeal of the ACA would result in increased direct spending, H. Res. 5 also includes a preventative waiver of this point of order for any legislation repealing or reforming the ACA.

The resolution also gives the chair of the Budget Committee the power to apply this waiver to any other legislation she or he wishes.

House Republicans could have found willing partners among Democrats to increase transparency and renew faith in government through bipartisan action, including making possible improvements to the Office of Congressional Ethics and the way Congress polices itself and maintains the highest standards of integrity among its Members.

Instead they chose this shameful move, which is an indication of their priorities for the new Congress.

When House Republicans take steps to decrease accountability and make it harder to reveal partisan driven and unethical behavior, the public ought to question why.

House Democrats will continue to fight for the Affordable Care Act, even though such repeal would significantly increase the deficit and directly affect millions of Americans.

In order to move forward with repealing the ACA, House Republicans are preemptively waiving their own long-term direct spending point of order.

Trust in our institutions, including Congress, is already at record lows.

Worsening the damage they are doing to the House as an institution, the Republicans have proposed this change without any hearings or input from Democratic Members late in the evening, less than twenty-four hours before it would be voted on.

H. Res. 5 authorizes the Sergeant-at-Arms to impose fines on Members for use of photographic, audio or visual recording devices on the floor and in the Rules Committee.

Fines are set at $500 for a first offense and $2,500 for each subsequent offense.

The Chief Administrative Officer is instructed to deduct such fines from the Member’s salary.

There are serious constitutional questions concerning whether fines can be deducted from Members’ pay, and whether the House can delegate the responsibility of punishing Members to House officers.

The resolution discusses “disorderly or disruptive conduct” in the Chamber an offense for which Members and staff can be referred to the Ethics Committee.

The potential chilling effect of these rules changes raises serious First Amendment concerns.

The material previously referred to Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

An Amendment to H. Res. 5 Offered by Ms. SLAUGHTER of NEW YORK

At the end of section 2, add the following new subsection:

(u) RESTRICTIONS ON CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.—Rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

(1) The denial of health insurance coverage to individuals on the basis that such individuals have a pre-existing condition or a requirement for individuals with such pre-existing condition to pay more for premiums on the basis of such individuals having such pre-existing condition.

(2) The elimination of the prohibition on life time limits on the dollar value of health insurance coverage benefits.

(3) The reduction in the number of people receiving health plan coverage pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

(4) The reduction in the number of people receiving health plan coverage pursuant to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

(5) An increased cost to seniors for prescription drug coverage pursuant to any changes to provisions closing the Medicare prescription drug "donut hole.

(6) The requirement that individuals pay for preventive services, such as for mammography, health screening, and contraceptive services.

(7) The reduction of Medicare solvency or any changes to the Medicare guarantee.

(8) The reduction of Federal taxes on the 1 percent of the population with the highest income or increase the tax burden (expressed as a percent of aggregate Federal taxes) on the 80 percent of the population with the lowest income.

(9) It shall not be in order to consider a rule or order that waives the application of paragraph (a) or paragraph (b), as disposition of a point of order under this paragraph, the Chair shall put the question of consideration with respect to the rule or order, as applicable. The question of consideration shall be debatable for 10 minutes by the Member initiating the point of order and for 10 minutes by an opponent, but shall otherwise be decided without intervening motion except on that the House adjourn.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

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

Mr. Clarence Carroll’s Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question, the opposition has a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker’s ruling of January 13, 1928, to the effect that “the refusal of the Majority to offer a rule resolution the control of the resolution to the opposition” in order to offer an amendment. On March 18, 1899, a member of the minority offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, who was in the minority. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused,
the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzger-
ald, who had asked the gentleman to
yield to him, an amendment, is entitled to
the first recognition.

The Republican majority may say “the
vote on the previous question is simply a
vote on whether to proceed to an im-
mediate vote on adopting the resolution. . . .
[and] has no substantive legislative or policy im-
pl ications whatsoever.” But that is not what
they have always said. Listen to the Repub-
lican Leadership Manual on the Legislative
Process in the United States House of Rep-
how the Republicans describe the previous
vote question in their own manual: “Al-
ation’s agenda and allows those with alter-

ative views the opportunity to offer an al-
mend-ment to the rule, or yield for the pur-
pose of amendment. That Member, because he
then controls the time, may offer an amend-
ment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of
amendment.”

In DeScher’s Procedure in the U.S. House
of Representatives, the subchapter titled
“Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal of
Representatives, the subchapter titled
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ment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of
amendment.”
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). The Chair would ask Members to observe proper decorum within the Chamber.

Mr. NUNES changed his vote from "yea" to "nay." So the motion to commit was rejected.

The result of the vote was as above recorded.

The question is on the resolution.

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

NAYS—193

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 234, nays 171, not voting—4.
Mr. ZINKE changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE
A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

S. Res. 2
Resolved, That the Senate recommends that the House of Representatives consider:
S. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that a quorum of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies was ready to proceed to business.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:
S. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent Resolution extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.
S. Con. Res. 2. Concurrent Resolution to provide for the counting on January 6, 2023, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is indicating?

The Speaker. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CROWLEY. My understanding is, the more money you have, the more free speech you have in this country: Is that what the Chair is indicating?

The Speaker. The more money you have, the more free speech you have in this country: Is that what you are saying?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CROWLEY. My understanding is, the more money you have, the more free speech you have. Is that what the Chair is indicating?

The Speaker. The more money you have, the more free speech you have in this country: Is that what you are saying?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Gentleman from New York will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CROWLEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:
(1) COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.—Mr. Lowey.
(2) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. Yarmuth.
(3) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE.—Mr. Scott of Virginia.
(4) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Mr. Polis.
(5) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Ms. Perlmutter.
(6) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Mr. McGovern.
(7) COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—Ms. Slaughter.
(8) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Mr. Thompson of Mississippi.
(9) COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES.—Mr. Drischler.
(10) COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS.—Mr. Foxx, Chair.
(11) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Ms. Clarke, Chair.
(12) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Mr. Posey, Chair.
REGARDING CONSENT TO ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 1

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That pursuant to clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, during the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or the Senate’s designee, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, may notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to assemble at a place outside the District of Columbia if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN MINORITY EMPLOYEES

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Fixing the Daily Hour of Meeting of the First Session of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 9

Resolved, That pursuant to the Legislative Pay Act of 1929, as amended, the six minority employees authorized therein shall be the following named persons, effective January 3, 2017, until otherwise ordered by the House, to wit: Nadeam Elshami, George Kundanis, Diane Dewhirst, Richard Meltzer, Wyndee Parker, and Drew Hammill, each to receive gross compensation pursuant to the provisions of House Resolution 119, Ninety-fifth Congress, as enacted into permanent law by section 115 of Public Law 95-94. In addition, the Minority Leader may appoint and set the annual rate of pay for up to 3 further minority employees.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Authorizing Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader to Accept Resignations and Make Appointments During the 115th Congress

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during the 115th Congress, the Speaker, majority leader, and minority leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

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

There was no objection.

Granting Members Permission to Extend Remarks and Include Extrinsic Material in the Congressional Record During the 115th Congress

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during the 115th Congress, all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material within the permitted limit in that section of the RECORD entitled ‘‘Extensions of Remarks.’’

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

There was no objection.

Making in Order Morning-Hour Debate

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during the first session of the 115th Congress:

1. on legislative days of Monday or Tuesday when the House convenes pursuant to House Resolution 9, the House shall convene 2 hours earlier than the time otherwise established by the resolution for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate;

2. on legislative days of Wednesday or Thursday when the House convenes pursuant to House Resolution 9, the House shall convene 2 hours earlier than the time otherwise established by the resolution for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate;

3. when the House convenes pursuant to an order other than House Resolution 9, the House shall convene for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate only as prescribed by such order;

4. the time for morning-hour debate shall be allocated equally between the parties and may not continue beyond 10 minutes before the hour appointed for the resumption of the session of the House; and

5. the form of proceeding for morning-hour debate shall be as follows:

(a) the prayer by the Chaplain, the approval of the Journal and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag shall be postponed until resumption of the session of the House;

(b) initial and subsequent recognitions for debate shall alternate between the parties;

(c) recognition shall be conferred by the Speaker only pursuant to lists submitted by the majority leader and by the minority leader;

(d) no Member may address the House for longer than 5 minutes, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip;

(e) no legislative business shall be in order except the filing of privileged reports; and

(f) following morning-hour debate, the Chair shall declare a recess pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I until the time appointed for the resumption of the session of the House; and

6. the Speaker may dispense with morning-hour debate upon receipt of a notification described in clause 12(c) of rule I, or upon a change in reconvening pursuant to clause 12(e) of rule I, and notify Members accordingly.

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

There was no objection.

Announcement by the Speaker Pro Tempore

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 27) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain a copy of
any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the Department in the permanent record of the employee.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 27

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

SECTION 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act”.

SECTION 2. Retention of Records of Reprimands and Admonishments Received by Employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. (a) In general. This Act amends title 38, United States Code, by adding at the end the following new section:

“§719. Record of reprimands and admonishments

If any employee of the Department receives a reprimand or admonishment, the Secretary shall retain a copy of such reprimand or admonishment in the permanent record of the employee as long as the employee is employed by the Department.”.

(b) Clerical amendment.—The table of sections at the beginning of this chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“719. Record of reprimands and admonishments.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. Roe) and the gentleman from California (Mr. Takano) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. Roe of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add current material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. Roe of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 27, the Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act.

Mr. Speaker, one of my top priorities this Congress as the new chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is to ensure we give the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs the tools he or she will need to swiftly and effectively discipline poor-performing employees at the VA.

I firmly believe that all other needed reforms are destined to fail if we don’t help VA managers who are trapped in an antiquated civil service system to do their job.

Mr. Speaker, currently, if a VA employee is either reprimanded or admonished for their performance, all records of those adverse punishments are removed from the employee’s personnel file within 3 years for a reprimand and 2 years for an admonishment.

Although I support this bill, I want to address concerns raised by the American Federation of Government Employees and include this letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

NEXT PAGE
Thank you for considering our views on this bill. Sincerely,

Marilyn Park
Legislative Representative

Mr. TAKANO, Mr. Speaker, I share these concerns and intend to work with my colleagues across the aisle and in the Senate to ensure that if this bill passes into law, the change will not adversely impact whistleblowers, the thousands of veterans employed by the VA, and the VA employees who work hard every day to support the needs of our Nation’s veterans.

Whistleblowers and employees who face unlawful retaliation from managers should have the opportunity to clear their names before any proposed admonishments or reprimands are made permanent in their records. I also want to clarify that this bill should not be used to eliminate the VA’s ability to enter into clear record settlement agreements with employees or get in the way of resolving personnel matters in an efficient manner.

In our efforts to enhance personnel policies at the VA, it is important that we remember that one-third of VA employees are themselves veterans; many more have immediate family members who are veterans. Many of these employees are also hardworking doctors and nurses who want to provide quality care for their patients. These Federal civil servants want to do a good job in order to provide veterans the best possible service, and this bill does not impose any new employee penalties or affect the existing due process rights for a VA employee to appeal a disciplinary action in any manner whatsoever.

The goal is simply to ensure our veterans are receiving the best possible care from our government and that these employees who do wrong or perform poorly do not have it swept under the rug and then disappear after a few years. I thank the staff on the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs for their work on this bill, especially Jon Clark and Kelsey Baron, and look forward to the leadership of Chairman Roe in this session of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Mr. TAKANO, Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 27.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## BIOLOGICAL IMPLANT TRACKING AND VETERAN SAFETY ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 28) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a unique device identification system for tracking the biological implants used in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “Biological Implant Tracking and Veteran Safety Act of 2017”.

### SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING OF BIOLOGICAL IMPLANTS USED IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES

(a) In General.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 7330C. Identification and tracking of biological implants

(1) STANDARD IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR BIOLOGICAL IMPLANTS.—(A) The Secretary shall adopt the unique device identification system developed for medical devices by the Food and Drug Administration under section 519(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360i(f)), or implement a comparable standard identification system, for use in identifying biological implants in implantable medical devices by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) Effect of reference to section 519(f).—Nothing in subsection (A) shall be construed to require the Secretary to adopt or implement the identification system described in subsection (a) in a manner that would adversely impact whistleblowers, the rug and then disappear after a few years. I thank the staff on the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs for their work on this bill, especially Jon Clark and Kelsey Baron, and look forward to the leadership of Chairman Roe in this session of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Mr. TAKANO, Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 27.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## BIOLOGICAL IMPLANT TRACKING AND VETERAN SAFETY ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 28) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a unique device identification system for tracking the biological implants used in medical facilities of the Department, a bio-

### (c) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall adopt the unique device identification system described in subsection (a) by no later than January 3, 2018, and shall ensure that the system is in full operation by January 3, 2019. (2) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may make exceptions to the deadlines described in paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines such exceptions are necessary to ensure the safe and effective use of biological implants.

(c) CONSISTENCY WITH FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS.—To the extent that a conflict arises between this Act and a provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) or section 519(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or any provision of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201(h)) or the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or Public Health Service Act (including any regulations issued under such provisions), the provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or Public Health Service Act (including any regulations issued under such provisions) shall apply.

### (d) BIOLOGICAL IMPLANT DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘biological implant’ means any biological product, whether human, animal, cell, tissue, or organ product—

(1) under the meaning given the term ‘biological product’ in section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) or 361 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360b) (including any regulations issued under such provisions), the title 38 code of federal regulations, or any successor regulations issued under such provisions), the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(h)));

(b) CEREC AMENDMENT.—The table of provisions at the beginning of this Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7330B the following new item:

"7330C. Identification and tracking of biological implants.’’
implement the standard identification system for biological implants required by subsection (a) of section 7330C of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), with respect to biological implants described in—

(A) subsection (d)(1) of such section, by not later than the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) of such section, in compliance with the compliance dates established by the Food and Drug Administration under section 515(f) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360d(f)).

(2) TRACKING SYSTEM.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement the biological implant tracking system required by section (a) of such title, as added by subsection (a), by not later than the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the biological implant tracking system required by section 7330C(b) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), is not operational by the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report explaining why the system is not operational for each month until such time as the system is operational.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

(A) Each impediment to the implementation of the system described in such paragraph;

(B) Steps being taken to remediate each such impediment;

(C) Target dates for a solution to each such impediment.

SEC. 3. PROCUREMENT OF BIOLOGICAL IMPLANTS USED IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES.

(a) PROCUREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"8129. Procurement of biological implants

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may procure biological implants of human origin only from vendors that meet the following conditions:

"(1) The vendor uses the standard identification system adopted or implemented by the Secretary under section 7330C(a) of this title and has safeguards to ensure that a distinct identifier has been in place at each step of distribution of each biological implant from its donor.

"(2) The vendor is registered as required by the Food and Drug Administration under part B of part 1271 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, for a tissue distribution intermediary or a tissue processor, the vendor provides assurances that the tissue distribution intermediary or tissue processor is registered as required by the Food and Drug Administration.

"(3) The vendor ensures that donor eligibility determinations and other records as the Secretary may require accompany each biological implant at all times, regardless of the country of origin of the donor of the biological material.

"(4) The vendor agrees to cooperate with all biological implant recalls conducted on the initiative of the vendor, on the initiative of the original product manufacturer used by the vendor, by the request of the Food and Drug Administration, or by a statutory order of the Food and Drug Administration.

"(b) VENDOR REPORT.—(1) The vendor agrees to notify the Secretary of any adverse event or reaction report it provides to the Food and Drug Administration, as required by sections 1271.3 and 1271.350 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, or any warning letter from the Food and Drug Administration issued to the vendor or a tissue processor, if such records are used by the vendor by not later than 60 days after the vendor receives such report or warning letter.

"(E) The vendor agrees to retain all records associated with the procurement of a biological implant by the Department for at least 10 years after the date of the procurement of the biological implant, to retain the records of the biological implant, and to retain the records of the material used to manufacture such implant, including the use of a national contract.

"(4) In procuring biological implants under this section, the Secretary shall permit a vendor to use any of the accredited entities identified by the Food and Drug Administration and listed on the Federal Supply Schedule of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including through the use of a national contract.

"(b) PENALTIES.—In addition to any applicable penalty under any other provision of law, a vendor who fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be ineligible to hold a certificate of appointment as a contracting officer or to serve as the representative of an ordering officer, contracting officer, or purchase card holder.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) The term ‘biological implant’ has the meaning given that term in section 7330C(d) of this title.

"(2) The term ‘distinct identifier’ means a distinct identification code, from the donor to the recipient and from the recipient to the donor; any such requirements of this Act and the requirements of any successor regulation (or is not required to register pursuant to section 807.65(a) of such title, or any successor regulation), and in the case of a vendor that is not the original product manufacturer of such implants, the vendor provides assurances that the original product manufacturer is registered as required by the Food and Drug Administration (or is not required to register).

"(C) The vendor agrees to cooperate with all biological implant recalls conducted on the initiative of the vendor, on the initiative of the original product manufacturer used by the vendor, by the request of the Food and Drug Administration, or by a statutory order of the Food and Drug Administration.

"(D) The vendor agrees to notify the Secretary of any adverse event report it provides to the Food and Drug Administration, as required by section 7330C of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2(a), of any successor regulation, or any warning letter from the Food and Drug Administration issued to the vendor or the original product manufacturer used by the vendor by not later than 60 days after the vendor receives such report or warning letter.

"(E) The vendor agrees to retain all records associated with the procurement of a biological implant by the Department for at least 10 years after the date of the procurement of the biological implant, to retain the records of the biological implant, and to retain the records of the material used to manufacture such implant, including the use of a national contract.

"(4) In procuring biological implants under this section, the Secretary shall permit a vendor to use any of the accredited entities identified by the Food and Drug Administration and listed on the Federal Supply Schedule of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including through the use of a national contract.

"(b) PENALTIES.—In addition to any applicable penalty under any other provision of law, a vendor who fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be ineligible to hold a certificate of appointment as a contracting officer or to serve as the representative of an ordering officer, contracting officer, or purchase card holder.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) The term ‘biological implant’ has the meaning given that term in section 7330C(d) of this title.

"(2) The term ‘distinct identifier’ means a distinct identification code, from the donor to the recipient and from the recipient to the donor; any such requirements of this Act and the requirements of any successor regulation (or is not required to register pursuant to section 807.65(a) of such title, or any successor regulation), and in the case of a vendor that is not the original product manufacturer of such implants, the vendor provides assurances that the original product manufacturer is registered as required by the Food and Drug Administration (or is not required to register).

"(C) The vendor agrees to cooperate with all biological implant recalls conducted on the initiative of the vendor, on the initiative of the original product manufacturer used by the vendor, by the request of the Food and Drug Administration, or by a statutory order of the Food and Drug Administration.

"(D) The vendor agrees to notify the Secretary of any adverse event report it provides to the Food and Drug Administration, as required by section 7330C of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2(a), of any successor regulation, or any warning letter from the Food and Drug Administration issued to the vendor or the original product manufacturer used by the vendor by not later than 60 days after the vendor receives such report or warning letter.

"(E) The vendor agrees to retain all records associated with the procurement of a biological implant by the Department for at least 10 years after the date of the procurement of the biological implant, to retain the records of the biological implant, and to retain the records of the material used to manufacture such implant, including the use of a national contract.

"(4) In procuring biological implants under this section, the Secretary shall permit a vendor to use any of the accredited entities identified by the Food and Drug Administration and listed on the Federal Supply Schedule of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including through the use of a national contract.

"(b) PENALTIES.—In addition to any applicable penalty under any other provision of law, a vendor who fails to comply with the requirements of this section shall be ineligible to hold a certificate of appointment as a contracting officer or to serve as the representative of an ordering officer, contracting officer, or purchase card holder.

"(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) The term ‘biological implant’ has the meaning given that term in section 7330C(d) of this title.

"(2) The term ‘distinct identifier’ means a distinct identification code, from the donor to the recipient and from the recipient to the donor; any such requirements of this Act and the requirements of any successor regulation (or is not required to register pursuant to section 807.65(a) of such title, or any successor regulation), and in the case of a vendor that is not the original product manufacturer of such implants, the vendor provides assurances that the original product manufacturer is registered as required by the Food and Drug Administration (or is not required to register).

"(C) The vendor agrees to cooperate with all biological implant recalls conducted on the initiative of the vendor, on the initiative of the original product manufacturer used by the vendor, by the request of the Food and Drug Administration, or by a statutory order of the Food and Drug Administration.

"(D) The vendor agrees to notify the Secretary of any adverse event report it provides to the Food and Drug Administration, as required by section 7330C of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2(a), of any successor regulation, or any warning letter from the Food and Drug Administration issued to the vendor or the original product manufacturer used by the vendor by not later than 60 days after the vendor receives such report or warning letter.

"(E) The vendor agrees to retain all records associated with the procurement of a biological implant by the Department for at least 10 years after the date of the procurement of the biological implant, to retain the records of the biological implant, and to retain the records of the material used to manufacture such implant, including the use of a national contract.

"(4) In procuring biological implants under this section, the Secretary shall permit a vendor to use any of the accredited entities identified by the Food and Drug Administration and listed on the Federal Supply Schedule of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, including through the use of a national contract.
Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 28, the Biological Implant Tracking and Veteran Safety Act of 2017.

Two years ago this month, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, released a startling report detailing a failure on the part of the Department of Veterans Affairs to follow requirements for documenting open-market purchases of surgical implants and the lack of a standardized process for tracking biological tissue from cadaver donors used in veteran recipients.

Currently, there is no requirement for VA to systematically identify or track biological implants used in the VA medical facilities. Due to this oversight, if a given biological implant was identified as potentially contaminated or made the subject of a recall, it would be impossible for VA to identify which patients received the impacted material and, therefore, take steps to inform at-risk patients and address contamination concerns.

That same GAO report also found that VA did not consistently ensure that the vendors that the Department purchases biological implants from are registered with the Food and Drug Administration, and that VA did not maintain an inventory system to prevent expired tissues from remaining in storage alongside unexpired tissues.

Needless to say, each of these findings poses a serious and unacceptable risk to veterans’ health and safety.

Veterans seeking care through the VA healthcare system deserve a quality standard that is second to none, especially within a system which prides itself on data collection and its electronic health record. The Biological Implant Tracking and Veteran Safety Act would provide a high-quality standard for surgical implants that is now sorely missing.

By requiring VA to implement a standard identification tracking system for biological implants used in the VA medical facilities and requiring VA to procure biological implants only from approved vendors, H.R. 28 would allow for the tracking of implants from donor to recipients. This bill will also require VA to procure biological implants only from vendors using the system and only through competitive procurement processes.

The GAO has testified that the Veterans Health Administration is one of the largest purchasers of surgical implants, which include biological implants such as skin and bone grafts, and nonbiological implants such as cardiac pacemakers and artificial joints. The GAO has raised valid concerns regarding VA medical centers complying with VHA requirements for documenting surgical implants purchased from the open market and VHA’s ability to identify veterans who received an implant that is being recalled by the manufacturer or the Food and Drug Administration.

Patient safety is our number one concern. We all want to ensure that VA policies are fully followed in this regard. The legislation will continue to protect veterans while they receive the best care available.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I would like to extend my public congratulations to my good friend, Dr. Pini. ROE, for being named by the majority as the chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. I can tell you that Members on my side of the aisle are looking very much forward to working with Dr. ROE. He has a splendid reputation.

I don’t want to ruin his reputation by saying that we absolutely embrace him because that would make his side of the aisle, I think, a little worried, but the fact is we believe that Chairman ROE is one of the finest members with whom we work with and who has a genuine, sincere concern for veterans. He is a veteran himself. He is a medical doctor. As we try to gain the trust of veterans and gain the trust of Americans in VA healthcare and the veterans department, we are very much looking forward to working with him. I offer him my congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:


Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker, House of Representatives,

Dear Members of the 115th Congress:

I hereby designate Representative Kevin McCarthy of California to exercise any authority regarding assembly, reassembly, convening, or reconvening of the House pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 1, clause 12 of rule I, and any concurrent resolutions of the current Congress as may contemplate my designation of Members to exercise similar authority.

In the event of the death or inability of that designee, the alternate Members of the House listed in the letter bearing this date that I have placed with the Clerk are designated, in turn, for the same purposes.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Ryan, Speaker.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS DURING THE 115TH CONGRESS

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


I hereby designate the Honorable Jeff Denham, the Honorable Mac Thornberry, the Honorable Fred Upton, the Honorable Andy Harris, the Honorable Barbara Comstock, and the Honorable Luke Messer to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through the remainder of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Ryan, Speaker.

The Speaker pro tempore. Without objection, the appointments are approved. There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:


Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker, House of Representatives,

Dear Mr. Speaker,

The Clerk, in the course of duty, has been directed to assure proper enforcement of rule IV, which prohibits the Chair from entertaining requests for suspension or waiver of that rule. As a result, and to ensure the integrity of the process by which legislation is introduced in the House, the Clerk requests each committee chair, and the personal staff of Members who are sponsors of bills or joint resolutions, to submit to the Speaker a list of those staff who are authorized to do by virtue of this designation, except such as are provided by statute, in case of my temporary absence or disability.

This designation shall remain in effect for the 115th Congress or until modified by me. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House."
name, original signature, and state. Members routinely include their original signatures, states, and districts when voting by card in the well, so the Chair is hopeful that the inclusion of such information on a co-sponsor form will be a familiar task.

3. Unanimous-Consent Requests for the Consideration of Legislation

The policy the Chair announced on January 6, 1994, that the Chair normally confines its requests for the unanimous-consent requests for the consideration of certain legislative measures will continue to apply in the 115th Congress. The Speaker will continue to follow the guidelines recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual conferring recognition for unanimous-consent requests for the consideration of local nominations, and other procedures only when assured that the majority and minority floor leadership and the relevant committee chairs and ranking minority leadership are in agreement with those guidelines and with the Chair’s inherent power of recognition under clause 2 of rule XVII, the Chair, and any occupant of the chair to his left, the Speaker, reserves the right to limit one-minute speeches beyond 10 o’clock in the evening. However, the Chair will not recognize Members for any special-order speeches for up to 4 hours. Such speeches may not extend beyond the 4-hour limitation without the permission of the Chair, which must be granted only with advance consultation between the leaderships and notification to the House. However, the Chair will not recognize Members for any special-order speeches beyond 10 o’clock in the evening.

The 4-hour limitation will be divided into two 30-minute periods. Recognition for one-hour periods and for 30-minute periods will alternate initially and subsequently between the parties each day. Recognition to unify for Members that any 60- or 30-minute period that is not claimed at the appropriate time will be considered to have expired, this includes the first 60-minute period.

The allocation of time within each party’s 2-hour period (or shorter period if prorated to end by 10 p.m.) will be determined by a list submitted by the 1st substituted for the respective leaderships. Members may not sign up with their leadership for any special-order speeches earlier than one week prior to the special order. Additional limitations established for such sign-ups by the respective leaderships.

Pursuant to clause 2(a) of rule V, the television cameras will not pan the Chamber, but a “crawler” indicating the conduct of morning-hour debate or that the House has completed its legislative business and is proceeding with special-order speeches will appear on the screen. The Chair may announce other adaptations during this period.

The continuation of this format for recognition by the Speaker is without prejudice to the ability of the Speaker to recognize under clause 2 of rule XVII and includes the ability to withdraw recognition for longer special-order speeches should circumstances so dictate.

6. Decorum in Debate

The Chair announced policies of January 7, 2003, January 4, 1995, and January 3, 1991, will apply in the 115th Congress. It is essential that the dignity of the proceedings of the House be maintained by assuring that the House conducts its business in an orderly fashion and that Members avoid personal opposition on the part of the Chair. The Speaker’s statement of January 7, 1995, which was prompted by a request that the cloaked rooms not forward to the Chair requests to hold a vote by electronic device, should simply apprise Members that the time remaining on the clock. Members should not rely on signals relayed from outside the Chamber to assume that votes will be held open until they arrive in the Chamber. Members are further reminded, in accordance with the Speaker’s statement of January 7, 1991, and then strictly enforced, a policy of closing any 60- or 30-minute period that is not considered to have expired; this includes the guaranteed period of 15 minutes. Members appreciated and cooperated with the Chair’s enforcement of the policy on that occasion.

The Chair requires Members to keep all operations of the House on the same degree of respect to the Chair and other Members that every Member is due. The Speaker’s statement of January 7, 1995, to await the Clerk’s certification that a vote tally is complete and accurate. Members are further reminded, in accordance with the Speaker’s statement of January 7, 1991, that the standard policy is not to terminate the vote when a Member is in the well attempting to cast a vote. Other efforts to hold the vote open are not similarly protected.

8. Use of Handouts on House Floor

The Speaker’s policy announced on September 27, 1995, which was prompted by a misuse of handouts on the House floor and made at the bipartisan request of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, will continue in the 115th Congress. All handouts distributed on or adjacent to the House floor by Members during House proceedings must be approved in advance and should bear the name of the Member authorizing their distribution. In addition, the content of those materials must comport with standard propriety and decorum. Members should avoid use of handouts in debate or inserted in the Record. Failure to comply with this admonishment may constitute a breach of decorum and may give rise to a question of privilege.

The Chair would also remind Members that, pursuant to clause 5 of rule IV, staff is prohibited from engaging in efforts in the House to influence Members with regard to the legislation being amended. Staff cannot distribute handouts.
The Speaker’s policy announced on January 27, 2009, as clarified on January 6, 2009, and as modified by the change in clause 5 of rule XVII in the 112th Congress, will continue unchanged by the 113th Congress with modifications as follows. All Members and staff are reminded of the absolute prohibition contained in clause 5 of rule XVII against the use of mobile electronic devices that impair decorum. Those devices include wireless telephones and personal computers. The Chair wishes to note that electronic tablet devices do not qualify as personal computers within the meaning of this policy and thus may be unobtrusively used in the Chamber. No device may be used for still photography or for audio or video recording or for live broadcasting.

The Chair requests all Members and staff wishing to receive or make wireless telephone calls to do so outside of the Chamber. The Chair further requests that all Members and staff refrain from wearing telephone headsets in the Chamber and to deactivate any audible ring of wireless phones before entering the Chamber. To this end, the Chair insists upon the cooperation of all Members and staff and instructs the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House to enforce the policy of the Speaker concerning appropriate conduct in the chamber when the House is not in session. Under clause 1 of rule IV, the Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible to control the Hall of the House. Under clause 1 of rule IV, the Hall of the House is to be used only for the legislative business of the House, for caucus and conference meetings of its Members, and for such ceremonies as the House might agree to conduct there. When the House stands adjourned, its chamber remains on static display. It may accommodate visitors in the gallery or on the floor, subject to the needs of those who are operating or who may be in the chamber to go about their ordinary business. Because outside “coverage” of the chamber is limited to floor proceedings and is allowed only by accredited journalists, when the Chamber is on static display no audio or video recording or transmitting devices are allowed. The long custom of disallowing even still photography in the chamber is based at least in part on the notion that an image having this setting as its backdrop might be taken to carry the imprimatur of the House.

Theصير c laundering the Journal of its proceedings, which is kept pursuant to the Constitution. The imprimatur of the House adheres to the Journal of its proceedings, which is kept pursuant to the Constitution. The imprimatur of the House adheres to the Congressional Record, which is kept as a substantial verbatim transcript pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVII. The imprimatur of the House adheres to the audio and visual transmission and recordings that are made and kept by the television system administered by the Speaker pursuant to rule V. But the imprimatur of the House may not be appropriated to other audio or video devices or compositio of events in its chamber.

EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore lauded before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Friday, the 6th day of January, 2017, at 1 o’clock post meridiem, pursuant to the request of the President of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their President; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be added, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter “A”; and said tellers, having read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTING ON JANUARY 6, 2017, OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged concurrent resolution:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Friday, the 6th day of January, 2017, at 1 o’clock post meridiem, pursuant to the request of the President of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their President; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be added, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter “A”; and said tellers, having read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that the whole number of the House is 435.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly at 6 o’clock and 8 minutes p.m., until its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.
EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

1. A letter from the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting a list of reports ordered by the Speaker, pursuant to Rule II, clause 2(b), of the Rules of the House (H. Doc. No. 115–4); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2. A letter from the President of the United States, transmitting the Economic Report of the President together with the 2017 Budget of the Council of Economic Advisers, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1022(a); February 20, 1946, ch. 33, Sec. 3(a) (as amended by Public Law 101–508; 131 Stat. 1388–604); (H. Doc. No. 115–2); to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed.

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. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. PETerson, Mr. CHABot, Mr. MARINO, Mr. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. Luetkemeyer):

H.R. 5. A bill to reform the process by which agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents, to clarify the nature of judicial review of agency interpretations, to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. Goodlatte, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Collins of Georgia, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Marino, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Ratcliffe, Mr. Jenkins of West Virginia, Mr. Smith of Texas, Mr. Comstock, Mr. Peterson, and Mrs. Hartley):

H.R. 21. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for an efficient, coordinated, and transparent process for the development of regulations disapproving “midnight rules”, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. Smith of Texas, and Mrs. Black:

H.R. 22. A bill to provide for operational contraband international border of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Rules, Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VAladao (for himself, Mr. Nunes, Mr. Rohrabacher, Mr. Cook, Mr. Roybal-Canul, Mr. LoBiondo, Mrs. Mimi Walters of California, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Knight, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Hunter, Mr. LaMalfa, and Mr. Vargas);

H.R. 23. A bill to provide drought relief in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. Massie (for himself, Mr. Moodelaar, Mr. Gutschow, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Buck, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Amash, Mr. ChaFFetz, Mr. Brooks of Alabama, Mr. Gottheimer, Mr. Bills, Mr. Ratcliff, Mr. Rothfus, Mr. Yoho, Mrs. Walorski, Mr. Walberg, Mr. Stivers, Mr. Gohmert, Mr. Barletta, Mr. McHargue, Mr. Frank of Arizona, Mr. Jones, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. Pearce, Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Culberson, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Amodei, Ms. Brituleti, Mrs. Black, Mr. Smith of Missouri, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Brady, Mr. DeFazio, Ms. DeSantis, Mr. Palmer, Mr. McKinley, Mr. RoHRABACHER, Mr. Mehman, Mr. Holton, Mr. Labrador, and Mr. Bishop):

H.R. 24. A bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, 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. Woodall (for himself, Mr. Buhler, Mr. Gentile, Mr. Brooks of Alabama, Mr. Carter of Texas, Mr. Collins of Georgia, Mr. COnaway, Mr. Culberson, Mr. DeLauro, Mr. Schweiker of Tennessee, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Frank of Arizona, Mr. Graves of Missouri, Mr. Graves of Georgia, Mr. Issa, Mr. King of Ohio, Mr. Massie, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Olson, Mr. Pearce, Mr. Poe of Texas, Mr. Roe of Tennessee, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Walberg, Mr. Yoho, Mr. Young of Alaska, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Ratcliffe, Mr. Jody B. Hice of Georgia, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Chabot, Mr. Bishop of Utah, and Mr. Posey):

H.R. 25. A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the income tax and abolishing the Internal Revenue Service, and enacting a national sales tax to be administered primarily by the States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Collins of Georgia (for himself, Mr. Goodlatte, Mr. Sessions, and Mr. Marino):

H.R. 26. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted by the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Budget, 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. Costello of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mrs. Gallo):

H.R. 27. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to set aside, in any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the Department in the permanent record of the employee, to the Committee on Veterans Affairs for a period to be considered and passed.

By Mr. Roe of Tennessee:

H.R. 28. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and procurement of biological implants by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs, considered and passed.

By Mr. Goodlatte (for himself, Mr. Pearce, Mr. Bost, Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Sanford, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. ROHrabacher, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Culberson, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. Abraham, Mr. Frank of Arizona, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Gohmert, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Roe of Tennessee, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Brady, Mr. Williams, Mr. Poe of Georgia, Mr. Holino, Mr. Labrador, Mr. Olson, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mr. Cole, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. Calvert, Mrs. Black, Mr. Cline, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Mica, and Mr.立方):

H.R. 29. A bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. Hudson:

H.R. 30. A bill to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Hudson:

H.R. 31. A bill to provide for the periodic review of the efficiency and public need for Federal agencies, to establish a commission for the purpose of reviewing the efficiency and public need of such agencies, and to provide for the actions of the agencies for which a public need does not exist; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. Hudson:

H.R. 32. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt the spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces from the determination of whether an employer is subject to the employer health insurance mandate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CHABot (for himself, Mr. Goodlatte, Mr. Marino, Mrs. Radwagen, Mr. Knight, Mr. Curbelo, Mr. Graves of Missouri, Mr. Sessions, Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, Mr. Tipton, Mr. Curbelo of Florida, Mr. Hultgren, and Mr. Luetkemeyer):

H.R. 33. A bill to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MASSie (for himself and Mr. Gohmert):

H.R. 34. A bill to repeal the Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990 and amendments to that Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Burgess (for himself, Mr. Collins of Texas, Mr. Sanford, and Mr. Carter of Texas):

H.R. 35. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify rules relating to health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:
H.R. 36. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect paint-cause unborn children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:
H.R. 37. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require health care providers to fail from exercising the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. QUELLAR, Mr. GAERTZ, Mr. HOLDING, Mrs. ROHR, Mr. LAMALOA, Mr. PALMER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. WALKER, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. DELAURA, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. HENSELING, Mr. LAMOSH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COK, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. JODY B. HICK of Georgia, Mr. MEADORS, Mr. WILKINS of Texas, Mr. RITTER of Texas, Mr. Tipton, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. DESJARDIS, Mrs. HARTLIER, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. ZUMWALT, Mr. SANDOR, Mr. BRAT, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. YODER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. TURNER, Mr. Brooks of Texas, Mr. KATKO, Mr. RUTCLIFFE, Mr. MILL, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HARPER, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. DIALBAFAY).

H.R. 38. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a means by which nonresidents of a State whose residents may carry concealed firearms may also do so in the State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:
H.R. 39. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to codify the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. AL GRIFFIN of Texas, Ms. NORTH, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SERRANO of California, Mr. PADDOCK, Mr. NADER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CUMMINS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. LEON):  
H.R. 40. A bill to address the fundamental injustices, cruelty, brutality, and inhumane conditions of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COLE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOSAL, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. CUBA, Mr. PALMER, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. YOHIO, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri).

H.R. 41. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require agencies to respond to comments from congressional committees about proposed rulemaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MULLIN:
H.R. 42. A bill to authorize the Directors of Veterans Integrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with appropriate civilian accreditation agencies or health care providers to conduct evaluation entities to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. KINNEDY, Mr. MOONKEY of West Virginia, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BUCHON, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri).

H.R. 43. A bill to amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 to include fighters of combat sports in the safety provisions of such Act; to establish a commission to study and formulate new regulations and guidance documents for the regulation of combat sports in the safety provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. LAMB of Texas, Mr. MARINO, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):
H.R. 44. A bill to amend the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 to include fighters of combat sports in the safety provisions of such Act; to establish a commission to study and formulate new regulations and guidance documents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. Tipton):
H.R. 46. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Fort Ontario in the State of New York; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 47. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for the humane treatment of youths who are in police custody, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 48. A bill to require that activities carried out by the United States in South Sudan relating to reconstruction, development, and refugee relief and assistance will support the basic human rights of women and women's participation and leadership in these areas; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 49. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish and implement a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in an environmentally sound production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself and Mr. BUTCHER):
H.R. 50. A bill to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, Rules, and 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. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CROMER, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. LOVE, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):
H.R. 51. A bill to amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program for which the Secretary shall award $19,000,000 of grant funding to the 19 1890-institutions ($1,000,000 to each institution), such as Tuskegee University in Alabama, New A&M University of Texas, Fort Valley State University of Georgia, North Carolina A&T State University, and Florida A&M University, and allocate the $1,000,000 to each such institution for purposes of awarding scholarships to students attending such institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CROMER, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. LOVE, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. CLEAVER):
H.R. 52. A bill to rebuild the Nation’s crumbling infrastructure, transportation systems, technology and computer networks, and energy distribution systems, by strongly adding emergency request for the reemployment, employment, and on-the-job “earn as you learn” training of African-American young men ages 18 to 39, who are the hardest hit in terms of unemployment, with an unemployment rate of 41 percent nationally, and in some States and cities, especially inner cities, higher than 50 percent, which is the national crime and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 53. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a database that shall serve as a central location for information from investigations relating to human trafficking for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 55. A bill to establish a grant program for nebulizers in elementary and secondary schools in the United States and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 56. A bill to establish a grant program for stipends to assist in the cost of compensation paid by employers to certain recent college graduates and to provide funding for their further education in subjects relating to mathematics, science, engineering, and technology; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 57. A bill to require the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to report to the Congress semiannually on the status of firearms traceability from the failure to complete a background check within 3 business days, and the procedures followed after it is discovered that a firearm has been made available to a person ineligible to receive a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 58. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a study on the circumstances which may impact the effectiveness of first responders before, during, or after a terrorist threat or event, and for other purposes; to the Committee on 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 Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 179. A bill to enhance the security of chemical facilities and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. KINGZINGER, Ms. BEUTLER, Mr. SWALWell, of California, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. VALADAo, Mr. RECHERT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. W. J. WELCH, Mr. NUNES, Upton, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. GÓMEZ of California, Mr. TED LIU of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. CUNHELO of Flori-

H.R. 60. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the enlistment in the Armed Forces of certain aliens who are unlawfully present in the United States and who are otherwise qualified for enlistment, and to provide a mechanism by which such aliens, by reason of their honorable service in the Armed Forces, may be lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 61. A bill to provide for the expungement and sealing of youth criminal records and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 62. A bill to provide for the hiring of 200 additional Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents and investigators to enforce gun laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 63. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to encourage private employers to hire veterans, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the reasonable efforts an employer may make under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act with respect to hiring veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on 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. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 64. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an alternate release date for certain nonviolent offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 65. A bill to provide alternatives to incarceration for youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. KINGZINGER, Mr. BORT, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LONG, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 66. A bill to establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the preservation needs of Route 66, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 67. A bill to ensure that seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities who receive or would receive other Federal benefits receive a $250 payment in the event that no cost-of-living adjustment is payable in a calendar year; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 68. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUM (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 69. A bill to reauthorize the Office of Special Counsel, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BARR, and Mr. HOLDING):

H.R. 70. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the publication, by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of information relating to rulemakings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COLINS of Georgia, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ROB of Tennessee, Mr. GOSSAR, Mr. CUMBERSON, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. EMMER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. ISSA, Mr. Trott, Mrs. MUNSEL, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. BYRN, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. YOHO, Mr. WALKER, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. CARPENTER of Indiana, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PALMER, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. BARR, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. HILL, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. OLSON, Mr. ROTHUS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DISSANTIS, Mr. MESSER, Mr. LÜDTKE, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WOODALL, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama):

H.R. 71. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify the nature of judicial review of agency interpretations of statutory provisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LÜDTKE (for himself and Mr. GOODLATTE):

H.R. 72. A bill to improve the consideration of the costs and benefits of its regulations by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the proposed rule; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 73. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributions from pyramid fundraising organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MARINO (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. GOMER, Mr. GOODLATTIE, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. HOLTUHN, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCLINTOCK, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. LATINO, Mr. BROWN of Alabama, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. DESANTIS):

H.R. 74. A bill to suspend, and subsequently to terminate, the admission of certain refugees, 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.
to examine the impact on the national security of the United States of admitting refugees, to examine the costs of providing benefits to such individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RABINO:

H. R. 82. A bill to withhold Federal financial assistance by sanctuary cities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H. R. 83. A bill to prohibit the receipt of Federal financial assistance by sanctuary cities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. BIGGS:

H. R. 84. A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives inter-state, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State laws that undermine the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives which burden citizens; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HUSKINS of California, Mr. GOMERT, and Mr. RUGGLES):

H. R. 85. A bill to make 1 percent across-the-board rescissions in non-defense, non-homeland-security, and non-veterans-affairs discretionary spending for each of the fiscal years 2017 and 2018; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H. R. 86. A bill to make 2 percent across-the-board rescissions in non-defense, non-homeland-security, and non-veterans-affairs discretionary spending for each of the fiscal years 2017 and 2018; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H. R. 87. A bill to make 5 percent across-the-board rescissions in non-defense, non-homeland-security, and non-veterans-affairs discretionary spending for each of the fiscal years 2017 and 2018; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H. R. 88. A bill to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Park-era’s Quarters and Candlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H. R. 89. A bill to amend subtitle IV of title 40, United States Code, regarding county additions to the Appalachian region; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H. R. 90. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility leases of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H. R. 91. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program on contract staffing for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself and Mr. WALZ):

H. R. 92. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H. R. 93. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for increased access to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care for women veterans; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H. R. 94. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for additional access to Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility leases; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself, Mr. WALZ, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Miss Rice of New York, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. Higuchi of New York):

H. R. 95. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 96. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to transfer unclaimed money recovered at airport security checkpoints to nonprofit organizations that provide places of rest and recuperation at airports for members of the Armed Forces and their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 97. A bill to amend the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016, to enable the payment of certain officers and employees of the United States whose employment is authorized under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 98. A bill to replace references to “wives,” “husbands,” and “dependents” in Federal law with references to “spouses,” and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 99. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for the eligibility of Transportation Security Administration employees to receive public safety officers’ death benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 100. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify the percentages of funds to be allocated to certain urbanized areas under the Transportation Enhancements Block Grant program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 101. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct reviews of certain budget requests of the President related to the medical care of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 102. A bill to expand the research and education on and delivery of complementary and alternative medicine to veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 103. A bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Skills to Work Veterans Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 104. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent certain programs that assist homeless veterans and other veterans with special needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 105. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reapplies benefits of veterans with fiduciaries, to establish an appeals process for determinations by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of veterans’ capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 106. A bill to amend the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 to promote the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 107. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Labor to prioritize the provision of services to homeless veterans with dependent children in carrying out homeless veterans reintegration programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 108. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitations on itemized deductions for mortgage insurance premiums; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H. R. 109. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for mortgage insurance premiums; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. ROYNOY of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. VELA, Mr. Yoho, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. ROSENBerg, Mr. ROS- LEHTINEN, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H. R. 110. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the exclusion from gross income of discharge of qualified principal residence indebtedness; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. ROYNOY of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. VELA, Mr. Yoho, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. ROSENBerg, Mr. ROS- LEHTINEN, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H. R. 111. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitations on itemized deductions for medical emergencies and to consolidate provisions for start-up and organizational expenditures; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. ROYNOY of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. VELA, Mr. Yoho, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. ROSENBerg, Mr. ROS- LEHTINEN, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H. R. 112. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily allow exclusion from gross income of the proceeds from the sale of citrus plants lost by reason of casualty; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):
H.R. 113. A bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:
H.R. 114. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to search all public records to determine if an alien is inadmissible to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:
H.R. 115. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:
H.R. 116. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that pass-through businesses do not pay tax at a higher rate than corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURGESS:
H.R. 117. A bill to repeal Federal energy conservation standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS:
H.R. 118. A bill to make clear that an agency outside of the Department of Health and Human Services shall designate, appoint, or employ special consultants, fellows, or other employees under subsection (f) or (g) of section 207 of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS:
H.R. 119. A bill to repeal certain amendments to the Act relating to the expansion of the renewable fuel program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURGESS:
H.R. 120. A bill to reduce the amount of foreign assistance to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador based on the number of unaccompanied alien children who are nationals or citizens of such countries and who in the preceding fiscal year are placed in Federal custody by reason of their immigration status; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 121. A bill making supplemental appropriations for the Army Corps of Engineers for flood control projects and storm damage reduction projects in areas affected by flooding in the city of Houston, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 122. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to provide for the calculation of the minimum wage based on the Federal poverty threshold for a family of 4, as determined by the Bureau of the Census; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 123. A bill to extend the pilot program under section 258 of the National Housing Act that establishes an automated process for pre-clearing credit rating information for mortgageors and prospective mortgagors under certain mortgages; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 124. A bill to establish a grant program providing for the acquisition, operation, and maintenance of body-worn cameras for law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 125. A bill to authorize a pilot program to improve asset recovery levels, asset management, and homeownership retention with respect to delinquent single-family mortgages insured under the FHA mortgage insurance programs by providing for in-person contacts between mortgagees under such mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 126. A bill to direct the Election Assistance Commission to carry out a pilot program under which the Commission shall provide funds to local educational agencies for initiatives to provide voter registration information to secondary school students in the 12th grade, and to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 127. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for the protection of students residing in urbanized area formula grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BURGESS:
H.R. 128. A bill to amend section 416 of title 39, United States Code, to remove the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue bonds, and to provide for an Act of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BURGESS:
H.R. 129. A bill to amend the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to establish protections for employees and retirees in municipal bankruptcies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 130. A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to improve protections for employees and retirees in municipal bankruptcies; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 131. A bill to reaffirm the trust status of land taken into trust by the United States pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934, for the benefit of an Indian tribe that was federally recognized on the date that the land was taken into trust, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 132. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and appurtenances of the Arbuckle Project, Oklahoma, to the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COHEN:
H.R. 133. A bill to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JACKSON of Georgia, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):
H.R. 134. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):
H.R. 135. A bill to protect cyber privacy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):
H.R. 136. A bill to amend title 28 of the United States Code to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. JACKSON LEE):
H.R. 137. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to authorize a pilot program to collect practice collections in bankruptcy cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. JACKSON LEE):
H.R. 138. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to improve protections for employees and retirees in municipal bankruptcies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GREGGS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BAHN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. WOODWARD):
H.R. 139. A bill to amend chapter 9 of title 11 of the United States Code to improve protections for employees and retirees in municipal bankruptcies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 140. A bill to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 141. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to dispense with the requirement of providing assurance of payment for creditors in certain circumstances; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 142. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of the general public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 143. A bill to prohibit anticompetitive activities and to provide that health insurance issuers and medical malpractice insurers are subject to the antitrust laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 144. A bill to establish a corporate crime database, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 145. A bill to terminate pensions for Members of Congress, to prohibit a single bill or joint resolution presented by Congress to the President from containing multiple subjects, to require the equal application of Joint Rules of Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees
on 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 Mr. FLEischMANN:
H.R. 146. A bill to take certain Federal lands in trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DRAKES of Arizona:
H.R. 147. A bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or race, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AL Green of Texas:
H.R. 148. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act, to provide incentives for education on the risk of renal medullary carcinoma in individuals who are receiving medical assistance under such title and who have Sickle Cell Disease; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AL Green of Texas:
H.R. 149. A bill to authorize funds to prevent, investigate, and monitor the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. AL Green of Texas:
H.R. 150. A bill to direct the Attorney General to create a special reward program for individuals providing information leading to the apprehension and conviction of persons committing offenses under section 1300 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AL Green of Texas:
H.R. 151. A bill to require any State which, after enacting a Congressional redistricting plan after a decennial census and apportionment of Representatives, enacts a subsequent Congressional redistricting plan prior to the next decennial census and apportionment of Representatives, to obtain a declaratory judgment or preclearance in the manner provided under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in order for the subsequent plan to take effect; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AL Green of Texas:
H.R. 152. A bill to provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to the recognize the historical importance of Prince Hall Freemasonry; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. AL Green of Texas:
H.R. 153. A bill to provide for the issuance of a forever stamp to honor the work of Dr. Michael Echols DeBakey, who helped develop the mobile army surgical hospital, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. AL Green of Texas:
H.R. 154. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Marine Equitable Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II; to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. GENE Green of Texas:
H.R. 155. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to revise regulations concerning the recording and reporting of occupational injuries and illnesses under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROLAND of Texas:
H.R. 156. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to require the arbitrator of initial contract negotiation disputes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself and Mr. WASSERMAN SChULTZ, Mr. BUIRIRAKIS, Mr. GIBBS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. DEutch, Mr. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. Wasserman SCHulteZ, and Ms. Jack-nSON of Texas):
H.R. 157. A bill to authorize assistance for the Government of Tunisia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. Deutch, Mr. Frankel of Florida, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, and Ms. Jack-nSon of Texas):
H.R. 158. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to impose certain conditions for applicants for COPs grants; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself and Mr. PolIeS):
H.R. 159. A bill to expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals and their ecosystems, and to develop educational programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. HASTINGS:
H.R. 160. A bill to end the excess corporal punishment of individuals for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HASTINGS:
H.R. 161. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide supportive services in permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HASTINGS:
H.R. 162. A bill to establish a scholarship program in the Department of State for Haitian students whose studies were interrupted as a result of the January 12, 2010, earthquake, or the October 2016 hurricane, Hurricane Matthew; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS:
H.R. 163. A bill to repeal the provisions of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act prohibiting the bringing of qualified civil liability actions in Federal or State court; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HASTINGS:
H.R. 164. A bill to provide for an evidence-based strategy for voluntary screening for HIV/AIDS and other common sexually transmitted infections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. HASTINGS:
H.R. 165. A bill to amend titles XVI, XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to remove limitations on Medicaid, Medicare, SCHIP, and CHIP benefits to certain persons in custody pending disposition of charges; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means; and to 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. HASTINGS:
H.R. 166. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize and mod-
Mr. AMASH, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FORZANO, Mr. GORMERT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. COLLE, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BARRIN, Mr. DESJARDINS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. ARSHAD, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee):

H.R. 175. A bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, Natural Resources, the Judiciary, House Administration, Rules, and Appropriations, 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. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GORMERT, Mr. JONES, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. HAINES, and Ms. HARLEY):

H.R. 176. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that wages paid to unauthorized aliens may not be deducted from wages or salaries subject to other provisions, to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 176. A bill to bar Supreme Court decisions in certain Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act cases from citation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 178. A bill to require the country of origin of certain special immigrant religious workers to extend reciprocal immigration treatment to nationals of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BOST, Ms. FUDOE, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 179. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Pension Plan; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOLLIN (for himself and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 180. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to extend portions of income from annuities of a community spouse as income available to institutionalized spouses for purposes of eligibility for medical assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOLLIN (for himself and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 181. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to eliminate the requirement for 3 months of retroactive coverage under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOLLIN (for himself and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 182. A bill to prohibit the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, from any type of fee collected to advertise or market Exchanges established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOLLIN:

H.R. 183. A bill to provide for the equitable settlement of land claims by Indian tribes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. FOXX, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. JONES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MESSER, Ms. WALORSKI, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. LANCE, Mr. PINCKERT, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. REED, Mr. MILL, Mr. TURNER, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MORE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MCCaul, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. LOBRONI, Mr. KRIEGER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. NORM, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. PETTERSON, Ms. ROSENTHAL, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. COMER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LAHOD, Mr. LONG, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BARTON, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. RODDY DAIVIS of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COLE, Mr. MALAMAL, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. YOHOO, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BUCK of Alabama, Mr. BLIRAKIS, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. COLLE, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BUCK, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. BRANNISTER, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. WI LLIAMS, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MCNLEY, Mr. WALKER, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. DE VOGEL of Iowa, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROE of Tennessese, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. TROTT, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GRAVE of Texas, Mr. SCHLEICHEN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. MEEK, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. young of Alaska, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. DUNCAN of Texas, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MCSALLY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BAIN, Mr. BLUM, Mr. BRAT, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GIFFTH, Mr. GOBOLD of Texas, Mr. LANDSMIRE, Mr. HUZENGA, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. FLIESCHMANN, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. THORNBERG of Iowa, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BARR, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. ROTHUS, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mrs. HARRIZZ, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. HULTORGE, Mr. AMODE, Mr. STEFANIE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. LAMORE, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CULHANE of Mississippi, Mr. CIAROT, Mr. Cramer, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessese, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. KATKO, Mr. CHAPLE, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. DENT, Mr. BEUTLER, Mr. DEBANTIS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. HUNT, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRAMM of Texas, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Ms. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HURD, Mr. YODER, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. NUNES, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. COK, Mr. MCNRR MO RODGERS, Mr. KNAPP, Mr. LINCH, Ms. SPEHR, Mr. DIA-BALART, Mr. PETE of California, Mr. CORRE, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. ISSA, Mr. EMMER, Mr. BUCHAN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. REICHER, Mr. BRAM, MR. LENCI, Ms. BROWNLY of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. COMSTOCK, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. RUS of New Hampshire, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LABADOR, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. NORCHROSS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LUTTA, Mr. ROTHFUS of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRIDESTINE, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. CALVENT, Mr. FLANES of Arizona, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WALZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SCHWEITZ, Mr. McCLENT, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. BUSTOS, Mr. GRANGER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mr. FANO).

H.R. 184. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 185. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for economic recovery in the Virgin Islands and Guam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 186. A bill to establish a program that enables college-bound residents of the United States to use 529 plans among institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 187. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish the Virgin Islands visa waiver program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 188. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to extend to 2027 the production certificate program that allows refunds of duties on certain articles produced in United States insular possessions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 189. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for economic recovery in the possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 190. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for economic recovery in the territories; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 191. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 192. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, and the Communications Act of 1934 to include a territory or possession of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, to consider such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. MASSIE):  
H.R. 193. A bill to end membership of the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.  
By Mr. RUSSELL (for himself and Mr. REED):  
H.R. 194. A bill to ensure the effective processing of mail by Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.  
By Mr. RUSSELL:  
H.R. 195. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to restrict the distribution of free press freedom tracts to the Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on 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. SIMPSON:  
H.R. 196. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, for the appointment of additional Federal circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the United States into two judicial circuits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.  
By Mr. SIMPSON:  
H.R. 197. A bill to authorize an additional district judiciary for the district of Idaho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.  
By Mr. THORNBERY (for himself, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. HUIZenga, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. CRAWDER, Mr. COOK, Mr. JORDAN of Georgia, Mr. BUSCHON, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. PORR of Texas, Mr. GOMERT, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. ADHESIOL, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. ZIELINSKI, Mr. LANCE, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BRIDENSTEIN, Mr. Yoho, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FRANES of Arizona, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LONG, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. LUECKEMEYER, Mr. MURPHY of New York, Mr. BALART, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MCCINTOCK, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. SMITH of Texas):  
H.R. 198. A bill to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.  
By Mr. VARGAS (for himself, Mr. CALDERON, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. PETTERSON):  
H.R. 199. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special study resource condition study of a property located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 200. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Ms. VELAZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. SERRANO, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):  
H.R. 201. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide loan deferment and loan cancellation for founders and employees of startup businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.  
By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:  
H.R. 202. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act of 1968, to prohibit discrimination based on section 8 vouchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):  
H.R. 203. A bill to authorize Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. DEFAZIO):  
H.R. 204. A bill to amend the market name of genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. DEFAZIO):  
H.R. 205. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require labeling of genetically engineered fish; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. DEFAZIO):  
H.R. 206. A bill to prevent the escapement of genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 207. A bill to resolve title issues involving real property and equipment acquired using funds provided under the Alaska Kiln Drying Grant Program; to the Committee on Agriculture.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 208. A bill to waive the essential health benefits requirements for certain States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 209. A bill to improve the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s regulations on hazardous storage containers; to the Committee on Financial Services.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 210. A bill to facilitate the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 211. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to complete a land exchange with the Chugach Regional Alaska Native Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 212. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide a process for expediting congressional and tribal review of the Indian tribe’s funding agreement at the Indian tribe’s request, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 213. A bill to reauthorize the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988 to conserve elephants while appropriately regulating local United States elephant trophy hunts; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 214. A bill to establish the American Fisheries Resources Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 215. A bill to empower federally recognized Indian tribes to accept restricted fee tribal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 216. A bill to authorize modification or augmentation of the United States Memorial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 217. A bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 218. A bill to permit the exchange of Federal land and non-Federal land in the State of Alaska for the construction of a road between King Cove and Cold Bay; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 219. A bill to correct the Swan Lake hydroelectric project survey provide for the conveyance of the remaining tract of land within the corrected survey boundary to the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 220. A bill to authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 221. A bill to authorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 222. A bill to amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to prescribe an additional requirement for the designation of marine sanctuaries off the coast of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 223. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce from authorizing commercial finfish aquaculture operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone except in accordance with a law authorizing such action; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 224. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow importation of polar bear trophies taken in sport hunts in Canada before the date the polar bear was determined to be a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 225. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the importation of polar bear trophies taken in sport hunts in Canada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 226. A bill to amend the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988 to conserve elephants while appropriately regulating local United States elephant trophy hunts; to the Committee on Natural Resources.  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:  
H.R. 228. A bill to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Reauthorization Act of 1994 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services
from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 231. A bill to ensure equitable treat- ment of Shee Atika, Incorporated, under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act by facilitating the transfer of land on Admiralty Island to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 232. A bill to authorize States to se- lect and maintain certain areas of Federal So- (cont.)

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 233. A bill to amend Title 49, United States Code, to provide for the minimum size of crews of freight trains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 234. A bill to provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing permits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transpor- tation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 235. A bill to amend Title 68, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of certain minority employees; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 236. A bill to provide for the convey- ance of certain property to the Tanana Trib- al Corporation in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation lo- cated in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Re- sources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 237. A bill to reauthorize the Inte- grate Coastal Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provi- sions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. NEHWUS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):
H.J. Res. 2. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitu- tion of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. NEHWUS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):
H.J. Res. 1. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitu- tion of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:
H.J. Res. 3. A joint resolution approving the location of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Op- eration Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield; to the Committee on Natural Re- sources.

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE (for himself and Mr. O’ROURKE):
H.J. Res. 4. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States granting Congress the author- ity to enact laws limiting the number of terms that Representatives and Senators may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:
H.J. Res. 5. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the bud- get; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DECHANTIS (for himself, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SANFORD, and Mr. BLUM):
H.J. Res. 6. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.J. Res. 7. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for balanced budg- ets for the Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.J. Res. 8. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide for balanced budg- ets for the Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.J. Res. 9. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit Members of Con- gress from receiving compensation during a fiscal year unless both Houses of Congress have agreed to a resolution on the budget for that fiscal year prior to the beginning of that fiscal year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.J. Res. 10. A joint resolution to authorize the use of the United States Armed Forces to achieve the goal of preventing Iran from ob- taining nuclear weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. TIP- TON):
H.J. Res. 11. A joint resolution dis- approving the rule submitted by the Depart- ment of Homeland Security pursuant to the Stream Protection Rule; to the Committee on Natural Re- sources.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina):
H.J. Res. 12. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting the United States Government from increasing its debt except for a specific purpose by law adopted by three-fifths of each House of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. O’ROURKE:
H.J. Res. 13. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of terms a Representative or Senator may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SESSIONS:
H.Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution re- garding the consent of the President or the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and its associated forces; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HILL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SENS, Mr. CORRY, Mr. BASS, Mr. LONG, Mr. FOSS, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. FLENSBURG, Mr. ROSE, Mr. SAYEGH, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. BANKS of Ohio, Mr. WILKIE, Mr. ROYCE of New Jersey, Mr. RAVENSTINE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WATSON of Texas, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. NOCROSH, Mr.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 30.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution which states, "The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; and all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States." By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 31.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution which states, "The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; and all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States." By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 32.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to enact laws for the general welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 33.

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

Article I, Section 1, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers generally granted to Congress by that section, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 to 17, and Section 9, Clauses 1 to 4, and 7 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of specific legislative powers granted to Congress by those sections, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers granted to Congress by those sections, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Office thereof." By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 34.

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

Article I, Section 1, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers granted to Congress by those sections, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause "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." Article III, Section 1, Clause 1, Sentence 1, Clause 2, Clause 1, and Section 2, Clause 2, Sentence 2, of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation defines or affects judicial powers granted to Congress by that clause "to determine all Controversies to which the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof." By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 35.

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

Article I, Section 8, Cluster 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to enact laws for the general welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H.R. 36.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 which grants Congress the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof. By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 37.

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

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, Congress shall have the power to enact appropriate laws protecting the civil rights of all Americans. By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 38.

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

The 2nd Amendment, which states that “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” By Mr. MCDONALD:

H.R. 39.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 which grants Congress the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof. By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 40.

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

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, Congress shall have the power to enact appropriate laws protecting the civil rights of all Americans. By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 41.

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

Article I, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution states: "The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and said Congress shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.” By Mr. MCDONALD:

H.R. 42.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution
The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:
H.R. 51.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:
H.R. 66.
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 I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 55.
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 I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 59.
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 I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DENHAM:
H.R. 59.
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 I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCOTT of Georgia:
H.R. 57.
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 I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MARINO:
H.R. 70.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:
H.R. 73.
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 I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 65.
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 I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 66.
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 I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 66.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:
H.R. 67.
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 I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BLUM:
H.R. 67.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 US Constitution.

By Mr. CLAY:
H.R. 70.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 71.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 9, Clause 7—No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:
H.R. 72.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:
H.R. 73.
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 I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUPTKEMPER:
H.R. 77.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”
The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CHABOT:
H.R. 79.
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. BABIN:
H.R. 80.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. Babin:
H.R. 81.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. Babin:
H.R. 82.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. Barletta:
H.R. 83.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mrs. Blackburn:
H.R. 84.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. Riggs:
H.R. 85.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8, “necessary and proper” clause of the Constitution

By Mrs. Blackburn:
H.R. 86.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8, “necessary and proper” clause of the Constitution.

By Mrs. Blackburn:
H.R. 87.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8, “necessary and proper” clause of the Constitution.

By Mrs. Blackburn:
H.R. 88.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. Blackburn:
H.R. 89.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8, “necessary and proper” clause of the Constitution.

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 90.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 91.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 92.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 93.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 94.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 95.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 96.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 97.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 98.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 99.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 100.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 101.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 102.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 103.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 104.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 105.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 106.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 107.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 108.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendment XVI

By Ms. Brownley of California:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendment XVI

By Ms. Brownley of California:
H.R. 110.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendment XVI

By Mr. Buchanan:
H.R. 111.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. Buchanan:
H.R. 112.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. Buchanan:
H.R. 113.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. Buchanan:
H.R. 114.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. Buchanan:
H.R. 115.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. Buchanan:
H.R. 116.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Burgess:
H.R. 117.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This legislation would repeal existing federal law, which was passed under the claimed constitutional authority of Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, often referred to as the “Commerce Clause.”

By Mr. Burgess:
H.R. 118.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 9, clause 7, “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law, and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.”

By Mr. Burgess:
H.R. 119.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The attached legislation falls under Congress’ enumerated constitutional authority to regulate interstate commerce pursuant to Article I, Section 8, clause 3.

By Mr. Burgess:
H.R. 120.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States: No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by law.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States: To Establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 121.

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

Commerce Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 3)
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 126.

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

Commerce Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 3)
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 127.

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

Commerce Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 3)
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. BURGESS:
H.R. 128.

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

The attached legislation falls under Congress' enumerated constitutional authority to regulate the postal system pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 7.

By Mr. BURGESS:
H.R. 129.

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

The attached language falls within Congress' delegated authority to legislate interstate commerce, found in Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. Further, Congress' authority to authorize the FAA to regulate airspace within the U.S. has been found to be within its authority under the General Welfare clause of the U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, clause 1.

By Mr. COLE:
H.R. 130.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with the Indian Tribes. This bill is enacted pursuant to Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 in order the enforce treaties made between the United States and several Indian Tribes.

By Mr. COLE:
H.R. 131.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with the Indian Tribes. This bill is enacted pursuant to Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 in order the enforce treaties made between the United States and several Indian Tribes.

By Mr. COLE:
H.R. 132.

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 IV, Section 3, Clause 3 which grants Congress the power to make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting . . . Property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. COLE:
H.R. 133.

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

Amendment XVI to the United States Constitution.

Additionally, since the Constitution does not provide Congress with the power to provide financial support to U.S. political parties, the general repeal of the Presidential Election Campaign Fund for this purpose is consistent with the powers that are reserved to the States and to the people as expressed in Amendments IX and X to the United States Constitution.

Further, Article I Section 8 defines the scope and powers of Congress and does not include this concept of taxation in furtherance of funding U.S. political parties within the expressed powers.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 134.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 135.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 136.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 137.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 138.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 139.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 140.

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

Section 5 of the XIV Amendment and Article I Section 8.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 141.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 142.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 143.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 144.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 145.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: Taxing and Spending Clause.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:
H.R. 146.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2—The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:
H.R. 147.

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

Congress has the power to make all needful Rules and Regulations necessary and proper for the carrying into execution of powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 148.

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

General Welfare Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 1)

Commerce Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 3)

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 149.

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

Section 5 of the XIV amendment, including the power to enforce the prohibition on government action denying equal protection of the laws; and

(4) section 8 of article I, to make all laws necessary and proper for the carrying into execution of powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 150.

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

General Welfare Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 1)

Commerce Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 3)

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 151.

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

General Welfare Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 1)

Commerce Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 3)

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 152.

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

General Welfare Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 1)

Commerce Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 3)

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 153.

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

General Welfare Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 1)

Commerce Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 3)

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 154.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)
Appropriations Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 9, Cl. 7)
By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 156.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution (the Commerce Clause).
By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:
H.R. 156.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution (the Commerce Clause).
By Mr. HASTINGS:
H.R. 157.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 Clause 4 of the United States Constitution which states that Congress has the power to regulate Commerce among the States. ObamaCare was a clear exercise of Congress' power "To regulate Commerce . . . among the States." ObamaCare was a clear violation of the Commerce Clause, forcing individuals to buy a product, and this bill will ensure that such personal economic decisions are returned to Americans.
In addition, this bill makes specific changes to existing law in a manner that returns power to the States and to the People, consistent with Amendment X of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 173.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution, which reads: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collected Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises." Therefore, Congress' taxing power would be the authority to repeal ObamaCare's individual mandate.
Clause 3, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution, which states Congress' power "To regulate Commerce . . . among the States."
By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 174.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which reads: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collected Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises."
By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 175.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution, which states that Congress has the power to "regulate Commerce . . . among the States."
By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 176.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 177.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution, which states that Congress has the power to "regulate Commerce . . . among the States."
By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 178.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 179.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution, which states that Congress has the power to "regulate Commerce . . . among the States."
By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 180.
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. MCKINLEY:
H.R. 181.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. MULLIN:
H.R. 182.
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. MULLIN:
H.R. 183.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 1 of Article III of the Constitution.
By Mr. PAULSEN:
H.R. 184.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3 provides that the Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belong to the United States.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 185.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3 provides that the Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belong to the United States.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 186.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3 provides that the Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belong to the United States.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 187.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3 provides that the Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belong to the United States.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 188.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3 provides that the Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belong to the United States.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 189.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Sections 7 and 8, All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives. The Congress shall have Power to Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 190.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Sections 7 and 8, All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives. The Congress shall have Power to Lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 191.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

“The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 219.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

“...To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 220.

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

Article I, Section 8

Clause I. & Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 221.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

“The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 222.

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 several States, and with the Indian Tribes”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 223.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

“The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among several states, and with the Indian Tribes”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 224.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

“The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among several states, and with the Indian Tribes”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 225.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

“The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among several states, and with the Indian Tribes”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 226.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

“The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among several states, and with the Indian Tribes”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 227.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

“The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among several states, and with the Indian Tribes”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 228.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

“The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among several states, and with the Indian Tribes”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 229.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

“...The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes”

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 230.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 231.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 232.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 233.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 2

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 234.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 235.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 236.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 237.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GOODLATTE:
H.J. Res. 1.

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

The constitutional authority on which this joint resolution is based is found in Article V of the Constitution, which grants Congress the authority, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, to propose Amendments to this Constitution.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:
H.J. Res. 2.

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

The constitutional authority on which this joint resolution is based is found in Article V of the Constitution, which grants Congress the authority, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, to propose Amendments to this Constitution.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:
H.J. Res. 3.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 17 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BRIDENSTINE:
H.J. Res. 4.

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

Article V of the Constitution which grants Congress the authority to propose Constitutional Amendments.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:
H.J. Res. 5.

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

Article V: “The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.”

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.J. Res. 7.

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

Article V, U.S. Constitution

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.J. Res. 8.

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

Article V, U.S. Constitution

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.J. Res. 9.

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

Article V, U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HASTINGS:
H.J. Res. 10.

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

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia:
H.J. Res. 11.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:
H.J. Res. 12.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:...
By Mr. O’ROURKE:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the Constitution: The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states or by conventions in three thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.
The third day of January being the day prescribed by the Constitution of the United States for the annual meeting of the Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol for the commencement of the 1st session of the 115th Congress and at 12:02 p.m. was called to order by the Vice President (Mr. BIDEN).

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God of Light, in whom there is no darkness, thank You for the illumination of Your presence. As we begin a new year and a new Congress, please be the guide that will lead us to fulfill Your purposes.

During this 115th Congress, awaken our lawmakers to Your inescapable presence. Keep them from thinking that You are absent from our world or disinterested in it. Lord, enable them to feel You in their midst as they grapple with the problems and challenges of our time. May they seek first to embrace a humility that strives to understand instead of striving first to be understood. In a special way, bless our new Senators and all of their loved ones with Your grace, mercy, and peace.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The VICE PRESIDENT 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.

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION
The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificates of election of 34 Senators elected for 6-year terms beginning on January 3, 2017. All certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the form suggested by the Senate or contain all essential requirements of the form suggested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the certificates will be waived and they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF COLORADO
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the eighth day of November, 2016, Michael Bennet was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Colorado a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2017. Witness: His Excellency our Governor John Hickenlooper, and our seal hereto affixed at Denver, Colorado this ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the Governor:

JOHN HICKENLOOPER,
Governor,
WAYNR W. WILLIAMS,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the eighth day of November, two thousand and sixteen Richard Blumenthal was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Connecticut as Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the third day of January two thousand and seventeen. Witness: His Excellency our Governor, Dannel P. Malloy and our seal hereto affixed at the State Capitol in Hartford, this seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the Governor:

DANIEL P. MALLOY,
Governor,
DENISE MERRILL,
Secretary of the State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MISSOURI
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Roy Blunt was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Missouri a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017. Witness: His Excellency our Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, and our seal hereto affixed at the City of Jefferson this 14th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the Governor:

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON,
Governor,
JASON KANDER,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF ARKANSAS
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, the Honorable John Boozman was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Arkansas a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3d day of January, 2017. Witness: His Excellency, our governor, the Honorable Asa Hutchinson, and our seal hereto affixed at the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas, this 29th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the governor:

ASA HUTCHINSON,
Governor,
MARK MARTIN,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Richard Mauze Burr was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of North Carolina, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.
In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State, at the Capital City of Raleigh this the 19th day of December 2016.

PAT MCCORMACK,
Governor.

ELAINE F. MARSHALL,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NEVADA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that at a general election held in the State of Nevada on Tuesday, the eighth day of November, two thousand sixteen Catherine Cortez Masto was duly elected a Member of the United States Senate in and for the State of Nevada, for a term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2017.

Now, therefore, I, Brian Sandoval, Governor of the State of Nevada, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws thereof, and do hereby commission her, the said Catherine Cortez Masto, as a Member of the United Senate, and authorize her to discharge the duties of said office according to law, to hold and enjoy the same, together with all powers, privileges and emoluments appertaining.

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol at Carson City, Nevada on this 1st day of December, two thousand sixteen.

BRIAN SANDOVAL,
Governor of the State of Nevada.

BARBARA K. CHIBAVSKE,
Secretary of State of Nevada.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF IOWA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November 2016, Charles E. Grassley was duly elected as Senator to the Senate of the United States to represent the State of Iowa beginning on the 3rd day of January 2017.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 5th day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

TERRY BRAINSTAD,
Governor of Iowa.

Attest:
PAUL D. PATE,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States of America:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Kamala D. Harris was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of California as a Senator to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 18th day of December, 2016.

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.,
Governor of California.

Attest:
ALEX PADILLA,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the eighth day of November, two thousand and sixteen Maggie Hassan was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New Hampshire to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the third day of January, two thousand and seventeen.

Witness, Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan and the Seal of the State of New Hampshire hereto affixed at Concord, this seventh day of December, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and sixteen.

By the Governor, with advice of the Council:
MARGARET WOOD HANSSAN, Governor.
WILLIAM M. GARDNER, Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November 2016, John Hoeven was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of North Dakota a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2017.

In witness whereof, we have set our hands in the Capitol City of Bismarck this 18th day of November 2016, and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Dakota.

JACK DALRYMPLE, Governor.
ALVIN A. JANDREW, Secretary of State.
PENNY MILLER, Clerk of the Supreme Court, Member State Canvassing Board.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF GEORGIA
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, John H. Isakson was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Georgia, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Nathan Deal, and the Great Seal of the State of Georgia hereto affixed at the Capitol, in the city of Atlanta, the 28th day of November, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Sixteen.

By The Governor,
NATHAN DEAL,
Governor.

BRIAN P. KEMP,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Ron Johnson was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Wisconsin, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Scott Walker, and our seal hereto affixed at Madison this 12th day of December 2016.

By the Governor,
SCOTT WALKER,
Governor.

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF LOUISIANA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 19th day of December, 2016, John Kennedy was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Louisiana a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor John Bel Edwards, and our seal hereto affixed at Baton Rouge, Louisiana this 22nd day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the Governor,
JACK BEL EDWARDS,
Governor of Louisiana.
TOM SCHIDLER,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, James Lankford was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Oklahoma a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Mary Fallin, and the Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed. Done at Oklahoma City this 18th day of December, 2016.

BERNIE J. MITCHELL, Governor.
TOM CORRIGAN, Clerk of the Senate, Member State Canvassing Board.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MONTANA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November 2016, Steve Daines was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Montana a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years,

Beginning on the 3rd day of January 2017.

By the Governor,
STEVE DAINES,
Governor of State of Montana.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF WYOMING
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, John Barrasso was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Wyoming a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Matthew Mead, and the Seal of the State of Wyoming to be affixed. Done at Cheyenne this 19th day of December, 2016.

LAWRENCE DENNEY,
Governor of State of Wyoming.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November 2016, John Thune was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of South Dakota a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2017.

In witness whereof, we have set our hands in the Capitol City of Pierre this 18th day of November, 2016, and affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota.

DAVE DERYKA,
Governor.
TOM MILLER,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]
States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.
Witness: Her Excellency our governor Mary Fallin, and our seal hereto affixed at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma this 1st day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the governor:

Mary Fallin, Governor.
Mike Hunter, Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF VERMONT
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Patrick Leahy was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Vermont to be a Senator from Vermont to represent Vermont in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.
Witness: Governor Peter Shumlin this 21st day of November, 2016.

By the governor:

Peter Shumlin, Governor.
Jim Condos, Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF UTAH
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Mike Lee was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Utah a Senator from said State to represent the State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.
Witness: His excellency our governor Gary R. Herbert, and our seal hereto affixed at Salt Lake City, Utah this 30th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the governor:

Gary R. Herbert, Governor.
Spencer J. Cox, Lieutenant Governor.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF ARIZONA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, John McCain was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Arizona a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.
Witness: His excellency our Governor Doug Ducey, and our seal hereto affixed at Phoenix this ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the governor:

Douglas A. Ducey, Governor.
Michele Reagan, Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF KANSAS
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Jerry Moran was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Kansas a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.
Witness: His excellency our governor Sam Brownback, and our seal hereto affixed at Topeka, Kansas this 30th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the governor:

Sam Brownback, Governor.
Kris W. Kobach, Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF ALASKA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Lisa Murkowski was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Alaska a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.
Witness: His Excellency our governor Bill Walker, and our seal hereto affixed at Anchorage this 1st day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the Governor:

Bill Walker, Governor.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF WASHINGTON
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that at the General Election held in the State of Washington on the 8th day of November, 2016, Patty Murray was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Washington as Senator from the State of Washington to represent the State of Washington in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.
Witness: His Excellency our Governor Jay Inslee, and our seal hereto affixed at Olympia, Washington this 7th day of December, 2016.

By the Governor:

Jay Inslee, Governor.
Kim Wyman, Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
To all to Whom these Presents Shall Come, Greeting.
Know Ye That Honorable Rand Paul having been duly certified, that on November 8, 2016 was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Kentucky a Senator from said state to represent said state in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning the 3rd day of January 2017.
I hereby invest the above named with full power and authority to execute and discharge the duties of the said office according to law. And to have and to hold the same, with all the rights and emoluments thereunto legally appertaining, for and during the term prescribed by law.

In testimony whereof, I have caused these letters to be made patent, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to be thereunto affixed at Frankfort, the 22nd day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and six-

teen and in the 225th year of the Commonwealth.

MATTHEW G. BEVIN,
Governor.
ALISON LUNDERBERG GRIMES,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF OHIO
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Rob Portman was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Ohio a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.
Witness: His excellency our governor, and our seal hereto affixed at Columbus, Ohio, this 7th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the governor:

John Kasich, Governor.
Jon A. Husted, Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF FLORIDA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the eighth day of November, 2016, Marco Rubio was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Florida a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.
WITNESS: His excellency our governor, Rick Scott, and our seal hereto affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 30th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the governor:

Rick Scott, Governor.
Ken Detzner, Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF HAWAII
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:
This is to certify that on the eighth day of November, 2016, Brian Schatz was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Hawaii a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning at noon on the third day of January, 2017.
Witness: His excellency our governor, David Y. Ige, and our seal hereto affixed at Honolulu this twenty-eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the Governor:

David Y. Ige, Governor.
Scott T. Nago, Chief Election Officer.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
To the President of the Senate.
This is to certify that on the eighth day of November, two thousand sixteen, Charles E. Schumer was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New York a Senator from said State to represent the State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, two thousand seventeen.
Witness: His excellency our Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and our seal hereto affixed
at New York, New York, this ninth day of December in the year two thousand sixteen.

By the Governor:

ANDREW M. CUOMO, Governor.
ROSSANA ROSADO, Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the eighth day of November, A.D. 2016, Nikki R. Haley, and our seal hereto affixed at Columbia, South Carolina this twenty-ninth day of November in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Sixteen.

By the Governor:

ROSSANA ROSADO, Governor.

[State Seal Affixed]

THE STATE OF ALABAMA
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the eighth day of November, A.D. 2016, Tim Scott was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of South Carolina a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2017.

Witness: Her Excellency our Governor Nikki R. Haley, and our seal hereto affixed at Montgomery this 5th day of December, in the 3rd day of January, 2017.

By the Governor:

ROSSANA ROSADO, Governor.

[State Seal Affixed]
The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will read the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. LEAHY of Vermont, Mr. LEE of Utah, Mr. MCCAIN of Arizona, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

These Senators, escorted by Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. ROBERTS, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will read the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Ms. MURKOWSKI of Alaska, Mrs. MURRAY of Washington, Mr. PAUL of Kentucky, and Mr. PORTMAN of Ohio.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DeWine, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will read the names of the next group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. RUBIO of Florida, Mr. SCHATZ of Hawaii, Mr. SCHUMER of New York, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. NELSON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. Reid, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DeMINT, and Mr. GRAHAM, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

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The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

WELCOMING MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. President, I am pleased to welcome back familiar faces and express warm greetings to new Members.

On the Republican side, that includes Senator YOUNG of Indiana and Senator KENNEDY of Louisiana.


To each of our incoming Senators, I hope you enjoy these ceremonies with your families and colleagues as you embark on your new Senate careers. The Senate has a lot of work ahead, but for now I would encourage each of our Members who have just been sworn in to take a moment to celebrate the rich tradition of this day.

For those who served last Congress, you should be proud of what the Senate was able to accomplish on behalf of the American people. There is much more to do now, and I will have more to say on that tomorrow.

We know the coming days are going to require hard work and cooperation from both sides, but if we work together, we will be able to continue a record of achievement for our constituents, for our States, and for our country.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The absence of a quorum having been suggested, the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

Alexander    Franken    Murphy
Balducci    Gardner    Murray
Barrasso    Gillibrand    Nelson
Barrasso    Graham    Paul
Bennett    Grassley    Perdue
Booker    Harris    Peters
Boozman    Heinrich    Risch
Brown    Herring    Rounds
Capito    Hoeven    Rounds
Cardin    Hirono    Rubio
Carper    Hoeven    Rounds
Casey    Inhofe    Schatz
Cochran    Isakson    Schumer
Collins    Johnson    Scott
Collins    Kaine    Sessions
Cory    Kennedy    Shaheen
Corker    King    Shelby
Corzine    Klobuchar    Stabenow
Corker    Lankford    Sullivan
Cotton    Leahy    Tanen
Crapo    Lee    Tillis
Cruz    Manchin    Toomey
Donnelly    Markey    Udall
Duckworth    McCain    Van Hollen
Durbin    McCaskill    Warner
Enzi    McConnell    Warren
Ernst    Menendez    Whitehouse
Feinstein    Merkley    Wicker
Fischer    Moran    Wyden
Flake    Murkowski    Young

LIST OF SENATORS BY STATES

Alabama—Richard C. Shelby and Jeff Sessions
Alaska—Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan
Arizona—John McCain and Jeff Flake
Arkansas—John Boozman and Tom Cotton
California—Dianne Feinstein and Kamala D. Harris
Colorado—Michael F. Bennet and Cory Gardner
Connecticut—Richard Blumenthal and Christopher Murphy
Delaware—Thomas R. Carper and Christopher A. Coons
Florida—Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio
Georgia—Johnny Isakson and David Perdue
Hawaii—Brian Schatz and Mazie K. Hirono
Idaho—Mike Crapo and James E. Risch
Illinois—Richard J. Durbin and Tammy Duckworth
Indiana—Joe Donnelly and Todd Young
Iowa—Chuck Grassley and Joni Ernst
Kansas—Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran
Kentucky—Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul
Louisiana—Bill Cassidy and John Kennedy
Maine—Susan M. Collins and Angus S. King, Jr.
Maryland—Benjamin L. Cardin and Chris Van Hollen
Massachusetts—Elizabeth Warren and Edward J. Markey
Michigan—Debbie Stabenow and Gary C. Peters
Minnesota—Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken
Mississippi—Thad Cochran and Roger F. Wicker
Missouri—Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt
Montana—Jon Tester and Steve Daines
Nebraska—Deb Fischer and Ben Sasse
Nevada—Dean Heller and Catherine Cortez Masto
New Hampshire—Jeanne Shaheen and Margaret Wood Hassan
New Jersey—Robert Menendez and Cory A. Booker
New Mexico—Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich
New York—Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten E. Gillibrand
North Carolina—Richard Burr and Thom Tillis
North Dakota—John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp
Ohio—Sherrill Brown and Rob Portman
Oklahoma—James M. Inhofe and James Lankford
Oregon—Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley
Pennsylvania—Robert P. Casey, Jr. and Patrick J. Toomey
Rhode Island—Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse
South Carolina—Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott
South Dakota—John Thune and Mike Rounds
Tennessee—Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker
Texas—John Cornyn and Ted Cruz
Utah— Orrin G. Hatch and Mike Lee
Vermont—Patrick J. Leahy and Bernard Sanders
Virginia—Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine
Washington—Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell
West Virginia—Joe Manchin III and Shelley Moore Capito
Wisconsin—Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin
Wyoming—Michael B. Enzi and John Barrasso
The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader.

INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 3, submitted earlier today.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 3) fixing the hour of the daily meeting of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be so ordered.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 3) fixing the hour of the daily meeting of the Senate.

Resolved, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 1, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be so ordered.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 1) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 1
Resolved, That the Senate (the House of Representatives concouring).

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZED OF JOINT COMMITTEE

Effective from January 3, 2017, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 28 (114th Congress), to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, is continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SEC. 2. USE OF CAPITOL

Effective from January 3, 2017, the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 (114th Congress), to authorize the use of the rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States are continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTING OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 2, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) to provide for the counting on January 6, 2017, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 2
Resolved, That the Senate do now proceed to the consideration of the concurrent resolution.
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 2
Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress in the United States, and the President of the Senate, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be previously appointed by the President of the Senate, on the part of the Senate, and two by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be handed, as they are opened by the President of the Senate, all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be kept, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter “A”; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be sufficient for the purpose of declaring the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair appoints the Senator from Missouri, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and the Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHER, as tellers on the part of the Senate to count electoral votes.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send to the desk, en bloc, 11 unanimous consent requests, and I ask for their immediate consideration en bloc. I further ask that the requests be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and that they appear separately in the RECORD.

Before the Chair rules, I would like to point out that these requests are routine and done at the beginning of each new Congress.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 115th Congress, the Ethics Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 115th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to agreeing to the unanimous consent requests en bloc?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTION OVER. UNDER THE RULE—S. RES. 4

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 4) to constitute the majority party’s membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for its immediate consideration, and to send the resolution over, under the rule, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The resolution will go over, under the rule.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business for debate only until 4 p.m. today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

A TIME TO LOOK FORWARD

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I want to thank my friend the majority leader. As this is the first time offering opening remarks with the Republican leader, I will speak a little longer than him today. After all, it is my first speech.

I want to start by extending my sincerest wish to him that we be able to work together to get things done for the American people. The Republican leader is my friend. He is also a great believer and defender of the Senate and the important role it must play in our national life and around the world. I look forward to working with him to
preserve that legacy. Coming from the swearing-in ceremony, as we just did, I thank the people of my home State of New York for entrusting me with the most sacred obligation to represent them, to be their voice in the United States Senate. I also want to take the time to express my life to serve them, to use what ability I have been given on their behalf, to endeavor to make their lives and the lives of their fellow Americans better, safer, more prosperous, and more free.

I don’t think I have done this job if I love it if not for my family, my wife Iris and two beautiful daughters, Jessica and Allison, my parents, age 93 and 88, Abe and Selma, who came down from New York for this occasion, and my new son-in-law Shappy. They support me, they keep me going through the good times and the bad and, maybe most importantly, they tell me when I am wrong. They are my rock and the light of my life.

I would also like to acknowledge, in this first speech, Harry Reid, the outgoing leader, my predecessor, and friend for life, Harry Reid. He is the mentor, and friend for life, Harry Reid. To my staff, another second family of mine, thank you. Most of them are working, dedicated, and brilliant men and women who over the years have put their shoulders to the wheel to help New York, this country, and me. There are too many to name them all, but I must mention two, Mike Lynch and Martin Brennan, who have been with me since the 1998 campaign, the twin pillars of my office. Whatever success I have had in my campaigns, it can be traced back to them. So I thank them and all of my staff, past and present, from the bottom of my heart.

Finally, although he is no longer a Member of this esteemed body, I salute the one dearer, my predecessor, mentor, and friend for life, Harry Reid. Thank you.

Now is a time to look forward. We Democrats lost the election. It is a result many of us did not expect. It was a result none of us hoped for. When you lose an election like this, you can’t flinch, you can’t blink. You have to look it right in the eye, analyze it, learn from it and, most importantly, make corrections and move forward. It is easy to blame the results and elections on outside forces, and it is true that any one of them or a few in combination could have been responsible for the outcome of an election which the Democrat candidate won by nearly 3 million votes but lost by slim margins in a few States that decided the electoral college.

It is easy to look back and place blame, but now is the time to look forward. What we must do now is take a hard look at what we can do better. It is clear that many Americans felt the economy was rigged against them and that their government wasn’t looking out for them. It was too beholden to the special interests. Democrats did not do enough to show American workers we are the party that has their backs, that our positions are much more in line with their needs than the Republican positions, and so, as we look to this new Congress and a new Presidency, Senate Democrats will once again recommit ourselves to a set of principles that has always been at the core of our party, what my beloved friend and mentor Senator Ted Kennedy called economic justice. I am proud that our party has stood for almost a century old. It has been reaffirmed and deepened by passionate patriots like Stephen King, John Lewis, Martin Luther King, Jr., a commitment to the common man, to economic fairness for the American worker, to opportunity and prosperity for the American middle class and beyond.

Whatever need is from we Democrats is a bigger, bolder, sharper-edged economic program that addresses how those struggling to stay in the middle class can stay there and those struggling to make it into the middle class can get there more easily and deals directly with the unfairness so many see and experience in our economic system. That is a mission that unites our caucus, from my friend from West Virginia, Senator Manchin, from my friend from Vermont, Senator Sanders, and one that appeals to the blue-collar worker in West Virginia and Michigan just as deeply as the college student from Los Angeles who is struggling with student debt. It appeals to the factory worker in the heartland just as much as to the immigrant family in New York City and the single mom in Cleveland trying to make ends meet on minimum wage.

There are great many things we Democrats would like to do in the Senate to help these people, to ease the burden on the middle class and those struggling to make it—creating more jobs by investing in infrastructure and education, science and medicine, making college more affordable, increasing the minimum wage, changing our trade laws and so much more.

We will be making proposals we hope our Republican colleagues will join us on. As the year wears on, and it becomes clear that Democratic proposals are what the American people want and need, I hope many will. But we are not in the majority. Therefore, we cannot delude anyone that this Congress will start tomorrow taking up priorities of the Democratic minority. But we can raise our voices to present an alternative way forward, and we can rally the American people to support this agenda. As Republicans return majorities to both Houses of Congress and we prepare for a Republican in the White House, the Democratic minority in the Senate has a very important task ahead of it.

There are those who suggest our baseline posture should be to work with the President-elect and have him pass his whole agenda, but it is not our job to be a rubberstamp. It is our job to do what is best for the American people, the middle class, and those struggling to get there. For instance, if the President-elect proposes legislation on closing the carried interest loophole, we will work in good faith to perfect and potentially enact it, but when he doesn’t, we will resist. What we will always do is hold the President-elect and his Republican colleagues accountable—accountable to the working people to whom the President-elect promised so much; accountable to the people of all colors, creeds and sexual orientations in this country for whom he held himself accountable; accountable to the millions of Americans who voted for him even though many of the Republican policies he now, postelection, seems to be embracing are inimical to their interests; and perhaps most importantly, accountable to the law.

The Senate has a rich, bipartisan tradition of being a constitutional check on Presidents of both parties. Many in this body have long observed that in America, we are a nation of laws and not men. That sacred constitutional duty of holding the President accountable to the law must continue, and Democrats will make sure of it. Sometimes it will mean pointing out where rhetoric and reality diverge, and we will mean resisting the President and Republicans in Congress when they propose legislation that we believe will hurt the American people. This will be an accountable Congress, and we will be a caucus that makes sure the President-elect keeps his commitment to truly make America great again in its finest sense and tradition.

We know what makes America great, a fundamental optimism, a belief that the future will bring more opportunity than their parents, a conviction that this American dream can be shared by all of us, regardless of race or gender or sexual orientation. We will hold President-Elect Trump accountable to the values that truly make America great, but we will fight him tooth and nail when he appeals to the baser instincts that diminish America and its greatness, instincts that have too often plagued this country. In the coming campaign, and we will have benchmarks throughout the campaign. The President-elect said he could push GDP
growth to 5 percent or 6 percent. He complained that the real unemployment rate was too high and he would bring it down. We will hold him accountable to that. What does he think he can achieve in a year or two or four? What are the hard decisions he needs to achieve those goals? He promised to be much tougher on China, even though many Republicans for years have resisted legislation in Congress to do that. We will hold him accountable for it and demand he keep his promise. He promised to protect Social Security and Medicare, but tapped an avowed critic of Medicare, a man who has spent his career advocating for its demise as his Secretary of Health and Human Services. We demand that he keep his promise to not cut Social Security or Medicare. He says he wants to build a strong America and earn respect around the world but seems to be marching in lockstep with the bullying, dictatorial, corrupt autocrat who has caused a great deal of trouble around the globe and here in America, Vladimir Putin. We will hold him accountable to that.

We will hold the President accountable if he doesn’t nominate a mainstream Supreme Court Justice. President Obama nominated a mainstream candidate in Merrick Garland. President-Elect Trump should do the same. The President-elect said a great many things about rebuilding our infrastructure. Democrats welcome that discussion, but how is he going to do it? We have thousands of bridges and tunnels and highways and schools, waste water systems, airports in need of repair, not only in our big cities but in rural and suburban communities throughout America. A program of tax credits isn’t going to get the job done no matter how large we need significant direct spending. How does the President-elect plan to get that done? The President-elect is not accounting for the Affordable Care Act he favors. We will hold him accountable to that. The ACA extended affordable health care to 30 million Americans. We ask the President-elect, if you repeal the ACA, what are you going to do to protect these 30 million people? How are you going to ensure that a kid right out of college can stay on his parent’s or her parent’s plan, that the mother with a child who has a preexisting condition can get health care for her child, that women everywhere are not charged more for their care simply because they are a woman? It is not acceptable to repeal the law, throw our health care system into chaos, and then leave the hard work for another day.

Mr. President-elect, what is your plan to make sure all Americans can get affordable health care? We will hold the President-elect accountable for actually creating jobs and raising incomes, growing our economy and lowering the debt. We will hold him accountable for protecting voting rights and civil rights, for safeguarding our clean air and clean water, for maintaining our commitment to our Nation’s veterans and troops and their families, for giving that worker in Michigan, that college student in L.A., that single mother in Cleveland a real opportunity and a ladder up. What could be fairer? After all, his big pledge to the American people was that he would, “Make America Great.” make the lives of Americans better. Yes, we are the Democrats, let’s go watch that program of the President, we will not hesitate for a moment to call out the person occupying that office if he demeanens women or Muslims or Latinos or our friends in the LGBT community, and if he spews vitriol or aides to the President demean a group of Americans, we will not hesitate for a moment to demand that our new President condemn these comments, not sidestep them, not simply distance himself from them, condemn them, pointedly and roundly, as Presidents of both parties—every President of both parties—have done throughout the decades. We will hold President-Elect Trump accountable to the finest instincts of what has always stood for, a pluribus unum.

The bottom line is, the President-elect ran as a change agent. He ran against the establishments of both parties. He promised to change the way America is governed, to cut the swamp, pay attention to working families, but, my friends, since the election, he seems to have forgotten that.

Looking at the Cabinet, which is stacked with billionaires, corporate executives, tithes of Wall Street, and those deeply embedded in Washington’s corridor of power, it seems that many of his campaign themes are quickly being abandoned. He said he was going to unrig the system. So far, it still looks riggged. Too many of his Cabinet picks support the same hard-right doctrinaire positions that many in the Republican Party have held forever, are the views that the American people have repeatedly rejected. If President-Elect Trump lets the hard-right Members of Congress and his Cabinet run the show, if he attempts to adopt their timeworn policies which benefit the elite, the special interests, and corporate America, not the working man and woman, his Presidency will not succeed—maybe not in the first 90 days but certainly in the first 2 years. Unfortunately, that seems to be the path he is following throughout the transition.

So Mr. President-Elect, if there is one part of my speech that I hope you listen to and take to heart it is this. If you abandon change and simply embrace the shopworn, hard-right, pro-corporate, pro-elite policies diametrically opposed to the many campaign themes that helped you win working class votes and get you elected, your Presidency will not succeed.

We Democrats will hold you accountable to the working people of America, not to the conservative ideologues in Washington who seem to have great number in your Cabinet. We will hold your feet to the fire every time you abandon your pledge and work instead as an ally of the hard right.

The issues facing this country are many. We have a lot of work to do—creating jobs, raising incomes, making college and health care affordable, rebuilding our infrastructure, making trade laws work for the American worker, keeping Americans safe from threats of violence and terrorism, taking care of our vets. Each one takes serious thought and action. These issues are too important for mere words.

Our challenge is twofold. Making America great again requires more than 140 characters per issue. With all due respect, America cannot afford a Twitter Presidency. We have real challenges, and we have real needs to get things done.

Many Americans are afraid, Mr. President-elect, that instead of rolling up your sleeves and forging serious policies, you are going to Tweet and Twitter.

There is nothing wrong with using Twitter to speak to the American people. It is a good use of modern media. But these issues are too important and command both careful consideration and action. We cannot tweet them away. For instance, a tweet bragging about the 800 jobs that were saved at the Carrier plant does not solve the underlying problem. While it is true that 800 jobs were saved, even at Carrier, 1,300 jobs are still leaving. Hundreds more jobs are leaving from the nearby Rexnord plant down the road; they are going overseas.

Most importantly, thousands more jobs each month leave our shores from every part of America. Tweeting about 800 jobs you saved is not a remanufacturing policy. That is not an economic policy. We are going to hold the President-elect accountable to our economic policy to stop jobs from leaving this country, not just one half of one plant, not just one tweet, even if Republicans in Congress oppose it.

Similarly, tweeting “very smart” to Vladimir Putin for ignoring American sanctions is not foreign policy. America does not conduct foreign policy by tweet, least of all by flattering Putin after our intelligence agencies have confirmed that Russia interfered in our election.

Conducting foreign policy by tweet while spurning vital intelligence briefings that lay out the real emerging threats around the world should alarm Democrats and Republicans alike. It is utterly amazing that our Republican colleagues, who love to lambast President Obama for not being tough enough on Putin are now, with a few rare exceptions, utterly silent on this and so many other issues.

The President-elect must be held accountable on both sides of the aisle. On January 20, we will not be on reality TV; we will be in reality. We Democrats will make sure government works
for every American in reality, not just on TV and on Twitter.

So to those who wonder what the Democratic minority will do in the 115th Congress, the answer is simple: We will fight for our principles, we will fight for our values, and we will fulfill our solemn constitutional duty to hold the other branches of government accountable.

To the extent that the President-elect and the Republican majority pursue policies that are not consistent with our values, we will stand ready and willing to work with them. But if they propose policies that will hurt America, deny health care, cut their benefits, unleash irresponsible Wall Street risk-taking at the expense of consumers, their efforts will crash and break apart like waves upon the rocks of the Senate minority. That is our challenge. That is our charge. We rise to meet it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARRASSO). The Senator from Texas.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, let me start by offering my congratulations to my friend and colleague Senator SCHUMER from New York. He is a worthy adversary when we see things differently. He is someone with whom I have found I can work productively. I understand he has a new role to play as the Democratic leader. I am sure we will see a lot of that worthy adversarial part of his character in the forefront. But in this new year, with a new Congress, I do hope we can work together.

I became a little concerned, though, as I heard him go on. He had already declared the Trump Presidency over, and he is not even going to be sworn in for another 25 days. There are higher premiums with less coverage. There is one great historic example of that if you like what you have, you can keep it. We know that many folks no longer have access to the doctor or health care plan of their choice because their doctor has either quit accepting that insurance or retired or health plans have simply pulled up stakes because they can’t compete under the provisions of ObamaCare.

The verdict for the American people has been that ObamaCare has failed the American people. I would ask our Democratic colleagues to look at the fact that they passed it originally with 60 votes. Now they are at 48. We can still benefit in the majority and the minority if we have some common ground here for very long, but I think ObamaCare is one of the big reasons our Democratic colleagues find themselves currently in the minority.

As one of our colleagues put it this morning, if we can’t do better than ObamaCare, we might as well look for another line of work. What we owe the American people, I believe, is coverage that they choose, at a price they can afford, that makes sense.

Of course, there’s just the beginning. Under President Obama’s leadership, his administration has imposed thousands of rules and regulations, running up the price tag of hundreds of billions of dollars, which has put a stranglehold on the American economy. Any of these are job-killing regulations that make it harder for small businesses, which are the very lifeblood of our economy, to make ends meet, to make a profit, to hire additional employees—let alone the millions of Americans who live and work in this country—more well-paying jobs.

I look forward to working with the new administration to roll back those regulations and rules that don’t make sense. With ObamaCare repealed and replaced with coverage you can afford from a provider that you choose and with the better economic climate for the country, we can help more Americans achieve their dreams. That should be the top priority for every one of us here in this Chamber.

Finally, I look forward to working with the incoming administration to consider President-Elect Trump’s nominees to fill his posts in his Cabinet. If I am not mistaken, on the day that President Obama was sworn into office, January 20, 2009, there were seven Cabinet members of his incoming cabinet that were confirmed that day. That demonstrates the sort of good faith and accommodation that this Senate and the House as a whole will need to understand the importance of the President’s Cabinet members. Whether it is the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, or the Attorney General, they hold critical positions, not only in terms of national security but in terms of making sure our democracy works for the American people.

I have already spoken about one of our colleagues, Senator SESSIONS, the President-elect’s nominee to be the chief law enforcement officer for the country. I think Senator Sessions is an excellent choice. Our colleagues will have a chance to ask all the questions they want, but there is one thing I can
be sure of with Attorney General nominee Jeff Sessions, and that is that he will remove the political orientation of the Department of Justice and make sure that it is not just another political branch of the White House. I look forward to confirming him as Attorney General, confident that he will be prepared to answer the questions from our colleagues.

As we have seen over the last few days, President-Elect Trump continues to announce the nominations of many other candidates. No, I am confident, will serve the American people, including people like my friend the former Governor of Texas, Rick Perry, as Energy Secretary, and Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State. I hope all of our colleagues will understand how integral it is to the administration’s ability to govern to get well-qualified people confirmed to the President’s Cabinet. They, of course, have a responsibility to be forthcoming and to answer questions so we can cooperate with the process here in the Senate, but I look forward to working with our colleagues in getting the President’s nominees confirmed. I know we have a lot of work ahead of us, and I don’t have any doubt that, with a little cooperation, we can make the 115th Congress a productive one that meets the needs of the American people.

I would just conclude, perhaps, as I started, by saying that all of us who have worked here in the Senate for a white or a little while, Senator SCHUMER. We also understand he has taken on a new and more challenging role, because, frankly, the Democratic conference is a lot more left-leaning than it has ever been since I, certainly, have been here, and he has to work with all of his Members. But I hope there is one thing we can all agree with—that we have an obligation beyond party, and that is to our country and to the people we represent. We are blessed to work in a great American country—a unique institution—and I believe it is our obligation and duty to try to find areas we can agree on and build consensus to move the country forward for the American people. While surely we will have our fights—and they will be glorious fights—we shouldn’t shy away from those differences, but let’s not let our desire just to fight for fighting’s sake get in the way of our ability to work together and try to find consensus where we can.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Texas, and I think the closing remarks were spot-on. We will disagree, we will debate, and we will have our differences, but we all should strive for common ground. That is what the American people sent us here to do. I hope we can find the common ground in this Chamber and in the House and with the new President after January 20. It is a challenge.

It is interesting to listen to the remarks from the Republican side of the aisle. There has been this appetite for so long, I have a lost track of how many times the Republican House of Representatives voted to repeal ObamaCare over the last 6 years. I believe it is over 60 times that they have voted to repeal it. We shouldn’t think that over a span of 6 years with 60 different votes, they would have in their back pocket an alternative, they don’t. They still don’t today.

For all of the speeches on the floor that have been given by my illustrious colleagues asking for a second opinion, most second opinions are something tangible that you can read, understand. But when it comes to a second opinion on ObamaCare, they have nothing to offer. Why is that? Why is it that they are not coming across the aisle with ObamaCare—and the Republicans have not come up with an alternative? It is hard. It is hard work. There are tough, difficult choices.

If we stick to the basic principles of the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare, we run into some problems in a hurry. The first basic principle accepted by President-Elect Trump is that we want to make sure that no health insurance company can ever discriminate against a family because of a pre-existing condition—a baby born with cancer, a child with diabetes, a spouse who survives a cancer scare. In the old days before ObamaCare, that meant that you either were disqualified from insurance for your family or you couldn’t afford it. So we said as part of the Affordable Care Act: No more—they cannot discriminate against those who are less than perfect when it comes to health because someone is born over a span of perfect. OK, my friends in the Grand Old Party, how are you going to deal with that? How are we going to make sure that every family is protected with their health insurance plan? We haven’t heard a word.

President-Elect Trump said he is going to stick by that basic principle. But there comes with that principle a requirement as well—that you have a large pool of insured people that in some ways gives you healthy and those who may be less than healthy. If we are going to have a large pool of people, we must make insurance mandatory for many Americans. The Republicans have said they want to eliminate that requirement automatically. So the first issue we have in pre-existing condition. This is a Republican problem—an issue they can’t answer and one that they have refused to respond to.

What about lifetime limits on health insurance policies? What if there is a policy that you buy for $3000 and then you get a cancer diagnosis and the treatment is going to cost $1 million? What then? We say that there cannot be a lifetime limit on a health insurance policy. The Republicans want to repeal that. What would they replace that with? There is no suggestion.

The list goes on and on. What if you have a child who just graduated from college who is looking for a job or maybe has a part-time job that doesn’t have benefits and doesn’t have health insurance? We keep them under the family health insurance plan until they are 26, which gives peace of mind to the millions of families that repealing ObamaCare will cost the American people. The Republicans want to repeal that. What will they replace that with?

I say to those who are receiving Medicare today—40-plus million in America: We closed the prescription drug loophole that stated they had to start paying out of pocket for prescriptions during the course of the year—the so-called doughnut hole. Republicans want to repeal that. Will that make Illinois’s seniors and millions of Illinois families vulnerable to higher prices? When you get beyond the 144 characters of a tweet, get beyond a sign on the Senate floor, and when you get beyond the facile political speech and get into real policy, it gets exceedingly difficult.

The bottom line is that 29 million Americans now have health insurance because of the Affordable Care Act. We have the lowest rate of uninsured Americans in modern history, and now the Republicans want to repeal this. They say they are going to replace it. I think it is not repeal and replace they are looking for. It is repeal and retreat. They don’t know where to turn. They are running away from the mess they will create by repealing ObamaCare. We have a right to demand that if they have a better way, they present it and bring it up for a vote. Let’s have some certainty about our future.

Already I have been warned by hospitals all across Illinois that repealing ObamaCare—repealing the Affordable Care Act—will be devastating to hospitals, particularly in rural areas in my State and to inner city hospitals. What are we going to do about that? Will there be special funds to help those hospitals stay in business? They will need it.

It isn’t the only issue we will take up. There is another issue equally compelling, and that is the issue of immigrants. The Republicans want to repeal ObamaCare—and the Republicans want to repeal this. They say they are going to replace it. The list goes on and on. What if you do too—the excerpts at night on the news—that the President-elect talked about building a wall to the high heavens and making the Mexicans pay for it, and he talked about all those who are coming across the border and the dangers they presented to America. When it comes to immigration, there are 11 million people living in this country. The overwhelming majority of them are law-abiding. They are working. They want to be part of America’s future.

The group I have tried to focus on is a group we call the DREAMers. Fifteen years ago, I introduced the first...
DREAM Act. It was a bill that addressed the following situation: A child or an infant, brought to the United States by an undocumented family, who grew up here, literally has no home, no country. They are undocumented in America and brought here as babies or toddlers, often before they were teenagers. Now they are graduating high school, and they don’t know where to turn. The law in America is graphic, and it is grim. It says that if someone is found in that position, they are required to leave America for 10 years and must petition to return. We have 15-, 16-, and 17-year-olds who know no other country, who get up in the classroom every morning and pledge allegiance to the flag, just as the Members of the Senate do, and who believe in their heart of hearts that this is home. Yet they are undocumented.

So we introduced the DREAM Act, and we couldn’t pass it. We passed it once in the Senate, and they passed it in the House. But we never could quite reach the majority that we needed to pass it at the right moment. So President Obama stepped up and created DACA, or the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, which, under Executive order, allowed those who would be eligible for the DREAM Act to apply, pay a fee of almost $500, go through a criminal background check, and, if they were approved, receive temporary authority to stay in the United States without fear of deportation and to work in this country. As of today, over 750,000 have done that.

During the campaign, President-Elect Trump said that he would abolish this program. Fortunately, after the election, he had a more moderate position, which I would like to quote from Time magazine. He said:

“We’re going to work something out that’s going to make people happy and proud. They got brought here at a very young age, they’ve been here for years, and they’ve gone to school here. Some were good students. Some have wonderful jobs. And they’re in never-never land because they don’t know what is going to happen.

That is a very thoughtful, sensitive, and promising statement. I appreciate it. I hope the President-elect will keep DACA in place until we have something that can work to succeed it.

I want to salute my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Republican LINDSEY GRAHAM of South Carolina. He and I have joined in introducing the BRIDGE Act, which would give President-Elect Trump an opportunity to allow these young people to stay subject to their approval, the same criminal background check, the same filing fee, and the same tax liability to stay on a temporary basis until we do our work in the Senate and the House on the issue of immigration. The BRIDGE Act is also cosponsored by Senators LISA MURKOWSKI and JEFF FLAKE, Republicans from Alaska and Arizona, as well as by my colleague Senator SCHUMER, the leader on the Democratic side, and Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN. Other Democrats want to join as well. We hope to have a very strong bipartisan bill.

In my view, DACA is a lawful exercise of the President. In the view of many Republicans. The BRIDGE Act is the answer to both points of view. This is a fair, reasonable way to protect these young people until Congress comes up with better, more comprehensive answers when it comes to immigration reform.

Over 150,000 young people come to the floor, telling the story of the DREAMers. It is one thing for a Senator to give a speech and put it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, but it really doesn’t come home until you see and meet the young people I am talking about.

Let me introduce one today. This is Fernando Espino. He was brought to the United States from Mexico at the age of 18 months. He grew up in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, became an excellent student. At his Catholic high school, he received many academic awards. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the Jesuit Honor Society, and he received first honors in all his classes.

Fernando was involved in many volunteer activities—the Latin club, math club, track and field team, and he was an instructor for a class preparing his classmates to take college entrance exams. He volunteered with the Youth Leadership Ministry. He also volunteered with his school’s Key Club and Big Brother mentoring program and as a middle school soccer and basketball coach.

At his high school graduation, Fernando Espino of Milwaukee, WI—a DREAMer brought here from Mexico at the age of 18 months—received the Jesuit Secondary Education Association Award, the highest award given by a Jesuit high school, which is presented to one graduate who, in their words, is “intellectually competent, open to growth, religious, loving, and committed to justice.”

This amazing student was then accepted at Harvard University. He continued to give back to the community there. He volunteered as a tutor for kids in elementary schools and as a peer adviser to freshmen students at Harvard. He became a competitive ballroom dancer and worked on the Harvard Business School newspaper.

Thanks to DACA, the program I mentioned earlier, Fernando was able to support himself. You see, these DREAMers don’t qualify for a penny of Federal assistance for education. They have to pay for it. They have to come up with the money.

With DACA, he could work. He worked as a bartender. In May 2015 he graduated from Harvard magna cum laude, the highest honors, with a degree in economics and sociology. He worked for an investment management firm in Los Angeles and then as a market research consultant in Chicago. He is now preparing to pursue an MBA in business school. He wants to be a leader in a major corporation and start his own company. In a letter he sent to me, he wrote:

Optimistic hope, is ultimately, what I believe makes this country so great. Living as an undocumented immigrant, is easy to lose that motivating influence. DACA was a refreshing and reinvigorating influx of that very same hope. DACA now allows me to look forward not with doubt, but with confidence that the future is bright!

If DACA is eliminated, Fernando Espino may lose his hope. The day after DACA, Fernando Espino will no longer have official legal status. He will not be able to get his master’s in business administration, and at any moment he could be deported back to Mexico, where he hasn’t lived since he was 18 months old.

Fernando and so many other DREAMers can help America be a greater nation. That talent and determination he brought to his young life is a talent and determination America needs in its future. I hope President-Elect Trump will understand this and continue the DACA Program, but if he decides to end it, I hope the administration can work with Congress and make sure the BRIDGE Act is there as a protection.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR SCHUMER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I close by saluting my colleague, the new Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER. He and I were roommates for a long, long time before we got our separate apartments—grew up and got our own places. I have come to know him, his family, and his political career. I am looking forward to working with his leadership team in the U.S. Senate. I think his statement today speaks for all the Members of the Senate Democratic caucus.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

(The remarks of Mr. MORAN pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 5 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

THE ELECTION AND THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, this is the first day in which a new Senate is assembled in which we ponder traditions of this body. Indeed, it has been described, as my colleague from Texas mentioned, as the world’s greatest deliberative body. But over the time I have been familiar with the Senate, it has lost the ability to claim that title, the “great deliberative body.” It is a completely different institution from the one I first saw in 1976 when I came as an intern for Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon, because at that point we
saw deliberation on the floor about the issues we face. We saw that the use of the filibuster to obstruct ordinary bills was rarely invoked. We saw bipartisan cooperation on big issues facing America. But that dialogue on the floor is largely missing.

One reason I wanted to sit here and listen to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle speak today was to ponder that tradition in which people listen to each other and ponder the opportunity to address the most substantial issues that we have before us. My colleague from Texas, the Republican leader, noted that this past election, the people of America spoke loud and clear about the direction they want this country to go in. Well, certainly that is not the case. The majority of American citizens rejected the policies put forward by President-Elect Trump. By 3 million votes, the citizen election overwhelmingly rejected those policies. Indeed, had it not been for a strategy of voter suppression that was supported by my friends on the Republican side, it would have been far more than 3 million votes rejecting those policies.

Let us be clear that this strategy of voter suppression is an attack on the Constitution. Our Constitution was founded on the principle that we would pursue policies here that support the success of all Americans. That is where our Constitution starts, with these three words: “We the People.” That is why the Founders wrote those three words in supersized font—so when you saw the written Constitution from across the room, you couldn’t read the fine print but you could see the mission statement: “We the People.” It is why Abraham Lincoln summarized the genius of our country as being a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Let us be clear. Without voter suppression, those 3 million votes, the majority that rejected the Trump policies would have been larger. Let’s remember that if it were not for Russian hacking of the election, that 3-million vote majority that rejected the Trump policies would have been larger yet. Let’s remember that if it were not for an out-of-control FBI Director intervening in the final days of the campaign, the citizen vote rejecting Trump would have been even larger.

By the citizen-vote calculation, Trump lost the debate over the direction of those 3 million votes cast for Members of the Senate, overwhelmingly those votes rejected the Republican agenda. So here we are with colleagues who say the American people spoke loud and clear. If you consider the vision of our country and the citizen vote for the Presidency and the citizen vote for Members of the Senate, that loud and clear message is a rejection of the Trump policies.

There is no mandate here to throw millions of people off their health care bills. My colleague from Texas said the American people deserve health care they can afford. Well, isn’t that the challenge, that when health care has a price tag and there is no ability afforded you, you get no health care? You get health care for the upper middle class and health care for the wealthy but not health care for every citizen. Shouldn’t we have a nation in which quality health care is affordable? Is health care affordable to every single citizen? Twenty million more people have access to that now than they had 8 years ago. It is an incredible change.

A woman came up to me at a fundraiser in the other chamber, and she said: "Senators, things are so different this year."

I said: What do you mean?

She said: A year ago, before we had the Affordable Care Act, if you had a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, you were in deep trouble. It is a complicated, mysterious disease. It is an expensive disease, and if you had insurance, it likely wasn’t going to cover the costs associated with it because of annual limits or lifetime limits.

She noted that if you didn’t have insurance, you wouldn’t be able to get insurance because you would now have a preexisting condition. No insurer would give you the opportunity to be able to have an affordable health care plan.

She said: Well, what a different place we are in now because now we have the Affordable Care Act, based on health care costs, bankruptcies that you don’t see in other developed nations that have that done a better job of making health care available to every single citizen?

Let’s not turn the clock back to whether health care was only for the healthy or the wealthy. Let’s not turn the clock back to where our young folks were in a health care desert because they couldn’t afford their parent’s policy and before they had a career of their own, before we said they could stay on their parent’s policy to age 26. Let’s not turn the clock back to the point where we didn’t make preventive policies for seniors free, and we found that that ounce of prevention was a pound of cure. We did that in the Affordable Care Act, and people across the Nation have appreciated that.

It is not just on health care that we see no mandate for the Trump agenda; we don’t see any mandate for the Trump agenda on the environment.

There is a proposal by the President-elect to put an individual in charge of our environmental policies who has been all about increasing pollution—increasing fine particle pollution that causes asthma and other diseases; increasing mercury pollution, which is a toxic attack on our nervous system and affects our young children. A neurotoxin like mercury is something to be controlled, not increased.

There was a commentary by my colleague from Texas that we should expedite the nominees. We know full well that my Republican colleagues did everything they could to obstruct President Obama's nominees. It was not so long ago when he was impeached and we couldn’t get a Department of Labor nominee through this Chamber, or Gina McCarthy with the Environmental Protection Agency, or various judges slated for the DC Circuit Court. I believe we’re in a situation now where the system needs to be reformed. I believe a President’s nominee should get a timely vote. So why don’t we consider the possibility of establishing a rule that gives people a timely vote? Why not put a 100-day clock on all nominees but the Supreme Court? If that 100 days ripens and we haven’t had a vote on this floor and if a group of Senators wants a vote, then why not hold that vote, with 3 million people a vote majority that rejected those policies. Indeed, if we consider the suppression on the Republican side, it very likely rejected those policies. Indeed, if we consider the citizen vote majority that rejected the Trump policies. Let’s remember that if it were not for what the Founders wrote those three words in supersized font—so when you saw the written Constitution from across the room, you couldn’t read the fine print but you could see the mission statement:

"We the People." It is why the Founders wrote those three words in supersized font—so when you read the written Constitution from across the room, you couldn’t read the fine print but you could see the mission statement: "We the People." It is why the Founders wrote those three words in supersized font—so when you read the written Constitution from across the room, you couldn’t read the fine print but you could see the mission statement: "We the People."
in on whether the use of the filibuster on a Supreme Court nominee makes you a hero or makes you a bum.

Should we not consider a strategy by which, on ordinary issues of policy, the filibuster is restricted to final passage of a bill, leaving open debate on with each amendment and obstruction with the motion to proceed to a bill, so that we can spend our time debating bills rather than debating whether to debate bills? And what goes hand in hand with moving the filibuster only to final passage is a clear way for amendments to be offered by Members on both sides of the aisle that are relevant to a bill, that are germane to a bill. If we have the ability to clearly debate amendments, we will be closer to being a deliberative body and therefore maybe even the possibility of becoming a great deliberative body or even the world’s greatest deliberative body once again. And when in one parliament unable to get bills to the floor or when they are on the floor but we are unable to propose amendments, we won’t be there. These two things go hand in hand.

These are all ideas I advocated for when I was in the majority. Today I stand here in the minority arguing for these same fundamental changes. They will strengthen the success of this body for the majority and the minority and strengthen our ability to work together to produce legislation that addresses the big issues facing this Nation.

Let’s be clear. There is no mandate for the Trump agenda, no mandate for dismantling health care for millions of Americans. There is no mandate for increasing air and water pollution, no mandate for tax giveaways to the richest Americans, no mandate for increasing the debt. If we have concluded we are in a parliamentary hostage situation between ordinary workers and the best off, the most powerful, and the most privileged.

We will indeed, as our Democratic leader noted, hold the President-elect accountable. The President-elect said, "I am going to drain the swamp," but he has proposed turning the economy over to Goldman Sachs, to the banking world, and he has proposed turning over our foreign policy to Exxon, the fossil fuel world. That is the opposite of draining the swamp. We will hold the President-elect accountable.

The President-elect said he was going to fight for working people. Well, proposing a new tax cut by Labor who is against working people getting fair compensation is inconsistent, to say the least, with a pledge to fight for working people. We will hold the President-elect accountable.

The President-elect said he wants to work, but if we hold as our North Star the vision that we are here as a legislative body to fight for the vision of “we the people,” policies that lift up all Americans, give an opportunity for every American to thrive, then perhaps we will find a course in which we can work together in a bipartisan fashion to make America greater and greater.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the estimates, budget, and other relevant information, which are germane to a bill, be placed in the Senate RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY

COOPERATION AGENCY,

Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR Mr. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding to you Transmittal No. 16–40, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost $37 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director,

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16–40

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16–40

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Kuwait

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment: $36 million. Other $1 million.

Total $37 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two hundred and fifty (250) Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Tail Kits for 500-pound bombs.

Two hundred and fifty (250) JDAM Tail Kits for 1,000-pound bombs.

Two hundred and fifty (250) JDAM Tail Kits for 2,000-pound bombs.

Non-MDE includes:

Two (2) 500-pound and two (2) 2,000-pound load Build Trainers.

There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director,

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16–40

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kuwait—Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Tail Kits

The Government of Kuwait has requested a possible total sale of seven hundred and fifty (750) JDAM Tail Kits (two hundred and fifty (250) for 500-pound bombs, two hundred and fifty (250) kits for 1,000-pound bombs, and two hundred and fifty (250) kits for 2,000-pound bombs). Sale also includes two (2) 500-pound and two (2) 2,000-pound JDAM Load Build Trainers.

There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director,

Enclosure.

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There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director,

Enclosure.

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There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director,

Enclosure.
equivalent systems that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification. The benefits to be derived from this sale, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmission are authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. Bob Corker, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the report requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-57, concerning the Department of the Navy’s request of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost $1.75 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,
J.W. Rixey,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director, Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-57
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway.
(ii) Total Estimated Value:
(a) Major Defense Equipment: $1.40 billion.
(b) Support Equipment: $360 million.
(c) Total: $1.76 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantities or Quantities of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase:
(a) Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
(b) Support Equipment:

(b) Five (5) P-8A Patrol Aircraft, each includes: Commercial Engines, Tactical Open Mission Software (TOMS), Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared (IR) Systems (EO/MX-20HD), AN/AQQ-2(V)1 Acoustic System, AN/APS-137(V) Radar, ALQ-240 Electronic Support Measures.

(c) Eight (8) Guardian Transmitter Assemblies (GLTA) for the AN/AQQ-24(V)N.

(d) Forty-two (42) AN/AAR-54 Missile Warning Sensors for the AN/AAQ-24(V)N.

(e) Fourteen (14) LN-251 with Embedded Global Positioning Systems (GPS)/Inertial Navigations Systems (EGL):

(f) Eight (8) System Processors for the AN/AAQ-24(V)N.

(g) Eight (8) Multifunctional Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS).

(h) Eight (8) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assemblies (GLTA) for the AN/AQQ-24(V)N.

(i) Eight (8) Mission Software (TOMS), Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared (IR) Systems.

(j) AN/AQ-24(V)N.

(k) AN/AQ-24(V)N.

(l) AN/AQ-24(V)N.

(m) AN/AQ-24(V)N.

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technology being released as the U.S. Government Support of the P-8A Patrol Aircraft to the Government of the Norway is necessary in the furtherance of U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Norway.

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORRICK, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16–71, containing the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Philippines for defense articles and services estimated to cost $25 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXY, Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16–71
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Philippines
(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment $20 million, Other $5 million. TOTAL $25 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two (2) AN/SPS-77 Sea Giraffe 3D Air Search Radars.

Non-Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Support services, including installation services, operator training, system operational testing, and documentation.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (LFK).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any:

PI-P-8BV—$17.4M, Excess Defense Article (EDA) transfer of ex-USCG cutter Hamilton, now FP-15, BRP Gregorio Del Pilar.

pi-p-8va, EDA transfer of ex-USCG cutter Dallas, FP-16, now BRP Ramon Alcaraz.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.


* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Philippines—AN/SPS-77 Sea Giraffe 3D Air Search Radars

The Government of the Philippines has requested a possible sale of two (2) AN/SPS-77 Sea Giraffe 3D Air Search Radars, support services, including installation services, operator training, system operational testing, and documentation. The total estimated program cost is $25 million.

The Philippines seeks to increase its Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) capabilities in order to improve monitoring of its vast territorial seas and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). An effective Philippine MDA capability strengthens its self-defense capabilities and supports regional stability and U.S. national interests. This sale is consistent with U.S. regional objectives and will further enhance interoperability with the U.S. Navy, build upon a longstanding cooperative effort with U.S. defense articles, and provide an enhanced capability with a valued partner in a geographic region of critical importance to the U.S. government.

The AN/SPS-77 Air Search Radars will be used to provide an enhanced ability to detect and track air contacts. The radars will be installed on two Hamilton-class cutters acquired through the Excess Defense Articles (EDA) program. The Philippines will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be VSE and Saab. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. or contractor representatives to the Philippines. U.S. contractors, under U.S. government oversight, will be transferred to the Philippines for the installation and associated support of this new radar on these Philippine Navy ships. There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORRICK, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16–66, concerning the Department of the Army’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for the proposed sale of one (1) Counter Sniper and Anti-Materiel Mount (CSAMM) hardware; upgrade/maintenance of engines and transmissions; depot level support equipment; tools and test equipment; and technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services.


Other $1.66 billion.

Total $1.70 billion.

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait.

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment $0.87 billion, Other $1.59 billion. TOTAL $1.70 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Two hundred and forty (240) AN/VRC–92E SINCgars Radios.

Other $1.66 billion.

Total $1.70 billion.


FMS Case KU–B–JAT (9 July 1993, $1.9 billion).

FMS Case KU–B–UKO (20 July 2001, $44.3 million).


FMS Case KU–B–ULX (20 July 2011, $34.8 million).

(iv) Military Department: Army (UXA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any:

FMS Case KU–B–JAT (9 July 1993, $1.9 billion).

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.


* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

January 3, 2017

JAMES WORM, Acting Deputy Director.

(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-66
Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait.

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment $0.87 billion, Other $1.59 billion. TOTAL $1.70 billion.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UXA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any:

FMS Case KU–B–JAT (9 July 1993, $1.9 billion).

FMS Case KU–B–UKO (20 July 2001, $44.3 million).


FMS Case KU–B–ULX (20 July 2011, $34.8 million).

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.


* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Kuwait—Recapitalization of 218 M1A2 Tanks and Related Equipment and Support

The Government of Kuwait has requested a possible sale in support of its recapitalization of 218 M1A2 tanks, to include two hundred and forty (240) .50 Cal M2A1 machine guns; four hundred and eighty (480) 7.62mm M240 machine guns; two hundred and forty (240) AN/VRC–92E SINCgars radios; and one thousand and eight five (1,085) AN/PVS–7B Night Vision Goggles. Also included is the incorporation of cooling system/thermal management systems; Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station (CROWS) II—Low Profile Stabilized Weapon Stations; special armor; 120mm gun tubes; 2nd generation Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sights; embedded diagnostics; gunner’s primary sights; Counter Sniper and Anti-Material Mount (CSAMM) hardware; upgrade/maintenance of engines and transmissions; depot level support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UXA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any:

FMS Case KU–B–JAT (9 July 1993, $1.9 billion).

FMS Case KU–B–UKO (20 July 2001, $44.3 million).


FMS Case KU–B–ULX (20 July 2011, $34.8 million).

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.


* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Kuwait—Recapitalization of 218 M1A2 Tanks and Related Equipment and Support

The Government of Kuwait has requested a possible sale in support of its recapitalization of 218 M1A2 tanks, to include two hundred and forty (240) .50 Cal M2A1 machine guns; four hundred and eighty (480) 7.62mm M240 machine guns; two hundred and forty (240) AN/VRC–92E SINCgars radios; and one thousand and eight five (1,085) AN/PVS–7B Night Vision Goggles. Also included is the incorporation of cooling system/thermal management systems; Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station (CROWS) II—Low Profile Stabilized Weapon Stations; special...
armor; 120mm gun tubes; 2nd generation Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sights; embedded diagnostics; gunner’s primary sights; Counter Sniper and Anti-Materiel Mounted (CMA) hardware; upgradable maintenance of engines and transmissions; depot level support; training devices; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services, and other non-warfighting hardware or non-warfighting support. Total estimated program cost is $1.7 billion.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States and to improve the military capability of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

Kuwait intends to use this equipment to recapitalize its fleet of M1A2 full track tanks in order to modernize and extend the service life of the tanks. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors involved in this program are: Dynapower; General Electric Marine Engines, Sterling Heights, MI; Joint Services Manufacturing Center (JSMC), Lima, OH; Kongsberg Defense Systems, Alexandria, VA, and Oslo, Norway; Raytheon, McKinney, TX; Meggitt Defense Systems, Irvine, CA; Palomar, Carlsbad, CA; Northrop Grumman, West Falls Church, VA; DRS Technologies, Arlington, VA; Ensign-Bickford, Martinsburg, MD; Honeywell, Morristown, NJ; Miltope, Hope Hull, AL. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connect with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale is estimated to require five to seven contractors and twenty-five to thirty U.S. Government representatives to Kuwait.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ANNEX ITEM NO. VII

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF LETTER OF OFFER PURSUANT TO SECTION 36(b)(1) OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. Contractors are required to contain sensitive technology in the proposed sale are as follows:

a. M1A2 Thermal Imaging System (TIS)—The TIS constitutes a target acquisition system which, when operated with other tank systems gives the tank crew a substantial advantage over the potential threat. The TIS provides the crew with the ability to effectively aim and fire the tank main armament system under a broad range of adverse battlefield conditions. The hardware and technical data package is UNCLASSIFIED and would not adversely impact U.S. commercial interests. Acquisition of production data by a potential customer would provide the customer with the means to upgrade maintenance of the system, and therefore commercially competitive sensitive information.

b. Special Armor—Major components of special armor are fabricated in sealed modules by denying the crew ability to open or remove modules. Special armor vulnerability data for special armor are fabricated in sealed module system by denying the crew ability to open or remove modules. Special armor vulnerability data for special armor are fabricated in sealed module system by denying the crew ability to open or remove modules.

c. AGT-1500 Gas Turbine Propulsion System—The use of a gas turbine propulsion system in the M1A2 tank will improve operational flexibility in terms of mobility, tactical vehicle movement in support of tactical vehicle movement in support of combat operations, and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

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c. AGT-1500 Gas Turbine Propulsion System—The use of a gas turbine propulsion system in the M1A2 tank will improve operational flexibility in terms of mobility, tactical vehicle movement in support of tactical vehicle movement in support of combat operations, and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.
Mr. Price commemorated the celebration committee. He also was vice minority vice chair of the appropriations committee. He also was vice chair of the following subcommittees: higher education, family, independence agency, and supplementals.

Improving the lives of youth in the community was of the utmost importance to Mr. Price. When he led the celebration of Pontiac’s 150th birthday, Mr. Price commemorated the celebration by creating the sesquicentennial motto: “To honor the past, recognize the present and build the future.” Building that future included encouraging and providing youth with opportunities to grow within the community. As a county commissioner, Mr. Price secured summer jobs for Pontiac youth and minorities in Oakland County. After his service as a county commissioner, he continued to dedicate himself to youth development. In 2012, he participated in Oakland Community College’s Leadership & Community Engagement, where he discussed his experiences in leadership.

Mr. Price was known for his gregarious personality and could answer practically any question regarding the city of Pontiac’s history. Even in his retirement, Mr. Price continued to be actively engaged in the community. He most recently served as a member of the master plan steering committee from 2013 to 2014 and was part of the group that helped prepare the 2014 Pontiac Master Plan Update. In 2015, he joined the Oakland County sheriff’s efforts to ease tensions between Pontiac residents and the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office. He, along with 25 other community leaders, formed the sheriff’s relations team, which helped open lines of communication in the community.

Mr. Price is survived by his wife of 40 years, Carolyn, his children, grandchildren, and many relatives and friends. I cannot express enough the impact Mr. Hubert Price, Jr., had on the city of Pontiac and the State of Michigan.

Mr. Price was known for his gregarious personality and could answer practically any question regarding the city of Pontiac’s history. Even in his retirement, Mr. Price continued to be actively engaged in the community. He most recently served as a member of the master plan steering committee from 2013 to 2014 and was part of the group that helped prepare the 2014 Pontiac Master Plan Update. In 2015, he joined the Oakland County sheriff’s efforts to ease tensions between Pontiac residents and the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office. He, along with 25 other community leaders, formed the sheriff’s relations team, which helped open lines of communication in the community.

Mr. Price is survived by his wife of 40 years, Carolyn, his children, grandchildren, and many relatives and friends.

REMEMBERING HUBERT PRICE, JR.

Mr. Price was born on September 28, 1946, to parents Ruth and Hubert Price, Sr. Mr. Price was a lifelong resident of Pontiac, graduating from Pontiac Central High School in 1964 and going on to attend Michigan State University. He became actively involved in his community and civil rights at a young age.

During a time when many of this country’s citizens suffered through institutionalized practices of segregation, Pontiac was not immune. African-American residents were relegated to the southern side of the city, as they were restricted from obtaining housing on the northern side. Mr. Price was instrumental in the push for open housing ordinances, which would create opportunities for all residents.

As the National Democratic County Officials’ president, Mr. Price spoke at the 1992 Democratic National Convention, DNC, which was held at Madison Square Garden in New York City. He expounded upon the government’s role in safeguarding the rights and protections that are due to all citizens. In addition to his DNC address, he also served as a moderator for a panel on public sector employment programs.

As State representative from 1994 to 2000, Mr. Price diligently served the 43rd district of Michigan. He was the minority vice chair of the appropriations committee. He also was vice chair of the following subcommittees: higher education, family, independence agency, and supplementals.

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Mr. Price is survived by his wife of 40 years, Carolyn, his children, grandchildren, and many relatives and friends.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT, 114TH CONGRESS

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the enrolled bills were signed on December 14, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. Hatch).

S. 1635. An act to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2651. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6146. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1212 State Street, Suite 12, Santa Barbara, California, as the “Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis ‘Lou’ J. Langlais Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5065. An act to direct the Administration to notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration’s guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, purified deionized water, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 875. An act to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4945. An act to decrease the deficit by consolidating and selling Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4850. An act to prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of promoting and protecting the natural, historic, and cultural resources of our National Parks for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5150. An act to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration’s guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, purified deionized water, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes.
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January 3, 2017

at 3031 Veterans Road West in Staten Island, New York, as the "Leonard Montalto Post Office Building".
H.R. 5309. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1270 4th Street in Grants Pass, Oregon, as the "E. Marie Youngblood Post Office".
H.R. 5276. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 901 S Washington Street in Alexandria, Virginia, as the "Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building".
H.R. 6402. An act to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.
H.R. 5798. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1036 S. Canal Street in Mobile, Alabama, as the "Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building".
H.R. 6153. An act to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.
H.R. 6154. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 East Pleasant Valley Road, Port Hueneme, California, as the "C. C. MacCormac "Skip" Wells Post Office Building".
H.R. 6392. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20259 E. Main Street in Surprise, Arizona, as the "Adolfo Harpo Celaya Post Office Building".
H.R. 6393. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 North Main Street in Florence, Arizona, as the "Adolf "Harpo" Celaya Post Office Building".
H.R. 6394. An act to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.
H.R. 6395. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 830 Kuhn Drive in Chula Vista, California, as the "Jonathan J.D. 'De Guzman Post Office Building".
H.R. 6396. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8260 W. Desert Inn Road in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the "Army First Lieutenant Donald C. Martinez "Skip" Wells Post Office Building".
H.R. 6397. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7837 E. Main Street in Phoenix, Arizona, as the "Marine Lance Corporal Squire 'Skip' Wells Post Office Building".
H.R. 6422. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7777 Harbor Blvd. in Fountain Valley, California, as the "Bob Hope Post Office Building".
H.R. 6423. An act to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.
H.R. 710. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive strategy for the transportation security card program, and for other purposes.
H.R. 1150. An act to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.
H.R. 3842. An act to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.
H.R. 3843. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.
H.R. 4859. An act to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.
H.R. 5015. An act to restore amounts improperly paid as severance payments to individuals who retired or separated from service in the Armed Forces for combat-related injuries, and for other purposes.
H.R. 5059. An act to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs.
H.R. 5612. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 22994 Rickenbacker Blvd. in Miami, Florida, as the "Marine Lance Corporal Squire 'Skip' Wells Post Office Building".
H.R. 5790. An act to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
H.R. 5948. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Kuhn Drive in Chula Vista, California, as the "Jonathan J.D. 'De Guzman Post Office Building".
H.R. 5949. An act to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.
H.R. 6014. An act to allow the Administration of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into reimbursable agreements for certain airport projects.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3842) to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1150) to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6392) to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4859) to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3842) to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1150) to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.

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The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4859) to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

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The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4859) to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3842) to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1150) to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes.
Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the enrolled bill was signed on December 15, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 19, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House had passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3084. An act to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 3(b) of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 15202), the Minority Leader appointed the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Medal of Valor Review Board: Joanne Hayes-White of San Francisco, California.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), the Minority Leader appointed the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, effective January 1, 2017, to fill an existing vacancy: Mr. Michael R. Wessel of Falls Church, Virginia.


MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following concurrent resolution was discharged from the Committee on the Budget pursuant to Section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act, and placed on the calendar:

S. Con. Res. 3. A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2017 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2018 through 2026.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolution was read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 4. A resolution to constitute the majority party’s membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED, 114TH CONGRESS

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 14, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1862. An act to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Bolko Haram.

S. 2974. An act to ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes.

S. 3268. An act to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness.

S. 3183. An act to prohibit the circumvention of content measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 14, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 546. An act to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on and develop training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes.

S. 612. An act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

S. 1635. An act to authorize the Department of State for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.


S. 2943. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

S. 2971. An act to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 15, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 8. An act to provide for the approval of the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 29, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3084. An act to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT, 114TH CONGRESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of December 10, 2016, the following reports of committees were submitted on December 20, 2016:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.


Report to accompany S. 2972, A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide full transparency of how the United States spends budget authority and ensure that the United States remains ahead of the world in providing certain standards in the award of Federal contracts and grants, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-407).

By Mr. VITTER, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Report to accompany S. 1756, A bill to help small businesses take advantage of energy efficiency (Rept. No. 114-408).

Report to accompany S. 1831, A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a program to make loans to certain businesses, home owners, and renters affected by Superstorm Sandy (Rept. No. 114-409).

Report to accompany S. 1866, A bill to establish the veterans’ business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-410).

Report to accompany S. 1870, A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to make grants to eligible veterans to start or acquire qualifying businesses, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-411).

Report to accompany S. 2126, A bill to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-412).

Report to accompany S. 2126, A bill to reauthorize the women’s business center programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-413).

Report to accompany S. 2316, A bill to establish the Regional Small State Collaborative Initiative Pilot Program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-414).

Report to accompany S. 2136, A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve the review and acceptance of subcontracting plans, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-415).

Report to accompany S. 2139, A bill to amend the Small Business Act to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for the procurement of covered contracts (Rept. No. 114-416).

Report to accompany S. 2812, A bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize and improve the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-417).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 20, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Messer) had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 3084. An act to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), the Minority Leader appointed the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, effective January 1, 2017: Mr. Jonathan N. Stivers of Washington, DC.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 28, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3084. An act to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

January 3, 2017

Report to accompany S. 2838, A bill to improve the HUBZone program (Rept. No. 114–418).

Report to accompany S. 2846, A bill to amend the Small Business Act to expand intellectual property education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–419).

Report to accompany S. 2847, A bill to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses (Rept. No. 114–420).

Report to accompany S. 2992, A bill to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–421).

Report to accompany S. 3009, A bill to support entrepreneurs serving in the National Guard and Reserve, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–422).


Report to accompany S. Res. 252, An original resolution expressing the sense of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate relating to easing the burden of Federal tax compliance on small businesses (Rept. No. 114–424).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 421, A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency as followed by the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–425).

Report to accompany S. 1182, A bill to exempt application of JSA attribution rule in case of existing agreements (Rept. No. 114–426).

Report to accompany S. 2555, A bill to provide opportunities for broadband investment, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–427).

Report to accompany S. 2556, A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–428).

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 3270, A bill to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system’s response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases (Rept. No. 114–431).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2016. A bill to provide that the pueblo of Santa Ana may lease for 99 years certain restricted land, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–432).

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled “Sudden Price Spikes in Off-Patent Prescription Drugs: The Monopoly Business Model that Harms Patients, Restricts Land, and for Other Purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 11. A bill to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to relocate to Jerusalem the US Embassy in Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 12. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 13. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish on a continuing basis, a tax exclusion for high net worth individuals from receiving tax windfalls for entering government service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 14. A bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 15. A bill to set forth a list of sanctions and restrictions with respect to the ballistic missile program of Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. LEE, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. RYAN):

S. 16. A bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 17. A bill to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 18. A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity by repealing the Income Tax Code of 1986 to prevent high net worth individuals from receiving tax windfalls for entering government service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TRUDE (for himself and Mr. NUNN):

S. 19. A bill to provide opportunities for broadband investment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLLEN:

S. 20. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. CUSSETTA):

S.J. Res. 1. A joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. LEE, and Mr. PERDUE):

S.J. Res. 2. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that Members of the House of Representatives may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 1. A resolution informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 2. A resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 3. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 4. A resolution to constitute the majority party’s membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; submitted and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. Res. 5. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate in support of Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Con. Res. 1. A concurrent resolution extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Con. Res. 2. A concurrent resolution to provide for the counting on January 6, 2017, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ENZI:

S. Con. Res. 3. A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2017 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2018 through 2026; placed on the calendar.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 1—INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 1. Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a Senate and House of Representatives are ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

SENATE RESOLUTION 2—INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 2. Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

SENATE RESOLUTION 3—FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution which was considered and agreed to:
Resolved, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o’clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

SENATE RESOLUTION 4—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY’S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. McCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party’s membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Cochran, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Hoeven, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Thune, Mr. Daines, Mr. Perdue.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Cochran, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Collins, Mr. Murkowski, Mr. Graham, Mr. Blunt, Mr. Moran, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Boozman, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Daines, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Rubio.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION: Mr. McCain, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Rounds, Mrs. Ernst, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Graham, Mr. Sasse.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Crapo, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Corker, Mr. Flake, Mr. Daines, Mr. Sasse, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Kennedy.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE: Mr. McCaskill, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Ernst, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Graham, Mr. Sasse.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Risch, Mr. Flake, Mr. Daines, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Portman.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Capito, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Moran, Mr. Rounds, Mrs. Ernst, Mr. Sullivan.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Hatch, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Thune, Mr. Burr, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Portman, Mr. Toomey, Mr. Heller, Mr. Scott, Mr. Cassidy.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Corker, Mr. Risch, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Flake, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Young, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Portman, Mr. Paul.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS: Mr. Alexander, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Burr, Mr. Ensman, Mr. Paul, Ms. Collins, Mr. Casey, Mr. Young, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Roberts, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Scott.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Lee, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Sasse, Mr. Flake, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Kennedy.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Burr, Mr. Risch, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Collins, Mr. Blunt, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Cornyn.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Ms. Collins, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Flake, Mr. Scott, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Corker, Mr. Burr, Mr. Rubio, Mrs. Fischer.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Enzi, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Sessions, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Graham, Mr. Toomey, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Corker, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Boozman.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. McCain, Mr. Murkowski, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Daines, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Moran.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Mr. Lee, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Portman, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Sasse.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Shelby, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Alexander, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Cruz, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Mr. Risch, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Paul, Mr. Scott, Mrs. Ernst, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Young, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Kennedy.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS: Mr. Isakson, Mr. Moran, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Heller, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Sullivan.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Isakson, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Risch.

SENATE RESOLUTION 5—EXPLAINING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

Mr. MORAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Resolved, That whereas Israel is a strategic international partner and democratic ally of the United States; whereas cooperation between Israel and the United States is of great importance, especially amid a troubling security situation in the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe; whereas strong relations between the United States and Israel benefit both countries and the prospects for regional stability; whereas peace between the Israelis and Palestinians remains of strategic interest to the United States; whereas support for Israel and peace between the Israelis and Palestinians have long standing bipartisan support in Congress; whereas the Secretary's one-sided lecture furthered a quiet ending. From issuing continued condemnations, reports and committees against Israel. Whereas, on December 23, 2016, the President maintain a policy of opposing one-sided United Nations Security Council resolutions targeting Israel; whereas, on December 23, 2016, the President and his delegates at the United Nations sought to pass a resolution targeting Israel; whereas the commencement of the 115th Congress offers a fresh opportunity to improve relations between the United States and Israel; now, therefore, be it

Resolved—That the Senate—

(1) urges the President and the international community to join in supporting bi-lateral talks between the Israelis and Palestinians;

(2) expresses support for individuals and organizations working to bring about peace and cooperation between the Israelis and Palestinians;

(3) opposes the use of the United Nations as a medium to unfairly impose external rem-
at odds with much of his own party and the American people at large. This case is no different. The Obama administration’s decision defies the bipartisan direction of 88 Members of this Senate who wrote the President on this issue in September 2016.

Fortunately, today marks the first day of the 115th Congress. On January 20, we will inaugurate a new President. We will have to work overtime to correct the direction of these American policies.

I am committed to working with the incoming administration and both Republican and Democratic Members of Congress to make certain the United States remains appropriately supportive of Israel. We must prevent the United Nations from being further used as a forum for unjust persecution of that country. To this effort, I am introducing a resolution that recognizes the importance of Israel as a strategic ally, reiterates that Congress’s bipartisan support for Israel continues, and objects to the Obama administration’s decision and harmful public commentary related to the December 23 U.N. Security Council vote.

The opening of the 115th Congress and the inauguration of a new President create opportunities to improve our relations, the relationship between the United States and Israel. America’s alliance with Israel is critical to combating the threat of peace in the Middle East and to our own national security. As we go forward, we can seize the opportunity to better stand by our ally and continue to encourage peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.

I believe this resolution is an important step in repairing the relations the Obama administration has unnecessarily strained, and I hope to have the opportunity to vote on this measure in the Senate in the coming weeks.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1—EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

SEC. 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Effective from January 3, 2017, the joint committee created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 28 (114th Congress), to make the necessary arrangements for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States, is continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SEC. 2. USE OF CAPITOL

Effective from January 3, 2017, the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 (114th Congress), to authorize the use of the Rotunda and Emancipation Hall of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States are continued with the same power and authority provided for in that resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2—TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTING ON JANUARY 6, 2017, OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the two Houses of Congress shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Friday, the 6th day of January 2017, at 1 o’clock post meridiem, pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and laws relating to the election of President and Vice President of the United States, and the President of the Senate shall be their Presiding Officer; that two tellers shall be appointed by the President of the Senate on the part of the Senate and two by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives, to whom shall be delivered all the certificates and papers purporting to be certificates of the electoral votes, which certificates and papers shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in the alphabetical order of the States, beginning with the letter “A”; and said tellers, having then read the same in the presence and hearing of the two Houses, shall make a list of the votes as they shall appear from said certificates; and the votes having been ascertained and counted in the manner and according to the rules by law provided, the result of the same shall be delivered to the President of the Senate, who shall thereupon announce the state of the vote, which announcement shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons, if any, elected President and Vice President of the United States, and, together with a list of the votes, be entered on the Journals of the two Houses.

Senator McConnell Thinks We Can Seize the Opportunity to Work on the Relationship Between the United States and Israel.
### Fiscal Year 2020

- **New budget authority:** $673,000,000,000.
- **Outlays:** $677,013,000,000.

### Fiscal Year 2021

- **New budget authority:** $673,000,000,000.
- **Outlays:** $677,013,000,000.

### Fiscal Year 2022

- **New budget authority:** $673,000,000,000.
- **Outlays:** $677,013,000,000.

### Fiscal Year 2023

- **New budget authority:** $673,000,000,000.
- **Outlays:** $677,013,000,000.

### Fiscal Year 2024

- **New budget authority:** $673,000,000,000.
- **Outlays:** $677,013,000,000.

### Fiscal Year 2025

- **New budget authority:** $673,000,000,000.
- **Outlays:** $677,013,000,000.

### Fiscal Year 2026

- **New budget authority:** $673,000,000,000.
- **Outlays:** $677,013,000,000.

### Sec. 1102. Major Functional Categories

The following tables provide the budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2017 through 2026 for each major functional category:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2017</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2018</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2019</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2020</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2021</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2022</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2023</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2024</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2025</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2026</th>
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<td>National Defense (500)</td>
<td>$626,485,000,000</td>
<td>$625,579,000,000</td>
<td>$624,673,000,000</td>
<td>$623,767,000,000</td>
<td>$622,861,000,000</td>
<td>$621,955,000,000</td>
<td>$620,049,000,000</td>
<td>$619,143,000,000</td>
<td>$618,237,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commerce and Housing (370)</td>
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<td>$5,381,000,000</td>
<td>$5,371,000,000</td>
<td>$5,361,000,000</td>
<td>$5,351,000,000</td>
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<td>$5,321,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health (520)</td>
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<td>$3,571,000,000</td>
<td>$3,561,000,000</td>
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<td>$3,541,000,000</td>
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<td>$3,521,000,000</td>
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<td>$3,501,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources and Environment (330)</td>
<td>$5,391,000,000</td>
<td>$5,381,000,000</td>
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The budgetary transactions for each major functional category are as follows:

- **New budget authority:** $61,996,000,000.
- **Outlays:** $61,907,000,000.

The budgetary transactions for each major functional category are as follows:

- **New budget authority:** $61,996,000,000.
- **Outlays:** $61,907,000,000.

For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits are as follows:

- **Fiscal year 2017:** $20,914,788,000,000.
- **Fiscal year 2018:** $20,914,788,000,000.
- **Fiscal year 2019:** $20,914,788,000,000.
- **Fiscal year 2020:** $20,914,788,000,000.
- **Fiscal year 2021:** $20,914,788,000,000.
- **Fiscal year 2022:** $20,914,788,000,000.
- **Fiscal year 2023:** $20,914,788,000,000.
- **Fiscal year 2024:** $20,914,788,000,000.
- **Fiscal year 2025:** $20,914,788,000,000.
- **Fiscal year 2026:** $20,914,788,000,000.
(A) New budget authority, $16,143,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $16,143,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $17,889,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,889,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $17,772,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,772,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $12,245,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $12,245,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $11,828,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $11,828,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $11,491,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $11,491,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $11,156,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $11,156,000,000.
Fiscal year 2029:
(A) New budget authority, $10,821,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $10,821,000,000.
Fiscal year 2030:
(A) New budget authority, $10,488,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $10,488,000,000.
Fiscal year 2031:
(A) New budget authority, $10,156,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $10,156,000,000.
Fiscal year 2032:
(A) New budget authority, $9,824,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $9,824,000,000.
Fiscal year 2033:
(A) New budget authority, $9,496,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $9,496,000,000.
Fiscal year 2034:
(A) New budget authority, $9,170,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $9,170,000,000.
Fiscal year 2035:
(A) New budget authority, $8,845,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $8,845,000,000.
Fiscal year 2036:
(A) New budget authority, $8,522,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $8,522,000,000.
Fiscal year 2037:
(A) New budget authority, $8,198,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $8,198,000,000.
Fiscal year 2038:
(A) New budget authority, $7,870,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,870,000,000.
Fiscal year 2039:
(A) New budget authority, $7,542,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,542,000,000.
Fiscal year 2040:
(A) New budget authority, $7,210,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,210,000,000.
Fiscal year 2041:
(A) New budget authority, $6,872,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,872,000,000.
Fiscal year 2042:
(A) New budget authority, $6,529,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,529,000,000.
Fiscal year 2043:
(A) New budget authority, $6,178,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,178,000,000.
Fiscal year 2044:
(A) New budget authority, $5,819,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,819,000,000.
Fiscal year 2045:
(A) New budget authority, $5,443,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,443,000,000.
Fiscal year 2046:
(A) New budget authority, $5,048,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,048,000,000.
Fiscal year 2047:
(A) New budget authority, $4,634,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,634,000,000.
Fiscal year 2048:
(A) New budget authority, $4,202,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,202,000,000.
Fiscal year 2049:
(A) New budget authority, $3,753,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,753,000,000.
Fiscal year 2050:
(A) New budget authority, $3,288,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,288,000,000.
Fiscal year 2051:
(A) New budget authority, $2,808,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,808,000,000.
Fiscal year 2052:
(A) New budget authority, $2,312,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,312,000,000.
Fiscal year 2053:
(A) New budget authority, $1,800,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2054:
(A) New budget authority, $1,272,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,272,000,000.
Fiscal year 2055:
(A) New budget authority, $733,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $733,000,000.
Fiscal year 2056:
(A) New budget authority, $204,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $204,000,000.
Fiscal year 2057:
(A) New budget authority, $12,800,000.
(B) Outlays, $12,800,000.
Fiscal year 2058:
(A) New budget authority, $8,500,000.
(B) Outlays, $8,500,000.
Fiscal year 2059:
(A) New budget authority, $4,200,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,200,000.
Fiscal year 2060:
(A) New budget authority, $1,900,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,900,000.
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<td>Fiscal Year 2022:</td>
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### Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate

#### Sec. 1201. Social Security in the Senate

##### (a) Social Security Revenues—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), the amounts of revenues of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

- **Social Security Trust Fund:**
  - Fiscal Year 2017: $836,046,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2018: $857,840,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2019: $896,174,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2020: $900,308,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2021: $914,127,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2022: $1,123,366,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2023: $1,200,734,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2024: $1,281,840,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2025: $1,369,403,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2026: $1,463,567,000,000

- **Social Security Outlays:**
  - Fiscal Year 2017: $387,000,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2018: $350,000,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2019: $349,000,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2020: $345,000,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2021: $341,000,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2022: $337,000,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2023: $333,000,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2024: $330,000,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2025: $327,000,000,000
  - Fiscal Year 2026: $324,000,000,000
TITLe II—RECONCILIATION

SEC. 2001. RECONCILIATION IN THE SENATE.

(a) COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—The Committee on Finance of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

(b) COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.—The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

(c) SUBMISSIONS.—In the Senate, not later than January 27, 2017, the committees named in subsections (a) and (b) shall submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate. Upon receiving all such recommendations, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall report to the Senate a reconciliation bill carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

SEC. 2002. RECONCILIATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

(b) COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.—The Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

(c) SUBMISSIONS.—In the House of Representatives, not later than January 27, 2017, the committees named in subsections (a) and (b) shall submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to carry out this section.

TITLe III—RESERVE FUNDS

SEC. 3001. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives shall submit changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and, in the Senate, make adjustments to the committee allocations for fiscal years 2017 through 2026 and for the purposes of enacting budgetary legislation, the chairman of any committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and, in the Senate, make adjustments to the committee allocations for fiscal years 2017 through 2026.

(b) IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—In the House of Representatives, one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, or conference reports related to health care by the amounts necessary to accommodate the budgetary effects of the legislation, provided that the cost of such legislation, when combined with the amount of any other measure with respect to which the Chairman has exercised the authority under this paragraph, does not exceed the difference obtained by subtracting—

(A) $2,000,000,000; from

(B) the sum of deficit reduction over the period of the total of fiscal years 2017 through 2026 achieved under any measure or measures with respect to which the Chairman has exercised the authority under section 3001(1); and

(c) SUBMISSIONS.—In the Senate, not later than January 27, 2017, the committees named in subsections (a) and (b) shall submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate. Upon receiving all such recommendations, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall report to the Senate a reconciliation bill carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

TITLe IV—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 4001. ENFORCEMENT FILING.

(a) IN THE SENATE.—If this concurrent resolution on the budget is agreed to by the Senate and House of Representatives without the appointment of a committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two houses, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may submit a statement for publication in the Congressional Record.

(b) For purposes of this concurrent resolution, the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for a fiscal year or period of fiscal years shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress.

(c) AGGREGATES.—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) as the allocations and aggregates contained in this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 4002. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(a)), the Committees on Appropriations shall treat the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632 note), and section 209a of title 39, United States Code, the report accompanying this concurrent resolution on the budget, the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on any concurrent resolution, the budget, or a statement filed under section 4001 shall include in an allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the Committee on Appropriations of the applicable House of Congress amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and the United States Postal Service.

(b) SPECIAL RULE.—In the Senate and the House of Representatives, for purposes of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632) (1) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal year 2017 (2) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2017, 2017 through 2021, and 2017 through 2026 consistent with the level of total new budget authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for a fiscal year or period of fiscal years shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House of Congress.

(c) AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) as the allocations and aggregates contained in this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 4003. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.

(a) APPLICATION.—Any adjustments of allocations and aggregates made pursuant to this concurrent resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) as the allocations and aggregates contained in this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 4004. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

Congress adopts the provisions of this Title as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such they shall be enacted.
considered as part of the rules of each House or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either the Senate or the House of Representatives to change those rules (insofar as they relate to that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as is the case of any other rule of the Senate or House of Representatives.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 4, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon, Wednesday, January 4; finally, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:09 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at 12 noon.
Mr. VISCOLOSY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on Friday, January 6, 2017. This memorable occasion, presided over by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen, will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On January 6, 2017, the following people, representing nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Boyd William Lomow, Virginia Reformina Wilson, Mark Edward Sinclair, Maria del Carmen Garcia Santacruz, Salome Edda Njeri Kinyanjui, Jadranka Angelovska, Idoko Njeri Kinyanjui, Edda Njeri Kinyanjui, Konima Conteh, Jessica Nguyen, John Michael Prejmak, and Jonathan Treto.

LEAH AIZAM CAMPBELL, DASNY CIPRES, OLIVE CINHTIA ARACELI PEREZ, GHSOUN ALAMMOURI, ISAAC MERCADO MASSRI, NOEMI SMITH, JOSE SHOLLEY, EDWIN ATO KWAMINA OTSIN Fynn, AUDREY DEL ROCIO RAMIREZ CASTANOS, DINESHBHAI ZAVERBHAI PATEL, DIEM THUY THI NGUYEN, ROLAND BENOIT CORMIER, SHERYL RAMIREZ Ruggaber, Willis Mureti Imanene, Kevin Kokey Sholley, Edwin Ato Kwamina Otsin Fynn, Isaac Mercado Massri, Noemi Smith, Jose Enrique Lizarraga Leon, Milcho Georgiev Iliev, Cinthia Araceli Perez, Ghusoun Alammouri, Leah Aizam Campbell, Daisy Cicpes, Olive Konima Conteh, Jessica Nguyen, John Michael Prejmak, and Jonathan Treto.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country of...of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on January 6, 2017. They, too, will be American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

Mr. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, each year nearly one million people visit Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, Massachusetts, the home to the “shot heard round the world” and the birthplace of the American Revolution. Since 1993, Superintendent Nancy A. Nelson has been the steward of Minute Man; a guardian of its substantial history and a visionary that has helped illuminate the past for millions and millions of visitors.

Upon Nancy’s retirement on January 3, 2017, the National Park Service will lose one of its most dedicated and passionate officials. However, Nancy’s influence will remain visible and tangible for many years to come. Under Nancy’s supervision, Minute Man NPS underwent extraordinary changes; visitor facilities were modernized, public use was expanded and numerous historic structures were rehabilitated. She focused on changing the landscape of the park, refreshing the grounds and making efficient use of its buildings. Her efforts have enabled a new generation of Americans to fully experience one of our country’s most important moments in time.

Nancy dedicated herself to a lifetime of public service. During her 39-year career with the National Park Service, Nancy served in myriad positions across the organization, from Landscape Architect to Environmental Protection Specialist, to Superintendent of Minute Man National Historical Park. After working closely with Nancy for many years, I am profoundly appreciative of her unmatched commitment to historic preservation and education, and her years of effective and impactful leadership. Her leadership as Superintendent will be missed here in Massachusetts and at the National Park Service.

I extend my sincerest thanks and congratulations to Nancy on behalf of a grateful nation, and I am confident that even in retirement she will remain a staunch advocate for preserving our national treasures, a mission on which I look forward to continuing to work with her.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the “Home Foreclosure Reduction Act of 2017” would permit a bankruptcy judge, with respect to certain home mortgages, to reduce the principal amount of such mortgages to the fair market value of the homes securing such indebtedness. My legislation will encourage homeowners to make their mortgage payments and help stem the endless cycle of foreclosures that further depresses home values. It also would authorize the mortgage’s repayment period to be extended so that monthly mortgage payments are more affordable. In addition, the bill would allow exorbitant mortgage interest rates to be reduced to a level that will keep the mortgage affordable over the long term. And, it would authorize the waiver of prepayment penalties and excessive fees. Further, the bill would eliminate hidden fees and unauthorized costs.

This bill addresses a fundamental problem: homeowners in financial distress simply lack the leverage to make mortgage lenders and servicers engage in meaningful settlement negotiations, even when in the interest of all parties. My legislation would empower a homeowner, under certain circumstances, to force his/her lender to modify the terms of the mortgage by allowing the principal amount of the mortgage to be reduced to the home’s fair market value. And, the implementation of this measure will not cost taxpayers a single penny.

The “Home Foreclosure Reduction Act of 2017” is identical to H.R. 101 (introduced in...
Section 4. Prohibiting Claims Arising from Violations of the Truth in Lending Act. Under the Truth in Lending Act, a mortgagor has a right of rescission with respect to a mortgage secured by his or her residence, under certain circumstances. Bankruptcy Code section 1322(a)(1)(B) requires that a debtor file a plan, and that the plan provide for the payment of any claim that are not entitled to payment in a bankruptcy case, subject to certain exceptions. Section 4 amends Bankruptcy Code section 502(b) to provide that a claim for a loan secured by a security interest in the debtor’s principal residence as of the date of the order for relief under chapter 13 is entitled to a cure for non-payment in the case to the extent that such claim is subject to a remedy for rescission under the Truth in Lending Act, notwithstanding the prior entry of a foreclosure judgment. In addition, section 4 specifies that notice of setting forth in this provision may be construed to modify, impair, or supersede any other right of the debtor.

Section 5. Authority to Modify Certain Mortgages. Under Bankruptcy Code section 1322(b)(2), a chapter 13 plan may not modify the terms of a mortgage secured solely by real property that is the debtor’s principal residence. Section 5 amends Bankruptcy Code section 1322(b)(2) to create a limited exception to this prohibition. As amended, this exception applies only to a mortgage that: (1) originated before the effective date of this amendment; and (2) is the subject of a notice that a foreclosure may be (or has been) commenced with respect to such mortgage.

In addition, the debtor must certify pursuant to new section 1322(h) that he or she contacted—not less than 30 days before filing for bankruptcy relief—the mortgagor (or the entity collecting payments on behalf of such mortgagor) regarding modification of the mortgage. The debtor must certify that he or she provided the mortgagor (or the entity collecting payments on behalf of such mortgagor) a written statement of the debtor’s current income, expenses, and debt in a format that substantially conforms with the schedules required under Bankruptcy Code section 521 or with such other form as promulgated by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Further, the certification must include a statement that the debtor considered any qualified loan modification offered to the debtor by the mortgagor (or the entity collecting payments on behalf of such mortgagor) regarding modification of the mortgage. The debtor must provide the mortgagor (or the entity collecting payments on behalf of such mortgagor) with a copy of the original mortgage note and the modification proposed under the chapter 13 plan or before the effective date of this amendment; the mortgagor or the entity collecting payments on behalf of such mortgagor must make the required disclosure to the debtor under section 1322(i), must use the fair market value of the property at the date that such value is determined under section 506(a)(1) as reported by the Federal Housing Administration.

Financial Institutions Examination Council in exercising its discretion with respect to allowing the mortgagor to make payments directly to the mortgagor or by requiring payments to be made through the chapter 13 trustee, will take into consideration the debtor’s ability to pay the debtor’s fees on payments disbursed through the trustee.

New section 1322(g) provides that a claim may be reduced under new section 1322(b)(11)(A) only on the condition that the debtor enters into a servicer agreement that establishes a reasonable premium for risk. If the residence is sold before the completion of all payments under the chapter 13 plan or before the debtor receives a discharge under section 1328(b), the debtor must pay these proceeds to the mortgagee within 15 days of when the debtor receives the net sales proceeds. If the residence is sold in the first year following the effective date of the chapter 13 plan, the mortgagee is to receive 90 percent of the difference between the sales price and the amount of the claim. If the residence is sold in the second year following the effective date of the chapter 13 plan, then the applicable percentage is 70 percent. If the residence is sold in the third year following the effective date of the chapter 13 plan, then the applicable percentage is 50 percent. If the residence is sold in the fourth year following the effective date of the chapter 13 plan, then the applicable percentage is 25 percent. If the residence is sold in the fifth year following the effective date of the chapter 13 plan, then the applicable percentage is 10 percent.
following the effective date of the chapter 13 plan, then the applicable percentage is ten percent. It is the intent of this provision that if the unsecured portion of the mortgagee’s claim is partially paid under this provision it should be reconsidered under 502(j) and redetermined.

Section 6. Combating Excessive Fees. Section 6 amends Bankruptcy Code section 1322(c) to provide that the debtor, the debtor’s property, and property of the bankruptcy estate are not liable for a fee, cost, or charge that is incurred while the chapter 13 case is pending without notice from a claim secured by the debtor’s principal residence, unless the holder of the claim complies with certain requirements. It is the intent of this provision that its reference to a fee, cost, or charge includes an increase in any applicable rate of interest for such claim. It also applies to a change in escrow account payments.

To ensure such fee, cost, or charge is allowed, the claimant must comply with certain requirements. First, the claimant must file with the court and serve on the chapter 13 trustee, the debtor, and the debtor’s attorney a notice of such fee, cost, or charge (or on a more frequent basis as the court determines) before the earlier of either: one year of when such fee, cost, or charge was incurred, or 60 days before the case is closed. Second, the fee, cost, or charge must be lawful under applicable nonbankruptcy law, reasonable, and provided for in the applicable security agreement. Third, the value of the debtor’s principal residence must be greater than the amount of such claim, including such fee, cost, or charge.

If the holder fails to give the required notice, such failure is deemed to be a waiver of any claim for such fees, costs, or charges for all purposes. Any attempt to collect such fees, costs, or charges constitutes a violation of the Bankruptcy Code’s discharge injunction under section 524(a)(2) or the automatic stay under section 362(a), whichever is applicable.

Section 6 further provides that a chapter 13 plan may waive any prepayment penalty on a claim secured by the debtor’s principal residence.

Section 7. Confirmation of Plan. Bankruptcy Code section 1325 sets forth the criteria for confirmation of a chapter 13 plan. Section 7 amends section 1325(a)(5) (which specifies the mandatory treatment that an allowed secured claim provided for under the plan must receive) to provide an exception for a claim modified under new section 1322(b)(11). The amendment also clarifies that payments under a plan that includes a modification of a claim under new section 1322(b)(11) must be in equal monthly amounts pursuant to section 1325(a)(5)(B)(ii).

In addition, section 7 specifies certain protections for a creditor whose rights are modified under new section 1322(b)(11). As a condition of confirmation, new section 1325(a)(10) requires a plan to provide that the creditor retain its lien until the later of: (1) the holder’s allowed secured claim (as modified) is paid; (2) the debtor completes all payments under the chapter 13 plan; or (3) if applicable, the debtor receives a discharge under section 1328(b).

Section 7 also provides standards for confirming a chapter 13 plan that modifies a claim pursuant to new section 1322(b)(11). First, the debtor cannot have been convicted of obtaining by actual fraud the extension, renewal, or refinancing of credit that gives rise to such modified claim. Second, the modification must be in good faith. Lack of good faith exists if the debtor has no need for relief under this provision because the debtor can pay all of his or her debts and any future payment increases the difficulties for the foreseeable future, including the positive amortization of mortgage debt. In determining whether a modification under section 1322(b)(11) that reduces the principal amount of the loan is made in good faith, the court must consider whether the claim (or the entity collecting payments on behalf of such holder) has offered the debtor a qualified loan modification that would enable the debtor to pay such debts and such loan without reducing the principal amount of the mortgage.

Section 7 further amends section 1325 to add a new provision. New section 1325(d) authorizes the court, on request of the debtor or the mortgage holder, to confirm a plan proposing to reduce the interest rate lower than that specified in new section 1322(b)(11)(C)(i), provided: (1) the modification does not reduce the mortgage principal; (2) the total mortgage payment is reduced through interest rate reduction to the percentage of the debtor’s income that is the standard for a modification in accordance with the Obama Administration’s Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan, as implemented on March 4, 2009; (3) the court determines that the debtor can afford such modification in light of the debtor’s financial situation, after allowance of expense amounts that would otherwise be subject to section 1325(b)(5), regardless of whether the debtor is otherwise subject to such paragraph, and taking into account additional debts and fees that are to be paid in chapter 13 and thereafter; and (4) the debtor is able to prevent foreclosure and pay a fully amortizing 30-year loan at such reduced interest rate without such reduction in principal. If the mortgage holder accepts a debtor’s proposed modification under this provision, the plan’s treatment is deemed to satisfy the requirements of section 1325(a)(5)(A) and the proposal should not be rejected as modified under new section 1325(b)(11).

Section 8. Discharge. Bankruptcy Code section 1328 sets forth the requirements by which a chapter 13 debtor may obtain a discharge and the scope of such discharge. Section 8 amends section 1328(a) to clarify that the unpaid portion of an allowed secured claim modified under new section 1322(b)(11) is not discharged. This provision is not intended to create a claim for a deficiency where such a claim would not otherwise exist.

Section 9. State and Local Trustee Fees. Section 9 amends 28 U.S.C. 586(e)(1)(B)(ii) to provide that a chapter 13 trustee may receive a commission set by the Attorney General of no more than ten percent on payments made under a chapter 13 plan and disbursed by the chapter 13 trustee to a creditor whose claim was modified under Bankruptcy Code section 1322(b)(11), unless the bankruptcy court waives such fees based on a determination that the debtor has income less than 150 percent of the official poverty line applicable to the size of the debtor’s family and payment of such fees would render the debtor’s plan infeasible.

With respect to districts not under the United States trustee system, section 9(b) makes a conforming revision to section 302(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees, and Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986.

Section 10. Effective Date; Application of Amendments. Section 10(a) provides that this measure and the amendments made by it, except as provided in subsection (b), take effect on the Act’s date of enactment.

Section 10(b)(1) provides, except as provided in paragraph (2), that the amendments made by this measure apply to cases commenced under title 11 of the United States Code, on, or after the Act’s date of enactment. Section 10(b)(2) specifies that paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to cases that are closed under the Bankruptcy Code as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

Section 11. GAO Study. Section 11 requires the Government Accountability Office to complete a study and to submit a report to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees within two years from the enactment of this Act. The report must contain the results of the study of: (1) the number of debtors who filed cases under chapter 13, during the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act for the purpose of restructuring their principal residence mortgages; (2) the number of mortgages restructured under this Act that subsequently resulted in default and foreclosure; (3) a comparison between the effectiveness of mortgages restructured under programs outside of bankruptcy, such as Hope Now and Hope for Homeowners, and mortgages restructured under this Act; (4) the number of appeals in cases where mortgages were restructured under this Act; (5) the number of such appeals where the bankruptcy court’s decision was overturned; and (6) the number of bankruptcy judges disciplined as a result of actions taken to restructure mortgages under this Act. In addition, the report must include a recommendation as to whether such amendments should be amended to include a sunset clause.

Section 12. Report to Congress. Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Government Accountability Office, in consultation with the Federal Housing Administration, must submit to Congress a report containing: (1) a comprehensive review of the effects of the Act’s amendments on bankruptcy courts; (2) a survey of whether the types of homeowners eligible for the program should be limited; and (3) a recommendation on whether such amendments should remain in effect.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS WORTINGHAM, HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Thomas Worthingham High School Girls Field Hockey Team for winning the Ohio State Field Hockey Tournament.

America has always been a land of achievement such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Ohio High School Athletic Association has enabled talented teams and individuals to earn state titles since its founding in 1907. Throughout this time, the
INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES IN MUNICIPAL BANKRUPTCIES ACT OF 2017

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, when a municipality files for bankruptcy, its employees and retirees who have devoted their lives to public service, such as police officers, firefighters, sanitation workers and office personnel, risk having their hard-earned wages, pensions and health benefits cut or even eliminated.

This is why I am introducing the Protecting Employees and Retirees in Municipal Bankruptcies Act of 2017. This legislation strengthens protection for employees and retirees under chapter 9 bankruptcy cases by: (1) clarifying the criteria that a municipality must meet before it can obtain chapter 9 bankruptcy relief; (2) ensuring that the interests of employees and retirees are represented in the chapter 9 case; and (3) imposing heightened standards that a municipality must meet before it may modify any collective bargaining agreement or retiree benefit.

While many municipalities often work to limit the impact of budget cuts on their employees and retirees, as demonstrated in the chapter 9 plan of adjustment approved by Detroit’s public employees and retirees, other municipalities could try to use current bankruptcy law to set aside collective bargaining agreements and retiree protections.

My legislation addresses this risk by requiring the municipality to engage in meaningful good faith negotiations with its employees and retirees before the municipality can apply for chapter 9 bankruptcy relief. This measure would also expedite the appellate review process of bankruptcy court decisions in this context and ensure that this and other requirements. The bill ensures employees and retirees have a say in any plan that would modify their benefits.

SECTION-BY-SECTION EXPLANATION

Sec. 1. Short Title. Section 1 of the bill sets forth the short title of the bill as the “Protecting Employees and Retirees in Municipal Bankruptcies Act of 2017.”

Sec. 2. Determination of Municipality Eligibility To Be a Debtor Under Chapter 9 of Title 11 of the United States Code. A municipality may petition to be a debtor under chapter 9, a specialized form of bankruptcy relief, only if a bankruptcy court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the municipality satisfies certain criteria specified in Bankruptcy Code section 109. The bill, in section 109, requires the municipality, in pertinent part, to have negotiated in good faith with its creditors or prove that it is unable to negotiate with its creditors because such negotiation is impracticable.

Sec. 2(a) of the bill amends Bankruptcy Code section 109 in three respects. First, it provides clear guidance to the bankruptcy court that the term “good faith” is intended to have the same meaning as it has under the National Labor Relations Act, at least with respect to creditors who are employees or retirees of the debtor. Second, section 2(a) requires the court to determine the futility of negotiation from “impracticable” to “impossible.” This change ensures that before a municipality may avail itself of chapter 9 bankruptcy relief, it must prove that there is no possible way it could have engaged in negotiation in lieu of seeking such relief. Third, the amendment clarifies that the standard of proof that the municipality must meet is “clear and convincing” rather than a preponderance of the evidence. These revisions will provide greater guidance to the bankruptcy court in assessing whether a municipality has satisfied the Bankruptcy Code’s eligibility requirements for being granted relief under chapter 9.

Bankruptcy Code section 921(e), a relevant part, prohibits a court from ordering a stay of any proceeding arising in a chapter 9 case on account of an appeal from an order granting a municipality’s petition to be a debtor under chapter 9. Section 2(b) strikes this prohibition, thereby allowing a court to issue a stay of any proceeding during the pendency of such an appeal. This ensures that the status quo can be maintained until there is a final appellate determination of whether a municipality is legally eligible to be a chapter 9 debtor.

Typically, an appeal of a bankruptcy court decision is heard by a district or bankruptcy appellate panel court. Under limited circumstances, however, a direct appeal from a bankruptcy court decision may be heard by a court of appeals. Until a final determination is made as to whether a municipality is eligible to be a debtor under chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code, the rights and responsibilities of numerous stakeholders are unclear. To expedite the appellate process and promote greater certainty to all stakeholders in the case, section 2(c) provides that on appeal of a bankruptcy court order granting a municipality’s petition to be a chapter 9 debtor to be filed directly with the court of appeals. In addition, section 2(c) requires the court of appeals to hear such appeal de novo on the merits as well as to determine it on an expedited basis.

Finally, section 2(c) specifies that the doctrine of equitable mootness does not apply to such an appeal.

Sec. 3. Protecting Employees and Retirees. The chapter 9 debtor must file a plan for the adjustment of the municipality’s debts that must be confirmed by the bankruptcy court if it satisfies certain criteria specified in Bankruptcy Code section 943. Section 3 of the bill makes several amendments to current law intended to ensure that interests of municipal employees and retirees are better protected. With respect to plan confirmation requirements, section 3 amends Bankruptcy Code section 943 to require consent from such employees and retirees to any plan that impair—

Such consent would be conveyed to the court by the authorized representative of such individuals. Subject to certain exceptions, section 3 specifies that the authorized representative of individuals receiving any retirement benefits pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement is the labor organization that signed such agreement unless such organization no longer represents active employees. Where the organization no longer represents active employees of the municipality, the labor organization that currently represents active employees in that bargaining unit is the authorized representative of such individuals.

With respect to retired employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, the court, on motion by a party in interest after notice and a hearing, must order the United States Trustee to appoint a committee of retired employees if the debtor seeks to modify or not pay the retiree benefits or if the court otherwise determines that it is appropriate for that committee to be comprised of such individuals to serve as the authorized representative.

Where the court grants a motion for the appointment of a retiree committee, section 3 requires the United States Trustee to choose individuals to serve on the committee on a proportional basis per capita based on organization membership from among members of the organizations that represent the individuals with respect to whom such order is entered. This requirement ensures that the committee, in a case where there are multiple labor organizations, fairly represents the interests of the members of those various organizations on a proportional basis.

Finally, section 3 of the bill imposes a significant threshold that must be met before retiree benefits can be reduced or eliminated. Current law has no such requirement. In a case where the collective municipality proposes in its plan to impair any right to a retiree benefit, section 3 permits the committee to support such impairment only if at least two-thirds of its members vote in favor of doing so.
IN HONOR OF THE BISHOP HARTLEY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bishop Hartley High School Football Team for winning the Ohio Division IV State Football Tournament.

An achievement such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Ohio High School Athletic Association has enabled talented teams and individuals to earn state titles since its founding in 1907. Throughout this time, the champions of OHSHAA state level competitions have represented the highest achieving and most talented athletes in Ohio. Each year these elite competitors join the long ranks of those who embody Ohio’s proud history of athletic success.

The Bishop Hartley Football Team’s victory caps a tremendous season. This sort of achievement is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and hard work. They have set a new standard for future athletes to reach. Everyone at Bishop Hartley High School can be extremely proud of their performance.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio’s 12th Congressional District, I congratulate the Bishop Hartley Football Team on their state championship. I wish them continued success in both athletic and academic endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTVILLE, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FREILINGHUYSEN OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. FREILINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Township of Montville, New Jersey on its 150th Anniversary.

Montville Township is a beautiful, suburban community located in Morris County in northwestern New Jersey bordered by the Passaic River. The Township’s nineteen square miles are comprised of three towns: Montville, Pine Brook, and Towaco. As of 2013 U.S. Census estimates, there are approximately 21,663 people living within the Township. These residents enjoy an active, vibrant community with numerous options for volunteer opportunities for people of all ages.

Originally known as “Uyle-Kill” (the Dutch spelling of “Owl-Kill”), the region now known as Montville was first settled by Dutch farmers in the early 18th Century. The settlement grew in size, and by the 1740’s, construction of the first major road in the area had begun.

This road was to come of use in the Revolutionary War, during which Montville served as a major military route from Morristown to the Hudson River. General Washington’s troops often took this route, and Washington himself stayed in Montville in June of 1780. French reinforcment troops led by General Rochambeau also passed through Montville on their way to the Revolutionary War’s final victory at Jamestown, Virginia.

The mid-19th Century saw the development of two smaller village centers set apart from Montville—Pine Brook, a fertile agricultural area in the southernmost section, and Whitehall (later called Towaco), situated on the Morris Canal. Construction of the Morris Canal was completed in this area in 1828, bringing commercial navigation to the Montville and Towaco areas. On April 11, 1867, the Township of Montville was formally chartered by an act of the legislature that resulted in the permanent settlement called Pequannock Town.

Montville Township has consistently ranked among the best places to live both in New Jersey and across the country.

Montville Township has also been recognized for its commitment to public safety, which directly impacts the quality of living in the community. The Township has also implemented a Community Dispute Resolution Committee to aid law enforcement by independently processing matters.

Finally, Montville has taken a proactive approach to streamlining its business development approval process, making the Township a great place to start or relocate a business.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating Montville on its Sesquicentennial Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES IN BUSINESS BANKRUPTCIES ACT OF 2017

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR. OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, throughout our nation’s history, hardworking American men and women have labored to make our businesses successful and dynamic in the world. Unfortunately, when some of these businesses encounter financial difficulties and seek to reorganize their debts under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, these very same workers and retirees are often asked to make major sacrifices through lost job protections, lower wages, and the elimination of hard-won pension and health benefits, while the executives and managers of these businesses are not required to make comparable sacrifices.

We must do more to ensure that America’s most important resource—workers and retirees—are treated more fairly when these businesses seek to reorganize their financial affairs under the protection of our bankruptcy laws. The Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act of 2017 accomplishes this goal by amending the Bankruptcy Code in several respects. First, it improves recoveries for employees and retirees by: (1) increasing the amount of worker claims entitled to priority payment for unpaid wages and contributions to employee benefit plans up to $10,000 owed to an individual for wages, salaries, or commissions (including vacation, sick leave, and jury duty payments paid in full in the order of priority before general unsecured claims may be paid. Section 507(a)(4) accords a fourth level priority to an unsecured claim up to $10,000 owed to an individual for wages, salaries, or commissions (including vacation, severance, and sick leave pay) earned within the 180-day period preceding the filing of the bankruptcy case or the date on which the debtor’s business ceased, whichever occurs first. Section 101 amends section 507(a)(4) to increase the amount of the priority to $20,000 and eliminate the 180-day reachback limitation. Bankruptcy Code section 507(a)(5) accords a fifth level priority for unsecured claims for contributions to an employee benefit plan arising from services rendered within the 180-day period preceding the filing of the bankruptcy case or the date on which the debtor’s business ceased (whichever occurs first). The amount of the claim is based on the number of employees covered by the plan multiplied by $10,000, less the aggregate amount paid to such employees pursuant to section 507(a)(4) and the aggregate amount paid by the estate on behalf of such employees to any other employee benefit plan. Section 101 amends...
Bankruptcy Code section 507(a)(5) to: (1) increase the priority amount to $20,000; (2) eliminate the offset requirements; and (3) eliminate the 180-day limitation.

Sec. 102. Claim for Stock Value Losses in Defined Contribution Plans. Section 102 amends the Bankruptcy Code's definition of a claim to include a right or interest in equity securities of the debtor (or an affiliate of the debtor) held in a defined contribution plan for the benefit of an individual who is not an insider, officer or one of the 20 next most highly compensated employees of the debtor (if one or more are not insiders), providing: (1) such securities were attributable to employer contributions by the debtor (or an affiliate of the debtor), or by elective deferrals, together with any earnings thereon; and (2) the employer or plan sponsor who commenced the bankruptcy case either committed fraud with respect to such plan or otherwise breached a duty to the participant that proximately caused loss.

Sec. 103. Priority for Severance Pay. Bankruptcy Code section 503(b) establishes an administrative expense payment priority for certain types of unsecured claims. Among all types of unsecured claims, administrative expenses are the highest payment priority, i.e., they must be paid in full before priority and general unsecured claims may be paid. Section 103 amends section 503(b) to accord administrative expense priority for severance pay owed to the debtor's employees (other than an insider, other senior management, or a consultant retained to provide services to the debtor) under a plan, program or policy generally applicable to the debtor's employees (but not under an individual contract of employment or owed pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or for interim or any services were rendered on or after the commencement of the bankruptcy case and includes an award by a court under section 2901 of title 29 of the United States Code of up to 60 days' pay and benefits following a layoff that occurred or commenced at a time when such award period includes a period on or after the commencement of the case, if the court determines that payment of wages and benefits by reason of the operation of this 20 next most highly compensated employees of the employees or of nonpayment of domestic support obligations during the case under this title. Title II-Reducing Employees' and Retirees' Losses.

Sec. 201. Rejection of Collective Bargaining Agreements. Bankruptcy Code section 1113 sets forth the requirements by which a collective bargaining agreement may be assumed or rejected. Section 201 amends section 1113 in several respects. First, it amends section 1113(a) to clarify that a chapter 11 debtor may reject a collective bargaining agreement only in accordance with section 1113. Second, it amends Bankruptcy Code section 1113(b) to clarify that no provision in title II of the United States Code could be construed to permit a trustee to unilaterally terminate or alter the terms of a collective bargaining agreement absent compliance with section 1113. The provision further specifies that the trustee must timely pay all monetary obligations and any security payments under the collective bargaining agreement and that any payment required to be made pre-confirmation has the status of an allowed administrative expense under Code section 503.

Third, it amends Bankruptcy Code section 1113(c) to provide notice of such proposed modification to the labor organization representing the employees covered by the agreement. The trustee must also promptly provide an initial proposal for modification. In addition, the trustee must confer in good faith with the labor organization, at reasonable times and for a reasonable period, given the complexity of the case, in an effort to reach a mutually acceptable modification of the agreement. Each modification offered by the trustee must reflect the most complete and reliable information. As amended, section 1113(c) requires the trustee to provide to the labor organization all information relevant for negotiations. If such negotiations do not result in the debtor's position with respect to its competitors in the industry, the provision authorizes the court to issue a protective order, subject to the needs of the labor organization to evaluate the trustee's proposal and any application to reject the collective bargaining agreement or for interim relief under section 1113.

In consideration of federal policy encouraging the practice and process of collective bargaining and in recognition of the bargained-for expectations of the employees covered by the agreement, any modification proposed by the trustee must: (1) only be proposed as part of a program of workforce and nonworkforce cost savings devised for the debtor's reorganization, including savings in management personnel costs; (2) be limited to modifications designed to achieve a specified aggregate financial contribution for employees covered by the agreement, taking into consideration any labor cost savings negotiated within the 12-month period prior to filing of the bankruptcy case; (3) be no more than the minimum savings essential to permit the debtor to exit bankruptcy, such that confirmation is not likely to be followed by the liquidation or the need for further financial reorganization of the debtor; and (4) not be disproportionate or overly burden the employees covered by the agreement, either in the amount of the cost savings sought from such employees or the nature of the modifications.

Fourth, it amends Bankruptcy Code section 1113(d) to provide that if the trustee and the labor organization (after a period of negotiations) do not reach an agreement over mutually satisfactory modifications and further negotiations are not likely to produce mutually satisfactory modifications, the trustee may file a motion seeking rejection of the collective bargaining agreement after notice and a hearing. Absent agreement by the parties, the hearing may not be held earlier than 21 days from notice of the hearing. Only the debtor and the labor organization may appear and be heard at the hearing. An application for rejection must seek rejection effective upon the entry of an order granting such relief.

In consideration of federal policy encouraging the practice and process of collective bargaining and in recognition of the bargained-for expectations of the employees covered by the agreement, section 1113(d) (as amended) provides that the court may grant a motion seeking rejection of such agreement only if the court: (1) finds that the trustee has complied with the requirements of subsection (c); (2) has considered alternative proposals by the labor organization and concluded that such proposals do not meet the requirements of section 1113(c)(3)(B); (3) finds that further negotiations regarding the trustee's proposal or an alternative proposal by the labor organization are not likely to produce an agreement; (4) finds that implementation of the trustee's proposal will not: (a) cause a material diminution in the purchasing power of the employees covered by the agreement, or (b) adversely affect the debtor's ability to retain an experienced and qualified workforce; or (c) impair the debtor's labor relations such that the ability to achieve a feasible reorganization will be compromised; and (5) concludes, based on clear and convincing evidence, that rejection of the agreement and immediate implementation of the trustee's proposal is essential to permit the debtor's exit from bankruptcy such that confirmation is not likely to be followed by the liquidation or the need for further financial reorganization of the debtor in the short term. If the trustee has implemented a program of incentive pay, bonuses or other financial returns negative or the 20 next most highly compensated employees or consultants (or such a program was implemented within 180 days before the bankruptcy
Subsection (d), as amended, prohibits the court from entering an order rejecting a collective bargaining agreement that would result in modified terms that are lower than those proposed by the trustee in the proposal found by the court to have complied with the requirements of section 1113.

At any time after an order rejecting a collective bargaining agreement is entered (or mutually satisfactory agreement between the trustee and the labor organization is entered into), the labor organization may apply to the court for an order seeking an increase in the level of wages or benefits or relief from working conditions different than the changed circumstances. The court must grant such relief only if the increase or other relief is not inconsistent with the standard set forth in section 1113(d)(2)(E).

Section 202 amends Bankruptcy Code section 1113(e) to provide that during the period in which a collective bargaining agreement at issue under this section continues in effect and if either essential to the continuation of the debtor’s business or in order to avoid irreparable damage to the estate, the court, after notice and a hearing, may authorize the trustee to make a modification of such agreement, subject to the terms and conditions, wages, cs-benefits, or work rules provided by the collective bargaining agreement. Any hearing under this provision must be scheduled in accordance of the trustee’s needs. The implementation of such interim changes will not render the application for rejection moot.

Sixth, section 201 amends Bankruptcy Code section 1113(f) to provide that the rejection of a collective bargaining agreement constitutes a breach of such agreement and is effective no earlier than the entry of an order granting such relief. Solely for the purpose of determining and allowing a claim arising from rejection of a collective bargaining agreement, such rejection must be treated as a rejection of an executory contract under Bankruptcy Code section 365(g) and shall be allowed and disallowed in accordance with section 502(g)(1).

Subsection (f), as amended, further provides that no claim for rejection damages may be limited by section 502(b)(7). In addition, the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Code section 365(g) of the Labor Organization Act of 1932 (or a labor union representing such participants) in a defined benefit pension plan terminated under section 4041 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) for any shortfall in pension benefits accrued as of the effective date of the pension plan’s termination as a result of such termination and limitations upon the payment of benefits imposed pursuant to section 4042 of such Act, notwithstanding any claim asserted and collected by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation with respect to such termination.

Fourth, section 201 amends Bankruptcy Code section 1113(g) to provide that if the trustee and the authorized representative do not reach a mutually satisfactory agreement (after a period of negotiations) and further negotiations are not likely to produce mutually satisfactory modifications, the trustee may file a motion seeking to modify the payment of retiree benefits after notice and a hearing. Absent agreement of the parties, the hearing may not be held earlier than 21 days from when notice of the hearing is provided. Only the debtor and the authorized representative may appear and be heard at the hearing. The court may grant a motion to modify the payment of retiree benefits only if the court: (1) finds that the trustee complied with the requirements of section 1114(f); (2) considered any of the authorized representative’s alternative proposals and determined that such proposals do not meet the requirements of section 1114(h)(3)(B); (3) finds that further negotiations are not likely to produce a mutually satisfactory agreement; (4) finds that implementation of the trustee’s plan will not cause irreparable harm to the affected retirees; and (5) concludes that, based on clear and convincing evidence, an order granting the trustee’s proposal and its immediate implementation is essential to permit the debtor’s exit from bankruptcy such that confirmation is not likely to be followed by the liquidation or the need for further financial reorganization of the debtor in the short term.

If the trustee has implemented a program of incentive pay, bonuses, or other financial rewards for insiders, senior executive officers, or the 20 next most highly compensated employees or consultants (or such program was implemented within 180 days before the bankruptcy case was filed), the court must presume that the debtor failed to satisfy the requirements of section 1112(f) and make a further determination.

Fifth, section 202 amends subsection (k) and makes conformance revisions. Section 203 Protection of Employee Benefits in a Sale of Assets. Section 203 amends Bankruptcy Code section 363(b), which authorizes a debtor to sell or use property of the estate other than in the ordinary course of business (under certain circumstances), to add a new requirement. New section 363(b)(3) requires the court, in approving a sale, to consider the extent to which a bidder’s offer: (1) maintains employment; (2) preserves the effectiveness of collective bargaining agreements; and (3) assumes or matches pension and retiree benefit obligations in determining whether such offer constitutes the highest or best offer for the property.

Sec. 204. Claim for Pension Losses. Section 204 adds a new subsection to Bankruptcy Code section 502, which pertains to the allowance of claims and interests. New subsection (1) requires the court to allow a claim by an active or retired participant (or by a labor organization representing such participants) in a defined benefit pension plan terminated under section 4041 or 4042 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) for any shortfall in pension benefits accrued as of the effective date of the pension plan’s termination as a result of such termination and limitations upon the payment of benefits imposed pursuant to section 4042 of such Act, notwithstanding any claim asserted and collected by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation with respect to such termination.

In addition, section 204 adds subsection (m) to Bankruptcy Code section 502 to require a court to allow a claim described in Bankruptcy Code section 101(5)(C) (as amended by this legislation) by an active or retired participant (or a labor union representing such participant) in a defined contribution plan (within the meaning of section 401(34) of ERISA) for any shortfall in pension benefits accrued as of the effective date of the plan’s termination as a result of such termination and limitations upon the payment of benefits imposed pursuant to section 4042 of such Act, notwithstanding any claim asserted and collected by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation with respect to such termination.
necessary expenses incurred to preserve or dispose of such property to the extent the secured creditor benefits from such expenditures. Section 205 amends section 506(c) to add a new provision. As amended, section 506(c) deems unpaid wages, accrued vacation, severance pay or other benefits to which an employee is entitled under the debtor’s policies and practices or provided pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, for services rendered on and after commencement of the case to be necessary costs and expenses of preserving or disposing of property securing an allowed secured claim. Such obligations incurred even if the trustee has otherwise waived the provisions of section 506(c) pursuant to an agreement with the allowed secured claimant or a successor or predecessor in interest. Sec. 206. Preservation of Jobs and Benefits. Section 206 adds a statement of purpose to chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code specifying that a chapter 11 debtor must have as its principal purpose the reorganization of its business to preserve going concern value to the maximum extent possible through the productive use of the debtor’s assets and preserves jobs that will sustain productive economic activity.

In addition, section 206 amends Bankruptcy Code section 1129(a), which sets out the criteria for confirming a plan, to add a new requirement that the court must confirm the plan that better serves creditors, managers or consultants providing services to the debtor to demonstrate that the reorganization preserves going concern value to the maximum extent possible through the productive use of the debtor’s assets and preserves jobs that will sustain productive economic activity.

Section 207 amends Bankruptcy Code section 1129(c), which requires the court to consider the preferences of creditors and equity security holders in determining which plan to confirm. Section 1129(c), as amended, instead requires the court to consider the extent to which each plan would preserve going concern value through the productive use of the debtor’s assets and the preservation of jobs that will sustain productive economic activity. The court must confirm the plan that better serves such interests. It further provides that a plan that incorporates the terms of a settlement with a labor organization shall presumptively constitute the plan that satisfies this provision.

Sec. 207. Termination of Exclusivity. Bankruptcy Code section 1121, in pertinent part, gives a debtor the exclusive authority to file a plan and obtain acceptances of such plan for stated periods of time, under certain circumstances. Section 207 amends section 1121 to specify that cause for shortening these exclusive periods includes: (1) the filing of a motion pursuant to section 1113 seeking rejection or modification of a collective bargaining agreement if a plan based upon an alternative proposal by the labor organization is reasonably likely to be confirmed within a reasonable time; or (2) the proposed filing of a plan by a proponent other than the debtor, which incorporates the terms of a settlement with a labor organization if such plan is reasonably likely to be confirmed within a reasonable time.

TITL E III—RESTRICTING EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 301. Executive Compensation Upon Exit From Bankruptcy. Bankruptcy Code section 1129 specifies the criteria for confirmation of a chapter 11 plan. Section 1129(a)(4), for example, requires that certain services, costs and expenses in connection with the case (or in connection with the plan and incident to the case) to have either been approved by the court (or subject to approval by the court) as reasonable. Section 301 amends section 1129(a)(4) to add a requirement that payments or other distributions under the plan to executive officers, and any of the 20 next most highly compensated employees or consultants providing services to the debtor may not be approved unless: (1) such compensation is subject to review under section 1129(a)(5), or (2) such compensation is part of a program of payments or distributions generally applicable to the debtor’s employees and only to the extent that the court determines that such payments are not excessive or disproportionate as compared to distributions to the debtor’s nonmanagement workforce.

In addition, section 301 amends section 1129(a)(5), which requires the plan proponent to disclose the identity and affiliations of the debtor’s officers and others, such as the identity of any insider who will be employed or retained by the reorganized debtor and such insider’s compensation. Section 301 amends section 1129(a)(5) to add a requirement that such compensation must be approved (or subject to approval) by the court in accordance with the following criteria: (1) the compensation is reasonable when compared to that paid by comparable companies at comparable companies in the same industry; and (2) the compensation is not disproportionate in light of economic concessions by the debtor’s nonmanagement workforce during the case.

Sec. 302. Limitations on Executive Compensation Enhancements. In general, Bankruptcy Code Section 503(c) prohibits a debtor from making certain payments to an insider, absent certain findings by the court. Section 302 amends section 503(c)(1), which prohibits such payments when they are intended to induce the insider to remain with the debtor’s business, in several respects. First, it expands the provision so that it applies to insider’s compensation. Section 301 amends section 1129(a)(5) to add a requirement that such payments be reasonable when compared to that paid by comparable companies at comparable companies in the same industry and not disproportionate in light of economic concessions made by the debtor’s nonmanagement workforce during the case.

Sec. 303. Assumption of Executive Retirement Plans. Section 303 amends Bankruptcy Code section 365, which sets forth the criteria pursuant to which executory contracts and unexpired leases may be assumed and rejected, to add two provisions. New subsection (e) provides that no deferred compensation arrangement for the benefit of a debtor’s insiders, senior executive officers, or any of the 20 next most highly compensated employees may be assumed if a defined benefit pension plan for the debtor’s employees or former employees was assumed if the debtor is a contributing employer, is terminated pursuant to sections 4041 or 4042 of ERISA on or after the commencement of the case or within 180 days prior to the commencement of the case.

New subsection (f) requires that if a debtor reduces its contractual obligations under a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to section 4041 or 4042 of ERISA on or after the commencement of the case or within 180 days prior to the commencement of the case.

Sec. 304. Recovery of Executive Compensation. Section 304 adds a new provision to the Bankruptcy Code. New section 563(a) provides that if a debtor reduces its contractual obligations under a collective bargaining agreement pursuant to section 1113(d), or re- tiree benefits pursuant to section 1114(g), then the court, as part of the order granting such relief, must make certain determinations. The court must determine the percentage of diminution in the value of such retirement benefits, or a result of such relief. In making that determination, the court must include any reduction in benefits as a result of the termination pursuant to section 4041 or 4042 of ERISA of a defined benefit plan administered by the debtor, or for which the debtor is a contributing employer, effective at any time within 180 days prior to the commencement of the case. The court may not take into consideration pension benefits paid or payable under title IV of ERISA as a result of such termination.

A defined benefit pension plan administered by the debtor, or for which the debtor is a contributing employer, is terminated pursuant to section 4041 or 4042 of ERISA, effective at any time within 180 days prior to the commencement of the case, and the debtor has obtained relief under section 1113(d), or section 1114(g), new section 563(b) requires the court, on motion of a party in interest, to determine the percentage in diminution in the value of benefit obligations when compared to the total benefit liability prior to such termination. The court may, if it is of the opinion that pension benefits paid or payable pursuant to title IV of ERISA as a result of such termination.
After such percentage diminution in value is determined, new section 563(c) provides that the estate has a claim for the return of the same percentage of the compensation paid, directly or indirectly (including any transfer to a self-settled trust or similar device, or to a nonqualified Funding Deferral Compensation Plan) under a collective bargaining agreement (as defined in section 409A(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) to certain individuals. These individuals include: (1) any officer of the debtor serving as a member of the debtor’s board of directors within the year before the filing of the case; and (2) any individual serving as chairman or as lead director of the board of directors at the time when relief under section 1113 or section 1114 is granted, or if no such relief has been granted, then the termination of the defined benefit plan.

New section 563(d) provides that a trustee or committee appointed pursuant to section 1102 may commence an action to recover such claims. If neither commences such action by the first date set for the confirmation hearing, any party in interest may apply to the court for authority to recover such claims for the benefit of the estate. The costs of recovery must be borne by the estate.

New section 563(e) prohibits the court from awarding postpetition compensation under section 503(c) or otherwise to any person subject to section 563(c) if there is a reasonable likelihood that such compensation is intended to reimburse or replace compensation recovered by the estate pursuant to section 563.

Section 305. Preferential Compensation Transfer. Bankruptcy Code section 547 authorizes preferential transfers to be avoided. Section 305 adds a new subsection to section 547 to permit the avoidance of a transfer to or for the benefit of an insider (including an obligation incurred for the benefit of an insider under an employment contract) made in anticipation of bankruptcy. The provision also permits the avoidance of a transfer made in anticipation of a bankruptcy to a consultant who is formerly an insider and who is retained to provide services to an entity that becomes a debtor (including an obligation under a contract to provide services to such entity or to a debtor) made or incurred within one year before the filing of the bankruptcy case. In addition, new section 547(j) provides that no provision of section 547(c) (specifying certain exceptions to section 547) may be utilized as a defense. Further, section 547(l) permits the trustee or a committee to commence such avoidance action. If neither do so as of the date of the commencement of the confirmation hearing, any party in interest may apply to the court for authority to recover the claims for the benefit of the estate. The costs of recovery must be borne by the estate.

TITLE IV—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Union Proof of Claim. Section 401 amends Bankruptcy Code section 501(a) to permit a labor organization (in addition to a creditor or indenture trustee) to file a proof of claim.

Sec. 402. Exception from Automatic Stay. Section 402 amends Bankruptcy Code section 362(b) to create an additional exception to the automatic stay with respect to the commencement or continuation of a grievance, arbitration or similar dispute resolution proceeding established by a collective bargaining agreement that was or could have been commenced against the debtor before the filing of the bankruptcy case. The exception also applies to the payment or enforcement of awards or settlements of such proceeding.

IN HONOR OF THE OLENTANGY ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS GOLF TEAM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Olenntangy Orange High School Girls Golf team for winning the Ohio Division I State Golf Tournament.

An achievement such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Ohio High School Athletic Association has enabled talented teams and individuals to earn state titles since its founding in 1907. Throughout this time, the champions of OHSAA state level competitions have represented the highest achievement for most talented athletes in Ohio. Each year these elite competitors join the long ranks of those who embody Ohio’s proud history of athletic success.

The girls golf team’s victory caps a tremendous season. This sort of achievement is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and hard work. They have set a new standard for future athletes to reach. Everyone at Olentangy Orange High School can be extremely proud of their performance.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio’s 12th Congressional District, I congratulate the Olentangy Orange Girls Golf Team on their state championship. I wish them continued success in both athletic and academic endeavors.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. BOB GOOLDLATTE
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. GOOLDLATTE. Mr. Speaker, more than 20 years ago, the U.S. Senate failed by one vote to pass a balanced budget constitutional amendment. If Congress had sent the amendment to the states for ratification in 1995, we would not be facing the fiscal crisis we are today and balancing the federal budget would have remained within the realm of possibility. In order for Congress to consistently make the tough decisions necessary for fiscal responsibility, Congress must have the external pressure of a balanced budget requirement.

This year marks the tenth year I have introduced amendments that require Congress to balance the federal budget. I urge my colleagues to consider the impact that reckless spending has on our nation’s future and on future generations. According to a 2016 report from the Congressional Budget Office on the federal government’s long-term budget outlook, the debt held by the public, assuming that lawmakers abide by current law, is projected to rise “from 75 percent of GDP in 2016 to 141 percent by 2046.” The effect of this debt and our nation’s current spending, according to CBO, will harm economic growth and will increase the risk of a fiscal crisis down the road. We should not pass on to our children and grandchildren the bleak fiscal future that our unsustainable spending is creating.

The proposed amendment is a four-part balanced budget amendment. It contains a requirement for a balanced annual federal budget, places a spending cap on annual federal spending, imposes a three-fifths supermajority vote requirement to increase the debt limit, and a three-fifths supermajority requirement to raise taxes.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 40 THE COMMISSION TO STUDY REPARATIONS PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to re-introduce H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African-Americans Act. Over the last several years, we have seen an almost unprecedented elevation of the dialogue on reparations at both the national and international levels. This version of H.R. 40 reflects that progress and is designed to serve as the vehicle for continued discussion and action.

Over the years, I have appeared at conferences and in the media to help lift the issues of reparations and the continuing impact of slavery in the national consciousness. Though some have tried to deflect the importance of these conversations by using on individual monetary compensation, the real issue is whether and how this nation can come to grips with the legacy of slavery that still infects current society.

Since H.R. 40’s introduction in 1989, we have made substantial progress in elevating these issues at the national level and joining the mainstream international debate on the issue. Through legislation, resolutions, news, and litigation, we are moving closer to making more strides in the movement toward reparations. At the international level, last year, the United Nations proclaimed 2015 through 2024 to be the International Decade for People of African Descent. Today there are more people at the table—more activists, more scholars, more CEO’s, more state and local officials, and more Members of Congress.

However, despite this progress and the election of the first American President of African descent, the legacy of slavery lingers heavily in this nation. This nation, based on the social effects of slavery and segregation, its continuing economic implications remain largely ignored by mainstream analysis.
These economic issues are the root cause of many critical issues in the African-American community today, such as education, healthcare and criminal justice policy, including policing practices. The call for reparations represents a commitment to entering a constructive discourse on the role of slavery and racism in shaping present-day conditions in our community and American society.

Over the last two years, we have had a distinguished academic and activist panel from the National African American Reparations Commission discussing one of the most salient points in the reparations discussion. I have supported this effort by holding my annual reparations retrospective at the Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I believe that H.R. 40 is a crucial piece of legislation because it goes beyond exploring the economic implications of slavery and segregation. It is a holistic bill in the sense that it seeks to establish a commission to also examine the material and social implications of slavery. In short, the Commission aims to study the impact of slavery and continuing discrimination against African-Americans, resulting directly and indirectly from slavery to segregation to the desegregation process and the present day. The Commission would also make recommendations concerning any form of apology and compensation to begin the long delayed process of atonement for slavery.

With the over criminalization and policing of black bodies, a recurring issue in African-American communities, I believe this conversation is both relevant and crucial to restoring trust in governmental institutions in many communities. The times and circumstance may change, but the principle problem continues to weigh heavily on this country. A federal commission can help us reach into this dark past and bring us into a brighter future. As in years past, I welcome open and constructive discourse on H.R. 40 and the creation of this commission in the 115th Congress.

IN HONOR OF ZACH KREFT

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zach Kreft of Buckeye Valley High School for winning the Ohio Division II State Individual Boys Cross Country Tournament. An achievement such as this certainly deserves recognition. The Ohio High School Athletic Association has enabled talented teams and individuals to earn state titles since its founding in 1907. Throughout this time, the champions of OHSSAA state level competitions have represented the highest achieving and most talented athletes in Ohio. Each year these competitors join the long ranks of those who embody Ohio’s proud history of athletic success.

Zach Kreft’s victory caps a tremendous season. This sort of achievement is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and hard work. He has set a new standard for future athletes to reach. Everyone at Buckeye Valley High School can be extremely proud of his performance.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio’s 12th Congressional District, I congratulate Zach Kreft on his state championship. I wish him continued success in both athletic and academic endeavors.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ENSURE DOOR DELIVERY FOR ALL

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution of the House “expressing the sense that the United States Postal Service shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all."

Many do not realize that the Post Office is already in the process of phasing out door delivery service, the heart of its customer experience.

And that if some in Congress had their way it would be eliminated entirely.

In my home state of California, residents in newly planned communities are already witnessing the end of traditional mail delivery.

Instead, residents are being forced to resort to so-called cluster boxes—centralized curbside locations many of which are in unseemly, poorly maintained and far from people’s homes.

Just last month local residents from a community meeting in my district adopted an official neighborhood resolution calling on Congress to address this pressing issue. I have heard stories from dozens of my constituents about cluster boxes being stolen or damaged. Once that happens, postal customers have to wait months and raise enough money from their neighbors to replace them because USPS does not maintain them. While they wait, they have to go to their post office and wait in long lines every day to pick up their mail.

Americans have benefited from door delivery service ever since the time of the Civil War. But now some in Congress, in a short-sighted attempt to cut costs, are pushing through a radical overhaul of the Post Office without considering the long-term consequences.

Studies have shown that in today’s digital age it is people with disabilities and the elderly who rely most on postal mail more, especially for prescription medicines. Yes, it is these very groups that would most be hurt by the sudden forced adoption of centralized cluster boxes.

And businesses big and small across the country rely on well-timed mailers to advertise their products and services. These efforts could be less productive without door delivery and could lead to less business mailings and less revenue for USPS.

All this just for short-term cost cutting—which will do nothing to address the long-term solvency of the Post Office. And we already know that nobody wants these changes. In 2013, USPS offered voluntary cluster box conversions to businesses and only .8 percent signed up.

What business survives by reducing customer satisfaction? Or by finding ways to devalue the very service, door delivery, it is known for? But that is what the proponents of such radical postal reform efforts have in mind.

Furthermore, such changes as proposed in broad postal legislation will end the equal mail delivery system we have now for everyone. Forced adoption of cluster boxes and a “delivery tax”, whereby only the wealthy will get mail at their doors, will create a two-tiered system breaking the fundamental promise that has always been central to the Post Office’s mission to deliver to every door at a fixed rate.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this effort to help preserve door delivery for all our constituents.

INTRODUCTION OF HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY ANTITRUST ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2017

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2017 would eliminate the antitrust immunity provided under the McCarran-Ferguson Act for price fixing, bid rigging, and market allocation by health insurance issuers and medical malpractice insurers. The purpose of this bill is to extend antitrust enforcement over health insurers and medical malpractice insurance issuers as to the most egregious antitrust violations. Such insurers currently enjoy broad antitrust immunity under the McCarran-Ferguson Act. This immunity has shielded insurance companies for decades for activities that would otherwise constitute illegal and grossly anticompetitive conduct. Our Nation’s antitrust laws exist to protect free-market competition and this bill will help to restore competition to the health insurance marketplace.

The House Judiciary Committee held numerous hearings on the effects of the insurance industry’s antitrust exemption. It has become clear that the exemption is not needed to enable the insurance industry to provide services to their policyholders, and that policyholders and the economy in general would benefit from increased competition among insurance providers. Indeed, this is why four members of the Antitrust Modernization Commission recommended repealing the McCarran-Ferguson antitrust exemption in the Commission’s 2007 report. Commissioners Jonathan Jacobson, Debra Valentine, and John Warden wrote that the exemption has “outlived any utility [it] may have had,” and Commissioner John Shenefield wrote that it is “among the most ill-conceived and egregious examples” of antitrust exemptions and that its removal “should not be delayed.”

The bill I introduce today is intended to root out unlawful activity in an industry that has grown complacent by decades of protection from antitrust oversight. And, particularly in light of efforts to undermine the Affordable Care Act, repealing this unjustified antitrust exemption is necessary to further ensure more affordable health insurance for Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.
THE INTRODUCTION OF A BIPARTISAN BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. BOB GOODLATTE
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, as of today, the current debt of the United States is reaching almost $20 trillion. The national debt per taxpayer is about $168,800. For comparison, a recent report by the Census Bureau stated that median household income was just under $57,000.

It’s clear that we are in dire straits. The States understand the gravity of this issue and for decades have been enacting policies that align their own spending with debt. Indeed, 49 states have a balanced budget provision that applies to their own budget. Furthermore, 27 states have already called for a constitutional convention to consider a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution. This Congress provides renewed opportunity for this body to consider such a provision. Given the difficult fiscal decisions that inevitably lie ahead, our actions must be grounded in commonsense policies that are constitutionally required. This amendment provides the necessary foundation.

This balanced budget amendment is the same language that passed the House with bipartisan support in 1995 and fell only one vote short in the Senate. It is the only balanced budget proposal to achieve the support of a majority of the Members of the House of Representatives. The amendment forces Congress to live within its means by ensuring that total federal spending does not exceed total revenues.

This amendment is identical to the balanced budget amendment considered in the House of Representatives in the 112th Congress, which received 261 bipartisan votes when it came to the House Floor. It requires that Congress not spend more than it receives in revenues. It also requires a true majority of each chamber to pass any increases and a three-fifths majority to raise the debt limit. Last Congress, 110 cosponsors signed onto the resolution.

A strong majority of Americans support a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. After all, they know what it means to live by a budget and they rightfully expect the federal government to do the same. They are asking Congress to work together to ensure that this amendment, which is so critical to the future of our country, becomes a reality.

CELEBRATING WINNEBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wynnebrook Elementary School, a public elementary school located in West Palm Beach, Florida, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. Principal Mrs. Suzanne Berry and Assistant Principal Mr. Steve Collins, continue in the path of the outstanding educators that came before them over Wynnebrook Elementary’s half century of existence. Impressively, Wynnebrook Elementary has had only five Principals since its start. Currently, 876 students are enrolled on the premises of Wynnebrook. The student body is diverse with forty-six percent Hispanic, forty-three percent African American and nine percent White. Ninety-four percent of Wynnebrook students are on free or reduced price lunches and the school has received an “A” grade for 14 years in a row. It is ranked 19th among 124 elementary schools in the Palm Beach School District, with a 2016 calculated average standard test score of 86.92.

Wynnebrook has been the recipient of many awards. In 2011 and 2016, the school won the Exceeding Expectations Project Award from the East Coast Technical Assistance Center (ECTAC). Last year, Mr. Jeffrey Pegg, immediate past principal, won the 2016 Principal Leadership Award given by Florida TaxWatch.

Mr. Speaker, I am so very proud that Wynnebrook is located in my Congressional district. I am honored to recognize them on the House floor and congratulate all those who have made Wynnebrook Elementary such a wonderful school over the last 50 years. All principals, teachers, students and volunteers should not only be proud of the impressive work they are doing today, but also exceedingly proud of their storied history. I wish them many more years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2017

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the “Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017,” authorizes 6 additional permanent bankruptcy judgeships and converts 16 temporary bankruptcy judgeships to permanent status, based on recommendation of the Judicial Conference of the United States. With respect to the 6 additional permanent bankruptcy judgeships, they are authorized pursuant to section 3 of the bill as follows: 2 for the District of Delaware; 2 for the Eastern District of Michigan; and 2 for the Eastern District of North Carolina. With respect to the 16 conversions, they are authorized pursuant to section 2 of the bill as follows: 5 for the District of Delaware; 2 for the Southern District of Florida; 3 for the District of Maryland; 3 for the Eastern District of Michigan; 1 for the District of Nevada; 1 for the Eastern District of North Carolina; 2 for the District of Puerto Rico; 1 for the Western District of Tennessee; and 1 for the Eastern District of Virginia.

This legislation responds to a serious need. Since the last time additional bankruptcy judgeships were authorized, which was 10 years ago, the 6 districts that would be authorized additional judicial resources by this bill have experienced a 55 percent increase in weighted filings, according to the Judicial Conference.

All 16 of the temporary bankruptcy judgeships that the bill converts to permanent status are set to lapse as of May 25, 2017. As the Conference observes, “These bankruptcy courts would face a serious and, in many cases, debilitating workload crisis if their temporary judgeships were to expire.”

The need for these additional judicial resources is based on a comprehensive analysis performed by the Judicial Conference based on a formal survey of all judicial circuits conducted pursuant to section 152(b)(2) of title 28 of the United States Code. Criteria considered include the workload of each court, case filing statistics, and geographic factors, among other matters.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR FIRST RESPONDER JEFF SIMPSON FOR HIS SACRIFICE AND SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jeff Simpson, a September 11 first responder who selflessly sacrificed his life aiding his fellow Americans. Jeff will be remembered for his compassion, his bravery, and his love of community and country.

Jeff was a fully certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and a member of the Dumfries Triangle Rescue Squad in Triangle, Virginia. Volunteering with the local ambulance on nights and weekends was Jeff’s passion. His family and friends remember Jeff stopping to help others in highway accidents and listening to emergency calls to come to help his neighbors. Jeff never went anywhere without his “rescue bag” and would always sidetrack his plans to help someone in need.

Jeff worked for Oracle Corporation, and on September 11, 2001, was on assignment approximately five blocks from the World Trade Center. The sound of the first plane crashing into the North Tower caused the meeting Jeff was in to be cancelled and the building to be evacuated. After seeing the second plane hit the Second Tower, Jeff knew he had to help. His coworker remembers Jeff saying, “There is not a fire department in the world that can handle a situation like this, I’m going to help.” Jeff was last seen running toward the North Tower.

Six months after the September 11 attacks, Jeff’s remains were finally located at the structure. Jeff was with 12 other New York City Fire Department and New York Port Authority personnel where it is believed the group established a triage area to care for those who’d been injured in the attacks. Jeff Simpson’s sacrifice and servant leadership led him posthumously receiving one of the first Public Safety awards established by Governor Warner and to be recognized by the National Association of Rescue Squads in 2003. Rescue Station 23 in Prince William County was dedicated to Simpson in 2010 because of how well he lived out the creed, “We Serve to Save.” On September 9th, 2016, the Town of Dumfries named their Community Center the Jeff Simpson Community and Cultural Arts Center in dedication to Jeff in gratitude of his life and service to his community and country.

Today, I have the honor of remembering Jeff Simpson and celebrating his legacy. Jeff
embraces everything that is great about the American people, selflessly using the talents that each of us possess to aid and care for each other. I dedicate this to Jeff and to his wife Diane and their three children, Max, Elaine, and Leeann. Thank you, Diane, for continuing to share Jeff Simpson’s legacy with all of us.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STOPPING ABUSIVE STUDENT LOAN COLLECTION PRACTICES IN BANKRUPTCY ACT OF 2017

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR. OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the “Stopping Abusive Student Loan Collection Practices in Bankruptcy Act of 2017” targets ruthless collection tactics employed by some student loan creditors against debtors who have sought bankruptcy relief.

Specifically, my legislation will empower a bankruptcy judge to award costs and reasonable attorney’s fees to a debtor who successfully obtained the discharge of his or her liability for a student loan debt based on undue hardship. It is important to note that the creditor’s position was not substantially justified, and there are no special circumstances that would make such award unjust. The Bankruptcy Code already grants identical authority to a bankruptcy judge to award costs and reasonable attorney’s fees to debtor where a creditor requests the determination of dischargeability of a consumer debt based on the allegation that it was fraudulently incurred and the court thereafter finds that the creditor’s position was not substantially justified and there are no special circumstances that would make such award unjust.

Although parties typically do and should pay their own attorney’s fees in litigation, dischargeability determinations concerning student loan debts present compelling factors that warrant the relief provided by this legislation. Under current bankruptcy law, debtors must meet a very high burden of proof, namely, that repayment of the student loan debt will present an undue hardship on the debtor and the debtor’s dependents. The litigation typically requires extensive discovery, trial-like procedures, and legal analysis.

Unfortunately, some student loan debt collectors engage in abusive litigation tactics that exponentially drive up the potential cost of legal representation for a debtor. As a result, debtors, who may legally qualify for the Bankruptcy Code’s undue hardship dischargeability exception for student loans, may be unable to obtain such relief because of the potential risk of excessive and unaffordable legal fees that the debtor may have to incur not only to meet the high standard of proof, but also to combat an abusive litigation stance taken by a well-funded adversary.

The “Stopping Abusive Student Loan Collection Practices in Bankruptcy Act of 2017” will help level the playing field for debtors overwhelmed by student loan debts, the repayment of which would present an undue hardship for themselves and their families. It is my hope that should this measure become law, bankruptcy judges will not hesitate to award debtors attorney’s fees in appropriate cases of abusive litigation engaged in by student loan creditors.

TAX CODE TERMINATION ACT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Tax Code Termination Act, legislation that will abolish the Internal Revenue Code by December 31, 2021, and call on Congress to approve a new federal tax system by July of the same year.

Back home in the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia and across America, folks want Congress to address real problems facing our nation—problems like our broken tax code. Today’s tax code is needlessly complex, unfair, discourages savings and investment, and creates uncertainty and added costs for business and families attempting to comply. In November, the American people sent a clear message to Washington—’tis the time for change.

I applaud the efforts of my colleagues to make changes to our tax system and finally institute a new system. The discussion draft released by former Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp in the 113th Congress and the work of Chairman BRADY and the Speaker’s Tax Reform Taskforce in the 114th Congress, that there has been a movement afoot in Congress to take on this monstrosity. Now is the ideal time to finally act.

My bill complements these efforts by setting a date-certain for sunsetting our current tax code to provide the focus we need to debate and finally enact the kind of comprehensive tax reform the American people deserve. Once the Tax Code Termination Act becomes law, today’s tax code would survive only through December 2021, at which time it would expire and be replaced with a new tax code that will be determined by Congress, and the American people.

Under the Tax Code Termination Act, Congress would have four years to debate various tax proposals, ultimately replacing our current tax system with a new system that applies a low rate to all Americans, provides tax relief for working Americans, protects the rights of taxpayers and reduces collection abuses, eliminates the bias against savings and investment, promotes economic growth and job creation, and does not penalize marriage or families.

This legislation has gained widespread support in past Congresses and has had bipartisan co-sponsors in the 114th Congress. In fact, similar legislation has already been passed twice by the House of Representatives, first in 1998 and again in 2000.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and comprehensive tax reform. The American people deserve policies that promote a flourishing economy and a tax code that treats them as owners of this democratic republic. A simplified and fairer tax code will do just that and a date certain for having such a system will ensure we deliver on our promises.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF CONSUMERS AND REDUCE THEIR VULNERABILITY TO IDENTITY THEFT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the “Cyber Privacy Fortification Act of 2017.” This bill would provide criminal penalties for the failure to comply with federal or state obligations to report security breaches of the sensitive personally identifiable information of individuals. Certain breaches would also be required to be reported to the FBI or the Secret Service. The bill would also require federal agencies engaged in rulemaking related to personally identifiable information to publish privacy impact statements relating to the impact of the proposed rule.

One of the main motivators for cybersecurity and computer network intrusions is financial gain. Intrusions into networks of financial institutions and businesses may yield information, often on a large scale, about customers such as credit and debit card numbers, Social Security numbers, birth dates, account passwords and other personally identifiable information. Information obtained through such data breaches may be used to steal from the accounts of the customers, use their credit cards, hack into their personal communications, or the information may be sold to others who commit these crimes or compile provides about individuals which others might find valuable.

With constant revelations about new data breaches impacting millions of Americans, we must take additional steps to protect the sensitive information of consumers maintained on corporate databases. This bill will provide a greater incentive for companies to provide notice of breaches consumers’ sensitive information such as Social Security numbers and financial account numbers. This protects the privacy of our citizens and allows them to be vigilant against identity theft.

IN RECOGNITION OF LYNN BLANCHETTE FOR HER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE RIVERVIEW CITY COUNCIL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lynn Blanchette, Councilwoman and Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Riverview. For the past 25 years, Mrs. Blanchette has been an effective and dedicated member of the Riverview City Council.

Mrs. Blanchette has lived in Riverview for 47 years and has been active and engaged in civic life during her time in the city. She has been involved with the Riverview City Council since her election to the Council in 1991, and two public service credits in helping the city of Riverview grow and develop. Recently, Mrs. Blanchette has helped Riverview navigate a challenging fiscal landscape while
maintaining essential city services. With her guidance, Riverview has become a model of responsible and effective governance in the Downriver community. Mrs. Blanchette also serves Riverview as a representative on the Wayne County Community Development Block Grant Advisory Council, which helps develop affordable housing for the city and the surrounding communities. Her leadership in this capacity has been critical to helping create inclusive development and housing that is accessible to all.

Mrs. Blanchette’s public service has been invaluable in creating the vibrant Riverview community that exists today. Her dedication and hard work on behalf of the city has driven development and improved quality of life, and she is well-known for her hard work in the best interest of Riverview’s residents. Mrs. Blanchette is widely respected for her efforts to maintain fiscal discipline while providing quality public service to the city, and it is my hope that she continues to build on her successes in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lynn Blanchette and her 25 years of service to the Riverview community as a member of the Riverview City Council. Her work on behalf of Riverview has played a key role in helping create a more livable city and improve life for its residents.

The Preventing Termination of Utility Services in Bankruptcy Act of 2017

Hon. John Conyers, Jr.
Of Michigan
In the House of Representatives
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, utility companies provide many basic and life-saving services, such as electricity to light our homes, water to drink, and gas to heat our homes. Sometimes, however, individuals, through no fault of their own, struggle to pay for these services often in the face of devastating medical debt, job loss, or economic disruption caused by divorce. While resorting to bankruptcy provides some relief from financial distress, current law permits utility companies to force these debtors to pay security deposits for continued service even if they were current on their bills before filing for bankruptcy or if they promise to be current on their bills after bankruptcy. Utility companies typically insist that debtors pay at least two months or more of their average bills as a deposit—in addition to requiring that they remain current on their utility bills after bankruptcy—in exchange for the utility continuing to supply service.

The “Preventing Termination of Utility Service in Bankruptcy Act of 2017” corrects this injustice. It provides that if the debtor remains current on his or her utility bills after filing for bankruptcy relief, the debtor should not have to pay a deposit to the utility to continue service.

In Detroit, for example, families across the city have seen their water rates increase by 119% over the past decade. During the same period, the Nation generally and Detroit in particular suffered in the aftermath of a global financial crisis that left one-in-five local residences in foreclosure and sent local unemployment rates skyrocketing.

Fortunately, we are incrementally recovering from the Great Recession of 2008. For those individuals who must seek bankruptcy relief, however, we should ensure that their ability to pay their utility bills going forward is not hindered by unnecessary demands for deposits if these debtors remain current on their payments to these companies.

Terminating a family’s access to such life-saving services that keeps the lights on, warms our homes, and ensures that they can bathe, hydrate, and prepare meals is simply wrong if these utility bills are being paid on time.

This legislation is part of a range of solutions that are needed to address the still pervasive adverse impacts of the Great Recession of 2008. I continue to work with my colleagues in Congress, state and federal officials, and my constituents to defend the right to water and protect public health. I will not tolerate the notion that—in the 21st Century, in the wealthiest nation on earth—families should go without access to affordable public water and sanitation services.
First Session of the One Hundred and Fifteenth Congress convened as prescribed by the Constitution of the United States.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1–S28

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and ten resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 11–20, S.J. Res. 1–2, S. Res. 1–5, and S. Con. Res. 1–3. Pages S21–S28

Measures Passed:

Notification of the President: Senate agreed to S. Res. 1, informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled. Page S6

Notification of the House of Representatives: Senate agreed to S. Res. 2, informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled. Page S6

Fixing the Hour of Daily Meeting: Senate agreed to S. Res. 3, fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate. Page S6

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 1, extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. Page S6

Counting of Electoral Votes: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 2, to provide for the counting on January 6, 2017, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States. Pages S6–S7

Administration of Oath of Office: The Senators-elect were administered the oath of office by the Vice President. Pages S4–S5

Authority for Select Committee on Ethics: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that for the duration of the 115th Congress, the Ethics Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate. Page S7

Time for Roll Call Votes: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that for the duration of the 115th Congress, there be a limitation of 15 minutes each upon any roll call vote, with the warning signal to be sounded at the midway point, beginning at the last 7 1/2 minutes, and when roll call votes are of 10-minute duration, the warning signal be sounded at the beginning of the last 7 1/2 minutes. Page S7

Authority to Receive Reports: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during the 115th Congress, it be in order for the Secretary of the Senate to receive reports at the desk when presented by a Senator at any time during the day of the session of the Senate. Page S7

Recognition of Leadership: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Majority and Minority Leaders may daily have up to 10 minutes each on each calendar day following the prayer and disposition of the reading of, or the approval of, the Journal. Page S7

Printing of Conference Reports: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXVIII, conference reports and statements accompanying them not be printed as Senate reports when such conference reports and statements have been printed as a House report unless specific request is made in the Senate in each instance to have such a report printed. Page S7

Authority for Appropriations Committee: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Appropriations be authorized during the 115th Congress to file reports during the adjournments or recesses of the Senate on appropriations bills, including joint resolutions, together with any accompanying notices of motions to suspend rule XVI, pursuant to rule V, for the purpose of offering certain amendments to such bills or joint resolutions, which proposed amendments shall be printed. Page S7

Authority for Corrections in Engrossment: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing
that, for the duration of the 115th Congress, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make technical and clerical corrections in the engrossments of all Senate-passed bills and joint resolutions, Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to Senate bills and resolutions, and Senate amendments to House bills or resolutions.

Authority to Receive Messages and Sign Enrolled Measures: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, for the duration of the 115th Congress, when the Senate is in recess or adjournment, the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to receive messages from the President of the United States, and—with the exception of House bills, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions—messages from the House of Representatives; and that they be appropriately referred; and that the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Acting President pro tempore be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions.

Privileges of the Floor: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, for the duration of the 115th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the Journal Clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to rotate such staff members as space allows.

Referral of Treaties and Nominations: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, for the duration of the 115th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day.

Authority to Introduce Measures: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, for the duration of the 115th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk, bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

Measures Held Over/Under Rule:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Quorum Calls:

One quorum call was taken today. (Total—1)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12:02 p.m. and adjourned at 2:09 p.m., until 12:00 noon on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S28.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 232 public bills, H.R. 5–237; and 37 resolutions, H.J. Res. 1–13; H. Con. Res. 1–3; and H. Res. 1–21, were introduced.

Pages H37–46

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Very Rev. Paul Ugo Arinze, St. John Vianney Roman Catholic Church, Janesville, WI.

Page H1

Certificate of Election: The Clerk announced that Certificates of Election covering 435 seats in the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress had been received and the names of those persons whose credentials show that they were regularly elected as Representatives in accordance with the laws of their respective States would be called. Without objection, the Representatives-elect were directed to record their presence by electronic device in order to determine whether a quorum was present.

Page H1

Call of the States: On the Call of the States, 434 Members reported their presence, Roll No. 1.

Pages H1–2

Election Credentials for the Resident Commissioner and Delegates: The Clerk announced that credentials have been received showing the elections of the following: Honorable Jennifer González-Colón, Resident Commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Delegate from the District of Columbia;
Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Delegate from Guam; Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett, Delegate from the Virgin Islands; Honorable Amata Coleman Radewagen, Delegate from American Samoa; and Honorable Gregorio Sablan, Delegate from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Page H2

Election of Speaker: The Honorable Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives and received 239 votes. The Honorable Nancy Pelosi received 189 votes, The Honorable Tim Ryan (OH) received 2 votes, The Honorable Jim Cooper received 1 vote, The Honorable John Lewis (GA) received 1 vote, and The Honorable Daniel Webster (FL) received 1 vote. Earlier, the Clerk appointed Representatives-elect Harper, Brady (PA), Kaptur, and Ros-Lehtinen to act as Tellers.

Pages H2–4

Escort Committee: The Clerk appointed the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the Chair: Representatives-elect McCarthy, Pelosi, Scalise, Hoyer, McMorris Rodgers, Clyburn, Stivers, Crowley, Messer, Sanchez, Collins (GA), Ben Ray Luján (NM), Smith (MO), DeLauro, Mimi Walters (CA), Swalwell (CA), Mitchell, Levin, Sessions, Lowey, and McHenry; and the members of the Wisconsin delegation: Representatives-elect Sensenbrenner, Kind, Moore, Duffy, Pocan, Grothman, and Gallagher.

Page H4

Administration of the Oath of Office to Members of the 115th Congress: The Dean of the House, the Honorable John Conyers, Jr., administered the oath of office to the Speaker. The Speaker then administered the oath to the Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates.

Page H6

Election of Majority and Minority Leaders: The Chairman of the Republican Conference, Representative McMorris Rodgers, announced the election of Representative McCarthy as the Majority Leader. The Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, Representative Crowley, announced the election of Representative Pelosi as the Minority Leader.

Page H6

Election of Majority and Minority Whips: The Chairman of the Republican Conference, Representative McMorris Rodgers, announced that election of Representative Scalise as the Majority Whip. The Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, Representative Crowley, announced the election of Representative Hoyer as the Minority Whip and Representative Clyburn as Assistant Democratic Leader.

Page H6

E lecting Officers of the House of Representatives: The House agreed to H. Res. 1, electing the following officers for the House of Representatives: Karen L. Haas, Clerk; Paul D. Irving, Sergeant-at-Arms; Philip Kiko, Chief Administrative Officer; and Father Patrick J. Conroy, Chaplain.

Page H6

Agreed that the question be divided on the adoption of the resolution so as to have a separate vote on the election of the Chaplain. Agreed to the first portion of the resolution by voice vote. Agreed to the remainder of the resolution by voice vote.

Page H6

Rejected the Crowley amendment to H. Res. 1 by voice vote.

Page H6

Administration of the Oath of Office: Representative-elect Lawrence presented herself in the well of the House and was administered the oath of office by the Speaker.

Notify the Senate that a Quorum Has Assembled: The House agreed to H. Res. 2, to inform the Senate that a quorum of the House has assembled and of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk.

Page H6

Notify the President of the Assembly of the 115th Congress: The House agreed to H. Res. 3, authorizing the Speaker to appoint a committee to notify the President of the assembly of the Congress. Subsequently, the Speaker appointed Representatives McCarthy and Pelosi to the committee. Later, Representative McCarthy announced that the Committee had notified the President that a quorum of each House had assembled and was ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

Pages H6–7

Notify the President of the Election of the Speaker and the Clerk: The House agreed to H. Res. 4, authorizing the Clerk to inform the President of the election of the Speaker and the Clerk.

Page H7

Adopting Rules for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress: The House agreed to H. Res. 5, adopting rules for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 6, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 237 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 4.

Pages H7–28

Representative Norton moved to refer H. Res. 5 to a select committee of five members, to be appointed by the Speaker. Subsequently, Representative McCarthy moved to table the Norton motion and by a yea-and-nay vote of 228 yeas to 184 nays, Roll No. 3, the McCarthy motion was agreed to.

Page H11

Rejected the Lewis (GA) motion to commit H. Res. 5 to a select committee composed of the Majority Leader and Minority Leader with instructions to report it back to the House forthwith with an
amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 193 yeas to 236 nays, Roll No. 5.

Policies regarding use of electronic equipment: The Chair announced the changes to rule 2 and rule 17 just adopted for the 115th Congress with regard to the use of electronic equipment on the House floor.

Election of Members to Certain Standing Committees: The House agreed to H. Res. 6, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Election of Members to Certain Standing Committees: The House agreed to H. Res. 7, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives.

Designation of Minority Employees: The House agreed to H. Res. 8, providing for the designation of certain minority employees.

Daily Hour of Meeting: The House agreed to H. Res. 9, fixing the daily hour of meeting of the First Session of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress.

Assembly outside of the District of Columbia: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 1, regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government.

Appointment Authority: Agreed that during the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

Extension of Remarks: Agreed that during the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, all Members be permitted to extend their remarks and to include extraneous material within the permitted limit in that section of the Congressional Record entitled “Extension of Remarks”.

Morning-Hour Debate: Agreed to the procedures regarding the format for morning-hour debate for the first session of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act: H.R. 27, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain a copy of any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the Department in the permanent record of the employee; and

Biological Implant Tracking and Veteran Safety Act of 2017: H.R. 28, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Af-

fairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and procurement of biological implants by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Joint Economic Committee—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee: Representative Tiberi.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Member to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Representative Nunes, Chairman.

House Office Building Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced that Representatives McCarthy and Pelosi will serve as members of the House Office Building Commission with the Speaker.

Speaker Pro Tempore: The Chair announced that the Speaker delivered to the Clerk a letter dated January 3, 2017, listing Members in the order in which each shall act as Speaker pro tempore under clause 8(b)(3) of rule 1.

Succession of the Speaker of the House: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative McCarthy to exercise authority regarding any assembly, reassembly, or reconvening.

Speaker Pro Tempore Designations: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representatives Denham, Thornberry, Upton, Harris, Comstock, and Representative Messer to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through the remainder of the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress.

Clerk Designation: Read a letter from the Clerk wherein she designated Mr. Robert Borden, Legal Counsel, to sign any and all papers and do all other acts in case of her temporary absence or disability.

Policies of the Chair: The Chair announced his policies with respect to particular aspects of the legislative process dealing with (1) privileges of the floor; (2) introduction of bills and resolutions; (3) unanimous-consent requests for the consideration of legislation; (4) recognition for one-minute speeches; (5) recognition for special-order speeches; (6) decorum in debate; (7) conduct of votes by electronic device; (8) use of handouts on the House floor; (9) use of electronic equipment on the House floor; and (10) use of the Chamber. These announcements, where
appropriate, will reiterate the origins of the stated policies. The Chair intends to continue in the 115th Congress the policies reflected in these statements. The policy announced in the 102nd Congress with respect to jurisdictional concepts related to clause 5(a) of rule 21, tax and tariff measures, will continue to govern but need not be reiterated, as it is adequately documented in the House Rules and Manual. Agreed without objection that the announcements will be placed in the Congressional Record.

Pages H34–36

Extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: The House agreed to S. Con. Res. 1, extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

Providing for the counting on January 6, 2017, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States: The House agreed to S. Con. Res. 2, to provide for the counting on January 6, 2017, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

Whole Number of the House: Under clause 5(d) of Rule 20, the Chair announced to the House that the whole number of the House is 434.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H28.

Senate Referrals: S. Con. Res. 1 was held at the desk. S. Con. Res. 2 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3–4, H11, H26, H26–27, and H27–28. There was one quorum call, Roll No. 1, which appears on pages H1–2.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, organizational meeting for the 115th Congress; and hearing on H.R. 26, the “Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2017”; and H. Res. 11, objecting to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 as an obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peace, and for other purposes, 10:30 a.m., H–313 Capitol.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of January 4 through January 6, 2017

Senate Chamber

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: January 5, to hold hearings to examine foreign cyber threats to the United States, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: January 5, closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
12 p.m., Wednesday, January 4

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, January 4

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Conyers, John, Jr., Mich., E1, E4, E5, E9, E10, E11, E12, E13
Davis, Susan A., Calif., E10

Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E12
Frelinghuysen, Rodney P., N.J., E5
Goodlatte, Bob, Va., E9, E11, E12
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E11
Tiberi, Patrick J., Ohio, E1, E3, E5, E9, E10

Tsongas, Niki, Mass., E1
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E1
Wittman, Robert J., Va., E11

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