House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, July 26, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Mike Coffman to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

DEFENDING DACA

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, I was a guest at Lincoln United Methodist Church in Chicago, where we had an emergency meeting to discuss how we would defend the DACA—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—initiative started 5 years ago.

DACA has allowed nearly 800,000 DREAMers—immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children and who grew up here—to work and live here if they meet certain requirements, go through a background check, and renew their application periodically.

Now, Republicans, led by the Governor of Texas, are planning to sue the President if he doesn’t rescind DACA. And given this President and his opinion of Mexicans, Latinos, and immigrants, we are not expecting the President to put up much of a fight.

So for a few weeks now, I have been telling people to prepare for the end of DACA, maybe as soon as September. You can watch the speech on Facebook or YouTube. A lot of Trump supporters got angry about what I said on Saturday. They didn’t even take the time to watch or listen to my speech, no. They got fired up by Breitbart, the only publication I can count on to cover everything I say.

Breitbart said I was unhinged and said in the headline that I said it is time to eliminate Trump and bring him to his knees. The Washington Times didn’t watch the speech but saw Breitbart’s fair and balanced coverage and said I threatened Trump with physical violence.

FOX News then echoed the idea that evening, saying I was threatening violence and would bring our violent movement to every neighborhood in America. So by the time you got to The Daily Stormer—that whipped cream on top of the White Nationalists’ Neo-Nazi banana split—they cited the FOX News story and read the headline, “Subversive Beanman Luis Gutiérrez Calls for ‘Trump’s Elimination.’”

If FOX, Breitbart, and Daily Stormer report something, it has got to be true, I thought. So I went back to the video to see if I had threatened to assassinate the President.

And you know what? I didn’t. Here is what I said this past Saturday: “I am going to make sure that I am there, to make sure of one thing, that we write those articles of impeachment and take the Trump administration to trial before the Senate and eliminate him as President of the United States. He cannot fire Comey, threaten to fire Mueller, and say ‘I am the king.’ I am a But my favorite part of the Breitbart headline and the whole bloodthirsty Brown people motif that drove the coverage from Breitbart to FOX to Daily Stormer is that I said I wanted to bring President Trump to his knees.

But what I actually said was, Gandhi, by employing the techniques and practices of nonviolent resistance, brought
the British Empire to its knees. Which is actually true, and we should learn from his example.

Indeed, Dr. King, a disciple of Gandh
dhi, applied those strategies to the American civil rights movement to great success. And here it not for Dr. King and the other heroes and heroines who risked or lost their lives during the civil rights movement, I would not be standing here before you, and we wouldn’t even be standing up or talking about The Daily Stormer, Breitbart, or Trump in defending immigrants and other vulnerable communities.

So we owe the civil rights movement a great debt. I want to follow in those footsteps.

So I read the headlines in Breitbart and I went back to look at what I actually said. You know what? I stand by it and I won’t back down.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the alarming crisis that is ocean acidification. This is not only an environmental issue, but it is an economic issue as well, and one that greatly impacts my congressional district in south Florida.

South Florida, with its famous beaches, delicious seafood, incomparable fishing, boating, and sailing, and spectacular marine life, is all dependent on a healthy ocean. However, our oceans are becoming more and more acidic as seawater absorbs increasing amounts of carbon pollution, causing what is known as ocean acidification.

This increased acidity makes it harder for corals, oysters, shrimp, lobster, and other sea animals to develop their shells or skeletons, which they rely on for support to grow. These organisms are extremely important to the vitality of our ecosystem.

In addition, corals host a vast number of ocean species, protects coastlines from large waves and hurricanes, and attract visitors with its beauty.

Data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—NOAA—also suggests that tourism, recreation, and fishing related to south Florida’s coral reefs alone generates more than $4.4 billion in local sales and $2 billion in local income.

Ocean Conservancy, which is a tremendous environmental advocacy group, has been a champion in raising awareness about the negative impact of ocean acidification. Recently, they premiered an outstanding documentary, a short film which highlighted two gentlemen who either work for or own ocean-dependent businesses that are located in my congressional district.

Dale Palomino, right over here, this fine-looking young man, is the general manager and head chef at Captain’s Tavern Restaurant and Seafood Market, a family-owned business in Miami and one of my favorite places to dine with my husband, Dexter, and our grandkids.

And Captain Ray Rosher, right here, who owns and operates Miss Britt Charter Fishing and R&R Tackle in Coconut Grove, also located in my congressional district.

In addition, this film highlights ocean expert, Dr. Chris Langdon, a professor from my alma mater, the University of Miami—Go Canes. His research on coral reef ecosystems has allowed us to better understand the capacity and limitations of coral to adapt to a changing physical and chemical environment. Dr. Langdon has also been a leader in bringing stakeholders together to learn about the threats posed by ocean acidification to commercial and recreational fishing and tourism industries throughout Florida.

These two gentleman know a lot about the impact of ocean acidification on their business because saltwater recreational and commercial fishing combined support an estimated 175,000 jobs across our beautiful Sunshine State.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly astounding the impact of jobs and revenue that come out of ocean-related industries. Our country enjoys thousands of miles of coastlines with so many people benefitting from their environment and providing jobs and nutrients for their family. From the oyster hatcheries in the Pacific Northwest, to the lobster in Maine, and South to the reefs and fish in Florida, the real world implications of ocean acidification will spell trouble for these ocean-dependent jobs, which is why we must not wait until the tragedy truly unfolds.

My constituents and I are also blessed to live, to work, and to play in a place that is known as "paradise". But, as we all know, paradise can quickly turn into a dystopia. So I urge my colleagues, with indubitable certainty, to continue to promote the valuable work of researchers, people like Dr. Langdon, the work they are doing to ensure that these important marine research institutions and organizations have the resources they need.

My district is home to a community that cares deeply about the ocean, and it is because of the efforts of folks like these two gentlemen and Dr. Langdon of south Florida that I have learned more about the issues and what is at stake.

I remain committed to continue to work with my colleagues, with industry experts, with all stakeholders in tackling head-on these important issues. In addition, and with the adaptation solutions to the changing ocean around us and, indeed, across the globe.

RETURNING TO REGULAR ORDER

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we watched as Senator JOHN MCCAIN returned to the Capitol after having been diagnosed with cancer and under undergoing surgery. All of us are praying for his swift and full recovery.

In earlier days, as we all know, he faced danger with courage. He is doing the same again right now. When he spoke yesterday from the Senate floor, he talked about a time when legislators, Republicans and Democrats, despite their differences, worked together to make progress, albeit incremental, on major issues through discussion and compromise.

He lamented, as do I, the recent tendency to seek total partisan victory or nothing at all, something we see as much in the House as in the Senate.

Senator MCCAIN said this: "We've been spinning our wheels on too many important issues because we keep trying to find a way to win without help from across the aisle."

He concluded in that paragraph: "...we are getting nothing done."

Instead, Senator MCCAIN proposed legislators ought to return to regular order. Regular order, for those who aren't familiar with the day-to-day workings of Congress, simply means doing things in the proper way: drafting a bill in committee, holding open hearings marking up amendments, reporting it out, and then bringing it to the floor for amendment and debate before voting on it. This process, this regular order of business affords every member an opportunity, regardless of party or district, to have input and help shape the policy. That is the way it should be.

The product of such a process, as Senator MCCAIN described it, would be "something that will be imperfect, full of compromises, and not very pleasing to implacable partisans on either side." But he concluded it was one that "might provide workable solutions to problems Americans are struggling with today."

Mr. Speaker, that is how our system is supposed to work.

I started my career in this body in 1961. Shortly thereafter, I joined the Appropriations Committee. I like to tell people that I served on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, and there were 13 of us, 3 Republicans and 10 Democrats, and there were eight Democrats and five Republicans. I used to tell people that you could take the 13 of us, throw us up in the air, have us come down in random seats, have a markup, and you would have been hard-pressed to identify which side was represented. Today, lamentably, Mr. Speaker, it would take you about a minute to determine those differences.
Our Speaker said on October 29, 2015: “We will advance major legislation one issue at a time.” Mr. Speaker, we are about to consider a so-called minibus. The former chairman, my Republican friend, Mr. ROGERS, is seated here in this chamber with us. He and I both call a time when we considered one bill at a time. We brought it to the floor, we amended it, we debated it, and we voted on it one bill at a time. That is what Speaker RYAN was referring to when he said: “We will advance major legislation one issue at a time.” Apparently, Mr. Speaker, that has become inconvenient or impossible, but it is not the regular order that we are pursuing.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Senator MCCAIN when he said: “We will not duck the tough issues. We will take them head on.” Mr. Speaker, we will adopt a rule that will assuage the issue that will preclude full debate, and it deals with President Trump’s proposal to build a wall that many in his administration believe will be ineffective in accomplishing the objective that we all support, and that is keeping our country secure and making sure that those who come into this country are known to us and don’t sneak into the country.

But the wall will not work and we will not be able to debate that fully because it will be included in the rule. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that is ducking the issue. It will be deemed passed. We won’t vote on it. We will vote for the rule or against the rule, and the wall and $1.6 billion will be deemed passed.

Mr. Speaker, that is not how our system is supposed to work. Neither side ought to let the perfect become the enemy of the good. Neither side can claim credit for all of the best ideas. That is why working together is imperative.

That is my experience when I served for 23 years on the Appropriations Committee, that is why regular order is so important. It protects the American people. It protects them and us. It is our system. It is supposed to work. It brings out every view and idea and provides the framework for compromise.

Compromise is the essence of democracy, and I suggest it is the essence of successful families, whether they be our country or Mom and Dad and kids. They come together and they agree, not because they get everything they want or the other side gets nothing they want, but because both sides compromise.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with Senator MCCAIN when we need to return to regular order.

Speaker RYAN, as I have said, told us shortly after his elevation that he wants “the House to work its will.” Minibuses don’t allow that, omnibus don’t allow that, and, frankly, CRs don’t allow that.

The Speaker adopted, in principle, an open and transparent process. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we haven’t always seen that. But there is still an opportunity for the 115th Congress to reflect that vision.

That is what Senator MCCAIN was talking about yesterday. He was appealing to the best of us, the American people, not the partisan in us, not the confrontationalist in us, but the seeker of productive compromise in a democracy. The Congress and our country will be better if we return to regular order.

AFGHANISTAN IS THE GRAVEYARD OF EMPIRES

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, on July 18, I wrote to President Trump about my concern that he and Secretary of Defense Mattis are discussing how many more American troops must be sent to Afghanistan. Mr. Speaker, you being a marine, you know that I served for 23 years on the Appropriations Committee and in the service of the United States, from Cherry Point to Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. We have been there 16 years. Nothing has changed. In fact, it has gotten worse.

I would like to read just a few sentences from my letter. Again, this was delivered to the White House on July 18. I am going to read just sentences very quickly.

“Disappointed because after 16 years in Afghanistan, Congress deserves another vote on this conflict. Disappointed because almost $1 trillion of taxpayers’ money has been spent with no direct goal or strategy. And most importantly, I am disappointed because we continue to lose American lives.”

“Sir, I am writing today because you seem to have had a change of heart on this issue.”

gave four examples of positions he has taken and tweets that he has sent out. I am just going to read two of them, Mr. Speaker.

“In August of 2011, you agreed with Ron Paul and said the U.S. was ‘wasting lives and money in Iraq and Afghanistan.’”

Another tweet: “The next year, you said on Twitter, ‘Do not allow our very stupid leaders to sign a deal that keeps us in Afghanistan through 2024—with all costs by U.S.A. . . .'”

And the last one I would like to read: “You also tweeted that year, ‘Let’s get out of Afghanistan. Our troops are being killed by the Afghanis we train and we waste billions there. Nonsense! Rebuild the USA.’

I further stated: “Mr. President, I agree with your remarks, and so does the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, my friend and unofficial adviser, General Chuck Krulak. As he said in a recent email to me, ‘No one has ever conquered Afghanistan . . . and many have tried to put together the list of nations that have tried and failed.’”

I do not understand why this Congress and the leadership of this House will not let us have another debate. I put a bill in with JOHN GARAMENDI, H.R. 1666, for the only reason that, after 16 years, we have not debated the future of Afghanistan.

A report was out last night that the Russians are sending sophisticated weapons to the Taliban in Afghanistan, who will be fighting and killing Americans. I continue to call on the House leadership to please let us meet our constitutional responsibility and debate.

I have said, with H.R. 1666, that JOHN GARAMENDI and I have put in, join us in forcing a debate on the House and then vote against us, but give us a debate.

I further said to the President: “One you come to a consensus”—and this is raising the troop levels—“I suggest you publicly go before the American people and U.S. military to explain the benchmark and reasons for that.”

Why are we going to send more Americans to fight and die in Afghanistan? And also give the American people an idea of what we are trying to achieve.

For 16 years, there have been lots of the marines in my district who have been there three, four, and five times, and I will say to them, “What have we accomplished?” and they will say back to me, “Very little. Very little.” Yet we sit here in Congress and we fund billions of dollars. We will have a vote in 2 days to spend billions of dollars on Afghanistan, and there is very little accountability. This is not what this House needs to be doing, especially when we are sending our young men and women to give their life for this country.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this letter to President Trump and ask President Trump to please stay strong in his beliefs and that it is a waste of money, life, and time to be in Afghanistan.


President DONALD J. TRUMP, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Many of us in the U.S. House of Representatives believe we have been denied our sacred duty to debate and declare war. You could say that I am disappointed by this. Disappointed because after 16 years in Afghanistan, Congress deserves another vote on this conflict. Disappointed because almost $1 trillion of taxpayers’ money has been spent with no direct goal or strategy. And most importantly, I am disappointed because we continue to lose American lives.

Sir, I am writing today because you seem to have had a change of heart on this issue: 1. In August of 2011, you agreed with Ron Paul and said the U.S. was “wasting lives and money in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

2. In 2012, you referred to Afghanistan as a “complete waste,” and declared it was “time to come home.”

3. The next year, you said on Twitter, “Do not allow our very stupid leaders to sign a deal that keeps us in Afghanistan through 2024—with all costs by U.S.A. . . .”

4. You also tweeted that year, “Let’s get out of Afghanistan. Our troops are being killed by the Afghanis we train and we waste billions there. Nonsense! Rebuild the USA.”
that truck is the tip of an iceberg of labor exploitation on this continent that was caused by NAFTA, enhanced by NAFTA. It is so ugly.

The cold, critical measure of the job-hemorrhaging truth this country has passed since NAFTA’s passage is our trade balance. That is how many more products and services our country exports rather than imports from offshore sweatshops. That translates into jobs.

Since the inception of NAFTA, our trade deficit has ballooned to unprecedented levels. This chart basically goes through what has been happening recently. Each month and each year, we go deeper and deeper into trade deficit, not just with Mexico, but a number of other countries. But there has not been a single year of trade balance with Mexico since NAFTA’s passage, just more job dissolution and job loss.

Just in May, the United States experienced an overall $46 billion trade deficit with the world, of which NAFTA is a part. But since NAFTA’s passage—get this—our country has accumulated nearly $3 trillion net negative balance with Mexico, and that translates into jobs lost here at home, and the American people know it.

This import deficit supports millions of jobs abroad, not U.S. workers. It means less money in the wallets of hardworking Americans as consumer dollars feed the greed of rapacious corporate interests that feed on desperate workers.

Look at NAFTA’s job numbers. Between 1997 and 2010, our country bled over 696,000 manufacturing jobs to Mexico alone. You would recognize the names of the firms. It is an alphabet soup of companies: AlliedSignal, Lucent Technologies, Mr. Coffee, Rockwell Automation, UTC Aerospace Systems, Weyerhaeuser, and so many more.

HONORING HENRY O. LINEBERGER, JR.

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Dr. Henry O. Lineberger, Jr.

Henry was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, on January 5, 1927. He graduated from Broughton High School in 1944, as president of his senior class. From there, he went on to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he served as part of the Medical Corps during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, after the war, Henry enrolled at Duke University, where he met his wife, Betty Rushing. After they were married in 1950, they moved to Chapel Hill, where Henry studied at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry as part of that dentistry school’s inaugural class.

Following school, Henry and Betty moved to Raleigh in 1954, where he opened his first dental practice.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Lineberger practiced dentistry in Raleigh for more than 50 years, and during that time, he served on numerous dental boards, including the North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners, and he was known by his patients as being available day or night.

Henry was an active member of the Edenton Street United Methodist Church, where he enjoyed teaching Sunday school and gathering for fellowship. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Henry’s Christian faith was the foundation of his life, and he spent a number of years immersed in Bible study.

Henry shared his love for Duke basketball with his children and his grandchildren. His grandchildren, by the way, Mr. Speaker, like to call Dr. Lineberger “Pinky.” But despite his best efforts to turn them into Duke fans, they all attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, Henry Lineberger passed away on July 11. He
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is remembered by his family as a caring husband, father, and grandfather, and he will be deeply missed by his community that he helped build.

WE CAN PIVOT TOWARDS BIPARTISAN ACTION CONSISTENT WITH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is really an amazing time on Capitol Hill. The Republican internal battles and inability to deliver a coherent, effective alternative to fulfill all their contradictory campaign promises on healthcare has done more than just expose their political and policy dysfunction. They are obviously flirting with a serious political backlash.

They made the public more aware and concerned about Medicaid, that has expanded and made such a difference in Kentucky, in Oregon, in States all across the country, providing care for people otherwise who had no access to it.

They have managed to accelerate the move towards single payer by more than a decade: Medicare for all, Medicaid for more. I don’t know the exact form, but we are going to be moving in that direction, and the Republicans have helped raise the awareness and accelerate that progress, but I hope that we are going to be able to take steps to make progress sooner.

In the meantime, I suspect that the Affordable Care Act, the core reforms and structure, are going to, in fact, stay in place. This is because there aren’t the votes in the Senate to do anything more; and frankly, it doesn’t look like there are votes to do much in the House, the so-called skinny bill notwithstanding.

But I hope that we can pivot towards modest, bipartisan actions that are consistent with the Affordable Care Act, but don’t depend on it. We have a number of bipartisan initiatives that are ready to go.

I have worked for years with Congresswoman DIANE BLACK from Tennessee, on value-based insurance design. This bipartisan legislation would reward value over volume and make in insurance much more effective in paying for what we need.

In my view, this is really an amazing time on Capitol Hill. The bipartisan legislation would make in insurance much more effective in paying for what we need and less strain on people with multiple health needs.

We ought to be able to act on empowering our citizens and their families to know what they are facing at end of life. I have a plan with my friend and colleague, Congressman Jim Cooper, along those lines. Congress ought to accept the challenge from President Trump to deal meaningfully with prescription drug costs. This supports our constituents at both ends of the aisle. We can save billions of dollars for Americans and the taxpaying, and we can provide better care.

There are mental health initiatives with our friend Tim Murphy. Bipartisan progress was made in the last Congress, but there is much more that needs to be done.

In fact, we can work together to overcome the opposition of Chairman Sessions and the Rules Committee denying us the right to vote on extending our veterans access bill to allow consultation about medical marijuana. No one can listen to the heart-breaking stories of veterans and their families about what medical marijuana has done for their family. Chronic pain, traumatic brain injury. It is legal in 29 states, but the Rules Committee denied the right of the House to vote on extending that service to our veterans and their doctors, despite the horrid statistic that VA has in preventing veteran suicide, and where the opioid addiction rate for the VA is twice the general population.

These are things we can do tomorrow, not dealing with denying millions of people care through the Affordable Care Act and the various permutations that are spinning around now.

Do our job, work together, follow regular order, deal with bipartisan initiatives that will benefit the American people, save the taxpayer money, and improve the health of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH MEECE

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my long-time adviser and expert caseworker, Sarah Meece, upon her much-deserved retirement after dedicating more than 40 years of service by my side. When I reflect upon Sarah’s career, I stand in awe of her loyalty, her unwavering patience, her persistent advocacy, and unyielding compassion for those in need.

As Congressman, I have the duty and the privilege of assisting the people of southern and eastern Kentucky as they grapple with Federal agencies. At the heart of those cases has stood Sarah Meece, providing expert advice and staunch advocacy for individuals in our region who need help with Social Security, disability, and retirement claims, among many other issues. In fact, over the last 36 years, Sarah has worked on approximately 150,000 cases, representing an unmatched record of assistance for more than 4,000 individuals each year.

Sarah has gained so much notoriety in Hills and Holes of Kentucky’s Fifth Congressional District who stand in her congressional offices, and officials even from the administration, contact her for guidance in case work. And in this line of work, there are very few, if any, medals or certificates of honor to honor those worthy of recognition like Sarah. Her drive and consistency has never failed.

Day in and day out, Sarah has answered countless phone calls, set up personal meetings, listened to some of the most heart-breaking stories from families who were denied benefits on multiple occasions, those in desperate need of recouping benefits, others who lost hope in a mountain of Federal paperwork. Sarah’s reward has been the simple words of appreciation from the families upon the individuals she who has helped over the years. In my eyes, she deserves so much more.

While I wish Sarah the best in her years of retirement, the absence of her daily presence in the office will be immeasurable.

During her tenure, Sarah welcomed U.S. Presidents and Vice Presidents to our region, befriended eight Kentucky Governors and their staffs, and assisted hundreds of local leaders across southern and eastern Kentucky as they navigated through Federal issues.

However, it is the people living in the hills and hollers of Kentucky’s Fifth Congressional District who have driven her passion-filled public service. With every call and every personal visit, Sarah offered an encouraging word of hope to our constituents. Very few people can find the silver lining in every cloud like Sarah does, or bring a smile and a laugh to a broken heart. Her comical candor and illustrative storytelling have been a bright spot in everyone’s day.

I am forever grateful to have such a great friend and loyal adviser over these last 4 decades. Sarah’s life’s work has given countless families hope in their darkest hour and comforted them through lengthy and complex Federal issues.

Simply put, Sarah is irreplaceable, both her institutional knowledge of Federal casework and her kind, enduring spirit.

Mr. Speaker, if every congressional office and Federal agency had a Sarah Meece, our Nation would operate much more efficiently.
better. She has been the jewel of my congressional operations and the true friend to the people of southern and eastern Kentucky.

My wife, Cynthia, and I wish Sarah and her husband, Bud, many joyful and restful years of retirement with their children and grandchildren.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during the long, dark, lamentable days of World War II, Serbians and Americans forged a bond in a secret mission that remained classified for almost 60 years.

What was known as Operation Halyard became the largest rescue operation of American airmen in history. It would not have been possible without the courage of the Serbian people. In 1944, as the Allies advanced into fortress Europe, American bombers based in southern Italy began to strike Germany’s vital oil supplies in România. The 15th Air Force launched nearly 20,000 sorties into Eastern Europe to degrade Hitler’s war machine. To do this, they had to fly over Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia. As many as 1,500 pilots and aircrews went down during these dangerous flights.

Serbians who had been resisting German forces since 1941 risked their own lives to rescue American aircrews and hide them from patrolling Nazis. One of them was Serbian George Dudich, the father of future chief of staff when I was a judge in Texas. For months, George Dudich and the other Serbians aided downed Americans, caring for and protecting the pilots, and then smuggling the aircrews back to Allied lines.

By August 1944, hundreds of other downed aircrews were being sheltered by the Serbian guerillas. The OSS, the predecessor to the CIA, devised a plan to evacuate the Allied pilots in a daring mission coordinated with the Serbian resistance.

On August 10, unarmed American C-47s flew numerous sorties deep into enemy territory and landed at an improvised airfield built and protected by the Serbian villagers of Pranjani. By the 18th, more than 500 Allied airmen had been secretly rescued and flown back to Italy.

Here on this poster you see the Serbian resistance, along with American aircrews that had been downed, moving them to hiding from the Nazis that were patrolling the areas. For over 60 years, this bold, unbelievable secret operation was kept classified.

Our alliance with Serbia and the Serbian people goes back even further to the First World War. One hundred years ago, Serbia stood up to the aggressor from the larger Austrian-Hungarian empire. We should admire such defiance against overwhelming odds.

In Serbia’s last 14 years, the country also set events in motion that would lead the U.S. to take up the cause of freedom in Europe in World War I. That common devotion to liberty and the spirit of the Halyard mission still lives today with the close ties between the United States and Serbia.

As was the case in both World Wars, Serbia and the United States still face shared threats. We work together now to preserve each other’s security. Serbian legislation with U.S. cooperation is a singular force in fighting terrorism in Afghanistan, and Serbia is a partner in keeping terrorism from spreading in Serbia and in Europe.

However, Russian propaganda efforts in the country are particularly strong and anti-Western. We must be vigilant to thwart the Kremlin’s efforts to poison our relationship with Serbia.

Fortunately, Serbia’s integration into the West has continued to move in spite of Russian disinformation. In 2006, Serbia joined NATO’s Partnership for Peace and, in 2015, signed an Individual Partnership Action Plan with the alliance to strengthen cooperation.

Serbia has no stronger supporter for increased integration with the EuroAtlantic community than the United States. So for more than 100 years, we have been friends with the Serbian people. And as co-chair of the Serbian Caucus, along with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. Childs), I want to welcome Serbian Ambassador Matkovic and his staff to the House Chamber today.

With our shared events in Operation Halyard, our combined history, and our common fight for freedom, the American people are forever grateful for those Serbs who came to America’s rescue during those bleak days of World War II. And that is just the way it is.
American citizens on American soil. These are alarming developments and the United States must act aggressively to strengthen our own missile defense and immediately restrict North Korea’s access to cash.

Murderous, tyrannical regimes have no place in the world, and I am confident that these bills will hold corrupt dictators accountable and advance justice for some of the world’s most repressed populations.

**AN IMPRESSIVE MILESTONE**

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission’s recent 70th anniversary.

The Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission was created or established in 1915 when a group of citizens started Elk River Power and Light. The business was eventually purchased by the village of Elk River and operated by the city council.

Later on, when their responsibilities expanded to include water, the council created the Elk River Municipal Utilities Commission.

Throughout the years, this organization has not only seen their responsibilities expand, but also their jurisdiction expand as well. In fact, today, the commission serves Dayton, Isanti, and Big Lake, providing services to more than 11,000 Minnesota customers.

Thank you to everyone that makes the Elk River Municipal Utilities work, and congratulations on 70 years of great service to our communities.

**AN INCREDIBLE ANNIVERSARY**

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the Anoka-Champlin Fire Department. Since 1857, this fire department has been dedicated to protecting lives and property in our communities.

To give a little perspective on the history of the organization, the Anoka-Champlin Fire Department has been serving the great State of Minnesota since it was still a territory and before the Civil War.

Due to their hard work and often lifesaving efforts, Anoka and Champlin have been allowed to grow into thriving communities.

I want to thank the cities of Anoka and Champlin for continuing to support this important organization. Thank you for your service and commitment to our communities and their citizens.

Congratulations on your anniversary and upcoming celebration. It is well deserved.

**TWO LIVES HONORED FOR SAVING ANOTHER**

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two men from my State whose quick thinking saved the life of another earlier this year.

Dr. Bob Schweger and Dr. Tom Cress were both golfing with Steve Blattner at the Albany Golf Course when Steve began to suffer a cardiac event. Instead of panicking, both doctors successfully performed lifesaving measures on Steve, and with the assistance of the Albany Fire Department, their efforts were successful in saving Steve’s life.

As a result of their heroic actions, Dr. Schweger and Dr. Cress were recently presented with lifesaving awards by Stearns County Sheriff Don Gundmundson and Lieutenant Wes Weiss at the Stearns County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Thank you, Bob Schweger, Tom Cress, and the Albany Fire Department, for your heroic actions. We appreciate your service.
Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I have spent time on the border with our brave women and men on the front lines, working with CBP officers and Border Patrol agents. I have spent time both on the ocean and in the sky with brave women and men in our Coast Guard. Mr. Speaker, they are pleading for our help, and shame on us if we do not deliver for them.

Their requests are simple: increase their manpower to provide them with a sufficient number of agents to interdict not just drugs and guns from cartels, but also criminals and terrorists who seek to do us harm; invest in the technology that they need to do their jobs, to include drones and aerial surveillance, infrared technology, heat sensors, motion detectors both above and below the ground, and an array of 21st century high-tech options that serve as force multipliers along the border.

They need physical barriers in various forms along various stretches of the border in order to slow down the cartels and allow for sufficient response time for the agents to interdict. Moreover, we must invest heavily in a robust human intelligence program, giving our agents the resources they need to recruit human sources on the other side of the border to provide our agents with the advance notice of both the sources and the methods of criminal conspiracies that are forming along the border.

In addition, we must bolster the Office of Inspector General to crack down on border corruption through the use of drug testing, financial screening, and polygraph examinations.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of border security is a multipronged challenge that requires action on all fronts, not just one or two, and I urge my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Please do not politicize this issue.

Securing operational control of our border is a national security emergency. My former law enforcement colleagues who are putting their life on the line every day while protecting our borders are asking for our help. Let us not let them down.

THE TAYLOR FORCE ACT
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1164, the Taylor Force Act. This legislation conditions financial assistance from the United States on the Palestinian Authority’s termination of support for terror committed by individuals under its jurisdictional control. In order for the Palestinian Authority to receive aid, it would also be required to condemn acts of terror and cease providing support to those who have committed such acts.

The bill is named after Taylor Force, a former U.S. Army officer who was stabbed to death during a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

This legislation is a commonsense solution that we must address. The Palestinian Authority, under the leadership of Mahmoud Abbas, has continued to support efforts that undermine attempts at peace between the Palestinians and our great ally Israel.

The blatant encouragement of terrorist activity by the Palestinian Authority must end. Why should we be rewarding this kind of behavior?

The Palestinian Authority perpetuates terrorism by paying salaries to terrorists who are in prison. To make matters worse, those salaries increase the longer they are in jail, thus encouraging these terrorists to commit more violent acts.

This is unacceptable. The United States must do something to end this conduct because the reality is it is costing innocent lives. I believe the goals of H.R. 1164, the Taylor Force Act, are a step in the right direction, and I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for its consideration and passage in the House.
Mr. Speaker, finding solutions to making housing more affordable for our constituents, especially the most vulnerable, is a priority of mine here in Congress. I am proud to stand with Mr. TIBERI of Ohio and over 70 bipartisan Members to support his efforts to reform and strengthen low-income housing tax credits. It is time for Congress to work towards responsible solutions and make the rental affordability crisis a priority.

PASSAGE OF SANCTIONS PACKAGE

Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate the passage of sanctions against the Iranian, Russian, and North Korean regimes. This package of sanctions sends a strong message to these regimes that the United States will not tolerate their rogue actions.

These sanctions will hold accountable those involved in the Iranian regime’s ballistic missile program, those who attempt to destabilize the region and threaten Israel, as well as those responsible for ongoing human rights abuses. The legislation also sets us on a path to deter conventional Iranian activities in the region and imposes sanctions on any individual that contributes to Iran’s ballistic missiles or to terrorism.

The sanctions against North Korea will respond to its increasingly hostile threats against the United States and our allies in Asia. By increasing the President’s authority to impose sanctions on persons in violation of United Nations resolutions, we are ensuring action can be taken swiftly when necessary.

Last, but certainly not least, we have strengthened sanctions against Russia in response to cyber attacks and interference in Ukraine. Specifically, we are increasing sanctions on human rights abusers, those who supply weapons to the Assad regime in Syria, and those condoning or contributing on behalf of the Russian Government.

Given the seriousness of Russia’s aggression, we are strengthening the existing sanctions contained in executive orders on Russia and mandating a congressional review if any sanctions are relaxed, suspended, or terminated. I strongly encourage the President to sign this bill into law and will continue to impress upon all of my colleagues the need to not treat Russia lightly.

These threats posed to our national security by Iran, Russia, and North Korea cannot be understated. With passage of this sanctions package, Congress is doing its job to ensure they will be held accountable.

SALUTING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND AGENCIES OF CAL FIRE

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

Mr. McCLEIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by saluting the more than 5,000 firefighters from 40 cooperating agencies that assembled under the coordination of CAL FIRE to battle the Detwiler fire that threatened Yosemite Valley and its gateway communities.

I spent Saturday at the command centers in Mariposa and Merced Counties, and what I said is what I have seen and time again at so many fires we are having these days in the Sierras: cool, calm professionalism; selflessness; and devotion to duty.

CAL FIRE is a agency that works. I want particularly to salute and thank Nancy Koerperich, CAL FIRE’s unit fire chief for Madera, Merced, and Mariposa. She and her operation literally saved several towns, including Mariposa and Coulterville, from annihilation.

Sheriff Doug Binnewies of Mariposa County is rightly being hailed for his courage and leadership in directing the orderly evacuation of the town of Mariposa as the fire bore down upon it. You can literally see how the fire burned right up to the town’s edge. I can’t tell you how many homes I saw where firefighters stopped it literally within a few feet of their front doors.

CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Jeremy Rahn told me that the difference between saving and losing so many homes was defensible space.

CAL FIRE has produced a superb phone app to assist homeowners in preparation so that, if God forbid, the need arises, firefighters will be able to defend them. It also provides fire alerts, and anyone in the mountain community should have it. It is free for downloading at your phone’s app store.

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Firefighters I spoke with on Saturday bitterly complained that they can’t even cut firebreaks to isolate these zones because of the same so-called environmental laws.

The House has pending before it the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017 that would allow us to restore good forest management, but we may already have run afoul of what Churchill called history’s “terrible, chilling words: too late.”

Mr. Speaker, I call for expeditious consideration of the Resilient Federal Forests Act and other legislation aimed at restoring management to our forests in the hope that firefighters can hold these fires at bay until we restore good management to our public lands.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend William D. Johnson, Jr., Harbour Lake Baptist Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the day that You have bestowed upon us. May our actions glorify You.
in all that we do. We humbly request that You, Lord, place Your providential hand of protection upon every Member, their families, and those who guard and protect this Chamber.

O gracious God, remind us daily that while we are here to represent the people, our authority comes from You, for there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are established by God.

May there be renewal of prayer across the United States. God, place a burden upon us that we may seek You before we undertake any endeavor.

God bless the House of Representatives, and God bless these United States of America.

I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, “irresponsible, reckless, duplicitous,” all words used to describe Iran during the JCPOA negotiations.

Soon, if this administration abrogates the JCPOA, those words would apply to us: “irresponsible” for shedding an agreement that makes the world a safer place, “reckless” in giving Iran an excuse to immediately restart the nuclear program, and “duplicitous” in breaking an international agreement for no legitimate reason but to fulfill a campaign promise.

Make no mistake, Iran is still a bad actor. It destabilizes the region. It funds terrorist activities. That is why we voted to increase non-nuclear sanctions on Iran yesterday. But the Iran nuclear agreement is being adhered to, and it is working.

Under this administration, are we, as a nation, no longer as good as our word?

HONORING THE LIFE OF CURRY TOMMY HAYNES

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Curry Tommy Haynes, a longtime Georgia resident and brave hero of the Vietnam war, who joined our Heavenly Father on July 16 after a long battle with cancer.

Mr. Haynes was one of the most decorated soldiers in our Nation’s history, earning 10 Purple Heart awards for his bravery in combat in the jungles of Vietnam. Mr. Haynes remained an active member of the community after returning from duty by launching the Newton County EMT services, teaching locals to fly and skydive, and serving as a VA counselor to his fellow service members.

Mr. Speaker, while serving in Vietnam as part of the U.S. Army 173rd Airborne Brigade, Company C of the 503rd Infantry, Mr. Haynes was wounded.

HONORING EDNA BERNICE HARVEY TURMAN

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Edna Bernice Harvey Turman, who is celebrating her 100th birthday on August 15 of this year.

Edna was born in 1917 and grew up just south of my own hometown, Jonesboro, in a community called Apt with her mother and father, Bill and Molly Harvey.

She started working at Harvey’s grocery store, and afterwards she met a man named Raymond Turman. The couple married in 1936 and farmed and raised cattle together.

During World War II, Edna and Raymond farmed for the government and sold soybeans, cotton, creamed milk, and formed butter.

Edna and Raymond had five children: Mary, Barbara, Billy Ray, Garry, and Ronnie. Edna also has 9 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

An active member of her community and county, Edna is very passionate about her church, was a member of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and even helped run the voting location in south Craighead County for several years.

Today, besides being a happy grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, Edna still lives on the old homestead and works in her yard. Edna truly is a member of the greatest generation of Americans by which all the following generations are measured, and whether we realize it or not, if was people like Edna who built our communities and continue to shape the America we live in today. I hope you will join me in wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

JCPOA NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend my remarks.

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Mr. Speaker, while serving in Vietnam as part of the U.S. Army 173rd Airborne Brigade, Company C of the 503rd Infantry, Mr. Haynes was wounded.
multiple times. He was shot in the arm, the thighs, the hand; he lost two fingers in one enemy ambush alone. Yet despite the multiple injuries, he never quit fighting.

In 2015, he was presented with a special letter of proclamation issued by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal during a special ceremony recognizing his sacrifice.

When asked how he survived combat with his numerous injuries, Mr. Haynes simply replied: I don’t believe in luck. I owe it all to Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please stand with me and join me in a moment of silence to honor the life and legacy of this American hero who serves the respect of all Americans.

BORDER WALL FUNDING
(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, the inclusion of $1.6 billion to fund an ineffective divisive border wall is a direct attack on immigrant communities across our Nation. Funding this immoral wall does nothing to help our country. It only helps to promote President Trump's campaign of fear.

The wall itself mirrors President Trump's approach to policy: divisive, ineffective, and motivated by hate. This is exemplified by the Trump administration's reckless disregard of the humanitarian cost of building a border wall, which will force immigrants and asylum seekers to take greater risks and more dangerous routes that will likely result in more deaths. Furthermore, this wall will literally divide immigrant households and tear families apart.

Instead of funding ineffective efforts to protect our homeland from dangerous threats, this administration would rather fulfill a campaign promise that does the exact opposite. It makes us less safe by targeting immigrant and asylum communities and closing off America from our neighbors.

American taxpayers should not be forced to foot the bill for President Trump's xenophobic anti-immigrant agenda.

AUGUST 21 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE
(Mr. BOST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, on August 21, a total solar eclipse will stretch from coast to coast in the United States for the first time in 99 years, and I am proud to say that my district in southern Illinois is the prime viewing spot.

In fact, my home county of Jackson County near Carbondale, and also my front yard, is where the eclipse will be at its apex.

For 2 minutes and 38 seconds, it will be like total darkness in the middle of the day. The city’s population of 26,000 is expected to multiply many times over from visitors around the world coming for tourism and to see this astronomical Super Bowl.

So I would encourage my colleagues and the American people to visit for some world championship southern Illinois barbecue, the beautiful outdoors, the wonderful wineries, and welcome one and all people for the best viewing moments of this solar eclipse.

WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE ACA
(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, while the Senate is moving forward this week on their deeply flawed and really unpopular healthcare bill, millions of Americans know that they will lose healthcare under TrumpCare. They will face skyrocketing costs, premiums will go up, prescription drug prices will go up.

Republicans need to drop this obsession with repeal and work with Democrats to fix the problems that we know exist in the Affordable Care Act. No law is perfect. At least no law has ever been written here is perfect.

And the American people, at least the people I talk to back home, they are exhausted. They are sick of this partisan bickering. We have the ideas that you might like. You have some ideas that maybe we could accept. We ought to get together and figure out a way to make healthcare work for every American and not obsess about the notion that anything signed by the previous President, by definition, is bad law.

Let us do what the American people sent us here to do.

RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MIGUEL SANTIESTEBAN
(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lieutenant Commander Miguel Santiesteban, who is receiving the U.S. Navy's nomination to be commander. Having fled Castro's regime at a young age, Miguel moved with his family to south Florida.

Driven by his desire to serve our great country, Miguel joined the Navy in 1989. While stationed in Japan as a deck seaman, Miguel was one of the few selected to attend the Hospital Corpsman “A” School.

He earned a master's degree in healthcare service administration at my alma mater, Florida International University.

Miguel was commissioned in 2001 and completed his first duty assignment at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He is currently an administrative officer for research and development at the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Miguel has earned many accolades, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the NATO Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal several times. Miguel lives the Navy's core values of honor, courage, commitment.

I join Lieutenant Commander Miguel Santiesteban's family and friends in congratulating him on this well-deserved nomination. We are so proud of you, Miguel.

A BETTER DEAL
(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it is long past time that the American people got a better deal.

All Americans want the same thing: a fair chance to get ahead and a better deal than the raw deal that many have right now.

Granite Staters in my district want to have the skills to get ahead in the 21st century economy. We want better pay and better jobs. Many women, and increasingly more men, are what we know as the "sandwich" generation, caring for young children and aging parents and relatives, often at the same time.

That is why we need paid family leave and sick leave. We need to expand our educational system and skills training for all types of opportunities.

Just this week, the Girl Scouts of America announced 23 new merit badges in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This is symbolic of what we need to do as a nation. Encourage young people, boys and girls, to pursue their interests in the fields that will be the cornerstone of the 21st century economy.

America deserves a better deal, and that is what we are offering.

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, last year, over 7,000 cases of human trafficking were reported in the United States. Unfortunately, the city with the largest number of cases was our hometown of Houston, Texas.

Human trafficking is an absolutely despicable and deplorable crime that demands swift action.

As chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I have spearheaded efforts to make sure that our Federal law enforcement officers have all the resources they need to crack down on these human traffickers, who are exploiting our children and young women coming across our borders.
We have to work together to provide justice and relief for these victims. That is why Congress has passed 16 bipartisan bills to combat this human trafficking epidemic.

These bills ensure that all law enforcement at the State, Federal, and local level have the resources they need and the support they need to fight this overwhelming crisis.

I am proud to support these measures, and I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that we crack down and stop the hammer on human traffickers.

FUNDING TO BUILD A BORDER WALL

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the proposed border wall funding.

Instead of wasting $1.6 billion in taxpayers’ dollars on an unnecessary border wall, the DHS should focus its limited resources on more important border security priorities.

This includes upgrading and hiring more personnel for ports of entry, the main path for illegal drugs. This could include better and more technology so that border security agents will have a better idea what is happening along the border.

The border wall will be dangerous. Violence, poverty, and family ties ensure that migrants will continue attempting the risky journey through the border region’s hostile zones.

The border wall will be divisive. We need to do our job, Mr. Speaker, and come together as a Congress for a comprehensive immigration plan; at the least, reform of our immigration policies. Building a wall sends a toxic message to one of our closest neighbors, a country on which we, the United States, depend.

RECOGNIZING HUCK PLYLER

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man whose thoughtfulness and generosity has stirred the hearts, souls, and patriotic spirits of people across my district in Arkansas.

Earlier this year, 6-year-old Huck Plyler from Hope, Arkansas, started a project to provide for poor children what he had delivered himself. He decided to create a care package for nearly 700 members of the Arkansas National Guard currently deployed to the Horn of Africa.

Huck’s care packages include items such as nonperishable snacks, lip balm, sunscreen, personal hygiene products, socks, and more.

When asked why he decided to start this project, Huck’s answer was: “We do this because they help us, so we help them.”

Though simple, this reply is wise beyond his years.

Huck’s dedication to this project has enabled him to collect enough donated items and monetary donations to send over 50 boxes to our troops thus far.

Mr. Speaker, Huck’s kindness and thoughtfulness brings honor to himself; his parents, Caleb and Brianna Plyler; and to the benevolent people of Hempstead County and Arkansas.

I commend Huck for his hard work and commitment to our military members serving overseas. It is young men and women like Huck that give me hope for the future, hope that the giving and caring spirit is still alive and well in our young people and country today.

A BETTER DEAL

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Democrats unveiled A Better Deal for the American people. This is an economic agenda that will create 10 million new paying, full-time jobs; raise pay; lower costs; and give workers the tools that they need to get ahead.

A job is much more than just a paycheck. It is about knowing that your hard work is valued and honored. It is about being treated with the dignity and respect that every human being deserves. We don’t have enough of that in this country today.

People in my State and all across America feel like the system is completely stacked against them. And do you know what? They are right.

Our Tax Code rewards companies that ship jobs overseas. Millionaires and billionaires don’t pay their fair share. Corporate special interests spend secretly in our elections. It doesn’t have to be this way; and with A Better Deal, it won’t be this way.

We are going to invest in our infrastructure, we are going to build a new manufacturing economy, double investments in apprenticeships, and we are going to make sure that working families are valued again.

The American people have had enough broken promises to last them a lifetime, but Democrats are going to deliver real results to them with A Better Deal, better jobs, better wages, for a better future.

CONGRATULATING JACK AND MARIANNE COX

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Mrs. Louise Johnson, this year’s recipient of the Friends of the Fair Award from the Clinton County Fair.

Mrs. Johnson has dedicated herself to the people and organizations of Clinton County for many years, particularly the Clinton County Fair.

She served as chair of the Hershey Baking Contest for 22 years, as co-chair for Open Show for 19 years, and created the Sizzling Senior Talent Show in 2010.

Beyond her involvement at the fair, Mrs. Johnson has served as a Monumen Church of Christ for more than six decades, teaching Sunday school, playing the piano, and serving as treasurer.

THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, even as our colleagues in the Senate try, once again, today to strip lifesaving healthcare away from millions of Americans, I find that there is reason to hope and to have faith not in this Congress, where the work of cruel indifference to suffering precedes once again, but, rather, in the American people, because it has been the efforts of ordinary citizens whose calls and letters and protests have been making all the difference in this issue. It has been the collective voices of people telling their stories of struggle and survival who have slowed the system roller of repeal.

I salute each and every one of them. Your voices count. Your stories are important. Keep them coming because you, your health, and your healthcare matter.

RECOGNIZING LOUISE JOHNSON

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Mrs. Louise Johnson, this year’s recipient of the Friends of the Fair Award from the Clinton County Fair.

Mrs. Johnson has dedicated herself to the people and organizations of Clinton County for many years, particularly the Clinton County Fair.

She served as chair of the Hershey Baking Contest for 22 years, as co-chair for Open Show for 19 years, and created the Sizzling Senior Talent Show in 2010.

Beyond her involvement at the fair, Mrs. Johnson has served as a Monumen Church of Christ for more than six decades, teaching Sunday school, playing the piano, and serving as treasurer.
She has further enriched the community by teaching crochet classes, serving residents at Haven Skilled Rehabilitation and Nursing, and assisting at Lock Haven Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the time and dedication Mrs. Johnson has given to her community is truly inspiring. I am so proud to congratulate her on this well-deserved award.

I congratulate Mrs. Johnson, and I thank her for all that she has given in services to the communities of both Centre and Clinton Counties.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, after more than 6 months of falling to pass any major legislative bills, House Republicans are becoming desperate for a win. So desperate, they decided to sneak in $1.6 billion into a funding bill to start construction on an unworkable wall along our border. While I support real border security, this stunt is a far cry from that.

I believe in investing our Federal dollars wisely. Instead of building a medieval solution that will not work, why don’t we use those billions of dollars for a big, beautiful jobs package? Or big, beautiful bridges, roads, and infrastructure throughout this country? Or to ensure that our children can access higher education and job training, healthcare, and housing?

Instead, my Republican colleagues are attempting to distract us from their failures by passing this bill. You would think that with their back against a wall, they wouldn’t be this eager to start building another one.

CONGRATULATING THE SERGEANT ANDREW BRUCHER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5499

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

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Sergeant Andrew Brucher Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5499, located in Kauneonga Lake, New York, which will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

At the anniversary dinner, the post will honor two very special people: Mrs. Mabel Brucher, a Gold Star mother whose son Post 5499 is named for; and Mr. Raymond Jankowski, a veteran of the Second World War and founder of the charter member of Post 5499. Honoring those who have served our Nation should be a top priority for all Americans, and the VFW is an essential organization that fosters camaraderie among American veterans and advocates on their behalf.

Congratulations to Post 5499. I look forward to honoring this important milestone with members of the post this weekend.

BORDER WALL

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to oppose the inclusion of $1.6 billion that would be a waste of taxpayer money on this useless wall. The funds will go towards an unnecessary wall along the Southern border. This wall that the President promised voters that Mexico would pay for is now being put on the taxpayers’ backs.

$1.6 billion can be used for better things. It can pay for thousands of jobs in the U.S. and workforce development programs and apprenticeships.

And one other thing: agents protecting our border don’t even want it. They do not see themselves as defenders of a wall.

Mr. President, please come back to reality. This is not “Game of Thrones.”

This administration needs to stop demonizing people outside of our borders. We need to fix our immigration system, and we can do it in a humane and pragmatic and effective way, and in a way that will supercharge our economy and actually create American jobs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the President.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRIAN BERG

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, as the House co-chair of the bipartisan Paper and Packaging Caucus, I rise today to recognize an individual from my district who has dedicated his entire professional life to an industry that has been critical to the mill continues to thrive and be successful and provide for this community now and into the future.

I want to thank Brian for his dedication, his service, and his commitment to an industry that has been critical to my district and many of my constituents. I wish you all the best and hope you get to enjoy some time with your lovely wife, Janet, and kids, Savannah, Ashley, and Riley.

PRESIDENT TRUMP WILL DENY TRANSGENDER PEOPLE THE RIGHT TO SERVE IN THE MILITARY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, Donald Trump announced via Twitter, how else, that he is going to reverse the Obama-era decision and deny transgender people the right to openly serve in our military.

I think it is shameful to divide Americans, in the face of their service and sacrifice, for his political gain.

This is not about national security, it is not about saving money, and it is not about fabricated claims of disruption. What is disruptive is discrimination against an entire class of Americans who are or who want to protect and defend America. That is the same argument that was used against women in the service, against gays and lesbians.

We ought to welcome any American who is qualified and willing to serve to protect our great country, to protect America and our values, even as the President undermines both.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3219, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 473 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk reads the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 473

Resolved. That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed two hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-30 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXII are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No further amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be
considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be debated as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in subsection (a) equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided in section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, the appropriations package in front of us represents the end product of many months of work by the Appropriations Committee. In this package, we will be considering four appropriations bills: Defense, Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. Together, the four parts of the bill make up the Make America Secure Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2018.

The legislation ensures that our most important government services will be funded responsibly and appropriately and that we will fulfill our most important responsibilities as legislators: funding the government and keeping it open to serve our constituents.

The bill provides a total of $588.1 billion for defense, an increase of $68.1 billion in discretionary funding above the 2017 levels, and an increase of $28.3 billion over the President’s request. It also includes $73.9 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations and Global War on Terrorism funding.

These funds will help us enhance our military readiness, and the substantial increase marks an end to the ongoing erosion of our national military strength that occurred during the Obama administration.

Importantly, this bill also provides an increase in funding for veterans. Over the past several years, the House has worked to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs and to ensure that all veterans receive the care and benefits to which they are entitled.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will receive a 5 percent increase in this bill, including $74 billion for the Veterans Health Administration.

The increased funding represents an important step toward fulfilling our promise to our troops and reduce wait times at the VA, and enhance benefits for our Nation’s veterans.

The Energy and Water portion of this appropriations bill provides $37.6 billion in funding for fiscal year 2018, a decrease of $209 million from fiscal year 2017.

The bill includes an increase in funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration that includes funds to restart the licensing process for Yucca Mountain, the national disposal repository for spent nuclear fuel. It also provides $6.16 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, a $10 million increase over fiscal year 2017.

H.R. 3219 also provides $3.58 billion for the Legislative Branch. It does not recommend funding levels for the Senate, as per our longstanding tradition.

The bill includes a significant increase in funding for U.S. Capitol Police and adds additional funds for securing offices in Washington and in congressional districts. Importantly, it continues the freeze on Member pay.

The package before us represents the House fulfilling its primary responsibility: to fund the government. This package funds hundreds, if not thousands, of Member priorities, particularly on the defense side.

I applaud my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their months of hard work and making this bill a reality. It shows what the House can do as we move forward toward completion of the fiscal year appropriations process.

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

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to know where to begin, because this process is so lousy, but I want to rise today in opposition to this rule and the so-called underlying bill, H.R. 3219, the GOP fiscal year 2018 so-called security minibus appropriations bill.

This rule makes in order 72 amendments for debate on the House floor, blocking 100 amendments. It continues the terrible closed process that the Republican majority has used since they took control of the House in 2011.

When Speaker RYAN took the gavel, he promised a fair and open process with regular order where both the majority and minority would have the opportunity to have their voices heard, and I am happy to provide the full text of that speech to my Republican friends.

I guess we were misinformed, because our collective voices are repeatedly silenced in this Chamber, not just Democrats, but Republicans as well.

Speaker RYAN’s broken promise was clearly on display last week when he walked until the dead of night to strip our respected colleague, Representative BARBARA LEE, the bipartisan Lee amendment would sunset the outdated 2001 AUMF and give Congress 8 months to enact a new one, ensuring that Congress finally debate and vote on the many wars in which the United States is engaged.

If the Republican leadership doesn’t like the lead provision, then the Rules Committee could have made in order an amendment to strike it from the bill. That would have given Members the chance to vote up or down either to keep or remove the provision. That would have been regular order, that would have been fair, that would have been open, but, instead, House Republican leadership took it upon themselves to replace Ms. LEE’s provision with alternative language calling upon the administration to produce a report.
Republicans on the Rules Committee defended this action, saying that the Lee amendment legislated on an appropriations bill. The trouble with that logic, Mr. Speaker, is that the language that replaced Ms. Lee’s amendment was not an amendment to the appropriations bill. That is right. House Republicans put in an amendment that violates the same rule.

If this leadership is going to silence Members on flimsy procedural grounds, they shouldn’t break those same rules on the same day.

Even more shameful, the Republican leadership’s continued actions to block every effort and refuse to allow Congress to debate and vote on these wars, I believe, is an insult to the men and women in uniform, who put their lives on the line every day to protect our country, and to their families.

Americans deserve better, and the bipartisan voices calling for action will not be silenced. This is just one example of regular order being abandoned in order to advance an extreme agenda.

Tomorrow, House Republicans will use another legislative trick, the self-executing rule, to stick taxpayers with a $1.6 billion bill for President Trump’s reckless and ineffective border wall with Mexico.

Now, instead of bringing that measure to the floor for an up-or-down vote in an open process where all voices could be heard, the Republican leadership is sticking this provision into the rule so that as soon as the rule is approved, the measure will automatically become part of the bill.

President Trump, as you may recall, promised the American people that he would make Mexico pay for this wall. He repeated it over and over and over again during the campaign. But now, House Republicans want to take $1.6 billion of hard-earned tax dollars from millions of Americans to fund it.

This is a rigged process. Let’s be honest. This is a rigged process.

Is this really how we want Congress and this legislation to reflect the business of the American people? Is this how we will conduct the appropriations process not only now, but in the future: no debate for individual appropriations bills and severely limiting amendments overall? No regular order and a subversion the committee process?

Soon, maybe there will be no amendments on appropriations bills at all. This is a slippery slope, and I urge my Republican colleagues to consider the dangerous road that we are going down.

Americans deserve better from their leaders in Congress, especially when it comes to deciding how the American people’s hard-earned tax dollars will be spent. Republicans talk about fiscal responsibility, but what I see here today is another reckless and bloated budget proposal that empties the Treasury vaults for wasteful military spending when we have so many critical priorities here at home that are in desperate need of funding.

Now, apparently, House Republicans have no problem with spending $1.6 billion on President Trump’s border wall now, but not a cent to invest in our own communities here at home, they can’t be bothered.

How about investing in our kids’ schools? Why aren’t we doing more to ensure that our young people have the resources and the support they need to get additional education? Make college more affordable, for example. Wouldn’t that be a radical idea?

Republicans love to talk about personal responsibility and the need for Americans to work. Why aren’t we investing $1.6 billion more in job training programs and finding ways to increase wages?

We should be making sure that more families have access to good jobs and that no one in America who works full-time has to raise their family in poverty.

President Trump had what feels like countless infrastructure weeks, but we have yet to see Republicans propose any legislation to make good on their promise to finally invest in America’s infrastructure and finally fix our Nation’s crumbling roads and bridges.

Instead of making any of these policies the top priorities that they should be in this Congress, Republicans are just offering more of the same: empty rhetoric and broken promises.

Tomorrow, House Republicans will use another legislative trick, the self-executing rule, to strip out the bipartisan Lee amendment that would have ensured Congress will consider the dangerous road that we are going down.

H.R. 3219 does fund some important priorities. Our national security must be our number one priority with policies that are both strong and smart. I strongly support our men and women in uniform and believe that Congress should provide our troops everything that they need. Yet Republicans have deliberately created a security bill that raises serious concerns.

Let’s recap for a second, Mr. Speaker. The final version of this bill will include $1.6 billion for the President’s useless and immoral border wall. It strips out the bipartisan Lee amendment that would have so much of America’s people.

In an extreme example of regular order being abandoned, House Republicans have proposed the Defense Appropriations Act with no debate, no regular order, and a subversion the committee process.

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It is worth noting 72 amendments are made in order here; 47 of those were actually Democratic amendments. Many of the amendments that my friend referred to that had been submitted to the Rules Committee, at least a third of them, were knocked out because they were not en bloc order.

But my friend is correct: it is not an open rule. I do remind him that the first people to eliminate open rules on appropriations bills were not Republicans. It was actually the Democratic majority in 2009 that ended the practice and, for 2 years, allowed almost no amendments on any appropriations bills, and most appropriations bills never came to the floor. So I think my friends bear a considerable amount of responsibility for where we find ourselves today.

I do want to talk a little bit, too, briefly, about my friend’s comments about the AUMF, because he has been a good friend and a close ally in an area where we have a similar concern. I agree with my friend. We need to debate this, and we need to have an AUMF that is more in tune with the times and, frankly, reintroduces congressional power and congressional oversight. I have worked with my friend in the past on that. I am going to continue to work with him on it going forward.

But in the case of the Lee amendment, which, in full disclosure, I supported in the Appropriations Committee, the chairman of the committee of jurisdiction, which is not the Appropriations Committee, made it known that he would lodge a point of order; so, in other words, that would never get to the floor.

In place, we have put something that, frankly, will at least require the administration, on the passage of this bill or the Defense Authorization Act, in which it is also found, to submit a report that the administration, on the passage of this bill, as it provides for the largest military construction funding.

Supporting our servicemembers and their families is also a high priority of this bill, as it provides for the largest military pay raise in 8 years.

That is not all it does. It also provides for our Nation’s veterans, the very people who devoted their lives to protecting our country and the values we hold so dear. This bill provides the highest level of funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs in our Nation’s history. This will help cut down on the claims backlog and move forward with a new electronic medical health records system.

I am also pleased that this bill will allow us to begin increasing our Nation’s security effort to keep bad actors out of our country. The American people sent a strong message last November that they wanted a wall securing our southern border. This bill will begin this process by providing over $1.5 billion requested by President Trump for physical barrier construction along the southern border.

Mr. Speaker, over this last weekend, a lot of people in America went to see a movie called “Dunkirk” about the evacuation of over 300,000 British and French troops back over to England. Prime Minister Winston Churchill had only been in office a couple of weeks at that point in time, but he had predicted for years before that in speeches before the House of Commons that that day was coming, and they took his speeches and they put them together in a book called, “While England Slept.” With this bill, we are sending a strong message to the world that America is not asleep.

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

Let me just remind my colleagues here that we are debating the rule, and this is about process.

The gentleman from Oklahoma earlier talked about waivers and that the Lee AUMF language would be subject to a point of order. Well, the language that my Republican friends replaced the Lee amendment with is protected by a waiver of all points of order because it was also legislating on an appropriations bill. As I pointed out last night, the Rule you made in order amendment No. 19 by Mr. GRIFFITH, which violates section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act, and you provided a waiver for that.

Mr. Speaker, my Republican friends routinely grant waivers in bills that come before the Rules Committee. The problem is that the waivers are only granted for your amendments and never for our amendments, and that is just not fair and that is not right.

So if your policy is going to be we are going to grant no waivers, then it ought to apply not just to Democrats; it ought to apply to Republicans, too. But there is this double standard here, and voices that you disagree with always seem to end up being cut off.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just point out that because this process and the reason why so many of us are angry about this process is it is so blatantly unfair.

The gentlewoman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), my good friend, a member of the Rules Committee, but also a distinguished member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this rule and the underlying bill. The Make America Secure Appropriations Act is all about protecting the American people and securing our homeland.

Unfortunately, years of underfunding have severely hurt our military. With this bill, we can make real progress toward rebuilding the military and adding more troops, sailors, airmen, and marines to the force.

But Mr. Speaker, let us pledge to boost the Navy to a 355-ship fleet, the bill funds 11 new ships. Included in this are three littoral combat ships, of which the Independence class vessel is built by a fantastic workforce in southwest Alabama.

Having state-of-the-art facilities and resources is vital to the success of our military. To help repair dilapidated and aging military infrastructure, the bill provides a 25 percent increase in military construction funding.

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Mr. Speaker, before I go to my next speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond to my next speaker, I yield myself such

1. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule. I had a real bipartisan amendment that had been in order repeatedly in recent sessions, gaining bipartisan support, to be able to deal with the crisis that our veterans face in terms of addiction, opioids. The VA, sadly, has a horrible record in terms of how they deal with these veterans. They suffer suicide 50 percent higher than the general public. The opioid addiction rate is twice the general population.

Mr. Speaker, I have been working for years in the area of medical marijuana. Twenty-nine States have now legalized it. I wish my friends on the Rules Committee had taken the time to listen to the stories of veterans and their families about what difference it made for people suffering from PTSD, chronic pain, and traumatic brain injury.

Medical marijuana has helped change their lives, and it doesn’t harm them and doesn’t kill them the way the abuse of opioids has. Yet the VA, in its infinite wisdom, doesn’t even allow VA doctors to talk to veterans about medical marijuana in the States where it is legal.

Our amendment is simple. It would eliminate that prohibition. It wouldn’t dispense marijuana on public land. It would allow the VA doctor to work with the patients—the people who know them best.

It passed last year with 40 votes on a bipartisan basis. There were 18 bipartisan cosponsors for the amendment, 9 and 9, Republican and Democrat. It has already passed the Senate by a 3-to-1 margin in committee.

It was actually approved by the House last Congress, but in conference committee, it was stripped out, led by former Senator Kaine. I sincerely believe that one of the reasons he is a Democrat is because he understood that veterans and their families were outraged about that action to reverse what Congress did.

Now we are not even allowed to vote on it. I think that is incomprehensible. I don’t think it is fair to our veterans. My friends on the Rules Committee are on the wrong side of history. In Florida, last November, 71 percent of the people voted for medical marijuana.

Our veterans deserve the right to work with their doctors to do what is right for them and their families and, hopefully, avoid the epidemic of opioid overdoses, overprescriptions, and not being able to treat them with a methodology that is not highly addictive and not dangerous.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason on God’s green earth that we shouldn’t have been allowed to at least vote on this bipartisan amendment to protect our veterans.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to respond very quickly to my good friend from Oregon. I just remind him this is a long and
winding road. It is a long process. As he said, the Senate may very well move in a different direction.

I tend to focus here on veterans' issues as issues that have largely brought us together. Quite frankly, this bill has a very substantial increase in spending for the VA, and that is something that I know, in committee, garnered wide bipartisan support. Let's wait and see where we go.

I just want to say I think there will be continued discussion about this, but there is also a concern, always, about something like this that is controversial. We have seen our friends do this before. Sometimes you will put an amendment in but you won't vote for the final bill.

When you are trying to calculate whether you pass something, you can't have amendments that cost you votes, that don't get you votes. I am not suggesting that is my friend's purpose. It is not at all. I know it is not. I know he is very sincere in this. I am saying that could easily be the effect.

All I can tell you is we will continue to work through the bill. I suspect when we get there, at the end of the day, this will be a very bipartisan bill. It will pass with a very bipartisan majority.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) so he may respond.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would just say this was an opportunity to bring us together. It passed last Congress on the floor of the House with a 40-vote margin. There is more support now, today, in the public and in the other body.

This was an opportunity to avoid unnecessary controversy, to send a signal to our veterans, to change a destructive trend on the Veterans Administration that is overwhelmingly supported by the American public. If you would have allowed us to vote on the floor of the House, I will guarantee you we would have had even more votes this time.

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

Mr. Speaker, when Speaker RYAN took the gavel, he promised to have "a process that is more open, more inclusive, more deliberative, and more participatory."

My friends like to highlight a number of amendments made in order today as if this is a good process. I would remind you, Mr. Speaker, that, rather than taking up one issue at a time, this is a rule for three appropriations bills. I say to my friends, you guys are worse than you used to be.

There are 10 amendments allowed for the Legislative Branch. Last year you made 13. We have fewer amendments this year.

For the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill, there are 16 amendments. Just a short time ago, in fiscal year 2016, we had a modified open rule. This rule is clearly much worse.

We have the same situation with the Energy and Water bill. We have a structured rule this year, while we had a modified open rule just 2 years ago. The process in the House is getting worse.

For the first time in history, we have a Speaker of the House who has never allowed a truly open rule. Now, we were not perfect, Mr. Speaker, but Speaker PELOSI allowed the Rules Committee to report open rules. Speaker Boehner allowed open rules. Every Speaker in modern history allowed some open rules, but we don't even get modified open rules anymore.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing an alarming rise in the number of self-executing rules, what Republicans used to call "deem and pass rules." Now, let me explain what that is.

In his book, "Young Guns: A New Generation of Conservative Leaders," our dear Speaker described the self-execution process. This is on page 98, if you are following along. But he called this process, "legislative trickery to enact legislation that does not have majority backing."

Now, sometime today we are going to go back up to the Rules Committee to do a little legislative trickery to fund the President's border wall.

News flash: Mexico is not paying for the wall. The language that the Speaker intends to deem passed without a vote uses ungodly American greenbacks to pay for Trump's wall. The American taxpayers are going to be stuck with this bill for this ridiculous wall.

Mr. Speaker, this process is not good; it is not a better way; it is rotten; and the rule the majority will put on this floor tomorrow will be even worse. We are jamming through these important appropriation bills together, limiting debate, and moving further away from regular order.

We don't need this rule, and we don't need a self-executing rule tomorrow. Now, if we defeat the previous question on this rule, I will offer an amendment to open up this process and consider the Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Energy and Water Appropriation bills each under a modified open rule. I yield.

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 (Mr. LUCETT-MEYER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

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

Let me just recap with this. Mr. Speaker: Members have a chance to vote for an open amendment process on these appropriations bills. That is what this PQ vote is about.

Republicans will not control this House forever, and I hope that no Member who votes against this open rule amendment today will have the audacity to criticize any future Democratic majorities. If they do, Mr. Speaker, I assure you, we will remind them of this vote.

To discuss our proposal, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, a lot of Members don't know what a previous question motion is, and that is not really a surprise, because it is usually used to set up some issues, and it is a party-line vote. This is different.

This is different because this would allow amendments to be offered to these appropriations bills. Now, the amendment process in appropriations is one of the few times that Members of Congress have an opportunity to offer that amendment. As we all know, not just Democrats. It is Republicans, too.

I recall very well—I am a member, I am a co-chair of the Fourth Amendment Caucus. It is Congressman Ted Poe and myself. As Members of the Fourth Amendment Caucus did was we put together an amendment that actually reformed section 702 of the PATRIOT Act. What it said was you can't query the database accumulated under section 702 without a warrant. It is pretty obvious the Fourth Amendment protects Americans. That passed by a huge bipartisan vote twice. We don't get to offer that amendment this time because it is not an open rule.

I am just asking that we treat this previous question vote as very different than the usual garden variety previous question vote, because this is different. This isn't about ideology. This isn't about 30-second adds and all that nonsense. This is about the opportunity—Republicans and Democrats, Members of Congress—to offer an amendment in important areas, especially the Fourth Amendment.

So please vote "yes" on the previous question this time, and let's have open rules. Let's have democracy in America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

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

I just want to quickly respond to my friends and remind them that it wasn't Republicans that got rules on appropriations. It was my friends. So you can't set one standard for yourself, and then say: But you now have to go back to the way it was. We now have to be treated as a minority, in contrast to the way that we treated you.

I am sorry, that is just difficult. We actually tried to do that for a couple of years, and we did come back to open rules. And I would still prefer that, to tell you the truth, I have lost this argument in my own conference.

But if my friends will recall, last year on, I believe, the Energy and
Water Appropriations bill, they slipped an amendment in. It was perfectly legitimate for them to do so. It was an open rule. They got that amendment adopted. They did not vote for the bill, even though the amendment was adopted after a number of votes, in sequence, because of the amendment.

So there is always that calculus when you put these things together. There is a difference between an amendment that is a substantive amendment to the legislation that is unrelated and a poison-pill amendment. Our side just decided they weren’t going to subject themselves to that any longer. I am not sure that I agree with that decision, but that is the reality of where we are.

There is a second consideration here, too, in terms of limitation that I think is worth noting. We are moving under an expedited situation because we began this process late. I want to take responsibility for that on our side of the aisle.

I think all of the appropriations bills could have and should have been finished for FY17 in December of 2016. Instead, they allow the administration to have input. We pushed that off and did a 4-month continuing resolution. During that period, we did not negotiate back and forth. We finally passed a bill in April. So we are moving with exceptional speed.

I think it is pretty remarkable at this point that all 12 appropriations bills have been reported out of committee, and are preparing to go here. Our party, I think, a smart decision, that in here are four that all relate to a common theme of security for the country. Let’s get those done. That is sort of first things first.

Let’s come back and deal with the other eight in September. It is my hope that that is what we will do, probably in packages. But we are trying to move quickly.

It is also finally worth noting that, again, this process, compared to the process of Democratic friends followed, is far more open. There are far more amendments now, even under a structured rule like this, than they allowed when they were in the majority on appropriations bills.

We can go get the numbers and count, but we are at least trying to get back to getting the bills to the floor and having a pretty generous latitude for serious amendments. We will always be the process by which one or more amendments are made in order. A lot of Republican amendments weren’t made in order either, but 72 amendments on an appropriations bill is a lot of amendments.

Hopefully, this process can get better as we go forward. I want to work with my friends in that regard, but I am still very proud of the product that we are presenting and very proud of the number of amendments that are being allowed.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter signed by a number of civil rights groups, education groups, environmental groups, and women’s groups in opposition to this minibus.

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

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Dear Representative: On behalf of our coalition of almost 90 environmental, faith, immigration, civil rights, and human rights organizations, we are writing to strongly urge you to oppose funding for the continued construction of a border wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. The construction of a border wall serves as a symbol of hostility towards immigrants, and undermines the civil rights of communities living along the southern border. It also imposes environmental costs and natural disaster threats on border communities, especially indigenous communities, harms native wildlife and wastes tens of billions in taxpayer dollars.

As the House moves to consider the Fiscal Year 2018 Security Minibus, H.R. 2129, we are gravely concerned about the inclusion of $1.6 billion slated for border wall construction in this legislative package undermines a fair and transparent legislative process. Instead of allowing legislators and the public to fully consider the impacts of funding wall construction, the Majority is using rushed and under-handed legislative maneuvers to circumvent the vast and legitimate opposition that exists for this measure, even within their own party.

Including border wall funding in a Security Minibus is based on the false premise that environmental and environmental security. This false premise has been used to justify and advance anti-immigrant, anti-border, pro-criminalization, and anti-environment legislation that has negative economic and civil rights impacts on border communities. The fact is that communities along the border are some of the safest in the country. According to the FBI’s Uniformed Crime Reports, cities on the border are safer than cities away from the border. Places like El Paso, Texas have long topped the lists of safest cities for both crime and violence.

Additionally, according to the American Immigration Council, communities with more immigrants are likely to be safer than places with fewer immigrants. Border walls are an ineffective tool in curtailing undocumented migration between the United States and nations south of the border. Rather than deter migration, the current 650-mile barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border has forced vulnerable migrant populations to pursue more dangerous routes of travel. The continued construction of a border wall portends an attitude of hatred and animosity towards our neighboring nations and their people. In addition, if this wall would undermine indigenous border communities, potentially destroying elements of their history, archeology, and culture. Border security measures must consider the historic Tribal lands and families occupying the southern border.

Finally, the current proposal in Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations legislation for the construction of 60 miles of levee border wall in the South Texas Rio Grande Valley; 28 miles would be levee-border wall, with 2.9 miles dedicated to the construction of a levee in the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge. This Refuge is home to diverse wildlife species, ecosystems, and rich natural beauty. When levee border walls are constructed, they pose severe flooding risks, destroy natural habitats, and lead to potential increased extinction rates. In order to construct existing border-walls, dozens of laws protecting our environment, public health, and sacred natural lands were waived. Our nation’s national parks, vibrant wildlife, and healthy ecosystems are an unacceptable sacrifice to make for ineffective security measures.

All of the above reasons, we strongly urge you to vote NO on the Fiscal Year 2018 Security Minibus, and oppose funding for border walls, levees, or additional infrastructure along the southern border of the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CIVIL RIGHTS
Mi Familia Vote, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), Honors PAC, UnidosUS (formerly NCLR), American Civil Liberties Union, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta, The City Project, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCPAPA), League of United Latin American Citizens, EPCF.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

EDUCATION/HIGHER EDUCATION
National Education Association, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Earthjustice, Wildlands Network, Sierra Club, International League of Conservation Photographers, Students for a Just and Stable Future, Earthworks, Friends of the Earth, Environmental Protection Information Center, Turtle Island Restoration Center, Center for Biological Diversity, Jesus People Against Pollution, Food Empowerment Project.


REligIOUS/FAITH ORGANIZATIONS


HUMAN RIGHTS/WOMEN’S RIGHTS
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, OneAmerica, Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans, Immigration Coalition Derechos Humanos, National Immigrant Justice Center, No More Deaths, Architects, Designers, Planners For Social Responsibility (ADPSR), Ledium’s Community Center—Monterrey, Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF), Tucson Samaritans, People Helping People in
the Border Zone, Friends of Broward Detainees.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Detention Watch Network, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, End-Streamline Coalition.

LABOR/WORKERS RIGHTS
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA), Jobs With Justice, Arkansas Immigrant Coalition.

LATINO CIVIL/HUMAN RIGHTS/LATINO LABOR

LGBTQ RIGHTS
National Center for Transgender Equality, Equality California, Entre Hermanos.

Mr. MCOVERNS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter signed by 18 environmental groups opposed to H.R. 3219.

JULY 26, 2017.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our millions of members, the undersigned organizations urge you to oppose H.R. 3219, the so-called Make American Secure Appropriations Act, which includes the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Legislative Branch, and Energy and Water funding bills. This package includes provisions to undermine clean energy innovation, undermines safe nuclear waste storage, and attacks border communities. Furthermore, this bill continues the House Leadership’s pattern of adding harmful policy riders into spending bills in an attempt to avoid regular order. Lastly, the inclusion of $120 million to fund the border wall, an ineffective security measure, would lead to the construction of 60 miles of new border wall to be built in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, including levee-border walls and 2.9 miles built within the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge is home to diverse wildlife species, ecotourism opportunities, and rich natural beauty. When levee-border walls are constructed, they negatively impact wildlife migration, pose nuclear waste flooding risks, destroy natural habitats, and can increase the risk of wildlife extinctions occurring. In order to construct existing border walls, dozens of laws protecting our environment, public health, and sacred natural lands were waived. Our nation’s natural habitats, vibrant wildlife, and health are an unacceptable sacrifice to make for ineffective security measures.

WATER PROVISIONS
The Energy and Water Appropriations division includes policy riders and report language in contravention of regular order. Specifically, Sec. 108(a) aims to allow the Trump administration to disregard countless laws as it carries out a scheme to undermine clean water safeguards. The provision would authorize EPA and the Army Corps to waive or delay without following basic and longstanding processes aimed at giving people a voice in their government’s actions. For instance, a repeal could ignore the Clean Water Rule and Administative Procedure Act requirements to meaningfully consider public comment. It could also interfere with the courts’ ability to review EPA’s regulatory action for criteria. This fact reveals the real motivation for the rider—its proponents want to shield the Trump administration’s repeal of carefully-developed clean water protections from public scrutiny and from independent judicial review. Without the Clean Water Rule, the streams that help supply public drinking water systems serving one in three Americans will remain at risk.

Additionally, Sec. 107 would exempt certain discharges of dredged or fill material from Army Corps’ permitting under the Clean Water Act. The Act already exempts these kinds of activities from such permits, but requires permitting when the impacts to waterways would be harmful. This rider would have the effect of negating Congress’s direction to subject those non-exempt discharges to pollution control officials review. It would undermine the restoration of the San Joaquin River, the second longest river in California. Sec. 203 would prohibit spending any funds to implement the legal settlement between the United States, fishing and conservation groups, and Friant water users regarding the restoration of the Friant–Kern Canal. The settlement ended 20 years of litigation and continues to be supported by water users, conservation and fishing groups, and state and federal governments.

Finally, the bill also includes a provision to halt implementation of the National Ocean Policy (Sec. 505), an important planning tool to coordinate the work of dozens of federal and state agencies with overlapping and sometimes conflicting responsibilities for addressing ocean development. These riders, and any further damaging policy provisions that will be offered, undercut the public process for determining how to implement the laws that Congress has passed. They are bad policies that will put America’s health and safety at risk and they have no place on a funding bill.

ENERGY PROVISIONS
The bill also dramatically cuts federal clean energy provisions that have consistently proven its worth by directly RD&D funds that drive job creation, economic growth and reduce health and environmental costs. The coalition’s bill cuts funding for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by $1 billion (48% reduction) from FY 2017—$1.6 billion for the continued construction of the MOX fuel fabrication plant. Congress should reject the MOX program and support an improved approach for disposing of excess plutonium.

Furthermore, this bill eliminates the Innovative Nuclear Energy Systems program, caps the Title 17 loan guarantee program. Congress should reject the MOX program and support an improved approach for disposing of excess plutonium.

The bill also includes a rider in Sec. 507 that prevents funds being used to close the facility. Decades from now others will face the precise predicament we find ourselves in today if Congress chooses to ram through legislation that appropriately decontaminated and cleans up nuclear waste solutions contentiously opposed by states, lacking a sound legal structure of science-based foundation, and devoid of public input. Congress must reject their efforts to quickly open Yucca Mountain and an interim storage facility simply will not work.

This bill also rejects the sensible plan to cancel the risky and enormously costly mixed oxide (MOX) program, intended to dispose of excess plutonium in a nuclear weapons program by turning it into nuclear reactor fuel. Instead this bill mandates that the Department of Energy waste an additional $340 million on construction of the MOX fuel fabrication plant. Congress should reject the MOX program and support an improved approach for disposing of excess plutonium.

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We strongly oppose this minibus package, which would put our energy future at risk and would harm border communities, and it includes poison pill riders on our nation’s public health, air, water, lands, and wildlife. We also urge opposition to any amendments that would harm health and the environment.

Sincerely,


Mr. MCOVERNS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Coalition on Human Needs against this minibus.

COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS, WASHINGTON, DC, JULY 25, 2017.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs, I strongly urge you to vote against the package of military and military-related appropriations bills that will come to the House floor this week. These appropriations bills—including those for Defense, Military Construction and Veterans’ Affairs, Legislative Branch, and Energy and Water—should not be taken up until there is a bipartisan agreement to lift the sequestration caps for in the Budget Control Act in a way that provides for increased funding for domestic and international (non-defense discretionary, or NDD) appropriations, not just for the military.

As you know, defense appropriations exceed the Budget Control Act cap for FY 2018 by $72 billion. Without legislation to raise the caps for the seques- ration, funding will likely increase through across-the-board cuts to military programs. Legislation to lift the caps requires bipartisan support, and we expect that support will not be forthcoming without an agreement to raise the caps for non-defense discretionary spending as well.

The Coalition on Human Needs, which is made up of organizations representing millions of human service providers, faith organizations, policy experts, civil rights, labor, and other advocates concerned with meeting the needs of low-income and vulnerable people, strongly believes that our national security depends on a balanced approach that invests in our domestic needs. Our people gain security from increased funding for education and training, affordable housing, a reliable and modern infrastructure, and child care
and other work supports. We need public health protections from epidemics and environmental protections to ensure clean air and water and to protect against climate disasters.

Domestic human needs programs is necessary for our security and our future. NDD programs apart from Veterans Affairs will be cut by $23 billion in fiscal year 2018, 17 percent below the previous year, and 25 percent below the level in FY 2010, taking inflation into account. This harsh cut abandons previous congressional commitments to provide defense and non-defense programs with equal relief from sequestration. We urge you to vote against this package of appropriations bills because they should not be considered without a comprehensive agreement to lift the caps for all the programs that contribute to our security.

We also ask you to vote against this package of appropriations bills because it includes wasteful funding for the border wall that will not increase our security, and to oppose extraneous and irresponsible policy riders such as those restricting opportunities for young people in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to enter the military or weakening the Congressional Budget Office.

We particularly object to the inclusion of poison pill riders in the appropriations bill, one of which threatens to upend a bipartisan agreement to lift sequestration caps for non-defense programs, not solely for the military.

Sincerely yours,
DEBORAH WEINSTEIN,
Executive Director.

Mr. MCOVNERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter to my colleagues from AFSCME opposed to this bill.

AFSCME,

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to oppose the "MINIBUS" appropriations bill which packages together the Defense, Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, Legislative Branch, and Energy and Water Appropriations bills.

Congress should not craft funding bills that unilaterally violate the Budget Control Act (BCA) and the parity principle. In this case, defense was increased far above the cap while non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending is severely underfunded. In fact, passing this bill will not promote American security; rather it charts a direct course for deep cuts to the military. The defense funding levels would trigger sequestration in January 2018, requiring cuts of $72 billion. Further, dramatically increasing only defense funding endangers investments in essential public services. This is evidenced by House Appropriations bills' deep cuts to $5 billion below the current non-defense caps and deep cuts that harm labor, health, human services, education, housing, transportation and other important programs. In addition, the deep cuts that labor, health, human services, education, housing, transportation and other important programs.

A budget deal remains the most likely path toward enactment of appropriation bills that responsibly meet the nation's national security and domestic needs. AFSCME urges Congress to focus attention on a budget solution that provides commensurate increases for both defense and non-defense programs, the best way to avoid a fall budget showdown that would leave defense and all government programs, including state and local governments, in the lurch with considerable budget uncertainty and the threat of deep and damaging cuts.

We also oppose this minibus package, because it creates a new level of egregious riders by air-dropping in controversial funding for a border wall that is unrelated to any of the four bills.

It's time to address the most basic of congressional responsibilities, which means passing clean funding bills in a timely manner under regular order.

Sincerely,
SCOTT FREY,
Director of Federal Government Affairs.

Mr. MCOVNERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter sent to my colleagues in opposition to this bill from American Federation of Teachers.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS,

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I write to express our strong opposition to the FY 2018 appropriations 

American Federation of Teachers,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, in our strong opposition to the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018 (H.R. 3219), the fiscal year 2018 minibus bill that bundles together the appropriations bills for defense, energy and water development, military construction, Veterans Affairs and the legislative branch. We oppose this bill because it moves in the wrong direction by failing to lift the sequester caps in a manner that maintains parity between defense and nondefense discretionary funding, and by including ideological poison pill riders.

Our national security is critical, but it requires investments that help working families seize economic opportunity and provide retirement security, and by including ideological poison pill riders.

That is why we used this language, because Attorney General Mukasey, a Republican Attorney General, testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 30, 2008, that the President’s War Powers Act isn’t binding on the President, and that the President can send unlimited numbers of troops anywhere in the world to fight any battle without a declaration of war.

I first proposed this language in 2011. It failed at first, but now it has been included in every Defense Appropriations bill since FY12. It is necessary to enforce the War Powers Act because every Attorney General since the 1970s has advised Presidents that the War Powers Act isn’t binding on the President, and that the President can send unlimited numbers of troops anywhere in the world to fight any battle without a declaration of war.

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I thank the committee for including this language.

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

I certainly would never expect my friend to vote for the rule. I mean, I don’t think I have ever voted for a Democratic rule. I know very few Democrats have ever voted for our rules. I don’t think I know any. So that is kind of a normal part of the Chamber.

What I want to commend the gentleman for getting that language into the bill. Again, I respect the gentleman’s right to not vote for the bill. It is a big bill. There are lots of different things in it. But I think he makes an important point, indirectly, that there are lots of overlapping things where we do agree inside this bill. My friends are certainly free to vote “no,” and I suspect many will.

There are many occasions in a bill like this, particularly related to defense and particularly related to veterans, where the component parts actually have enormous bipartisan support.
That is certainly true in the Veterans Administration. It is certainly true with the gentleman’s provision that he has gotten in now successive bills even under Republican Congresses.

I want to commend him for his work in that regard. I agree very much with his intention. I thank my friend from Massachusetts and I may have some differences on this and that process, but that is another person that I agree with in terms of the War Powers Act and the terms of trying to get a new AUMF and reclaim congressional power.

I actually think, strangely enough, even though we disagree on this, that this bill starts us maybe down that road again by requiring the administration to submit a report to justify legally where we are and why, to tell us the strategy, to lay out the costs.

I commend my friend, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Roybal-Allard, hearing on this. I see us moving back in that way toward regular order and, hopefully, toward common ground.

Again, I understand my friend’s objections, even when I don’t agree with him. I thank my friend from California for pointing out that there are parts where we do agree. They are important, and they are incorporated in this bill. Maybe we can make it better in the amendment process.

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

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

I include in the Record a letter from Amnesty International rejecting the border wall funding.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA URGES HOUSE TO REJECT SOUTHERN BORDER WALL FUNDING

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of Amnesty International and our more than one million members and supporters nationwide, we strongly urge you to reject any and all requests included in H.R. 6229 (Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2018) for the funding of a southern border wall. The construction of such a wall would pose serious human rights consequences and would violate international law and standards in two major ways.

First, Congress should not approve funding for a wall that will cut through tribal land unless the U.S. government first obtains the free, prior, and informed consent of affected Native American Nations under Article 18 of the United Nations (“UN”) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The U.S. must consult in good faith with Native American Nations who would be impacted by the construction of the proposed wall. The National Congress of American Indians and the Legislative Council of the Tohono O’odham, the second-largest tribe in the United States by land holdings, have both passed resolutions opposing the construction of the wall without tribal consent. Without the free, prior, and informed consent of affected Native American Nations, the House cannot approve border wall funding without violating the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Second, the construction of a border wall risks escalation of the already serious violations experienced by asylum seekers seeking to enter the U.S. In order to provide a fair asylum process, the U.S. must ensure the existence of sufficiently located, secure, regulated border crossing points for asylum seekers. This is essential to ensure that the U.S. government does not violate the principle of non-refoulement, which is enshrined in the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and binding on States Party to the 1967 Protocol.

As Amnesty International strongly urges you to reject funding for any southern border wall, in order to uphold U.S. obligations with respect to Native Americans and arriving asylum seekers.

Sincerely,

JOANNE LIN,
Senior Managing Director, Advocacy and Government Relations.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the Record a letter opposing the funding for the wall from the League of United Latin American Citizens.


House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation’s largest Latino civil rights organization, I write to oppose any legislative attempts to keep funding the construction of a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, the expansion of a Trump deportation force, and the increase of detention beds in immigrant incarceration centers.

As the House moves to consider the Fiscal Year 18 Department of Homeland Security Appropriation bill, and other security-related bills, LULAC is deeply concerned about language that would provide billions for the construction of a costly and divisive wall along the Southern border, as well as hundreds of millions to hire a deportation force and expand immigrant incarceration centers.

The continued criminalization of immigrants, militarization of the border, and rush to build a costly, ineffective, and destructive wall on the U.S.-Mexico border are aims of radical politicians seeking to advance a xenophobic, anti-Latino agenda in this Congress. Unfortunately, the administration has failed to focus on legitimate staffing concerns at ports of entry, rebulding port infrastructure, and protecting the land, water, and environment of the border. Instead, it is looking to seize the private property of border residents, destroy the natural habitat and wildlife in border communities, endanger border water supplies, and turn immigrant neighbors, families, and children into criminals who merit incarceration and deportation.

The House of Representatives should not enable these aims and should oppose any language seeking to advance the radical right-wing agenda of demonizing border communities and scapegoating immigrants. LULAC opposes any DHS appropriation bill, or any other appropriation vehicle, that funds border wall/levese, the hiring of Trump’s deportation force and the continued expansion immigration incarceration.

Sincerely,

ROGER C. ROCHA, Jr.,
National President.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I include in the Record a fact sheet by the Washington Office on Latin America entitled: “Key Points about the $1.6 Billion Border Wall.”

The proposed border wall will not stop drug trafficking. To understand drug trafficking across the U.S.-Mexico border, it’s first necessary to understand the difference.
WASHINGTON—A national butterfly preserve in the heart of the border wall debate as Democrats accuse the GOP of rigging the process to slip wall funding into a package of House spending bills possibly up for a vote this week.

While there are not specific details on exactly where $1.6 billion proposed for President Trump’s border wall will be spent, an amendment sponsored by Rep. John Carter, R-Texas, calls for $498 million to go to 28 miles of “new bollard levee wall” in Hidalgo County in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley—home to the National Butterfly Center.

The amendment also calls for $251 million to repair secondary border fencing in the San Diego area. Another $88.2 million for planning future border wall construction. Another $794 million is for 32 miles of “border bollard fencing” in Starr County, Texas, also in the Rio Grande Valley.

The butterfly center’s executive director Marianna Treviño Wright said she found a worker on the butterfly center’s property last week, and that her authors might be related to construction of the proposed border wall. The workers had chain saws and work trucks and had cut and shredded brush, trees she said.

Treviño Wright said she found surveyor stakes and “X” marks on the property. She posted photos on the center’s web site and Facebook page.

The 100-acre center is part of the wildlife corridor of the lower Rio Grande Valley, which is a migratory flyway for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. The center’s property already is bisected by earthen levees. Two thirds of the property is below the levee, Treviño Wright said.

“The property we have acquired here used to be a commercial onion farm and we have spent the last 15 years fundraising for our efforts, and it has taken years of dedication and exposure in deserts and scrublands. With more fencing, migrants may attempt the crossing in even more remote areas, where the probability of death will be even higher.

THE BORDER WALL WOULD BE DIVISIVE

Building a wall sends a toxic message to one of our two closest neighbors, a country on whose cooperation the United States’ national security and economic prosperity depends. Mexico is the United States’ third-largest trading partner. Our common border is 1,970 miles long. Mexico collaborates on efforts to guard against extra-regional terrorists who might be related to construction of the proposed border wall. The workers had chain saws and work trucks and had cut and shredded brush, trees she said.

Treviño Wright said she found surveyor stakes and “X” marks on the property. She posted photos on the center’s web site and Facebook page.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an NBC News article on the wall being planned to decimate the National Butterfly Center in the wildlife corridor of the lower Rio Grande Valley.

The American Birding Association put out a plea to its members to write and call their members of Congress asking that they stop construction of the wall.

Mr. MCGOVERN, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, told NBC News he did not have information on what plans or hopes there are for putting fencing or a wall on the butterfly center’s property or the Santa Ana Refuge.

In a previously issued news release following a meeting with Rio Grande Valley last week, Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., called the money “self-executing,” setting up the dilemma for opponents of the wall funding.

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THE BORDER WALL WOULD BE DANGEROUS

Miguel Paredes Jr., head of the United We Dream, an advocacy group planning to decimate the National Butterfly Center in the wildlife corridor of the lower Rio Grande Valley.

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That’s an approach that’s been employed by both sides, mandating legislation from the top down, without any support from the other side, with all the parliamentary maneuvers that requires. “We’re getting nothing done.”

I agree with Senator McCaIN, and I believe that a majority in this House, Democrats and Republicans, agree with Senator McCaIN. But at some point we have to stop saying: “Well, we will get better. We will get better. It will be better next time. It will be better next time.”

Because what is happening is, it is getting worse each time we bring legislation or appropriations to the floor. We are getting more and more restrictive. We are shutting out more and more voices, not just Democratic voices, but Republican voices as well.

This is a deliberative body. We ought to be able to deliberate a little bit. And both Democrats and Republicans have good points. Let us use this opportunity to change things, to go back to the regular order that Senator McCaIN talked so eloquently about yesterday.

There is an opportunity to do that. It doesn’t stop us considering the appropriations bills, but what it says is that we will do so under an open rule. We will go back to the way we all say we want it to be, an open process.

If you like some of these amendments, you vote for them. You make this legislation better. If you don’t like the amendment you voted against, you want to do that. I mean, that is the way this body is supposed to operate; none of this un-handed, self-executing of controversial provisions that may not have the support of the majority in this House.

Let’s go back to regular order. This is the moment. This is a defining moment.

□ 1330

Democrats and Republicans, if you really mean it when you say you want regular order, then you have to vote for regular order once in a while. You can’t keep on making excuses. I think this is the moment that we have on these appropriations bills to send a message to the leadership that we want things done differently here. We want to open things up. I think that is what the majority on both sides really want.

But the question is whether or not we all have the guts to support an open process. So we have an opportunity to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so we can bring this legislation up today under an open rule and consider their amendments. Let’s bring it up. Let’s do this today. No more excuses.

If you mean what you say when you say you want regular order, this is the opportunity to vote for it. So please vote “no” on the previous question. And I appeal to everybody in the body. Maybe I won’t if we can fix it through regular order. Maybe we can add a number of amendments, and even I would support some of these amendments.

Let’s give it a chance. Let’s work in a bipartisan way. Let’s go back to the days when we did have open rules on appropriations. This is the opportunity to do it. Vote “no” on the previous question.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is always my good friend for a spirited and thoughtful debate. He always makes good points. Frankly, I always find myself more comfortable when we are on the same side—as we occasionally are—than when we are on opposite sides.

My friend has made many valuable contributions to this institution, particularly pushing us relentlessly in the right direction of reclaiming our war-making authority. Having said that, it is always good to get a new system, a new way, or a return to open rules without admitting you are the ones that abandoned them. We actually tried to restore them. I regret we failed in that, quite frankly, but I will have to say both sides have gotten used to not doing open rules because they didn’t want to cast tough votes. That is why my friends abandoned the open rule process when they were in the majority in 2009, and, honestly, that is why we abandoned it last year.

I regret I will work with my friend probably not today but going forward in trying to reclaim that because I think when we lost it, we diminished the power of every individual Member in Congress. We thought we were protecting them, but the reality is they now can no longer come to the floor as an individual and present their own idea.

But at least in this case there are 72 amendments. The majority of them are from my friend’s side of the aisle. I would hope going forward, particularly when we consider the next eight appropriations bills, we will continue to be very generous in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to encourage all Members to support the rule. H.R. 3219 represents the first step toward fulfilling our primary obligation as Members of Congress: to fund the government.

We should all be proud of what we have accomplished in putting this bill forward.

The bill contains the provisions of four of the bills passed out of the Appropriations Committee representing the work of the Subcommittees on Defense; Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies; Legislative Branch; and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

The bill will significantly increase funding for national defense and ensure that the men and women in the Armed Forces have the tools they need. We also increase funding to our veterans to ensure our fighting men and women will be taken care of long after they leave the service of their country, and we fund key Member priorities in the areas of Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies; and Legislative Branch.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues for their hard work.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 473 OFFERED BY
Mr. McGovern

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert:

That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill are dispensed with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may appeal to a point of order in recognition of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose. All amendments so printed shall be considered as read. When the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments there to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third day of order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

Ssc. 2. At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2998) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair of the Committee of the Whole may appeal to a point of order in recognition of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read.
the committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments to the bill as ordered on the committee report shall be in order for final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports the bill back to the House with no recommendation, the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIX, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of the bill [H.R. 3296] or H.R. 3296.

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 in favor of offering an amendment, or motion, and who controls the time for debate thereon. The Republican majority may say "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition, and the Minority Leader, and not the Speaker, may control the motion for the previous question." But in a word, the Speaker may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adoption of the resolution, and [the previous question] in this sense, has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time for debate thereon, may offer an amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, all moves the previous question on the resolution. The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question on the resolution. The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 in favor of offering an amendment, or motion, and who controls the time for debate thereon. The Republican majority may say "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition, and the Minority Leader, and not the Speaker, may control the motion for the previous question." But in a word, the Speaker may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adoption of the resolution, and [the previous question] in this sense, has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time for debate thereon, may offer an amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.

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Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

**NOT VOTING—10**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the instructions in the each of the amendments numbered 60, 61, and 66 printed in House Report 115–295 be modified by striking “the division” and inserting “the following”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?
There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Speaker 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.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

SECURELY EXPEDITING CLEARANCES THROUGH REPORTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2017

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3210) to require the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau to submit a report on the backlog of personnel security clearance investigations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3210

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency Act of 2017" or the "SECRET Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON BACKLOG OF PERSONNEL SECURITY CLEARANCE INVESTIGATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter for 5 years, the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau of the Office of Personnel Management shall submit to Congress a report on the backlog of security clearance investigations that includes—

(1) the size of the personnel security clearance investigations backlog and

(2) the average length of time, for each sensitivity level, to carry out an initial investigation and a periodic investigation.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON BACKGROUND CLEARANCE INVESTIGATIONS OF PERSONNEL OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau of the Office of Personnel Management shall submit to Congress a report that explains the process for conducting and adjudicating security clearance investigations for personnel of the Executive Office of the President, including White House personnel.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON DUPLICATE COSTS.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau of the Office of Personnel Management shall submit to Congress a report on the cost of duplicating resources under the control or direction of the National Background Investigations Bureau for implementation of the plan referenced in section 951(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (10 U.S.C. 1564 note).

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

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

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

There was none.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 3210, the SECRET Act of 2017, introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. KNIGHT).

Mr. Speaker, the backlog of security clearance investigations causes tremendous waste for Federal employees and contractors and jeopardizes our national security.

There are thousands of jobs waiting to be filled in important national security positions and at least as many qualified Americans eagerly ready to fill them because they are waiting on their background investigation.

As of June 2017, the backlog stood at 650,000 clearances for employees, new hires, and contractors waiting either for an investigation or a re-investigation. Many of those people are unable to perform their jobs while waiting, leading to contract delays and a pure waste of time.

Mr. Speaker, in order to fix the problem, you have to start by understanding the problem. Fixing the background investigation backlog requires information on the size, scope, and nature of the problem.

Currently, Congress receives information about the size of the backlog through briefings—only through briefings. We receive no regular data on the backlog and have no way to track progress over time.

My colleagues from California and Virginia, Representative KNIGHT and Representative GERALD CONNOLLY, authored this bipartisan bill to provide Congress the information it needs to assess these backlog investigations.

H.R. 3210, Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency Act, requires a simple quarterly report from the National Background Investigations Bureau known as NBIB.

The report will disclose the size of the backlog and the average length of an investigation broken down by level of clearance. Additionally, this bill requires two nonpartisan reports to help Congress plan potential reforms to the background investigation security clearance process.

NBIB will be required to issue a report describing the general security clearance procedure in the Executive Office of the President. The bill also requires NBIB to issue a report on the duplicate costs that would likely arise from transferring responsibility for background investigations to the Department of Defense.

Like the quarterly backlog report, this report will help Congress determine whether proposed options to reduce the backlog would do so or actually would increase it.

This bill is an important first step in addressing the security clearance investigation backlog, thereby reducing waste and increasing our Nation’s security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan good government bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan for his remarks. Congressman STEVE KNIGHT and I introduced H.R. 3210, the Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency Act, or SECRET, to enable Congress to monitor the efficiency of the background investigation process. This bipartisan bill was passed unanimously by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

H.R. 3210 imposes a commonsense requirement on the National Background Investigations Bureau to report to Congress on backlogs that develop in the background investigation process.

Backlogs have plagued us in the past, as my friend from Michigan just said. In 2004, when the Department of Defense was the lead agency performing background investigations, the Government Accountability Office estimated that the backlog was 375 days, more than 1 year. Over 100,000 new investigations or re-investigations were delayed by that backlog.

In response, Congress transferred responsibility for those investigations to the Office of Personnel Management, and more recently, created the National Background Investigations Bureau within the Office of Personnel Management.

H.R. 3210 will provide Congress with the transparency needed to conduct oversight of the National Background Investigations Bureau and to help prevent backlogs like that in the future.

I am also pleased that the bill includes an amendment I offered in committee to require a report to Congress on duplicative costs to assist us in making decisions that protect taxpayers.

Last year, a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act asked the Department of Defense to develop a separate plan, to transfer responsibility for those background investigations of DOD personnel to the Pentagon instead of the National Background Investigations Bureau.

The Bureau would continue to perform other background investigations for all the other government agencies, except the Pentagon. If that plan were implemented, resources and capabilities that are currently under the direction of the Bureau would have to be duplicated by the Department of Defense.

H.R. 3210 would require a report to Congress on the cost of those duplicative resources and efforts. For Congress
to make an informed choice on who should be responsible for conducting background investigations, we have got to know the costs.

Finally, the Oversight Committee also adopted an amendment offered by my friend and colleague, the Congressman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI), that would require a report on the process for performing and adjudicating background investigations for personnel in the Executive Office of the President.

This would help Congress ensure that those with access to the most sensitive information in the White House are thoroughly vetted.

And I thank the gentleman for his thoughtful amendment which also passed unanimously in our committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 3210. I am proud to be the original Democratic cosponsor.

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KNIGHT), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. CONNOLLY for his help and his partnership in the SECRET Act. Today, I rise in support of this straightforward bipartisan legislation, the SECRET Act, or Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency Act.

I am proud to say that this bill originated from concerns voiced by my constituents. California’s 25th District serves as a hub for many national security programs, and by extension, requires a highly skilled, security-cleared industrial base and workforce. But this doesn’t just affect southern California. This is a national issue and must be addressed now.

Many employers are either unable to recruit workers due to excessive backlog of security clearance investigations or are forced to place employees in unfulfilling positions while they wait unacceptable amounts of time for their investigations to be completed.

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to live in a country with selfless citizens who seek to serve our Nation in critical national security positions and work towards safety at home and abroad. We need these bright minds to solve incredibly difficult problems and develop the next generation of American-made technology. We should reward them for choosing to work toward something greater than themselves, not punish them for jobs they don’t want just because our bureaucracies can’t move fast enough.

I introduced the SECRET Act so Congress can do its job of oversight better. The transparency afforded in this bill will better inform us of how substantial the clearance backlog is and how long it takes for investigations to be completed. Equipped with that information, we will hold the executive branch accountable and keep our country safe.

I thank Chairman GOWDY and his committee staff for the diligent work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues for their support.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend, Mr. KNIGHT, for this bill. His leadership is really critical.

In my district, like his, thousands and thousands of jobs are open because of this issue. We simply haven’t gotten the security clearances done in an expeditious way. We want them thorough, but we also, frankly, want our national security being addressed at full throttle, and that means full employment in these jobs.

I couldn’t agree more with his sentiments, and I thank him again for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI), my friend and colleague and one of the up-and-coming stars of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding, and I thank Mr. KNIGHT and Mr. MITCHELL for their leadership on this. I also want to thank Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS for all that he has done to try to get the answers about executive branch background checks.

For over 6 months, various Oversight and Government Reform Committee members have been working to get basic answers from the White House about its process for granting security clearances. In a February 2017 hearing, my colleague, Congresswoman PLASKETT, asked the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau if any senior administration officials with access to sensitive material were under criminal investigation. Chairman Chaffetz specifically asked the Office of Personnel Management to get back to Representatives Platt and Staples about her request. Unfortunately, neither OPM nor NBIB have answered these basic questions. That is why I am pleased that the Oversight and Government Reform Committee unanimously adopted my amendment during consideration of H.R. 3210 last week.

My amendment is very simple. It requires the NBIB to report to Congress on the process for conducting and adjudicating security clearances at the White House.

This bill is a necessary first step for Congress to conduct the oversight necessary to ensure that all personnel in the U.S. Government, regardless of administration, regardless of office, regardless of the President who happens to be in office at the time, will be thoroughly vetted and will not pose a threat to our national security.

I encourage all Members to support this bipartisan bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, this issue that Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI refers to is an issue that spans administrations and requires attention not for partisan matters, but for the safety and security of our country.

I am pleased with the amendment. I supported the amendment in committee, and, as noted, it did pass unanimously.

The reason I support this bill is because it pursues some commonsense goals. Think about it: 650,000 outstanding requests, and the only way we get information on that is we get a briefing, no routine reporting.

I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as I noted, I am new here in Congress, and I was astonished to find that we had no routine reporting on security clearances. I was astonished to find how much of a backlog we face and the damage it is doing to national security inefficiency.

I support this bill because it pursues a commonsense goal: transparency and efficient operation of the government.

I support the amendment on transparency on oversight of the clearances in the White House because I think it is something that should have happened a long time ago.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3210, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. McLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the
bill (H.R. 2370) to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and conveyance.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2370

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the ‘‘Escambia County Land Conveyance Act’’.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) COUNTY.—The term ‘‘County’’ means Escambia County, Florida.

(2) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term ‘‘non-Federal land’’ means the former Santa Rosa Island National Monument land in the State that was conveyed by the United States to the County under the Act of July 30, 1946 (60 Stat. 712, chapter 699), and by deed dated January 15, 1947.

(3) STATE.—The term ‘‘State’’ means the State of Florida.

SEC. 3. RECONVEYANCE OF NON-FEDERAL LAND TO ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

(a) In general.—Notwithstanding the restrictions on conveyance in the Act of July 30, 1946 (60 Stat. 712, chapter 699), and the deed to the non-Federal land from the United States to the County dated January 15, 1947, and notwithstanding subsections (c) through (g), the County may convey all right, title, and interest of the County in and to the non-Federal land or any portion of the non-Federal land, to any person or entity, without any restriction on conveyance or reconveyance imposed by the United States in that Act or deed.

(b) EFFECT ON LEASEHOLD INTERESTS.—No person or entity holding a leasehold interest in the non-Federal land as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be required to voluntarily accept a fee interest to the non-Federal land in place of the leasehold interest.

(c) CONVEYANCE OF LAND WITHIN SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the authority granted to the County to convey the non-Federal land under subsection (a), the County shall convey all right, title, and interest of the County in and to any portion of the non-Federal land that is within the jurisdictional boundaries of Santa Rosa County, Florida, to the County, by the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A conveyance under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be absolute;

(B) terminate—

(i) any subjugation of Santa Rosa County, Florida, to the County; or

(ii) any regulation of Santa Rosa County, Florida, by the County; and

(C) without consideration, except that the County may require Santa Rosa County, Florida, to pay the actual costs associated with the conveyance of the non-Federal land to Santa Rosa County, Florida, under paragraph (1), Santa Rosa County, Florida—

(3) ASSUMPTION OF OWNERSHIP; IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS.—On conveyance of the non-Federal land to Santa Rosa County, Florida, under paragraph (1), Santa Rosa County, Florida—

(A) shall assume ownership of the non-Federal land free of the restrictions on the non-Federal land imposed in subsection (g); and

(B) may establish any lawful restrictions on, or criteria for the reconveyance of, the non-Federal land to any leaseholder of the non-Federal land.

SEC. 4. RECONVEYANCE.—Santa Rosa County, Florida, or any other person to whom Santa Rosa County, Florida, conveys the non-Federal land may reconvey the non-Federal land or any portion of the non-Federal land conveyed to Santa Rosa County, Florida, under paragraph (1), Santa Rosa County, Florida, under paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. INCORPORATION OR ANNEXATION.—An owner or leaseholder of the non-Federal land conveyed under this section may pursue incorporation or reorganization, or any other governmental status for the non-Federal land, if the owner or leaseholder complies with the legal conditions required for incorporation, annexation, or the other governmental status.

SEC. 6. JURISDICTION.—The non-Federal land shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the county or unit of local government in which the non-Federal land is located.

SEC. 7. PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds from the conveyance of the non-Federal land by the County or Santa Rosa County, Florida (other than amounts paid for the direct and incidental costs associated with the conveyance) under this section shall—

(1) be considered windfall profits; and

(2) revert to the United States.

SEC. 8. PRESERVATION.—As a condition of the grant of authority to convey the non-Federal land under subsection (a), the County shall preserve in perpetuity the areas of the non-Federal land that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, are dedicated for conservation, preservation, public recreation access, and public parking, in accordance with any resolutions of the Board of Commissioners of the County.

SEC. 9. DETERMINATION OF COMPLIANCE.—The County and Santa Rosa County, Florida—

(1) except as provided in subsection (c)(1), shall not be subject to any requirement to make any conveyance or reconveyance of the non-Federal land authorized under this section; and

(2) may establish terms for the conveyance or reconveyance of the non-Federal land authorized under this section, subject to this Act and applicable State law.

SEC. 10. THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. GAETZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

SEC. 11. GENERAL ELEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California (Mr. GAETZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California (Mr. GAETZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY)?

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair for the gentlemand prefacing his remarks, which this bill completely ignores. We understand how important this bill is for Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, but honoring the original intent of this land grant is as important as well.

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair for the gentleman’s prefacing his remarks, which this bill completely ignores. We understand how important this bill is for Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, but honoring the original intent of this land grant is as important as well.

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by tempoing the concerns raised by my friend from Missouri. A provision in the bill—and I will simply read it—I think, answers his concerns rather clearly. It says: ‘‘. . . the county shall preserve in perpetuity the areas of the non-Federal land that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, are dedicated for conservation, preservation, public recreation access, and public parking, in accordance with any resolutions of the Board of Commissioners of the county.’’

Mr. MCCINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield my self such time as I may consume.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by asssuing the concerns raised by my friend from Missouri. A provision in the bill—and I will simply read it—I think, answers his concerns rather clearly. It says: ‘‘. . . the county shall preserve in perpetuity the areas of the non-Federal land that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, are dedicated for conservation, preservation, public recreation access, and public parking, in accordance with any resolutions of the Board of Commissioners of the county.’’

Mr. Speaker, I yield my self such time as I may consume.

Mr. MCCINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield my self such time as I may consume.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by asssuing the concerns raised by my friend from Missouri. A provision in the bill—and I will simply read it—I think, answers his concerns rather clearly. It says: ‘‘. . . the county shall preserve in perpetuity the areas of the non-Federal land that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, are dedicated for conservation, preservation, public recreation access, and public parking, in accordance with any resolutions of the Board of Commissioners of the county.’’
As my friend has pointed out, Congress established the Santa Rosa National Monument and directed the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Federal land in the monument to Escambia County, Florida, back in 1946. Just 6 months later, the land was deeded to the county. Under the terms of the conveyance, Escambia County was given the authority to lease the property on Santa Rosa Island; however, they were not allowed to issue title on the property or otherwise dispose of it or convey it.

In the intervening years since then, Santa Rosa Island has experienced tremendous economic growth. This growth prompted county leaders to assess property taxes on the leased lands. The imposition of taxes led to several lawsuits centered on the question of whether island residents and businesses paying lease fees for their land could be taxed, despite not having outright ownership of the property.

Courts have reached different conclusions based on differences in the language of particular leases, which has created fairness issues for the county governments of Escambia and Santa Rosa. These property may be subject to property taxes, while a virtually identical property next door may not. This uneven treatment has prompted interest in removing the deed restriction prohibiting conveyance, which then allows the county governments to convey or create a uniform tax treatment for all properties on the beach.

Recently, both Escambia County and neighboring Santa Rosa County passed resolutions asking for a Federal solution to allow current Santa Rosa Island leaseholders the option of attaining fee simple title while protecting public access to the beaches and conservation areas on the island.

I called a colleague, Congressman GAGTZ, for listening to his constituents and working to find a solution.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I appreciate my friend from California for that explanation. Hopefully, my colleague, Representative GAGTZ, will try to strike a balance between protecting our environment, protecting the pristine nature of that island, as well as looking out for the best interests of his constituents when this bill gets to the Senate. So, therefore, we will not oppose it.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. I would simply add that one of the overarching objectives of the Federal Lands Subcommittee is to restore the Federal Government as a good neighbor to those communities impacted by the public lands. This bill is an example of that principle at work, and I would urge adoption of the measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2370) to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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SEC. 2. PURPOSES.
The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to recognize—

(A) the importance of the African American civil rights movement; and

(B) the sacrifices made by the people who fought against discrimination and segregation; and

(2) to authorize the National Park Service to coordinate and facilitate Federal and non-Federal activities to commemorate, honor, and interpret—

(A) the history of the African American civil rights movement;

(B) the significance of the civil rights movement as a social element in the evolution of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.); and

(C) the relevance of the African American civil rights movement to the National Register of Historic Places.

SEC. 3. U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK PROGRAM.

(a) In general.—Subdivision I of Division B of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 3083 the following:

"CHAPTER 3084—U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS NETWORK"

"Sec. 308401. Definition of network.
308402. U.S. Civil Rights Network.
308403. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding.
308404. Sunset.
"(a) In general.—The Secretary shall establish, within the Service, a program to be known as the 'U.S. Civil Rights Network'.
(b) Duties of Secretary.—In carrying out the Network, the Secretary shall—

(1) review studies and reports to complement and not duplicate studies of the historical importance of the African American civil rights movement that may be underway or completed, such as the Civil Rights Framework Study;

(2) produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials relating to the African American civil rights movement, such as handbooks, maps, interpretive guides, or electronic information;

(3) enter into appropriate cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide technical assistance under subsection (c); and

(A) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device for the Network; and

(B) issue regulations for the use of the symbol or device adopted under subparagraph (A).

(c) ELEMENTS.—The Network shall encompass the following elements:

(1) All units and programs of the Service that are determined by the Secretary to relate to the African American civil rights movement during the period from 1939 through 1968.

With the consent of the property owner, other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties—

(A) relate to the African American civil rights movement;

(B) have a verifiable connection to the African American civil rights movement; and

are included in, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

(3) Other governmental and nongovernmental facilities and programs of an educational research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to the African American civil rights movement.

*§ 308403. Cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding.

(2) With the consent of the property owner, other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties that are directly related to the African American civil rights movement.

*§ 308404. Sunset.

This program shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this chapter.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents of title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 3083 the following:

"3084 U.S. Civil Rights Network .........308401"

SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.
There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1927, the African American Civil Rights Network Act, introduced by me, is distinguished committee colleague, Congressman LACY CLAY from Missouri, directs the National Park Service to identify and create a national network of historic sites, research facilities, and educational programs connected to the modern African-American civil rights movement. The network will be comprised of existing units and programs of the National Park Service related to the African-American civil rights movement as well as the properties and programs of other Federal, State, local, and private entities that join the network.

Establishing this network of historic sites connected to the African-American civil rights movement will help preserve the legacy and the struggle of the many courageous individuals who risked their lives to secure racial equality and to put the full measure of the Declaration of Independence and its sacred principles into action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017, updated and bipartisan legislation that I was proud to introduce along with my distinguished colleague from Missouri’s Eighth Congressional District, Congressman JASON SMIRK. I appreciate his leadership and true friendship as well.

Our legislation, which has already earned 72 cosponsors, would authorize the National Park Service to establish a program to preserve and protect the memory of the places that were significant in the struggle to secure equal rights for African Americans during the 20th century’s civil rights era between 1939 and 1968.

The purpose of this legislation is to recognize, protect, and share the remarkable American story of the modern struggle for civil rights, a unique national experience that touches every American regardless of their age, region, or heritage, and yet this very American story is often left untold, without the level of honesty and accuracy that it surely deserves.

In fact, the generation now coming of age has only scant knowledge of the history of the civil rights struggle. Young Americans find it difficult to believe that racial segregation was once considered normal and necessary in the United States. I truly believe that the healing potential for this legislation is essential to bringing our nation together. The historic network that H.R. 1927 would create would offer tremendous educational opportunities by recognizing those brave souls from all walks of life who fought to make the promises enshrined in our Constitution finally ring true for every American regardless of the color of their skin.

Across this great country, precious historic waypoints along the routes of that noble story are at risk of being lost forever.

My hope is that the historic civil rights trails and the programs that will grow from this act will honestly tell the truth and commemorate the painful story of the struggle for civil rights, not just for African Americans, but to foster healing, tolerance, and understanding among all Americans.

This bill is similar to legislation that created the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998, which is currently administered by the National Park Service. It directs the Secretary of the Interior to identify and create a national network of historic sites, stories, research facilities, and educational programs connected to the modern African-American civil rights movement.

This legislation has also earned the strong support of the National Urban League, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, let me also commend the gentleman from California for his support of this legislation that came out of his subcommittee. I appreciate his help and strong support of it.

I look at this opportunity as something that we should all want to embrace the transformative power of the African American Civil Rights movement as well as the Underground Railroad. We should seize it. This bill advances that worthy goal.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that came out of my subcommittee. I appreciate his help and strong support of it.

This story shall a good man teach his son.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Utah (Mrs. LOVE).

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MCCLINTOCK for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1927. Nearly a decade ago, the National Park Service, with the help of the Organization of American Historians, completed a study to help identify significant sites related to the modern civil rights movement. Through this effort, the National Park Service found that many sites with a connection to the movement had not been formally recognized and that many were in severe disrepair and at risk of being permanently lost.

This legislation establishes a network of sites to include all National Park Service’s units and programs, as well as other Federal, State, local, and private sites for the National Register of Historic Places.

A similar network was created previously by Congress to identify and commemorate the sites and stories related to the underground railroad. This bill would allow the National Park Service to build partnerships with other public and private entities to help preserve the remaining sites.

As part of my religious beliefs, I believe that knowing who you are, where you come from, is a foundation of knowing where you are and where you will be going.

History teaches us important lessons that we need to learn and apply from. Because of great leaders like Martin Luther King, President Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, and many unsung heroes, I am here today as a Member of Congress representing the great State of Utah. We can be proud of who we are and what we believe in, that all men are created equal in the eyes of God.

It is imperative that here in the United States, that we don’t make people feel like victims, and that all Americans are not afraid of, but empowered by, their history and our future.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative CLAY for his sponsorship of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1927.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend my colleague, Mrs. LOVE from Utah. And it goes to show you that we can reach across the aisle and find common ground. I appreciate her support of this legislation, as well as I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reciprocate the kind words of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY). It has been a pleasure working with him on this bill.

Shakespeare put it best:

This story shall a good man teach his son.

This bill tells that story of how the full measure of our Nation’s founding principles came to fruition. I would ask for Members’ support and adoption of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1927, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALLING FOR UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF U.S. CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS HELD FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 317) calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran, as amended.
The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 317

Whereas Iran has taken as hostages several United States citizens, including Siamak and Baquer Namazi and Xiyue Wang, as well as United States legal permanent resident, Nizar Zakka;

Whereas Siamak Namazi was detained on October 15, 2015, falsely accused, and convicted on October 18, 2016, for “collaborating with a hostile government” and has been held in Evin prison without a fair trial, for over a year, falsely charged with espionage, and sentenced to 10 years in prison for the same crime as his son;

Whereas former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged Iranian authorities to release Baquer Namazi, whose health status is deteriorating, to allow his family to care for him;

Whereas UNICEF has issued four public statements on Baquer Namazi’s behalf;

Whereas Xiyxue Wang, a graduate student at Princeton University, was arrested in Iran on or about August 7, 2016, while studying Farsi and researching the late Qajar dynasty as background for his doctoral dissertation, detained for a year, falsely charged with espionage, and sentenced to 10 years in prison;

Whereas Robert Levinson, a United States citizen and retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, traveled to Kish Island, Iran, and disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas the United States Government had “secured a commitment from the Iranians . . . to try and gather information about Mr. Levinson’s possible whereabouts” but has not received any information thus far;

Whereas Nizar Zakka, a United States legal permanent resident alien and Lebanese national, who is also in a weakened physical state, was unlawfully detained around September 18, 2015, after presenting at a conference in Iran at Iran’s invitation, and was later charged with being a spy and sentenced to 10 years at the Evin prison;

Whereas, on April 13, 2017, the Department of the Treasury sanctioned the Tehran Prisons and its former warden, Sohrab Soleimani, and White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer noted “The sanctions against human rights abusers in Iran’s prisons come at a time when Iran continues to unjustly detain in its prisons various foreign nationals, including U.S. citizens Siamak Namazi and Baquer Namazi”;

Whereas on April 25, 2017, at the meeting of the Joint Commission overseeing implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Department of State reported that the United States delegation had “raised with the Iranian delegation its serious concerns regarding the cases of U.S. citizens detained and missing in Iran, and called on Iran to immediately release those U.S. citizens so they can be reunited with their families”;

Whereas elements of the Iranian regime are restrictively using nationals, dual-nationalists, and permanent residents from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and other countries to exact political or financial concessions; and

Whereas reports indicate that the Government of Iran is seeking additional payments or other concessions, including relief from economic sanctions and the families of hostages and their government as a condition of release, a practice banned by the 1979 International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages and other international legal norms; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representa-

tives—

(1) calls on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to release unconditionally Siamak Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Xiyue Wang, and any other United States citizen, legal permanent resident alien, or foreign national being unjustly detained in Iran;

(2) urges the President to make the release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens held hostage by the Government of Iran the highest of priorities;

(3) requests that the United States and its allies whose nationals have been detained consider establishing a multinational task force to secure the release of the detainees;

(4) urges the Government of Iran to take meaningful steps towards fulfilling its repeated promises to assist in locating and returning Robert Levinson, including immediately providing all available information from all entities of the Government of Iran regarding the disappearance of Robert Levinson to the United States Government;

(5) encourages the President to take meaningful action to secure the release of Siamak Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Xiyue Wang, Nizar Zakka, and any other United States citizen, legal permanent resident alien, or foreign national being unjustly detained in Iran if the Government of Iran does not release such United States citizens, legal permanent resident aliens, and foreign nationals; and

(6) encourages the President to take meaningful action to secure the return of Robert Levinson if the Government of Iran does not locate and return him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this particular resolution calls for the unconditional release of American citizens and legal permanent residents that are being held as prisoners right now, being held in jail by the Iranian regime.

I would like to begin by thanking the ranking member and the chair of our Middle East Subcommittee—and that’s both Mr. Royce and Mr. Poe, the chair, who is with us, and Mr. Ted Deutch—for their tireless work on behalf of these victims and on behalf of the families. They have introduced this resolution along with Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Congressman Judge Ted Poe.

The reason for it, as you all know, is that Iran just continues to engage in this despicable practice of detaining people who are visiting Iran, and then they come up with fabricated criminal charges, and then these innocent people are held captive; but not just held captive, it is the brutal conditions which they find themselves in. We have talked to those and they have shown us what they have been through, these former prisoners in Iran, these Americans, they describe being subjected to electric shock, to forced drug withdrawal, through whippings, solitary confinement, they are denied medical care oftentimes, and routinely forced to sleep on the floor, if they are permitted to sleep at all.

Right now we have a number of U.S. citizens, Siamak and Baquer Namazi, Xiyue Wang, and U.S. permanent resident Nizar Zakka.

These U.S. citizens and permanent residents were imprisoned after being falsely accused of collaborating with a hostile government or accused of espionage, and have been paralized with fear about how they are being treated.

Why is Iran so intent on holding Americans on bogus politicized charges? It is because the Iranian regime believes it can use detained Americans as leverage to demand concessions, like ransom or sanctions relief, in violation of the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages.

U.S. citizen Robert Levinson, he is still missing, and this is after 10 years. He disappeared 10 years ago in Iran, and Iran has not remotely fulfilled its commitment to try to help locate him.

Our committee has held multiple hearings with these prisoners’ families, most recently yesterday, when family Members testified before our Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, and we thank them for their bravery in sharing their stories.

We stand in solidarity with these citizens and with the families as we call for their release. We can’t imagine the horror that one would be experiencing, but our hearts are with you, and we are committed to advocate on behalf of you and your loved ones.

H. Res. 317 calls on Iran to let these Americans, and all individuals being unjustly detained by Iran, come home.

And it also calls on Iran to fulfill its many promises to help find Bob Levinson. It also urges the President to prioritize the release of the detainees and encourages him to take meaningful action to secure their release.

Last week, the administration called on Iran to release these unjustly detained U.S. citizens, or to face new and serious economic consequences. And we appreciate the administration’s actions so far and, with this resolution, urge continual attention to this matter until all of these prisoners have been safely returned to their families.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.
I rise in support of this measure. Let me thank Chairman Royce, because here again is another piece of legislation from the Foreign Affairs Committee that we have shown we can work together within a bipartisan manner; so I am pleased to stand with the chairman.

I am also pleased to stand with the gentlewoman from Florida, former chairman, and my good friend as well, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. She is now chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, along with the resolution’s other lead sponsors, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. Lowey), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Deutch), the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee’s ranking member, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Poe).

We are here today to talk about Americans illegally detained by the Iranian regime, and those Americans have no stronger champions than the members I have mentioned before through the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is just outrageous that the Government of Iran continues to hold American citizens and residents on trumped-up charges. Siamak Namazi, an American and his 80-year-old father, a former UNICEF official in poor health; Baquer Namazi; KAREN VAFADARI, an American citizen, and his wife, AFINAR NIAASARI; NIZAR ZAKKA, who was detained after attending a conference in Iran’s invitation; and another American citizen who has been kept anonymous by family for fear of that person’s well-being; and, of course, Robert Levinson, who disappeared in Iran more than 10 years ago. How cruel—10 years. His family doesn’t know where he is. His family doesn’t know how he is.

This is a regime, the Iranian regime, which talks about piety and religion, and they don’t have any feeling of human compassion to another.

The detainment and disappearance of these people, and citizens of America’s friends and allies, the pain and suffering and uncertainty that their families endure every single day, and the lack of cooperation and information coming out of Tehran, are a pretty clear indication of how this regime operates and what its values are.

The measure we are considering today underscores what Congress has said time and time again: The situation is intolerable, and it must stop. We call on the government in Iran to release these men and women immediately, without preconditions.

The people of Iran are the real captives of this regime, but those American citizens in Iran’s hostage is another, and it must stop. We call on the government in Iran to release these women and men internationally, without preconditions.

I am glad to stand with my colleagues on both sides to support this measure. I, again, thank my friend from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen) for, as always, outstanding, stellar, and heartfelt work on these issues.

I thank Chairman Royce again, and all the people I mentioned before.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Ros-Lehtinen), who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, the author of this measure.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman Royce, as well as my good friend, the ranking member, Mr. Engel, for their help in bringing H.R. 317 to the floor today and for their tireless efforts to hold the Iranian regime accountable for all of its illicit activity, including the taking of American citizens and U.S. legal permanent residents as hostages. They have been incredible supporters of this movement, and I thank them for their unwavering support.

Of course, I want to thank Ranking Member Nita Lowey for her help—I had the opportunity of meeting one of the victims before this presentation—and Judge Poe, who is always at our side; and my south Florida colleague and my dear friend, Ted Deutch, the ranking member on our Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, who have all joined together in authoring and introducing this resolution.

The resolution, Mr. Speaker, is important for all of us. But for Ted Deutch, for my friend from south Florida, I know how very personal this is for him because it is his constituent, Bob Levinson, who continues to be held by Iran 10 years after his disappearance.

Just yesterday, Ted and I convened a hearing of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee with some of the family members who are named in this very resolution.

Doug Levinson, for example, Bob’s youngest child, testified.

Babak Namazi, son of Baquer and brother of Siamak testified.

Omar Zakka, son of Nizar, testified.

All three of them testified before our subcommittee, and their stories were moving, they were heartfelt, and they were heartbreaking. Each one, along with their families, forced to live in their own personal hell.

In Doug Levinson’s case, Mr. Speaker, he presented photos, emails, even videos of his father who, after more than 10 years, is the nation’s longest-held hostage in our history. What a sad distinction.

We heard how Iran has repeatedly failed to live up to its promise to assist in Bob’s case and help return him to his loved ones, including the five grandchildren that Bob has yet to meet.

We heard Omar plead for his father’s life, as Nizar is now 1 month into his fifth hunger strike. But this time, Mr. Speaker, Nizar has vowed that there will be no turning back. Nizar says that he will continue with his hunger strike for himself and the others who are unjustly held by Iran, stating, it is either liberty or death; there is no turning back.

So can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, being 19 years old, a teenager, and he is testifying in front of us yesterday, and he is hearing his father say that he is willing to die in Iran in pursuit of justice, and his thirtieth birthday was breaking as he is testifying in front of us.

We also heard Babak distress over the health of his father and his brother; two loved ones. Mr. Namazi’s father has lost more than 30 pounds in Iran’s notorious prisons. He is 81 years old. He suffers from a severe heart condition. He had to be hospitalized twice in just the past few months. Babak fears that his father’s physical and mental condition are both rapidly deteriorating.

His brother, he fears, has given up hope because of the horrific conditions he is being held under. He is kept in isolation. He is mentally abused. He is physically abused. That is horrifying. That is heartbreaking.

Though we heard the sorrow in their voices, Mr. Speaker, we also heard defiance and determination. Defiant in accepting the Iranian regime’s absurd claims against Bob, against Baquer, against Nizar; defiant in accepting that their fates are sealed, that there is nothing more that can be done; defiant in remaining silent as their loved ones suffer under the terror regime in Tehran.

We saw their determination—determination as each of the witnesses before us yesterday vowed that their fight is not nearly over, that they remain determined that they can force the return of their loved ones.

And they looked to us, Mr. Speaker, they looked to us to use our positions as Members of the United States House of Representatives to pressure the Iranian regime to release all American citizens, all American legal permanent residents, unconditionally.

They looked to us to demand that Iran be held accountable for its tactic of taking our people hostage in order to get financial or political concessions, they looked to us to stand up and to decry this practice for what it is—morally corrupt, ethically corrupt, and legally wrong.

That is why Nita, and Ted, and Judge Poe, and Chairman Royce, and Ranking Member Engel, and I introduced this resolution before us today, and that is why Ted and I convened our hearing yesterday; and that is why, today, I am urging all of our colleagues to stand in solidarity with us, with the family members, with the hostages, with our friends and allies, and that we hold American citizens and legal permanent residents that it is holding hostage immediately and unconditionally.
Mr. ROYCE of California. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I hope that our colleagues will indeed stand with us. I hope that this resolution sends a strong message to Iran that this practice will not be tolerated. And I hope that it sends a strong message to our own administration that Congress is invested in the fate of Americans being held by Iran and that we will demand action to win their unconditional release, their immediate release.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), my esteemed colleague, friend, and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. We have districts that are adjoining.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I too, want to thank my very good friends, Chairman Ed ROYCE, Ranking Member Eliot ENGEL, my fellow New Yorker, and the strong advocate, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. I want to thank them for advancing this very important resolution.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 317, which I introduced with my friends, Representatives ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Ted DEUTCH, and Ted Poe. This resolution calls for the unconditional release of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents being held on baseless charges by the Government of Iran.

Two of these prisoners, Siamek Namazi and his son, Babak Namazi, were previously my constituents when they last lived in the United States. I have had the honor of getting to know Babak Namazi, the courageous brother and son of these two prisoners, who has tirelessly worked to free them from unjust imprisonment.

While the Iranian Government continues to try and exact concessions with these prisoners from the United States, Baquer Namazi, an 80-year-old former journalist, suffers from increasingly poor health in Evin Prison. A man who spent his entire life serving the world’s most vulnerable should not, cannot, spend his final years in such terrible conditions.

But this is just one prisoner’s story. Each of the United States’ citizen and legal permanent resident prisoners is suffering while imprisoned on trumped-up charges. Each has family members who worry, every hour of the day, whether they will ever see their loved ones again.

The United States must do all we can to ensure these prisoners return home. This resolution sends a strong message to the Government of Iran. These heinous attempts will not pay off. All of the prisoners must be released immediately. And Iran must fulfill its previous promises to locate and return Representative DEUTCH’s constituent, Robert Levinson, a U.S. citizen missing in Iran since 2007.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank everyone who helped advance this resolution.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Poe). He is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. I want to thank him and the ranking member for moving this legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, Iran is the number one state sponsor of terrorism in the world. Out of 195 countries, they are the worst country in the world when it comes to exporting terrorism. The militias in Tehran not only support worldwide terrorist groups, terrorist groups that have American blood on their hands, they resort to terrorist tactics to extort and blackmail the American people.

For decades, Iran has held American citizens in prisons unlawfully. They detain these Americans under the charge of espionage. We all know that this is just a ploy to extract concessions from the United States.

Earlier this month, we learned that Iran threw another American citizen in jail last year. This time it was a Princeton Ph.D. student conducting research in Iran for his dissertation. This student is now being held in Iran’s most notorious prison, Evin Prison. If anyone thought that Iran was going to moderate as a result of the nuclear deal, these ongoing unlawful detentions are evidence to the contrary.

Iran has been emboldened, and there is no indication they will stop this tactic of terror. We need to get the attention of the barbaric mullahs that seem to take delight in imprisoning Americans and even Iranian citizens for political reasons.

We know of at least eight Americans currently languish in Iranian jails. Iran is not content with just holding these Americans. They are actively working to extract payments and concessions from the United States, like sanctions relief, as a condition for their release. This is old-fashioned textbook extortion.

This resolution will send a clear message to the mullahs: Release the Americans and return them to their homes. Let the American hostages go.

I was glad to see the new sanctions imposed by the Treasury in April on the Tehran Prisons Organization. More pressure is needed by our country.

I urge the administration to spare no effort to secure the release of American hostages. These American hostages have been held by Iran too long, and Iran has proven that they do not respond very well to carrots. Since we gave away the courthouse and the mineral rights in the Iranian deal, maybe it is time to pull out the stick. As Teddy Roosevelt said: “Speak softly, and carry a big stick.”

And that is just the way it is.
behavior. An overwhelming bipartisan majority voted to slap tough new sanctions on Iran for its ballistic missile program, for the regime's support for terrorism, and for the awful record of human rights abuses against the Iranian people.

Tehran should know that we mean business. We will not back down on any of these issues, and we certainly will not forget that Americans are being wrongfully held.

I am glad to go on record once again, along with my colleagues, Chairman ROYCE, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, NITA LOWEY, everyone who has spoken today, shining a light on this abuse, to put it front and center in our foreign policy, to call on Iran's leaders to release these people, and to say they will not be forgiven as long as these people are unlawfully held.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes." I am happy that we are bringing this important issue to the fore, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may conspire.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say that the individuals that we are talking about, the Americans that are being held in captivity and their families, have been suffering for far too long. I think our country needs to take decisive action to secure their release, and I believe that we have got to make sure that Iran and all other hostile actors who would follow Iran down this road know that U.S. prisoners does not pay.

I again thank Mr. ENGEL and the gentlewoman and gentleman from Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and TED DEUTCH, for their leadership, along with Nita Lowey and Ted Deutch.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution as the next step toward bringing these innocent people back home to the United States, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 317, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. Speaker. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the consideration of H.R. 3219, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3219.

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

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, with Mr. Bost in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. General debate shall be confined to the bill and not exceed 2 hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 60 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 6 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to present an amendment to H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act. This legislative package provides critical appropriations for national security, including for the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Energy's nuclear programs, and the Legislative Branch bill.

My colleagues, this is the primary constitutional duty of the Congress: to ensure the safety of the homeland and the American people.

This legislation is carefully crafted to meet that responsibility: funding our critical military priorities, supporting veterans, and making our borders more secure.

The core of this package is full-year funding for the Department of Defense and the intelligence community. I thank Chairwoman GRANGER for her leadership.

In total, the Defense portion of the bill provides $658.1 billion for these functions, an increase of $65.1 billion in base discretionary funding above the fiscal year 2017 enacted levels.

There is no doubt that this is a significant increase from the current spending levels, and certainly from the last 8 years. But this increase is vitally important to continue the process we started to rebuild, repair, and re-equip our Armed Forces that we started in the 2017 appropriations package.

Mr. Chairman, Secretary of Defense Mattis has quite correctly made readiness and modernization of our forces his top priorities.

It is a fact today that we have too many aircraft that cannot fly, too many ships that cannot sail, and too many troops who cannot deploy either because they are not properly trained or there are not enough of them.

So how did we get there? Because in recent years, we have been just getting by—reducing investments in our military as the world becomes more dangerous and avoidant.

The package before us today will sustain a much-needed rebuilding of our military after half a decade of cuts, while our troops remained in constant combat, as they do today.

We provided prioritized funding to necessary but unfunded equipment and weapons platforms. We have boosted missile defense, a program that has taken on critical importance as North Korea, unabatedly, tries to marry its nuclear warheads with new ballistic missiles.

We increased funding for the vital training that prepares our warfighter for any contingency. This legislation also supports our military families. After all, they serve, too. We included a 2.4 percent pay increase for our servicemen and -women, the largest such raise in 8 years, and they deserve it.

Within the Military Construction and Veterans portion of this bill—and I thank Chairman DENT for his leadership—military infrastructure funding has increased by 25 percent above current levels. We continue our efforts to rebuild our Armed Forces by ensuring that our warfighters have the support they need.

We cannot forget those who have served. This measure increases funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs to 5 percent over current levels to provide veterans and their families with access to medical care and other benefits they have earned and deserve.

Within the Energy and Water section of this legislation—I thank Chairman SIMPSON for his leadership—funding is prioritized for critical nuclear programs that will help strengthen our security and deter threats around the globe.

We also support the maintenance of our Nation’s waterways and support the work of the Army Corps to also ensure the resilience and security of our electricity infrastructure.

We recommit to opening Yucca Mountain as a safe and secure location to permanently store the Nation’s nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive wastes, and we promote basic science programs, which lay the foundation for new energy technologies.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, this package also includes funding for important legislative branch functions—and I thank Chairman YODER for his leadership—improving security to ensure...
that our Members, our staffs, and visitors to this wonderful Capitol complex are always well protected.

Mr. Chairman, before I close, I offer thanks to members of the Appropriations Committee for their hard work and tough decisions over the past few months producing two appropriations bills, fiscal year 2017 and 2018, in less than 3 months.

As you know, we received the President’s budget on May 23, just over 2 months ago, and since then, we have worked nonstop to put all 12 bills through the committee in record time. Each and every one of these bills deserves to be sent to the President’s desk. I look forward to completing our work on all of our bills.

I also would like to extend my personal thanks to the entire committee and to our remarkable staff for their hard work on these bills and the eight yet to come.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.
## DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

(Amounts in thousands)

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|                      |                 |                 |      |                 |                 |
| **TITLE II**         |                 |                 |      |                 |                 |
| **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE** |         |                 |      |                 |                 |
| Operation and Maintenance, Army | 32,738,173     | 38,945,417     | +6,207,244 | +5,745,673 | -461,571 |
| Operation and Maintenance, Navy | 38,552,017     | 45,439,407     | +6,887,390 | +7,428,116 | +540,726 |
| Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps | 5,676,152    | 6,933,408      | +1,257,256 | +1,209,732 | -47,524 |
| Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide | 32,373,949     | 34,585,817     | +12,211,868 | +1,397,820 | -614,048 |
| Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve | 2,743,668      | 2,906,842      | +1,163,174 | +126,475   | -36,679 |
| Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve | 929,656        | 1,084,007      | +154,351   | +108,851   | +45,500 |
| Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve | 271,133       | 278,837        | +17,704    | +11,204    | +3,500 |
| Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve | 3,069,229      | 3,267,507      | +198,278   | +164,516   | -33,762 |
| Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard | 6,691,478      | 7,307,170      | +615,692   | +414,342   | -31,350 |
| Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard | 6,615,095      | 6,939,968      | +3,14,873  | +120,635   | -204,038 |
| United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces | 4,574,194      | 4,958,538      | +1,384,344 | +344       | 7,500 |
| Environmental Restoration, Army | 170,187        | 215,809        | +45,622    | +45,622    | -7 |
| Environmental Restoration, Navy | 289,262        | 281,415        | -373       | -373       | +7,500 |
| Environmental Restoration, Air Force | 371,521        | 293,749        | -77,772    | -62,772    | +15,000 |
| Environmental Restoration, Defense-Wide | 9,000          | 9,002          | -2          | -2         | - |
| Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites | 228,084        | 208,673        | +19,411    | +11,589    | +25,000 |
| Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid | 123,125        | 104,900        | -18,225    | -15,225    | +3,000 |
| Cooperative Threat Reduction Account | 325,604        | 324,600        | -1,004     | -1,004     | - |

Operation and Maintenance, National Defense Restoration Fund... --- --- 5,000,000 +5,000,000 +5,000,000

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### DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)
(Amounts in thousands)

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<td>Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force</td>
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<td>Other Procurement, Air Force</td>
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<td>Procurement, National Defense Restoration Fund</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<td><strong>108,426,827</strong></td>
<td><strong>113,906,877</strong></td>
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<td><strong>+24,074,618</strong></td>
<td><strong>+18,594,568</strong></td>
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|                                |                 |                 |      |                 |                 |
| **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION** |                 |                 |      |                 |                 |
| Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army | 8,332,965 | 9,425,440 | 9,674,222 | +1,341,257 | +248,782 |
| Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy | 17,214,530 | 17,675,035 | 17,196,521 | -18,009 | -478,514 |
| Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force | 27,768,546 | 34,914,359 | 33,874,980 | +6,086,432 | +1,039,379 |
| Operational Test and Evaluation, Defense | 186,994 | 210,900 | 210,900 | +23,906 | --- |
| Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, National Defense Restoration Fund | --- | --- | 1,000,000 | +1,000,000 | +1,000,000 |
| **Total, Title IV, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation** | **72,301,567** | **82,716,636** | **82,654,976** | **+10,353,389** | **-61,660** |
### DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3210)

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<td><strong>TITLE V</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Defense Sealift Fund</td>
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| **TITLE VI**              |                |                |       |                 |                 |
| OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS |                |                |       |                 |                 |
| Defense Health Program    |                |                |       |                 |                 |
| Operation and maintenance | 31,277,002     | 32,095,923     | 31,735,923 | +458,921       | -360,000        |
| Procurement               | 402,181        | 895,326        | 895,326 | +493,167       | ---             |
| Research, development, test and evaluation | 2,102,107    | 673,215        | 1,300,315 | -801,792       | +627,100        |
| **Total, Defense Health Program** | 33,781,270  | 33,664,466     | 33,931,556 | +150,296       | +287,100        |
| Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense: |                |                |       |                 |                 |
| Operation and maintenance | 119,955        | 104,237        | 104,237 | -15,748        | ---             |
| Procurement               | 15,132         | 18,081         | 18,081  | +2,949         | ---             |
| Research, development, test and evaluation | 388,009       | 839,414        | 839,414 | +450,805       | ---             |
| **Total, Chemical Agents** | 523,726        | 961,732        | 961,732 | +438,006       | ---             |
| Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense/ |                |                |       |                 |                 |
| Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Fund | 998,800       | 790,814        | 854,814 | -143,986       | +64,000         |
| Joint Urgent Operational Needs Fund | ---          | 14,442         | ---    | ---             | -14,442         |
| Office of the Inspector General | 312,035       | 336,887        | 336,887 | +24,852        | ---             |
| **Total, Title VI, Other Department of Defense Programs** | 35,615,831   | 35,868,136     | 35,084,999 | +469,168       | +216,863        |

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| **TITLE VII**             |                |                |       |                 |                 |
| RELATED AGENCIES           |                |                |       |                 |                 |
| Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System Fund | 514,000       | 514,000        | 514,000 | ---             | ---             |
| Intelligence Community Management Account (ICMA) | 515,596       | 532,000        | 522,100 | +6,504          | -9,900          |
| **Total, Title VII, Related agencies**          | 1,029,596     | 1,046,000      | 1,036,100 | +6,504          | -9,900          |
### TITLE VIII
#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<td>Additional transfer authority (Sec.8005)</td>
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<td>(4,500,000)</td>
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<td>FFRDC (Sec.8023)</td>
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<td>Recissions (Sec.8040)</td>
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<td>National grants (Sec.8047)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shipbuilding and conversion, Navy Judgment Fund</td>
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<td>5,000</td>
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<td>O&amp;M, Defense-wide transfer authority (Sec.8051)</td>
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<td>(30,000)</td>
<td>(30,000)</td>
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<td>John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised economic assumptions (Sec.8073)</td>
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<td>Fisher House O&amp;M Navy transfer authority (Sec.8086)</td>
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<td>Revised fuel costs (Sec.8111)</td>
<td>-1,155,000</td>
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<td>Ship Modernization, Operation, and Sustainment Fund (recision)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (Department of the Interior Compact Review Agreement)</td>
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### TITLE IX
#### OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Personnel, Army (GWOT)</td>
<td>1,948,648</td>
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<td>327,427</td>
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<td>Reserve Personnel, Army (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Reserve Personnel, Navy (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps (GWOT)</td>
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<td>National Guard Personnel, Army (GWOT)</td>
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<td>+1,000,000</td>
<td>+1,000,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total, Military Personnel (OCO/GWOT)</strong></td>
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## Operation and Maintenance

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2018 Request</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Army (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Navy (GWOT)</td>
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<td>5,875,015</td>
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<td>(Coast Guard) (by transfer) (GWOT)</td>
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<td>(191,185)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Marine Corps (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Air Force (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Defense-Wide (GWOT)</td>
<td>6,476,649</td>
<td>7,712,000</td>
<td>6,944,201</td>
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<td>(Coalition support funds) (GWOT)</td>
<td>920,000</td>
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<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Army Reserve (GWOT)</td>
<td>38,679</td>
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<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Navy Reserve (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Operation &amp; Maintenance, National Defense Restoration Fund (GWOT)</td>
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### Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (GWOT)

<table>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
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<td>4,937,515</td>
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### Counter-ISIL Train and Equip Fund (GWOT)

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2018 Request</th>
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<tr>
<td>Counter-ISIL Train and Equip Fund (GWOT)</td>
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<td><strong>Total, Operation and Maintenance (OC/O/GWOT)</strong></td>
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<td>48,037,028</td>
<td>49,269,149</td>
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<td>+1,232,121</td>
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## Procurement

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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2018 Request</th>
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<td>Aircraft Procurement, Army (GWOT)</td>
<td>313,171</td>
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<td>Missile Procurement, Army (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles. Army (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Procurement of Ammunition, Army (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Other Procurement, Army (GWOT)</td>
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<td>National Guard and Reserve Equipment (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Procurement, National Defense Restoration Fund (GWOT)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>+6,000,000</td>
<td>+6,000,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total, Procurement (OC/GWOT)</strong></td>
<td>9,368,076</td>
<td>9,701,568</td>
<td>15,462,540</td>
<td>+7,094,464</td>
<td>+6,700,972</td>
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## Division A - Department of Defense Appropriations Act, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research, Development, Test and Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Army (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Navy (GWOT)</td>
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<td>130,365</td>
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<td>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Air Force (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Total, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (OCO/GWOT)</td>
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<td>611,187</td>
<td>1,614,837</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Revolving and Management Funds**

| Defense Working Capital Funds (GWOT) | 140,633 | 148,956 | 148,956 | +8,323 | --- |

**Other Department of Defense Programs**

| Defense Health Program: |
| Operation & Maintenance (GWOT) | 331,764 | 395,805 | 395,805 | +64,041 | --- |
| Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense (GWOT) | 215,333 | 196,300 | 196,300 | -19,033 | --- |
| Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Fund (GWOT) | 339,472 | 483,058 | 483,058 | +143,586 | --- |
| Office of the Inspector General (GWOT) | 22,062 | 24,692 | 24,692 | +2,630 | --- |
| Total, Other Department of Defense Programs (OCO/GWOT) | 908,831 | 1,099,855 | 1,099,855 | +191,224 | --- |

**Title IX General Provisions**

| Additional transfer authority (GWOT) (Sec.9002) | (2,500,000) | (4,500,000) | (2,500,000) | --- | (2,000,000) |
| Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (GWOT) (Sec.9013) | 150,000 | --- | 150,000 | --- | +150,000 |
| Rescissions (GWOT) (Sec.9019) | 500,000 | --- | 500,000 | --- | +500,000 |
| Coalition support funds (rescission) (GWOT) | -819,000 | --- | -587,613 | +231,387 | -587,613 |
| Total, General Provisions | -180,524 | --- | 62,387 | +242,911 | +62,387 |

**Grand Total, Title IX (OCO/GWOT)**

| 61,622,000 | 63,934,870 | 73,934,000 | +12,112,000 | +9,999,130 |
DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)
(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs.</th>
<th>Bill vs.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enacted</td>
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</table>

**TITLE X**

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS (OCO/GWOT)**

**Military Personnel**

**Military Personnel, Air Force (GWOT)** ........................................ 131,375 --- --- -131,375 ---

**Operation and Maintenance**

- **Operation & Maintenance, Army (GWOT)** ........................................ 986,754 --- --- -986,754 ---
- **Operation & Maintenance, Navy (GWOT)** ......................................... 1,772,631 --- --- -1,772,631 ---
- **Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps (GWOT)** .......................... 255,250 --- --- -255,250 ---
- **Operation & Maintenance, Air Force (GWOT)** ............................... 1,566,272 --- --- -1,566,272 ---
- **Operation & Maintenance, Defense-Wide (GWOT)** ......................... 650,951 --- --- -650,951 ---
- **Operation & Maintenance, Navy Reserve (GWOT)** ......................... 3,208 --- --- -3,208 ---
- **Operation & Maintenance, Air Force Reserve (GWOT)** ................... 115,099 --- --- -115,099 ---
- **Operation & Maintenance, Army National Guard (GWOT)** ............... 87,866 --- --- -87,866 ---
- **Operation & Maintenance, Air National Guard (GWOT)** ................. 23,000 --- --- -23,000 ---
- **Counter-ISIL Train and Equip Fund (GWOT)** ............................... 626,400 --- --- -626,400 ---
- **Counter-ISIL Overseas Contingency Operations Transfer Fund** ....... 1,610,000 --- --- -1,610,000 ---

**Total, Operation and Maintenance OCO/GWOT Requirements** ............... 7,697,433 --- --- -7,697,433 ---

**Procurement**

- **Aircraft Procurement, Army (GWOT)** .......................................... 316,784 --- --- -316,784 ---
- **Missile Procurement, Army (GWOT)** ........................................... 579,754 --- --- -579,754 ---
- **Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army (GWOT)** ..... 61,218 --- --- -61,218 ---
- **Procurement of Ammunition, Army (GWOT)** ................................. 447,685 --- --- -447,685 ---
- **Other Procurement, Army (GWOT)** ............................................. 412,109 --- --- -412,109 ---
- **Aircraft Procurement, Navy (GWOT)** ......................................... 314,257 --- --- -314,257 ---
- **Weapons Procurement, Navy (GWOT)** ........................................... 129,000 --- --- -129,000 ---
- **Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (GWOT)** .......... 103,100 --- --- -103,100 ---
- **Other Procurement, Navy (GWOT)** ............................................. 151,297 --- --- -151,297 ---
- **Procurement, Marine Corps (GWOT)** .......................................... 212,280 --- --- -212,280 ---
- **Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (GWOT)** ................................ 856,820 --- --- -856,820 ---
- **Space Procurement, Air Force (GWOT)** .................................... 19,900 --- --- -19,900 ---
- **Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (GWOT)** ......................... 70,000 --- --- -70,000 ---
- **Other Procurement, Air Force (GWOT)** .................................... 1,335,381 --- --- -1,335,381 ---
- **Procurement, Defense-Wide (GWOT)** ........................................ 510,635 --- --- -510,635 ---

**Total, Procurement OCO/GWOT Requirements** .................................. 5,520,220 --- --- -5,520,220 ---
### DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research, Development, Test and Evaluation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Army (GWOT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Navy (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Research, Development, Test &amp; Evaluation, Air Force (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide (GWOT)</td>
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<td>Operational Test and Evaluation, Defense (GWOT)</td>
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<td><strong>Total, RDT&amp;E OCO/GWOT Requirements</strong></td>
<td>990,558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense Working Capital Funds (GWOT)</td>
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<td><strong>Other Department of Defense Programs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCO/GWOT Requirements (GWOT)</td>
<td>127,000</td>
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<td><strong>TITLE X General Provisions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional transfer authority (GWOT) (Sec.10002)</td>
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<td>(250,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Title X (OCO/GWOT)</strong></td>
<td>14,752,267</td>
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<td>-14,752,267</td>
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### OTHER APPROPRIATIONS

SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Personnel (OCO/GWOT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation and Maintenance (OCO/GWOT)</td>
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<td>Procurement (OCO/GWOT)</td>
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<td><strong>Total, Other Appropriations</strong></td>
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**Grand Total, Bill**

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<tr>
<th>Appropriations</th>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<td>Grand Total, Bill</td>
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<td>622,149,276</td>
<td>650,437,519</td>
<td>58,457,525</td>
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<td>(Transfer Authority)</td>
<td>(513,555,692)</td>
<td>(558,214,406)</td>
<td>(577,404,900)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)</td>
<td>(83,179,791)</td>
<td>(63,934,870)</td>
<td>(74,521,613)</td>
<td>(-8,858,743)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescissions</td>
<td>(-3,924,692)</td>
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<td>(-3,924,692)</td>
<td>(+3,023,311)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescissions (GWOT)</td>
<td>(-830,524)</td>
<td>(-587,613)</td>
<td>(-587,613)</td>
<td>(+242,911)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Transfer Authority)</td>
<td>4,664,375</td>
<td>5,156,519</td>
<td>4,656,519</td>
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<td>(Transfer Authority) (GWOT)</td>
<td>2,750,000</td>
<td>4,500,000</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td>-250,000</td>
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### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET Recap

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill Enacted</th>
<th>Bill Request</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lease of defense real property (permanent)</td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>38,000</td>
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<td>DHP. O&amp;M to DOD-VA Joint Incentive Fund (permanent):</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense function</td>
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<td>-15,000</td>
<td>-15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-defense function</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>DHP. DOD-VA Medical Facility Demonstration Fund (Sec.8090):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense function</td>
<td>-122,375</td>
<td>-115,519</td>
<td>-115,519</td>
<td>+6,856</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-defense function</td>
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<td>115,519</td>
<td>115,519</td>
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<td>D&amp;M. Defense-wide transfer to Department of the Interior:</td>
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<td>Defense function</td>
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<td>-123,900</td>
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<td>+123,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-defense function</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-123,900</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-123,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy transfer to John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Trust Fund:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense function</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>+1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-defense function</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricare accrual (permanent, indefinite auth.) 3/</td>
<td>6,953,000</td>
<td>8,145,000</td>
<td>8,145,000</td>
<td>+1,192,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total, scorekeeping adjustments</td>
<td>6,998,000</td>
<td>8,191,000</td>
<td>8,191,000</td>
<td>+1,193,000</td>
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### Recapitulation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs.</th>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Military Personnel</td>
<td>128,725,978</td>
<td>133,881,636</td>
<td>132,977,586</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Operation and Maintenance</td>
<td>167,603,260</td>
<td>188,570,298</td>
<td>191,654,065</td>
<td>+4,050,805</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Disposal of defense real property (permanent)</td>
<td>108,426,827</td>
<td>113,906,877</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Research, Development, Test and Evaluation</td>
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<td>V</td>
<td>Revolving and Management Funds</td>
<td>1,511,613</td>
<td>2,095,923</td>
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<td>VI</td>
<td>Other Department of Defense Programs</td>
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<td>VII</td>
<td>Related Agencies</td>
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<td>VIII</td>
<td>General Provisions (net)</td>
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<td>IX</td>
<td>Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)</td>
<td>61,822,000</td>
<td>63,934,870</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Additional Appropriations</td>
<td>14,752,267</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-14,752,267</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total, Department of Defense: 586,205,267 622,149,276 650,437,519 +64,232,252 +28,288,243

Other appropriations (PL 114-254): 5,775,000 --- --- ---

Scorekeeping adjustments: 6,998,000 8,191,000 8,191,000 +1,193,000 ---

Total mandatory and discretionary: 598,978,267 630,340,276 658,828,519 +59,650,252 +28,288,243

1/ Included in Budget under Operation and Maintenance
2/ Included in Budget under Procurement
3/ Contributions to Department of Defense Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund (Sec. 726, P.L. 108-375). Budget request excludes proposal to amend TRICARE
### DIVISION B - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
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<th>TITLE I - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH</th>
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<td>HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</td>
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#### Payment to Widows and Heirs of Deceased Members of Congress (FY17 PL 114-223, Sec.142)1/  
<p>| FY 2017 | FY 2018 | Bill vs. | Bill vs. |</p>
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<th>Enacted</th>
<th>Request</th>
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<tr>
<td>174</td>
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<td>-174</td>
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#### Salaries and Expenses

##### House Leadership Offices

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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Speaker</td>
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<td>6,645</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of the Majority Floor Leader</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Republican Conference Chair</td>
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<td>Democratic Caucus</td>
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Subtotal, House Leadership Offices: 22,278

##### Members' Representational Allowances

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<td>Expenses</td>
<td>562,632</td>
<td>567,000</td>
<td>562,632</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

##### Committee Employees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing Committees, Special and Select Committee on Appropriations (including studies and investigations)</td>
<td>127,053</td>
<td>129,062</td>
<td>127,053</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal, Committee employees: 150,324

##### Salaries, Officers and Employees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Clerk</td>
<td>26,268</td>
<td>28,421</td>
<td>27,945 +1,677</td>
<td>-476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Sergeant at Arms</td>
<td>15,505</td>
<td>18,076</td>
<td>20,505 +5,000</td>
<td>+2,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Chief Administrative Officer</td>
<td>117,165</td>
<td>133,635</td>
<td>127,105 +10,000</td>
<td>-6,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Inspector General</td>
<td>4,963</td>
<td>5,037</td>
<td>4,968 +5</td>
<td>-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of General Counsel</td>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>1,492 +48</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Parliamentarian</td>
<td>1,999</td>
<td>2,037</td>
<td>2,037 +38</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House</td>
<td>8,979</td>
<td>9,437</td>
<td>9,437 +456</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Interparliamentary Affairs</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>818</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other authorized employees</td>
<td>1,183</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>584 -599</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal, Salaries, officers and employees: 161,487

##### Supplies, Materials, Administrative Costs and Federal Tort Claims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House</td>
<td>3,625</td>
<td>3,625</td>
<td>3,625</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government contributions</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery</td>
<td>245,354</td>
<td>251,630</td>
<td>233,940 -11,794</td>
<td>-18,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition activities</td>
<td>16,217</td>
<td>16,186</td>
<td>16,186 -31</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded Warrior program</td>
<td>2,084</td>
<td>2,273</td>
<td>2,273 +189</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Congressional Ethics</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous items</td>
<td>1,658</td>
<td>1,699</td>
<td>1,670 +12</td>
<td>-29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal, Supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims: 272,328

##### Total, House of Representatives (discretionary) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total, House of Representatives (discretionary)</td>
<td>1,189,049</td>
<td>1,223,187</td>
<td>1,194,049 +5,000</td>
<td>-29,138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

##### Total, House of Representatives (mandatory) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total, House of Representatives (mandatory)</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## DIVISION B - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)
(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOINT ITEMS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Economic Committee</td>
<td>4,203</td>
<td>4,203</td>
<td>4,203</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Committee on Taxation</td>
<td>10,095</td>
<td>11,169</td>
<td>10,455</td>
<td>+360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Attending Physician</td>
<td>3,838</td>
<td>3,838</td>
<td>3,838</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical supplies, equipment, expenses, and allowances</td>
<td>1,429</td>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>+15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Congressional Accessibility Services</td>
<td>19,565</td>
<td>20,654</td>
<td>19,940</td>
<td>+375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Joint items</strong></td>
<td>325,300</td>
<td>347,096</td>
<td>347,700</td>
<td>+22,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPITOL POLICE</strong></td>
<td>68,000</td>
<td>75,211</td>
<td>74,800</td>
<td>+6,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Capitol Police</strong></td>
<td>393,300</td>
<td>422,307</td>
<td>422,500</td>
<td>+29,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE</strong></td>
<td>3,959</td>
<td>4,056</td>
<td>3,959</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE</strong></td>
<td>46,500</td>
<td>49,945</td>
<td>48,500</td>
<td>+2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL (AOC)</strong></td>
<td>92,957</td>
<td>98,360</td>
<td>93,000</td>
<td>+43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital building</td>
<td>32,584</td>
<td>54,898</td>
<td>45,300</td>
<td>+12,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol grounds</td>
<td>12,826</td>
<td>14,279</td>
<td>13,333</td>
<td>+507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House of Representatives buildings</td>
<td>185,731</td>
<td>176,948</td>
<td>169,294</td>
<td>-16,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>-7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Power Plant</td>
<td>95,846</td>
<td>117,205</td>
<td>115,694</td>
<td>+20,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offsetting collections</td>
<td>-9,000</td>
<td>-9,000</td>
<td>-9,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, Capitol Power Plant</strong></td>
<td>86,846</td>
<td>108,205</td>
<td>106,694</td>
<td>+20,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library buildings and grounds</td>
<td>47,080</td>
<td>121,192</td>
<td>76,097</td>
<td>+22,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Visitor Center</td>
<td>20,033</td>
<td>54,177</td>
<td>33,249</td>
<td>+13,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botanic Garden</td>
<td>14,067</td>
<td>13,400</td>
<td>13,400</td>
<td>-667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Architect of the Capitol</strong></td>
<td>529,481</td>
<td>672,919</td>
<td>581,837</td>
<td>+52,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIBRARY OF CONGRESS</strong></td>
<td>457,017</td>
<td>504,260</td>
<td>464,209</td>
<td>+7,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority to spend receipts</td>
<td>-6,350</td>
<td>-6,350</td>
<td>-6,350</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, Library of Congress</strong></td>
<td>450,667</td>
<td>497,910</td>
<td>457,859</td>
<td>+7,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright Office, Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>68,825</td>
<td>77,709</td>
<td>72,011</td>
<td>+3,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority to spend receipts</td>
<td>-39,548</td>
<td>-38,864</td>
<td>-41,305</td>
<td>-1,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prior year obligations balances</strong></td>
<td>-6,179</td>
<td>-7,429</td>
<td>-2,260</td>
<td>+3,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, Copyright Office</strong></td>
<td>23,098</td>
<td>31,416</td>
<td>28,446</td>
<td>+5,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional Research Service, Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>107,945</td>
<td>119,279</td>
<td>111,474</td>
<td>+3,529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books for the blind and physically handicapped, Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>50,248</td>
<td>52,815</td>
<td>50,248</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Copyright Office funding flexibility information technology (Sec.1153(b)) (CBO estimate)</strong></td>
<td>---</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Library of Congress</strong></td>
<td>631,958</td>
<td>703,420</td>
<td>646,027</td>
<td>+16,069</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Division B - Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

*(Amounts in thousands)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congressional publishing</td>
<td>79,736</td>
<td>79,528</td>
<td>79,528</td>
<td>-208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of Documents, Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>29,500</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>-500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Publishing Office Business Operations</td>
<td>7,832</td>
<td>8,640</td>
<td>8,540</td>
<td>+708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Government Publishing Office</strong></td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government Accountability Office</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>567,856</td>
<td>614,478</td>
<td>568,306</td>
<td>+450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offsetting collections</td>
<td>-23,350</td>
<td>-23,800</td>
<td>-23,800</td>
<td>+450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Government Accountability Office</strong></td>
<td>544,506</td>
<td>590,678</td>
<td>544,506</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open World Leadership Center Trust Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment to the Open World Leadership Center (OWLC)</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>John C. Stennis Center for Public Service</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stennis Center for Public Service</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative Provisions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scorekeeping adjustment (CBO estimate)</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-2,000</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Scorekeeping Adjustments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOC House Office Buildings Fund (PL114-254)(CBO estimate)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total (including scorekeeping adjustments)</td>
<td>3,460,590</td>
<td>3,806,464</td>
<td>3,580,416</td>
<td>+99,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary</td>
<td>(3,460,416)</td>
<td>(3,806,464)</td>
<td>(3,580,416)</td>
<td>(+100,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>(174)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(-174)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ FY2017 funds provided in Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-223)

2/ FY2017 is Sec. 175 of Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-254)
## DIVISION B - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House of Representatives (discretionary)</td>
<td>1,189,049</td>
<td>1,223,187</td>
<td>1,194,049</td>
<td>+5,000</td>
<td>-20,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House of Representatives (mandatory)</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-174</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Items</td>
<td>19,565</td>
<td>20,654</td>
<td>19,940</td>
<td>+375</td>
<td>-714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol Police</td>
<td>393,300</td>
<td>422,307</td>
<td>422,500</td>
<td>+29,200</td>
<td>+193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of Compliance</td>
<td>3,959</td>
<td>4,056</td>
<td>3,959</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional Budget Office</td>
<td>46,500</td>
<td>49,945</td>
<td>48,500</td>
<td>+2,000</td>
<td>-1,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect of the Capitol</td>
<td>529,481</td>
<td>672,919</td>
<td>581,837</td>
<td>+52,356</td>
<td>-91,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library of Congress</td>
<td>631,958</td>
<td>703,420</td>
<td>646,027</td>
<td>+16,069</td>
<td>-55,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Publishing Office</td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>117,068</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Accountability Office</td>
<td>544,506</td>
<td>590,678</td>
<td>544,506</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-46,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open World Leadership Center</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stennis Center for Public Service</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Provisions 2/</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-2,000</td>
<td>-1,000</td>
<td>-2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Scorekeeping adjustments</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>3,460,500</td>
<td>3,806,464</td>
<td>3,580,416</td>
<td>+99,826</td>
<td>-226,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary 2/</td>
<td>(3,460,416)</td>
<td>(3,806,464)</td>
<td>(3,580,416)</td>
<td>+100,000</td>
<td>(-226,048)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory 1/</td>
<td>(174)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(-174)</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ FY2017 funds provided in Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-223)
2/ FY2017 is Sec. 175 of Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-254)
### TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Army</td>
<td>513,459</td>
<td>929,394</td>
<td>+410,535</td>
<td>+3,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps</td>
<td>1,021,580</td>
<td>1,616,665</td>
<td>+595,085</td>
<td>+56,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Air Force</td>
<td>1,491,058</td>
<td>1,738,796</td>
<td>+247,738</td>
<td>+199,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Defense-Wide</td>
<td>2,025,444</td>
<td>3,114,913</td>
<td>+1,089,469</td>
<td>+323,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Active components</strong></td>
<td>5,051,541</td>
<td>7,390,768</td>
<td>+2,339,227</td>
<td>+578,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Army National Guard</td>
<td>232,930</td>
<td>210,652</td>
<td>-22,278</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Air National Guard</td>
<td>143,957</td>
<td>161,481</td>
<td>+17,524</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Army Reserve</td>
<td>68,230</td>
<td>73,712</td>
<td>+5,482</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Navy Reserve</td>
<td>38,597</td>
<td>65,271</td>
<td>+26,674</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Air Force Reserve</td>
<td>188,950</td>
<td>63,535</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Reserve components</strong></td>
<td>672,664</td>
<td>574,061</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical demilitarization construction. Defense-Wide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Defense Base Closure Account</td>
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<td><strong>Total, Military Construction</strong></td>
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<td>1,276,289</td>
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### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

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<tr>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Army (Sec. 126) (recession)</td>
<td>-29,802</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>+18,802</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (H. Sec. 126) (recession)</td>
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<td>-10,000</td>
<td>-10,000</td>
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<td>+114,160</td>
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<td>Military Construction, Defense-Wide - Planning and Design (Sec. 127)</td>
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<td>+30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Army (Sec. 125) (recession)</td>
<td>40,500</td>
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<td>Military Construction, Army National Guard (Sec. 125)</td>
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<td>Military Construction, Army Reserve (Sec. 125)</td>
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<td>NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 127) (recession)</td>
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<td>42 USC 3374 (Sec. 128)</td>
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<td>Military Construction, Air Force National Guard (Sec. 125)</td>
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<td>-11,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 125)</td>
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DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)
(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Housing Construction, Army (Sec. 126)</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>-18,000</td>
<td>-18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 126)</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>-8,000</td>
<td>-8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Housing Construction, Air Force (Sec. 126)</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>-20,000</td>
<td>-20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, Administrative Provisions</td>
<td>307,337</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriations</td>
<td>(614,999)</td>
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<td>(439,000)</td>
<td>(-175,999)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescissions</td>
<td>(-307,662)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(-118,440)</td>
<td>(+189,222)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total, title I, Department of Defense</td>
<td>7,726,000</td>
<td>9,782,451</td>
<td>9,585,000</td>
<td>+1,859,000</td>
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<td>Appropriations</td>
<td>(8,033,662)</td>
<td>(9,782,451)</td>
<td>(9,703,440)</td>
<td>(+1,669,778)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rescissions</td>
<td>(-307,662)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>(-118,440)</td>
<td>(+189,222)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Benefits Administration

Compensation and pensions:
Advance from prior year | (85,083,128) | (90,119,449) | (90,119,449) | (+4,036,321) | --- |
Subtotal, current year | 86,083,128 | 90,119,449 | 90,119,449 | +4,036,321 | --- |
Advance appropriation, FY 2019 | 90,119,449 | 95,768,462 | 95,768,462 | +5,649,013 | --- |
Readjustment benefits:
Advance from prior year | (16,340,828) | (13,708,048) | (13,708,048) | (-2,632,180) | --- |
Subtotal | 16,340,828 | 13,708,048 | 13,708,048 | -2,632,180 | --- |
Advance appropriation, FY 2019 | 13,708,048 | 11,832,175 | 11,832,175 | +1,876,473 | --- |
Veterans insurance and indemnities:
Advance from prior year | (91,920) | (107,899) | (107,899) | (+15,979) | --- |
Current year request | 16,805 | 12,439 | 12,439 | +4,166 | --- |
Subtotal | 108,525 | 120,338 | 120,338 | +1,813 | --- |
Advance appropriation, FY 2019 | 107,899 | 109,090 | 109,090 | +1,191 | --- |
Veterans housing benefit program fund:
Limitation on direct loans | (500) | (500) | (500) | --- | --- |
Administrative expenses | 198,856 | 178,826 | 178,826 | -20,030 | --- |
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account | 30 | 30 | 30 | -6 | --- |
Limitation on direct loans | (2,517) | (2,356) | (2,356) | (-161) | --- |
Administrative expenses | 389 | 395 | 395 | +6 | --- |
Native American veteran housing loan program account | 1,163 | 1,163 | 1,163 | --- | --- |
General operating expenses, VBA | 2,856,160 | 2,844,000 | 2,894,000 | +37,940 | +50,000 |
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration | 107,009,205 | 110,746,380 | 110,796,380 | +3,747,175 | +50,000 |
Appropriations | (3,073,206) | (3,038,053) | (3,086,053) | (+13,444) | (+50,000) |
Advance appropriations, FY 2019 | (103,935,996) | (107,709,727) | (107,709,727) | (+3,773,731) | --- |
Advances from prior year appropriations | (102,515,876) | (103,935,996) | (103,935,996) | (+1,420,120) | --- |

Veterans Health Administration

Medical services:
Advance from prior year | (51,673,000) | (44,886,554) | (44,886,554) | (-6,786,446) | --- |
Current year request | 1,078,993 | 1,031,806 | 1,031,806 | -47,185 | --- |
### DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
### APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2018 Request</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental funding for opioid abuse prevention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(P.L. 115-31) /1.</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Services (Sec. 217) (rescission)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>45,555,812</td>
<td>45,918,362</td>
<td>45,918,362</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1/ Funding for opioid abuse prevention was included in the FY17 supplemental. In FY18, it is provided within the amount recommended by the Committee.

- **Medical community care:**
  - Advance from prior year: 7,246,181
  - Current year request: 9,409,118
  - **Subtotal:** 7,246,181

- **Medical support and compliance:**
  - Advance from prior year: 8,524,000
  - Current year request: 8,384,704
  - **Subtotal:** 8,524,000

- **Medical facilities:**
  - Advance from prior year: 5,174,000
  - Current year request: 1,079,795
  - **Subtotal:** 5,321,868

- **Medical care cost recovery collections:**
  - Offsetting collections: -2,637,000
  - Appropriations (indefinite): 2,637,000
  - **Subtotal:** -2,637,000

- DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (transfers out):
  - (-274,731)

- DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (by transfer):
  - (274,731)

- DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (Transfer out):
  - (-15,000)

- DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (by transfer):
  - (15,000)

- Total, Veterans Health Administration: 68,437,059

- Appropriations (by transfer):
  - (2,052,927)

- Advance appropriations, FY 2019:
  - (88,385,032)

- Advances from prior year appropriations:
  - (63,271,000)

- National Cemetery Administration:
  - 286,193

- Departmental Administration:
  - General administration: 346,891
  - Board of Veterans Appeals: 156,096
  - Information technology systems: 4,278,258
  - Office of Inspector General: 150,106
  - Construction, major projects: 528,110

### Notes:

- Funding for opioid abuse prevention was included in the FY17 supplemental. In FY18, it is provided within the amount recommended by the Committee.
### DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

**APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)**

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Item</th>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction, minor projects</td>
<td>372,069</td>
<td>342,570</td>
<td>342,570</td>
<td>-29,499</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants for construction of State extended care facilities</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants for the construction of veterans cemeteries</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Departmental Administration</strong></td>
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<td>5,707,593</td>
<td>5,686,893</td>
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<td><strong>Administrative Provisions</strong></td>
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<td>JIF rescission</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>General reduction (Sec. 234)</td>
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<td>-71,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed mandatory disability exams language</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-40,000</td>
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<td>-190,972</td>
<td>(-399,972)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(By transfer)</td>
<td>(289,731)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>(103,935,996)</td>
<td>(107,709,727)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discretionary</td>
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<td><strong>Advances from prior year appropriations:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>(102,515,876)</td>
<td>(103,935,996)</td>
<td>(103,935,996)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discretionary</td>
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<td>(66,385,032)</td>
<td>(66,385,032)</td>
<td>(+3,114,032)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total mandatory and discretionary</strong></td>
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### TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES

#### American Battle Monuments Commission

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>75,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign currency fluctuations account</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, American Battle Monuments Commission</strong></td>
<td>75,100</td>
<td>75,100</td>
<td>75,100</td>
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#### U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>30,945</td>
<td>33,608</td>
<td>33,600</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Defense - Civil</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Department of Defense - Civil</strong></td>
<td>30,945</td>
<td>33,608</td>
<td>33,600</td>
<td>+2,655</td>
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#### Cemetery Expenses, Army

<table>
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<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries and expenses</td>
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<td>Armed Forces Retirement Home - Trust Fund</td>
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<td><strong>Operation and maintenance</strong></td>
<td>41,300</td>
<td>41,300</td>
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<td><strong>Capital program</strong></td>
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<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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</table>
**DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES**  
**APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)**  
(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
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<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
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<td><strong>Payment from General Fund</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home</strong></td>
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<td>64,300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total, title III</strong></td>
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<td>243,808</td>
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**TITLE IV - OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS**

**Overseas Contingency Operations**

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<tr>
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<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
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<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>124,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding for planning and design (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>39,500</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-39,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>38,409</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13,390</td>
<td>-25,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding for construction (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>69,708</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>105,117</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>13,390</td>
<td>-91,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>11,440</td>
<td>207,200</td>
<td>275,522</td>
<td>+264,082</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional funding for construction (P.L. 115-31)</td>
<td>93,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>104,440</td>
<td>207,200</td>
<td>275,522</td>
<td>+171,082</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Defense-Wide                 | ---            | ---            | 22,400           | +22,400           | +22,400 |
| Army National Guard          | ---            | ---            | 22,400           | +22,400           | +22,400 |
| Additional funding for planning and design (P.L. 115-31) | 12,000 | ---            | ---              | -12,000           | --- |
| Air National Guard           | 13,000         | ---            | ---              | -13,000           | --- |

| Army Reserve                 | 10,000         | ---            | ---              | -10,000           | --- |
| Navy Reserve                 | 4,525          | ---            | ---              | -4,525            | --- |
| Air Force Reserve            | 9,000          | ---            | ---              | -9,000            | --- |
| Additional funding for planning and design (P.L. 115-31) | 297,582 | 331,200        | 442,770          | +145,188          | +111,570 |

| European Reassurance Initiative | ---    | ---    | ---            | ---    |
| Army                         | 16,900 | 15,700 | 15,700         | -3,200 | --- |
| Navy                         | 21,400 | 18,500 | 18,500         | -2,900 | --- |
| Air Force                    | 68,280 | 270,630 | 159,130       | +90,850 | -111,700 |
| Additional funding for planning and design (P.L. 115-31) | 12,300 | ---    | ---            | -12,300 | --- |
| **Subtotal**                 | 80,580 | 270,630 | 159,130       | +78,500 | -111,700 |

| Defense-Wide                 | 5,000    | 1,900   | 1,900          | -3,100 | --- |

| Administrative Provision     | ---    | ---    | ---            | ---    |

| Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 101, P.L. 115-31) (recession) | -12,300 | ---    | ---            | +12,300 | --- |
| **Subtotal**                 | 113,580 | 306,900 | 195,230       | +81,650 | -111,700 |
### DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
#### APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)
(Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counterterrorism Support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>8,571</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-8,571</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total, title IV</td>
<td>419,733</td>
<td>638,130</td>
<td>638,000</td>
<td>+218,287</td>
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</table>

| Grand total | 189,862,366 | 201,453,868 | 200,840,447 | +10,978,081 | -613,421 |
| Appropriations | (19,638,267) | (22,406,698) | (22,311,819) | (+2,673,552) | (-94,879) |
| Rescissions | (-516,652) | --- | (-518,412) | (-1,750) | (-516,412) |
| Rescission of OCO | --- | (-12,300) | --- | (+12,300) | --- |
| Advance appropriations, FY 2019 | (170,321,028) | (178,409,040) | (178,409,040) | (+8,088,012) | --- |
| Overseas contingency operations | (432,033) | (638,130) | (638,000) | (+205,967) | (-130) |
| Advances from prior year appropriations | (165,786,876) | (170,321,028) | (170,321,028) | (+4,534,152) | --- |
| (By transfer) | (289,731) | (312,137) | (312,137) | (+22,406) | --- |
| (Transfer out) | (-289,731) | (-312,137) | (-312,137) | (-22,406) | --- |
| (Limitation on direct loans) | (3,017) | (2,856) | (2,856) | (-161) | --- |
### TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - CIVIL

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

**Corps of Engineers - Civil**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
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</thead>
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<td>121,000</td>
<td>86,000</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>-16,000</td>
<td>+10,000</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>1,020,000</td>
<td>1,697,000</td>
<td>-179,000</td>
<td>+677,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mississippi River and Tributaries</td>
<td>362,000</td>
<td>253,000</td>
<td>301,000</td>
<td>-61,000</td>
<td>+48,000</td>
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<td>Operation and Maintenance</td>
<td>3,149,000</td>
<td>3,100,000</td>
<td>3,519,000</td>
<td>+370,000</td>
<td>+419,000</td>
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<td>Regulatory Program</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP)</td>
<td>112,000</td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>+6,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>181,000</td>
<td>185,000</td>
<td>181,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)</td>
<td>4,764</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>4,764</td>
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<td>-236</td>
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**Total, title I, Department of Defense - Civil Appropriations**

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<tr>
<th>FY 2017 (6,037,764)</th>
<th>FY 2018 (5,002,000)</th>
<th>Bill (6,157,764)</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted (+120,000)</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request (+1,155,764)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**Central Utah Project**

**Central Utah Project Completion Account**

| Bureau of Reclamation                                                     | 10,500 | 8,983 | 8,983 | -1,517       | ---             |

**Water and Related Resources**

| Central Valley Project Restoration Fund | 1,155,894 | 960,017 | 1,091,790 | -64,104 | +131,773 |

**California Bay-Delta Restoration Fund**

| Policy and Administration | 36,000 | 37,000 | 37,000 | +1,000 | --- |

**Total, Bureau of Reclamation**

| Central Valley Project Restoration Fund | 1,091,790 | 1,097,393 | 1,229,166 | -77,334 | +131,773 |

**Total, title II, Department of the Interior Appropriations**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FY 2017 (1,317,000)</th>
<th>FY 2018 (1,106,376)</th>
<th>Bill (1,238,149)</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted (-78,851)</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request (+131,773)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### TITLE III - DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**Energy Programs**

**Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

| Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability | 2,090,200 | 636,149 | 1,103,908 | -986,292 | +467,759 |

**Nuclear Energy**

| Defense Function | 880,000 | 570,000 | 636,000 | +44,000 | +266,000 |

**Subtotal**

| Subtotal | 1,016,616 | 703,000 | 969,000 | -47,616 | +266,000 |

**Fossil Energy Research and Development**

| Fossil proviso | 618,000 | 280,000 | 634,600 | +16,600 | +354,600 |

**Subtotal**

| Subtotal | 618,000 | 280,000 | 634,600 | +354,600 |

**Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves**

| Strategic Petroleum Reserve | 223,000 | 180,000 | 252,000 | +29,000 | +72,000 |

**Use of sale proceeds.**

| Sale of crude oil | 340,000 | 350,000 | 350,000 | -10,000 | --- |

**Subtotal**

| Subtotal | 223,000 | 180,000 | 252,000 | +29,000 | +72,000 |

**SPR petroleum account**

| Sale of crude oil (Sec. 307) | --- | 8,400 | --- | --- | -8,400 |

**Use of sale proceeds (Sec. 307).**

| --- | --- | 8,400 | --- | 8,400 | +8,400 |

**Subtotal**

<p>| Subtotal | --- | 8,400 | --- | --- | -8,400 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. FY 2018 Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve</strong></td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Energy Information Administration</strong></td>
<td>122,000</td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>118,000</td>
<td>-4,000</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-defense Environmental Cleanup</strong></td>
<td>247,000</td>
<td>218,400</td>
<td>222,400</td>
<td>-24,600</td>
<td>+4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund</strong></td>
<td>768,000</td>
<td>752,749</td>
<td>768,000</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td>5,392,000</td>
<td>4,472,516</td>
<td>5,392,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nuclear Waste Disposal</strong></td>
<td>---</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>90,000</td>
<td>+90,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy</strong></td>
<td>306,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-306,000</td>
<td>-20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recission</strong></td>
<td>---</td>
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<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>+46,367</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>306,000</td>
<td>-26,367</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-306,000</td>
<td>+26,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program</strong></td>
<td>37,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>-35,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offsetting collection</strong></td>
<td>-30,000</td>
<td>-2,000</td>
<td>-2,000</td>
<td>+28,000</td>
<td>---</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recission</strong></td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-250,000</td>
<td>-411,000</td>
<td>+411,000</td>
<td>-101,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<td>-250,000</td>
<td>-411,000</td>
<td>+418,000</td>
<td>-161,000</td>
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<td><strong>Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loans program</strong></td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>+3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program</strong></td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>-8,500</td>
<td>+500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recission</strong></td>
<td>-9,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>+9,000</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>+500</td>
<td>+500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Departmental Administration</strong></td>
<td>246,000</td>
<td>241,652</td>
<td>281,693</td>
<td>+35,693</td>
<td>+40,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous revenues</strong></td>
<td>-103,000</td>
<td>-96,000</td>
<td>-96,000</td>
<td>+7,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net appropriation</strong></td>
<td>143,000</td>
<td>145,652</td>
<td>185,693</td>
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<td>+40,041</td>
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<td><strong>Office of the Inspector General</strong></td>
<td>44,424</td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>+4,576</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Energy programs</strong></td>
<td>11,283,890</td>
<td>7,510,899</td>
<td>9,609,001</td>
<td>-1,674,889</td>
<td>+2,098,102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Atomic Energy Defense Activities**

| **National Nuclear Security Administration** | 9,318,093 | 10,239,344 | 10,239,344 | +921,251 | --- |
| **Weapons Activities** | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Recission** | -64,126 | --- | --- | +64,126 | --- |
| **Budget amendment recission** | -9,400 | --- | --- | +9,400 | --- |
| **Subtotal** | 9,245,567 | 10,239,344 | 10,239,344 | +993,777 | --- |
| **Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation** | 1,902,000 | 1,842,310 | 1,825,461 | -76,539 | -16,849 |
| **Recission** | -19,869 | -49,000 | -49,000 | +29,131 | --- |
| **Subtotal** | 1,882,132 | 1,793,310 | 1,776,461 | -106,411 | -16,849 |
| **Naval Reactors** | 1,420,120 | 1,479,751 | 1,486,000 | +6,250 | +6,249 |
| **Recission** | -307 | --- | --- | +307 | --- |
| **Subtotal** | 1,419,813 | 1,479,751 | 1,486,000 | +6,213 | +6,249 |
| **Federal Salaries and Expenses** | 390,000 | 418,595 | 412,595 | +22,595 | -6,000 |
| **Total, National Nuclear Security Administration** | 12,938,252 | 13,931,000 | 13,914,400 | +976,148 | -16,600 |

**Environmental and Other Defense Activities**

| **Defense Environmental Cleanup** | 5,405,000 | 5,537,186 | 5,405,000 | --- | -132,186 |
| **Defense Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning** | 563,000 | --- | --- | +563,000 | --- |
| **Other Defense Activities** | 784,000 | 815,512 | 825,000 | +41,000 | +9,486 |
## DIVISION D - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

**APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2018 (H.R. 3219)**

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defense nuclear waste disposal</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>+30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, Environmental and Other Defense Activities</td>
<td>6,752,000</td>
<td>6,382,698</td>
<td>6,260,000</td>
<td>-492,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, Atomic Energy Defense Activities</td>
<td>19,690,252</td>
<td>20,313,698</td>
<td>20,174,400</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Power Marketing Administrations**

| Operation and maintenance, Southeastern Power Administration | 1,000 | 6,379 | 8,379 | +5,379 | --- |
| Offsetting collections | -1,000 | -6,379 | -6,379 | -5,379 | --- |
| Subtotal | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

| Operation and maintenance, Southwestern Power Administration | 45,643 | 30,288 | 30,288 | -15,355 | --- |
| Offsetting collections | -34,568 | -18,988 | -18,888 | +15,698 | --- |
| Subtotal | 11,075 | 11,400 | 11,400 | +343 | --- |

| Construction, Rehabilitation, Operation and Maintenance, Western Area Power Administration | 273,144 | 267,666 | 232,276 | -40,868 | -35,410 |
| Offsetting collections | -177,563 | -174,314 | -138,904 | +38,659 | +35,410 |
| Subtotal | 95,581 | 93,352 | 93,372 | -2,090 | --- |

| Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund | 4,070 | 4,176 | 4,176 | +106 | --- |
| Offsetting collections | -3,838 | -3,948 | -3,948 | -110 | --- |
| Subtotal | 232 | 228 | 228 | --- | --- |

| Total, Power Marketing Administrations | 106,870 | 105,000 | 105,000 | -1,870 | --- |

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

| Salaries and expenses | 346,800 | 367,600 | 367,600 | +20,800 | --- |
| Revenues applied | -346,800 | -367,600 | -367,600 | -20,800 | --- |

**General Provisions**

**Title III Rescissions**

| Department of Energy: Energy Programs and PMAs | -81,063 | --- | --- | +81,063 | --- |
| Atomic Energy Defense Activities (050) | -13,740 | --- | --- | +13,740 | --- |
| Fossil Energy Research and Development | -240,000 | --- | --- | +240,000 | --- |
| Subtotal | -334,803 | --- | --- | +334,803 | --- |

| Uranium lease and take-back revolving fund | --- | 10,000 | --- | --- | -10,000 |
| Uranium lease and take-back revolving fund initial capitalization | --- | 1,000 | --- | --- | -1,000 |
| Northeast gasoline supply reserve sale | --- | -70,000 | --- | --- | +70,000 |

| Total, title III, Department of Energy Appropriations | (31,161,773) | (32,215,964) | (30,348,401) | -857,568 | +2,017,804 |
| Recissions | (-435,764) | (-345,367) | (-460,000) | (-24,236) | (-114,633) |

| Total Appropriations | (31,116,009) | (32,870,597) | (29,888,401) | -881,604 | +2,132,437 |

**TITLE IV - INDEPENDENT AGENCIES**

| Appalachian Regional Commission | 152,000 | 26,660 | 130,000 | -22,000 | +103,340 |
| Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board | 30,872 | 30,600 | 30,600 | -272 | --- |
| Delta Regional Authority | 25,000 | 2,500 | 15,000 | -10,000 | +12,500 |
| Denali Commission | 15,000 | 7,300 | 11,000 | -4,000 | +3,700 |
| Northern Border Regional Commission | 10,000 | 850 | 5,000 | -5,000 | +4,150 |
| Southeast Crescent Regional Commission | 250 | --- | 250 | --- | +250 |
### DIVISION D - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

**appropriations act, fy 2018 (H.R. 3219)**

(Amounts in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2017 Enacted</th>
<th>FY 2018 Request</th>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Bill vs. Enacted</th>
<th>Bill vs. Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nuclear Regulatory Commission:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and expenses</td>
<td>905,000</td>
<td>939,137</td>
<td>939,137</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-803,409</td>
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<td>+23,580</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<td>135,728</td>
<td>159,308</td>
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<td>+23,580</td>
</tr>
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<td>Office of Inspector General</td>
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<td>12,859</td>
<td>12,859</td>
<td>+730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
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<td>-10,555</td>
<td>-10,555</td>
<td>-511</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>2,085</td>
<td>2,304</td>
<td>2,304</td>
<td>+219</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, Nuclear Regulatory Commission</strong></td>
<td>112,505</td>
<td>138,032</td>
<td>161,612</td>
<td>+49,107</td>
<td>+23,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, title IV, Independent agencies</strong></td>
<td>349,227</td>
<td>209,542</td>
<td>357,062</td>
<td>+7,835</td>
<td>+147,520</td>
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1/ Totals adjusted to net out alternative financing costs, reimbursable agreement funding, and power purchase and wheeling expenditures. Offsetting collection totals only reflect funds collected for annual expenses, excluding power purchase wheeling.
Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Typically, the Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Energy and Water, and Defense bills would be debated and amended by the full House individually. Regrettably, this year we debate this $790 billion so-called security minibus in only 2 hours for some reason other than necessity. Substantive amendments chosen at the discretion of the chairman of the Rules Committee will be debated for his also expected $1.6 billion in border wall funding to be added through a rules gimmick meant to prevent an up-or-down vote on the wall.

The undemocratic maneuver by the Rules Committee to unilaterally remove Congresswoman BARBARA LEE’s amendment to debate a new AUMF, which received bipartisan support in the committee, is simply outrageous. All the promises of Republican leadership of returning to regular order have been broken.

All the promises of Republican leadership of returning to regular order have been broken.

I do, however, want to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for conducting business in the Appropriations Committee markups fairly and collegially, as the minority offered amendments late into the process.

On top of the many procedural inequities, however, the majority’s increased defense spending is a mirage. Shattering budget control caps would trigger automatic, across-the-board cuts to every defense account. Yet, the majority pretends the sequester, which would cut $72 billion in defense funding in this bill, isn’t real.

I want to make it very clear that Democrats are ready to work with our Republican colleagues to raise the caps on defense, but we must also raise the caps on important domestic priorities. Playing politics with the bill that funds the troops by inserting the toxic border wall into it is really beyond the pale.

Why not include the FBI, or the entire Homeland Security bill? If the intention is to pass security-related bills, securing our homeland goes beyond the Department of Defense and our own budgets in the legislative branch.

The Republican approach to funding our government for FY18 all but guarantees a short-term, if not a full-year, continuing resolution—just like every year. Democratic voters will be asked to enact appropriation law, and I really do hope we will soon start to work together again to invest responsibly in both defense and nondefense priorities to grow the economy, create jobs, and secure the country.

As I conclude, I want to thank our distinguished chairman, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and his outstanding staff, as well as my outstanding staff.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself 1 additional minute.

However, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this bill which would waste $1.6 billion on Trump’s border wall, use fraudulent defense numbers, gut critical investments in clean energy, include poison-pill riders, and leave the remaining spending bills with no path forward.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the former chairman of the full committee and now the chairman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding the time. Congratulations to you on your maiden voyage in this role that you are occupying—very expertly, I might add. During the forced march that we undertook in the committee for the last 3 weeks, clearing all 12 bills through the full committee in a historically record time, we had a good drill sergeant, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Thank you for doing a great job.

We held 74 oversight and budget hearings, heard from over 400 witnesses, with the overarching goal that each of the 12 bills we passed out of our committee addressed the needs of our constituents. I am proud to say that these bills do just that—advance our national defense and secure our borders, take care of our veterans, provide critical infrastructure funding, increase resources to combat terrorism, and maintain our presence as a leader in global diplomacy—all while maintaining fiscal discipline.

I am disappointed that we won’t consider all 12 of these bills before the August recess, but this security package is an important step forward. It will ensure that we, as the Congress, uphold our most sacred responsibility to provide for our Nation’s common defense.

Under the previous administration, our Department of Defense faced needless uncertainty. I am proud that we are now turning the tide, providing our troops and their commanders with the necessary resources to respond to threats from countries like Russia, China, and Iran, as well as crush the violent extremists who wish to do us harm.

As promised to the American people, we are rebuilding and modernizing our military as an international powerhouse, providing our troops, strengthening counterterrorism efforts, and reestablishing confidence with our allies. At a time when our enemies continue to advance around the globe, the U.S. must remain at the forefront of military readiness and advanced technologies to strengthen our national defense at home and abroad.

This bill also maintains our commitment to those brave men and women after their service has come to a close, providing for greater oversight and accountability at the VA and modernizing electronic health records to help our veterans receive the high quality of care they deserve.

I am also pleased that this legislation includes the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which funds many of our national security interests and builds upon our country’s essential infrastructure needs. In particular, this bill protects the Appalachian Regional Commission from proposed elimination, and ensures that its critical programs will continue in our hardest hit Appalachian coal communities.

Since 1965, ARC has led efforts to innovate, partner, and invest in the region to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth. These investments have led to the creation of thousands of new jobs. It has improved local water and sewer systems, improved our schools, increased access to healthcare, and provided critical assistance to emerging businesses. After 8 years of strangulation by regulation in the Obama administration’s war on coal, Appalachia needs the ARC more than ever.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for allowing me to speak on behalf of this bill. Is it everything we wanted? No. It is critical that we prioritize our national security, and that is what this bill does.

Mr. Chairman, the motto of our Appropriations Committee is this: “A vision without funding is a hallucination.” Now we have got a visionary leader in our chairman, but we have got to provide the funding to make the dreams that we have come true, and that is what Appropriations does.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 6 minutes to the gentlemans from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ranking Member LOWEY for the time, and I also thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN on his maiden voyage—not his first voyage, but his first as chair of the full committee—and the members of our fine subcommittee, and especially the staff.

I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON for his fine leadership and value the hard work that he put into this bill and his congeniality throughout the process.

I also want to thank our staff on both sides of the aisle for the many hours of hard work and dedication: Taunja Bergquam on our side, Donna Shahbaz for the majority, and TJ Lowdermilk on my own staff.

I appreciate that the chairman has allowed robust funding to the Corps of Engineers, which translates into real jobs from coast to coast.

I also am pleased that this bill restores the more than $900 million that the administration proposed to cut from the science account and provides reasonable funding for energy-saving weatherization in both cold and hot climates across our nation.

Unfortunately, the artificially low allocation has forced the chairman to make deep cuts to some of the most
important programs in the bill, most notably the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy.

Too many here in Washington have been fooled by the rhetoric that poses a false choice between the environment and our energy, and it didn’t happen in a year or two. Indeed, today’s 238,000 Americans work in auto industry supply chain jobs manufacturing the parts that make vehicles cleaner and more fuel efficient. In addition, 360,000 people work in the solar industry. The single fastest growing job in America is wind turbine technician. An investment in clean energy is an investment in American jobs and our future.

The response of this bill? An $8 billion cut from the Vehicle Technologies Office—now that is a backwards move!

A 60 percent cut to solar energy—one of the fastest growing job sectors in our country:
A 60 percent cut to wind energy; and

APR-A-B, the most complex nuclear energy technologies, zero; the program is eliminated.

These cuts cede the future to offshore competitors who are hacking into our intellectual property and the bank accounts of firms involved in these industries hundreds of times a month trying to coopt their energy technology that American taxpayers have helped to develop.

In an era where Wall Street chases short-term quarterly profits and ever-improving earnings reports, we owe it to our constituents and to our progeny to play the long game—making investments that may take decades to pay off, but they will. The long-term horizon in large initial capital investments of the energy sector for America means that, more than any other, path-breaking energy research needs Federal support until it becomes commercially viable because energy research is complex.

Though energy is an overlooked ingredient in economic supremacy, those nations that master its dimensions are leading in economic growth.

For decades, American Presidents have made statements targeting energy independence. That makes national security sense. But this year, that target is finally in sight. A recent Energy Information Administration report expects the United States to be a net energy exporter by 2026. The Department of Energy deserves great credit for bringing us to this point.

Beginning back in the old 1970s and eighties when this all got started, it took 30 years of Department of Energy support in concert with the private sector to unleash the fracking revolution that has changed our world dramatically. Where was that technology developed? In the Department of Energy, and it didn’t happen in a year or two. It took years. The next revolution will be the clean energy revolution. We must not forfeit that game.

Finally, I would like to raise my concerns over the controversial riders that threaten not only the ultimate enactment of this bill, but also our most precious resource: water. Exempting the repeal of the Clean Water Rule from the Administration and the Act cede much authority to the executive branch and is something that I cannot support.

For that reason, and for the draconian cuts to clean energy, I must urge my colleagues to oppose the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) who is the ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chairman, today we consider the Make America Secure Appropriations Act which includes the Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018. I ask all Members for their support of this very important legislation.

Congress’ number one responsibility is to provide for the defense of this Nation. It is this bill that fulfills that mandate, and we must ensure this doesn’t happen.

This is urgent because the world is more dangerous and unstable than any time in recent history.

North Korea is increasing the frequency of their missile tests, threatening American soil and our allies. On the Fourth of July, they launched an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Russia continues to create instability in Ukraine, the Baltics, and the Balkans. They recklessly support and protect a brutal tyrant who has murdered thousands of Syrian men, women, and children. These actions hinder our fight against ISIS.

China is militarizing the South China Sea and modernizing their military at an alarming pace. Just this week, Chinese fighter jets flew close to a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft in an aggressive and dangerous manner.

Iran is increasing its influence in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, and they removed the so-called nuclear weapon cap from the United States.

Meanwhile, ISIS and al-Qaeda terrorists continue to spread their perverted version of Islam in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

All of our adversaries are acting in an aggressive and emboldened manner. We must ensure that the U.S. military is prepared to confront the enemy who poses the greater threat.

This can be done by reversing the years of budget instability, sequestration, and continuous cuts.
infrastructure, Members of Congress are unable to responsibly evaluate the long-term border security strategy and comprehensively assess its costs, benefits, and trade-offs.

Given this enormous $1.6 billion initial price tag, Members should, at a minimum, have the opportunity to vote on it separately and in the context of the entire Homeland Security bill. I submitted an amendment to prohibit the use of funds for border wall construction, and I hope the Rules Committee will make it in order.

While I do not support the DHS bill in its current form, I firmly believe the House would be in a stronger position to make an informed and reliable decision on how best to invest these $1.6 billion in the context of debating and amending the entire Department of Homeland Security funding bill.

For example, instead of using $1.6 billion of taxpayer money for just 74 miles of border wall, we could pay for the first two heavy Coast Guard icebreakers which are critically needed to help the United States better counter the ever-increasing Russian presence in the Arctic.

Or we could invest in additional technology and hire thousands of new customs officers at every air, land, and sea port of entry in the United States, reducing wait times for travelers, better facilitating the flow of commerce and contributing to economic growth.

This would also enhance our ability to interdict more illegal narcotics and other contraband at the border—contrary to what some may think, the vast majority of the worst illicit drugs flowing into our country arrive through the ports of entry, not between the ports. In 2016, 96 percent of the heroin and 81 percent of the cocaine and methamphetamine came through the ports of entry. In other words, more physical barriers at the border—in addition to the 654 miles of fencing already in place—would misguide and ineffective strategy to address drug smuggling.

In addition to the fact that we could be using these $1.6 billion for more pressing security needs, I am concerned that, by including only border wall funding from the DHS Appropriations bill, we would be sending a terrible message to frontline homeland security personnel—many of whom routinely put their personal safety at risk to serve our country—that the President’s border wall is more important than all the work they do.

Mr. Chairman, when it comes to the security of our Nation and the American people, we in Congress have an obligation to act in their best interests and get the tax dollars worth.

If the only homeland security item in this bill is funding for 74 miles of border wall, we will fail to meet that obligation.

This bill should not include funding for a border wall, and the House should have an opportunity to vote on this funding in the context of the entire Homeland Security funding bill.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a “no” vote on this bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) who is the chair of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, it is my distinct honor to bring the fiscal year 2018 Energy and Water bill before you today.

Before I go into the details, I would like to recognize Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN. It is because of his leadership and unwavering commitment to the appropriations process that our committee has managed to bring 12 bills through the full committee process and have them ready for consideration by the House.

I would also like to thank Ranking Members LOWEY and KAPTUR. As always, their thoughtful approach to issues has made this a better bill.

The bill totals $37.6 billion, which is $209 million less than last year’s level and $3.2 billion above the request.

Increases over last year are targeted to those areas where they are needed most: to provide for our Nation’s defense and support our Nation’s infrastructure.

The bill provides strong support for the Department of Energy’s national defense programs. Weapons activities is funded at $10.24 billion, up $921 million from last year’s level, to keep our Nation’s nuclear deterrent reliable and effective.

This increase will fully fund the ongoing stockpile life extension programs and will make substantial progress toward addressing the continued deterioration of infrastructure across the enterprise. The recommendations for Naval Reactors is $1.49 billion, and includes full funding for the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine, formerly referred to as the Ohio-class replacement.

Additionally, the bill provides funding increases across the Department of Energy to defend against cyber attacks and, within Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, to strengthen energy sector cybersecurity preparedness, response, and recovery.

This bill addresses the critical infrastructure work of the Army Corps of Engineers, providing a total of $6.2 billion, an increase of $120 million more than last year.

This recommendation makes full use of all annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

The harbor maintenance trust fund activity increased $1.34 billion more than last year, which is $40 million more than fiscal year 2017, an increase of $375 million above the budget request, and the same as the WRDA target.

This bill provides $1.74 million more than last year for flood and storm damage reduction activities.

This is a responsible bill, one that makes some difficult choices in order to prioritize the most critical Federal programs. As a result, as has been mentioned already, this bill eliminates the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy—or ARPA-E, as it is known—and the title 17 loan guarantee program of the Department of Energy, as proposed by the President.

I realized some people are concerned about that. These are programs that I happen to like also. But this is what happens when you are $20 trillion in the hole. You have to make tough choices. And that is what the Appropriations Committee is doing: making some of the difficult choices that we have to make.

This bill includes a number of targeted investments above the budget request to ensure a secure, independent, and prosperous energy future.

Mr. Chairman, this is a strong bill that will protect our national security interests, address our most pressing infrastructure needs, and advance our economy. I urge everyone to support it.

I would like to thank the staff of the Energy and Water Committee, both ranking and minority members, and of the full committee, for the work they have done in making sure we can get this bill to the floor.

Again, I urge Members to support this bill.

Mr. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, while I rise to oppose this appropriations package, even though the Legislative Branch division of this package is worthy of our support, I commend Chairman YODER both for the product and for the way he reached across the aisle to work with me and other members of our committee and the minority in this process.

For all of their hard work, I would also like to thank Liz Dawson, who is the team leader; Jennifer出来る from Mr. YODER’s office; Adam Berg on the minority staff; and Anne Sokolov and Ryan Keating on my team.

This year’s Legislative Branch appropriations bill would, among other things, allow us to catch up on some deferred maintenance in our buildings; invest in information technology to modernize the Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, and Copyright Office; and adjust to the new cybersecurity environment faced here in the United States Congress.

I am also pleased to see that this bill provides additional funding for the Sergeant at Arms and the Capitol Police to increase congressional security in the wake of the tragic shooting at our congressional baseball practice several months back.

Our goal is to give them the resources they need to maintain the security on the Capitol campus and increase their coverage of Members and
gatherings of Members that might be targeted. It is the responsibility of the House to look out for our safety and the safety of our constituents and staff, and the funding included in this bill is a step in the right direction.

There are things I hope we can improve in the bill, and I look forward. For example, I would like to see more money for personnel at the Library and CRS, not just for information technology; and more for the Government Accountability Office, which is flat-funded. Because of inflation, GAO will have 200 fewer employees than expected at the end of the year.

GAO’s audits and investigations root out waste, fraud, and abuse in government, something that we all agree upon here should be done. With the Trump administration resisting all of this oversight, GAO is more important today than it ever has been. While I would support the Legislative Branch bill, it came to the floor on its own, unfortunately, we are not considering it on its own.

I oppose tying $1.6 billion of wasted taxpayer money for President Trump’s border wall to the Legislative Branch bill. It is part of a bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform, which would include smarter, more effective enforcement of our laws.

A few years ago, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said immigration reform would reduce our deficit by $900 billion and increase real GDP growth by over 3 percent. But simply building a ridiculous wall that faces opposition from both Democrats and Republicans won’t do anything for our economy, and it isn’t even a cost-effective way to strengthen our economy.

Besides, we were told repeatedly over the course of the last 18 months that Mexico would pay for the wall. They would ask the President: Who is going to pay for the wall? Mexico is going to pay for the wall.

Why is there a single dime of American taxpayer money for a border wall that President Trump promised Mexico would finance?

I oppose the Republicans’ partisan budget strategy. By refusing to work with Democrats on a bipartisan budget deal that raises the Budget Control Act caps, Republicans are seriously risking some combination of sequestration, stopgap funding bills, government shutdown, and a catastrophic default on our national debt.

Nondefense discretionary spending is one-sixth of the Federal budget. Having already cut it to the bone, they are now sawing off the limbs.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill; the Transportation bill; and the Financial Services bill that funds consumer protections and regulation of big banks will all see big cuts because of the deficit caps.

Today’s package will squeeze out investments in our infrastructure, jobs programs, early childhood education, scientific research, and all the things that need to be priorities. We are turning our backs on working families across the country who depend on these programs every day.

We all believe in the free market system. We all believe in capitalism. We all want to reward risk-takers and provide a good environment for growth for those men and women who will make the investments to hire the workers. But capitalism is not a perfect system.

It is the job of this bill that we need to fund to make sure that we grow the entire economy, that we have sustained growth, we invest in education, we invest in research, and we invest in transportation infrastructure, in order for us to grow the economy.

As former Appropriations Chairman David Obey used to say, those programs were about “knocking the rough edges off of capitalism.” On this side of the aisle, we believe making those investments is best for the economy. That is what I come to the floor on its own, unfortunately, we are not considering it on its own.

Yes, we must adequately fund defense, veterans programs, and the legislative branch of government. But that can’t come at the expense of everything else.

Mr. FLEELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), chairman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, the Appropriations Act before you today includes, in division C, appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for Fiscal Year 2018. Division C is exactly the same as the MILCON–VA bill reported favorably out of the full committee on June 15.

Thanks to the leadership of Chairman RODNEY FLEELINGHUYSEN from New Jersey, Ranking Member Nita Lowey from New York, and the partnership of Ranking Member DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ from Florida, this will provide necessary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction projects. We were able to include the vast majority of the subcommittee’s over 1,000 Member requests.

This division demonstrates our firm commitment to fully supporting our Nation’s veterans and servicemembers. The President’s budget request for Military Construction, VA, and Related Agencies, which is $6 billion above last year’s level.

This division provides comprehensive support for servicemembers, military families, and our troops. We must make infrastructure investments if we value readiness. This bill increases military construction by 25 percent over last year’s level, delivering on our promise to the troops in line with the President’s focus on national defense. It supports our troops with the facilities and services necessary to maintain readiness and morale at bases here in the States and overseas. It provides for Defense Department schools and health clinics that take care of our military families.

This division funds our veteran healthcare systems to ensure that our promise to care for those who have sacrificed in defense of this great nation continues as those men and women return home. We owe this to our veterans, and we are committed to sustained oversight so that programs deliver what they promise and taxpayers are well-served by the investments we make. The staff deserves credit for the sustained work and very long hours. I would like to recognize Sue Quantius, Sarah Young, Tracey Russell, Maureen Holohan, and Matt Washington on my personal staff.

On the military construction piece, this division provides a total of $10.2 billion for construction projects and family housing, including base and overseas contingency operations funding, an increase over last year’s level and $197 million below the President’s request.

This funding meets DOD’s most critical needs, including priority projects for the combatant commanders and funding new mission requirements. It provides $7.3 billion for military medical facilities. It provides $2.6 billion for Department of Defense education facilities for construction of renovation of four schools. It supports our Guard and Reserves through $575 million for facilities in 22 States. It also funds military family housing at $1.4 billion. It provides $178 million for the NATO Security Investment Program, which is $24 million over the President’s request, to deal with increasing threats and necessary investments overseas. Given all that is happening by Russia’s very bad behavior in Eastern Europe and elsewhere, this investment is absolutely essential.

We were able to also include an additional $469 million in unfunded priorities, which are priority projects that were not included in the budget request. It is very important to many Members of this body.

On Veterans Affairs, the legislation includes a total of $78.3 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. That is a $3.9 billion increase, or 5 percent, above fiscal year 2017 level. It is the highest level of VA funding ever provided.

On VA medical care, the bill funds it at $69 billion, the full request, including an additional $2.6 billion beyond the advanced appropriations to cover unanticipated needs. Many Members expressed concerns about VA medical care issues, and were able to fully fund the budget request for mental health services at $8.4 billion; suicide prevention outreach at $186 million; homeless veterans treatment, services, housing, and job training at $7.3 billion; opioid abuse treatment at $6.4 billion; and $19 billion in unanticipated needs. Many Members expressed concerns about VA medical care issues, and were able to fully fund the budget request for mental health services at $8.4 billion; suicide prevention outreach at $186 million; homeless veterans treatment, services, housing, and job training at $7.3 billion; opioid abuse treatment at $6.4 billion; and $19 billion in unanticipated needs.
We repeat last year’s bill language regarding improved standards for the suicide prevention hotline. For disability claims processing, again another issue very important to so many Members in this body, but particularly to our constituents who are seeking services from the VA, for benefits, we provide $2.9 billion, which is 50% more than the request. As the number of disability applications increases, we need to be vigilant to ensure that the claims backlog doesn’t reappear.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, this legislation also contains $65 million, as requested, as VA switches gears and moves from modernizing its own aging electronic health records to requiring the spreadsheet DOD is using. The bills continue to include language restricting most of the funding until the VA meets milestones and certifies interoperability to meet statutory requirements.

Our bill increases the request for VA research funding by $58 million, to a total of $698 million, recognizing strong congressional interest in the VA’s research to combat devastating conditions like PTSD and traumatic brain injury.

In major construction, we continue oversight of those projects, holding back funding until it has contracted for outside management.

In closing, I ask Members to support this important piece of legislation. It is very important to our servicemembers, our veterans, and their families.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from New York, the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, for yielding, and more importantly, for her great leadership to advance the values of our country in allocation of resources. And I always admire the work of Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, our distinguished chairman, as well. We may have a matter of disagreement today here, though.

Mr. Chair, all of us, Members of Congress, all elected officials, people who serve, take a solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution, and that is an oath to protect the American people.

Democrats, indeed all Americans, believe in a strong national defense. We believe in strong investments in our defense and in our brave men and women in uniform, in particular.

But far from strengthening our security, the falsely inflated numbers in this spending bill will create uncertainty for our military and hollow out America’s communities at home.

We face serious threats in the world. We know that. Those threats demand serious consideration in Congress. We should be making serious decisions about our national security mission. What is our mission? What are the resources that we need?

We don’t want to spend more than we need, but we don’t want to spend less. We don’t want to be penny wise and dollar foolish in the Defense bill with false numbers and no real answers about the mission that those dollars would fund.

We do not give certainty to our defense or our troops when we legislate with phonny numbers when we refuse to make honest choices about our Defense budget.

Instead of giving certainty to our heroes in uniform, this bill would breach the sequester spending limit by more than $70 billion, forcing a mandatory 13 percent cut to all Defense accounts.

These phony numbers in this bill not only do violence to our Defense budget, they starve the strength of America by ransacking our domestic investments.

In order to be the greatest possible America, we must measure our strength not only in our military might, but in the health, education, and well-being of the American people.

And that is what the problem is, that we are making an attempt to make some domestic investments with a Defense budget with phony numbers for the Defense budget, which will be because of the sequester cut to the Defense accounts by 13 percent as we starve our domestic investments.

Besides the direct danger this bill poses to our military, it is laden with poison pills. It would squander billions of taxpayer dollars on President Trump’s immoral, ineffective, and expensive border wall.

The President said, during the campaign, he said: ‘I promise a wall.’ No. He promised a wall that Mexico would pay for. He said it would cost $4 billion to $6 billion. The fact is it could cost as much as $30 billion, $40 billion, and he wants a do-nothing is that for that wall—one poison pill.

It also eliminates ARPA-E, the advanced energy research vital to our energy independence and to our national security to keep America the innovator of the 21st century.

Democrats will continue to demand real leadership to strengthen our national defense.

Mr. Chair, on this day, July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed the executive order desegregating the U.S. military. How great that was for America. How great it is for our country to benefit from the service of so many people who had been serving all along but now with dignity and respect, which was justified.

So how did it is on this same day that the President of the United States, 69 years ago, recognized the value of respecting our men and women in uniform, that the Commander in Chief, that was the C.I.C. of the United States, that fired 15,000 courageous men and women in uniform in a vile, hateful tweet. His actions regarding transgenders in the military were unworthy of their bravery and unworthy of the American people.

Let us be thankful for the blessings of all of our men and women in uniform, our veterans who have served us, and our military families to whom we owe so much. Their courage, their service, their leadership, and their sacrifice are what truly makes us the land of the free and the home of the brave, and it insists that we be serious and real and evidence-based as we make decisions about how we invest in the security of our country.

Mr. Chair, I urge a ‘no’ vote.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER), the chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak in favor of the bill before us, paying particular attention to the work of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee.

I first want to thank my colleagues, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member LOWEY, for their leadership, and Ranking Member RYAN, who has been a gentleman and a scholar, for working with me to develop this product, and the great representatives from opposite sides of the line can work together and create a model bipartisanism to build great legislation for the American people.

Our total recommendation for the fiscal year 2018 Legislative Branch is $3.58 billion. In this bill, we focused on Capitol improvements, better security, more transparency and accountability all in a fiscally responsible manner.

First and foremost, Mr. Chairman, the House continues to lead by example in its frugal operations. With this bill, we will be spending 12 percent below the 2010 levels, showing the American people fiscal discipline starts here in our House operations first.

We also continue the policy of denying pay increases to Members of Congress for the eighth fiscal year in a row. This Republican Congress has tightened its belt since taking the majority, and we have never allowed a pay increase for Members of Congress, and we aren’t allowing one today, saving taxpayers over $68 million since 2011.

In light of the recent shooting where Republican Members of Congress were targeted for their beliefs and our colleagues and majority whip, STEVE SCALISE, was seriously wounded, this bill takes new focus on the security related to Congress, and I would like to recognize the United States Capitol Police Special Agents Crystal Griner and David Bailey.

As I still know in this body, the U.S. Capitol Police protect us, our staff, and the more than 9 million visitors we get here each year with bravery, putting their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe. Special Agents Griner and Bailey put that heroism on display for the country and the world when they saved numerous Members of Congress from an
attack at practice where some 25 of our colleagues were preparing for the Congressional Baseball Game for Charity. Their courage under fire saved the lives of countless Members of Congress, staff, and innocent bystanders, and both women and men were wounded while carrying out their duties.

STEVE SCALISE, Matt Mika, and Zack Barth, who were also injured that day, and everyone else on that baseball field, are alive today because of those Capitol Police officers, and we continue to wish a speedy recovery to everyone who has been injured.

We, as a Congress, owe it to the Capitol Police to ensure they have the necessary resources to meet their mission in an increasingly polarized climate. And after working with Mr. RYAN, we believe we have appropriately prioritized those needs, taking a comprehensive approach to ensuring the safety and security of not only Members of this body, our staff, visitors, and the constituents we serve.

We provide resources and make structural changes that will address security concerns both here at the Capitol and in our home districts, including $29 million in new resources to the Capitol Police for increased security, $5 million to the House Sergeant at Arms for district office security, and support for House Administration’s authorization to increase $25,000 per MRA account to address Members’ physical security when they are away from the Capitol complex. We also invest new resources in cybersecurity measures to protect attacks on our digital information.

After more than 20 hearings, briefings, and tours of various portions of the Capitol complex since January, we have included $581 million in total for the Architect of the Capitol. We recognize the continuing challenge of preserving and maintaining our infrastructure and prioritizing critical projects in the current fiscal climate.

We have included funding to restore and modernize office buildings, upgrade the Capitol Power Plant, and several other projects. We fund a Reutilization Fund to finance major renovation projects in the current fiscal climate.

Moreover, this is the earliest, as I have said before, that I can ever remember that the House considered either an omnibus or minibus appropriations bill. It is an acknowledgement by the majority that the House will not be able to move these bills through under regular order, given Republicans’ internal divisions over spending bills. So instead of working with Democrats to craft individual appropriations bills that can pass the House, they are resorting to legislative tactics to push through on partisan votes.

I will remind my friends across the aisle that they have been unable to enact a single funding bill in the past 7 years without ultimately appealing to Democratic votes. So I urge my colleagues to reject this minibus package and make it clear that we first ought to negotiate a budget agreement that provides certainty and clarity to the entire Federal Government, not just a handful of agencies. And we ought to do it through an open and transparent process, with Members permitted to offer amendments that can shape a budget and appropriations bills truly reflective of the Nation’s priority as a whole.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” so that we can get on with an appropriations process that is in regular orders that makes common sense, that is transparent, and that will give the American public the best product that we can produce.

MR. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 15 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.
Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act.

First, I would like to commend Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for his tireless work on all 12 appropriations bills in the Appropriations Committee. He did it in record time and deserves a great deal of credit for getting us to this point today. The four bills included in H.R. 3219 reflect hours of hearings, staff work, Member input, and bipartisan negotiation.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the chairs and ranking members of the Defense; Energy and Water Development; and Related Agencies; Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; and Legislative Branch Subcommittees.

In particular, the Energy and Water division provides robust funding for water infrastructure—over $67 million—to create needed water storage in the West. I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and his staff for their hard work.

As a member of the Defense Subcommittee on Appropriations, I thank Chairwoman KAY GRANGER for her leadership and unwavering support of our men and women in uniform. I also would be remiss if I did not mention the professional staff of the subcommittee, who dedicated countless hours to craft a bill that meets the needs of the Department of Defense and reflects the will of Congress.

Our greatest responsibility as Members of Congress is to provide for the resources necessary to the men and women of our Armed Forces. This bill includes $564.2 billion in base defense funding and $73.9 billion for overseas contingency operations. It provides for a 2.4 percent military pay raise and additional funding to increase end strength.

The bill provides robust funding for shipbuilding, aviation, combat vehicles, and more. It invests in our greatest assets, the men and women who wear the uniform, through increased funds through training, equipment, and the best healthcare.

We are at a crossroads. Right now, our military continues to operate at high tempo to carry out the national security interests of the United States. However, in order to meet the next challenge that may be, we must invest now. We know the situation we are in.

National Security Advisor McMaster has stated that the U.S. is outraged and outgunned by potential adversaries. Out of the 58 brigade combat teams of the Army only has 3 that are combat ready.

We have the lowest number of ships since World War I. And while capability is important, the vast oceans of the world desperately need our presence.

Only 7 out of 10 aircraft in the Air Force are ready to fly, and the average age of aircraft across the service is 27 years. Airmen are flying the same planes as their grandfathers.

Only 43 percent of the Marine Corps total aircraft inventory is considered flyable. Our marines deserve better.

Today we have a chance to correct the disastrous trend we have seen for the last 8 years. The U.S. Constitution creates a government of the people to “establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense.” This bill fulfills the promise enshrined in that provision to secure the blessings of liberty by providing for the defense of our Nation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding me time and for his hard work during this arduous process. And I would also like to thank Chairwoman FRELINGHUYSEN and Chairman DENT for their hard work as well.

As we all know, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill has a strong reputation for common ground and bipartisanship. Chairman DENT, like always, set a cooperative tone and was inclusive throughout this process. He has worked diligently to address many Members’ concerns, and I joined him in that effort, as well as critical issues impacting our veterans and Active and Reserve servicemembers.

The Military Construction portion of this minibus provides adequate funding for both the Active and Reserve components. In addition, the bill funds the NATO Security Investment Program at the FY17 level, sending a strong message to our Nation’s allies that we share the burden and continue to face evolving international threats.

For the Department of Veterans Affairs, this bill provides $3.9 billion, which is a 5.3 percent increase over FY 2017.

I am also pleased that this bill will address the issue of breast cancer awareness and prevention and provides almost $700 million for medical research, which will fund essential efforts, such as those to address TBI and PTSD, and other health care, prosthetics, care for victims of military sexual trauma, and treat veterans suffering from mental illness.

The bill also continues to fund important programs to combat veteran homelessness, provide our veterans with effective and timely healthcare, and improve the veteran benefits application process and appeals process.

I am also extremely grateful for Chairman DENT’s support for in vitro fertilization and coverage for assisted reproductive technology to address the needs of veterans who have sustained a service-connected injury that impacts their fertility.

This issue is very important to me and to so many servicemembers. All veterans deserve to be able to start families. Moreover, providing access to IVF is consistent with the VA’s goals to support veterans and improve their quality of life.

In a general note, this bill will also address the issue of breast cancer awareness and prevention.

This past spring, our subcommittee visited the Washington VA Medical Center. We learned that the VA was relying on the controversial USPSTF guidance for making coverage decisions.

Last Congress, we passed a law that barred private insurers from making coverage decisions based on these guidelines through 2018. However, the moratorium did not apply, we learned in that visit to the VA, and so women in their forties who were veterans could be denied coverage for mammograms. To its credit, the VA changed its guideline regarding screening, and as Chairman Dent pointed out, language is included to hold the VA to this better standard.

As I stated during my testimony before the Rules Committee, Mr. Chairman, it is my sincere belief that if the Military-VA bill were being considered as a stand-alone, as is tradition, under an open rule, it would receive strong bipartisan support. But, unfortunately, that is not what we are doing here today.

Instead of following regular order, we, instead, are taking up four bills at once and adding funds to begin construction on President Trump’s irresponsible border wall that he promised Mexico would pay for, and now taxpayers are being stuck with the bill. This fiscally and morally irresponsible expenditure leaves the nondefense appropriations bills grossly underfunded.

Furthermore, contrary to popular belief, this bill isn’t even great for defense. All this talk about making sure that we provide adequate resources for our defense and our national security ignores the fact that the Budget Control Act provides additional funds that would ultimately be sequestered with a cap adjustment. This minibus would breach this cap by more than $72 billion, resulting in a mandatory 13.2 percent sequester of all defense accounts, including the Military Construction title.

Indirectly, the way I have said this repeatedly each time I have spoken on this legislation, and never once has anyone in the majority countered what I am suggesting. That is deeply troubling.

So even if this bill is signed into law, which it will not be, DOD would not receive one dollar of this increase.

Secretary Mattis testified “sequestration and the continued use of continuing resolutions would result in a steady erosion of military readiness.” This is the only outcome this bill guarantees. By taking up this minibus today, we are setting ourselves up for failure, and we have set ourselves up
Mr. Chairman, we cannot continue to govern in this fashion. I believe it is time that we stop listening to the most extreme voices and get past these unrealistic beliefs that we can cut our way to prosperity. We cannot. If this failed philosophy persists, our work will only get more difficult.

It comes as no surprise that passing any appropriations bill that will be signed into law will require a bipartisan majority of both Houses. As a result of this irresponsible posture, I will sadly be voting against the minibus, and I look forward to working in an accountable process that both parties can work on together in true bipartisan tradition.

Mr. Chairman, lastly, before I close, I thank our staff in the MILCON-VA bill on both the majority and the minority side: Maureen Holohan, Sarah Young, Sue Quaintus, Sean Snyder, and Tracey Russell with the majority; and Matt Washington, Rosalyn Kumar, and Jonathan Steinberg with the minority.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to say that some of these ships will be built in my district by the American shipyards, including two destroyers for our Navy and a new LHA for our Marines. And I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO), a valuable member of the committee.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Make America Secure Appropriations Act.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I have witnessed firsthand the hard work that Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and his subcommittee chairmen have put into crafting this bill. They all should be congratulated for their work on this legislation, and so should their staffs.

I firmly believe that the number one constitutional responsibility of Congress is to provide for the common defense of this Nation against all enemies, both domestic and foreign. That commitment, by increasing defense funding and restoring the cuts and budgets that have cut the legs of our military readiness and our ability to project force around the globe, is honored here today.

Our bill also honors those who serve our country in the Armed Forces by giving them a much-deserved 2.4 percent pay raise and making critical investments in equipment and training that help them perform the missions we give them and, most importantly, help them return home safely to their loved ones and their families and communities. This includes 11 Navy ships, including two destroyers for our Navy and a new LHA for our Marines. And I am proud to say that some of these ships will be built in my district by the greatest shipbuilders on earth.

The bill also honors the service of our veterans. Our commitment doesn’t stop when our men and women in uniform stop serving. We must continue to support them after they leave service, and that is just that, for mental healthcare, care for homeless veterans, and other national priorities.

In addition, this bill makes critical investments in our Nation’s border security, including fully funding the President’s request for a physical barrier construction along our southern border. The President has promised this funding, the American people want this funding, and the House is making good on that promise—after all, border security is national security.

Mr. Chairman, this is a solid bill. It honors our commitments, it keeps Americans safe and fulfills our obligation to all those who serve this great country.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the underlying legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), a ranking member of the Subcommittee on Defense.

Mr. VISCLOSKY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding to me.

Mr. Chairman, I, first of all, thank Chairwoman GRANBERG. This is her first time leading the Defense Appropriations bill on the floor. She has done so under very difficult circumstances, with a steadfast commitment to maintaining the tradition of cooperative bipartisanship on our subcommittee, maintaining transparency, and taking a thoughtful approach to solving problems.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to express my immense gratitude to Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, Ranking Member LOWEY, the members of our subcommittee, and our exceptional staff for all of their hard work.

Mr. Chairman, we have a duty to provide predictable and timely appropriations to the Department of Defense and the rest of the Federal Government. This is a consistent request by our senior Defense leaders. However, the House bills exceed the cap of fiscal year 2018 defense spending established under the Budget Control Act of 2011 by $72.5 billion.

If enacted as written and the budget control caps remain in place, the Department of Defense would face a sequestration of roughly 13 percent. The Department has still not recovered from the cuts it faced over the last time it was forced to deal with sequestration in 2013. In the second half of that fiscal year, the Department savaged its operations and maintenance accounts to continue ongoing contingency operations and to protect military personnel accounts. This resulted in the Navy idling an aircraft carrier at a pier in Norfolk, the Army canceling training rotations, and the Air Force reducing flight times for its combat aircraft, and widespread civilian furloughs. We simply cannot allow that to happen again in fiscal year 2018.

We have avoided sequestration in the last 4 fiscal years by adjusting the budget caps for both defense and non-defense appropriations. Those modest adjustments, done in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion, provided needed funding for our military, but also for our country’s economic and physical infrastructure, scientific research, public health, and homeland security.

Besides my frustration with the process, I have concerns about the significant increase in funding that this bill will provide to the Department: $90 billion more than last year and $29 billion more than requested by the administration.

I support providing additional funds to the Department, as I believe we are asking too much of our brave service-members and their families, but, putting it mildly, the world is also an unsettled place and not trending towards stability. But that being said, I believe that the Department will have great difficulty spending so many additional dollars in a timely and efficient manner.

Vacancies continue in important leadership positions. Hiring restrictions on civilian employees and a handful of ongoing strategic reviews will all slow the decisionmaking process. It is unlikely that this work will be completed in a timely and efficient manner.

Additionally, I am not convinced that the administration evaluates dollars being spent on the military with the same criteria as it does with the rest of the Federal Government.

In the Office of Management and Budget’s Major Savings and Reform document for fiscal year 2018, it was a page-turner. With 150 proposals to allegedly save billions in discretionary programs, there was only one recommendation in 150—one—for the Department of Defense, with a potential savings of only $2 billion with a budget of roughly $600 billion a year, representing nearly half the discretionary spending, it is beyond the pale that OMB could only come up with a single savings point for the Department of Defense.

One final point is that I am highly disappointed that the Republican leadership has watered down language during committee markup regarding the Authorization for Use of Military Force. Representative BARBARA LEE’s language would have established an eminently reasonable approach to updating 2001 legislation in authorization.

Congress must stop hiding from the debate, and carry out its constitutional responsibilities to support our troops in uniform and the civilian support staff that helps them out.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I would like, again, simply to reiterate my thanks to the members of our subcommittee and committee, and for our sterling staff who have done a superb job under the most difficult circumstances that I could imagine.
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a strong supporter of national defense.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for yielding to me, and I thank him for his tremendous leadership on appropriations. New Jersey and, indeed, the entire Nation are fortunate to have Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN as chairman of this critical committee.

Under the chairman’s leadership, all spending bills have advanced out of the committee, and now, today, we consider a package that affirms one of Congress’ most important responsibilities: to provide for the common defense.

Included in this legislative package is an important measure that opens reports by the Congressional Research Service and opens those reports to the public. I have been involved in this issue for some time. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and subcommittee Chairman YODER for their support of this measure.

American taxpayers spend more than $100 million a year supporting the work of the Congressional Research Service. Their findings, reports, and analyses should be public information. It is good public policy to allow educators, students, members of the news media, and everyday citizens across the Nation to have access to CRS’s nonpartisan, taxpayer-funded reports.

By providing public access to CRS reports, we can elevate our national discourse and make it easier for citizens to cut through the misinformation that is too often involved in the national debate. Citizens should have full access to the same neutral, unbiased information that many of us in Congress use to help us make important decisions.

CRS is governed by requirements for accuracy, balance, and nonpartisanship—the very sort of analysis sought and valued by engaged constituents.

Mr. Chairman, I, again, commend the chairman for including this measure in the Legislative Branch title. This is one of many victories for taxpayers in this important bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAUNO), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Labor, HHS.

Ms. DELAUNO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this bill.

What does this bill do?

It would force the Office of Management and Budget to issue an across-the-board budget cut for defense spending come January.

Why?

Because the House appropriations bills exceed the defense budget spending cap by more than $72 billion. I might add that both Democrats and Republicans voted for these spending caps for defense spending and for nondefense spending.

So the defense funding in the bill, their numbers are, in essence, fake. These are fake numbers. Republicans have no plan to raise both our need to support our national security and military readiness and our need to support hardworking middle class families who are struggling to make ends meet.

So if these bills are enacted, the only way to avoid this across-the-board defense spending cut is if we had another budget deal to revise the bipartisan Budget Control Act, which established spending caps for defense spending and for nondefense spending.

Now, add to that, since military pay is usually exempt from budget cuts, if this bill and the other House appropriations bills are signed into law, the Office of Management and Budget, by law, would be required to cut defense spending by more than 13 percent, or $72 billion. We would need a new budget agreement so that we can increase both defense spending and nondefense spending to meet the needs of our country.

My friends, this is not going to happen; hardly likely.

The biggest economic challenge of our time is that too many people are in jobs that do not pay them enough to live on. We must invest in programs that provide opportunities for hardworking Americans to be able to improve their lives and our economy to grow. We need a country that works for the middle class and for the vulnerable, not just the wealthy and those with the most lobbyists.

This budget process is irresponsible, and our military and our hardworking families will all be shortchanged. This is unacceptable.

Congress needs to negotiate another budget deal that increases both the defense and the nondefense spending caps. The spending levels in the Defense bill are impossible to achieve unless there is a new budget deal and it is reached.

So, again, the numbers are fake. If you vote “yes” to this bill, you are voting for a pig in a poke. I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) for the purpose of a coloquy.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for the purpose of a coloquy.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I thank both Chairman SIMPSON and Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for their work on this legislation, but I would like to engage in this coloquy about the Denali Commission in Alaska.

My proposal would have restored funding for the Denali Commission to the January level. I also wish to point out the great work that it does to support the constituents of the rural areas of Alaska. My proposal would also restore the 2017 funding levels for the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Delta Regional Authority, and the Northern Border Regional Commission.

The Denali Commission started in 1998 with Senator Stevens as an independent Federal agency designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska. With the creation of the Denali Commission, Congress acknowledged the need for increased interagency cooperation and a focus on Alaska’s remote areas.

The Denali Commission operates in the most geographically diverse and challenging area in America, twice the size of Texas. In fact, this area would surpass both the Delta Regional Authority and the Appalachian Regional Commission. I continue to believe the Denali Commission is a model of efficient and innovative government. The Commission has also improved the living conditions of rural areas of Alaska.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. SIMPSON has done the best he can, and you cannot believe all the programs that the Denali Commission provides for the State of Alaska and my constituents. I would appreciate Mr. SIMPSON looking at maybe a future time that we could fund it at the level that we were in 2017.

Mr. Chairman, I do urge Mr. SIMPSON, as the chairman, to understand how important the Denali Commission is to Alaska.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I appreciate my colleague’s statement on the Denali Commission. He is a strong advocate for Alaska and the important work that the Denali Commission conducts in the State.

The House mark this year supports the Denali Commission and its efforts rather than the administration’s request to terminate the agency of Alaska.

The elimination of the Denali Commission would have deprived many communities of essential infrastructure and economic development projects.

In a time of economic change, these communities can scarcely afford to lose the millions of dollars in private investment leveraged by the Commission annually.

In the event the subcommittee receives additional funding in conference, I would be happy to work with my colleague to ensure the Denali Commission is provided sufficient funds to support their efforts in this State.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the fact that Mr. SIMPSON just mentioned it was eliminated by the administration, and he did restore some of the money. I am just requesting that, if he gets any more money, we would look for it in the Denali Commission so that the work it has done is well rewarded.

Mr. Chairman, I thank both the chairmen for the work they have done establishing the Denali Commission in past years, and let’s go forth.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with the gentleman from Alaska.
Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the Appropriations Committee for yielding me time. I am very pleased to support H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act of 2018, especially because it includes H.R. 589, which provides strong and early-stage research funding to begin design and construction for the research reactor authorizations that the committee and Technology Committee to include responsible, pro-science funding levels for the Department of Energy.

Chairman SIMPSON, your leadership and cooperation have been exceptional and are much appreciated. Thank you for your leadership in passing this legislation that sets America on a path to remain the world’s leader in innovation.

The appropriations included in this legislation are consistent with the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, which passed the House last Congress. This bill also funds programs authorized in H.R. 589, the DOE Research and Innovation Act, which passed the House and Senate, and House Bill H.R. 589, which is the product of over 3 years of work by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee to advance basic research and set clear science priorities for the Department of Energy.

American innovation relies on Federal support for basic research to produce the scientific breakthroughs that fuel technological innovation, new industries, economic growth, and good jobs.

Around the country, scientists at our National Labs and universities are conducting groundbreaking, basic science research that provides the foundation for next generation technology in energy, medicine, and manufacturing.

This legislation provides strong support for the Office of Energy’s Office of Science at $5.4 billion for fiscal year 2018. The Office of Science will get increased funding for research in basic energy sciences, high-performance computing, nuclear physics, high-energy physics, and fusion energy.

The strong support for the Office of Science in the appropriations bill will prioritize the basic research programs that are the core mission of the Department and the National Labs and lead to scientific results that can provide benefits across the economy.

This legislation also includes responsible funding for DOE’s applied programs, prioritizing early-stage research in electricity, energy efficiency, renewables, fossil, and nuclear.

An example of such critical early-stage research involves nuclear energy where the bill’s funding supports the priorities outlined in the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act. It also supports the Hulet as a part of H.R. 589. That legislation, sponsored by Energy Subcommittee Chairman RANDY WEBER of Texas, combines the strengths of the National Labs, universities, and the private sector to develop advanced nuclear technology. This technology is our best opportunity to provide reliable, emission-free electricity.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the chairman of the committee for yielding me an additional minute.

This appropriations bill also includes funding to begin design and construction for the research reactor authorizations in H.R. 589, which will provide access to the fast neutrons necessary to enable the next generation of nuclear energy technology.

As we shape the future of the Department of Energy, our priority must be basic and early-stage research that only the Federal Government has the incentives and resources to support and pursue. This will empower private sector innovators to develop and demonstrate new capabilities that will attract the capital investments needed to take energy technology to the marketplace, creating jobs and expanding our economy.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this pro-science bill, pro-energy appropriations bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

I also want to thank the Appropriations Chair from New Jersey and the staff, and also the ranking young lady from New York and the staff for being a bipartisan committee. The Appropriations Committee has been bipartisan.

While this bill before us is a step toward getting the job done of passing the appropriations bill before the end of the fiscal year, we know this is only the first step. We still have a lot more work to do.

I regret that the rule that we will take up tomorrow will likely include $16 billion for a wall. We who live on the border, we understand and we believe in border security, border security that is strong, sensible, common sense, and effective for the border. The wall is a 14th century solution to a 21st century challenge that we have.

The border wall is not the right solution for border security. Why?

Number one, private property rights. We believe in private property rights. In fact, there are some people that, for generations, have owned land along the border. I have several veterans that own land. In fact, there is one veteran in particular that buried his father—his father who served in World War II—and his family right along the riverbank. So if you put a wall, what is he going to do? How does he go to visit the cemetary, the family cemetery along the border?
Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank our ranking member for yielding to me. I rise in opposition to $1.6 billion funding for President Trump’s border wall. I have visited the border of Texas and Mexico many times. Communities all along and beyond the border in my home State of Texas are opposed to this border wall.

Texas has deep and historic ties with our neighbor to the south, Mexico. The people of Texas and Mexico share a pride. A clear majority of our communities believe that the close ties between Texas and Mexico—cultural, economic, linguistic, and natural—should not be interrupted by this border wall.

The construction of this “big, fat, beautiful wall,” to quote President Trump, along a 2,000-mile-long U.S.-Mexico border is not only unnecessary, but would be harmful to our border communities and wildlife natural habitats along the border, and become a symbol of spite and division toward Mexico and its people.

For years, the Energy Subcommittee, which I chair, has listened to experts and gathered data to determine appropriate priorities for the DOE. The bill brought before the House floor reflects the findings of the committee. It funds basic and early-stage research, and it does not allow the Trump border wall.

Importantly, this bill includes specific appropriations for programs authorized in my bill, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, which establishes a clear timeline and parameters for DOE to complete a research reactor. This type of research requires access to fast neutrons currently only available in Russia.

The completion of our own research reactor is crucial, Mr. Chairman, in ensuring materials and nuclear fuels R&D takes place in these United States of America. The versatile neutron source, or fast test reactor, authorized in my legislation will provide the United States with this vital capability.

I want to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for specifically including $35 million in funding, and Chairman SIMPSON, to begin the design and construction of vital research infrastructure in this appropriations bill.

America must maintain our nuclear capabilities and continue to develop cutting-edge technology here at home. This bill provides direction and robust funding for early-stage nuclear energy research. Without it, we will fall behind.

It is vital that we ensure this important research and development is fully funded. We cannot afford to miss the economic opportunities provided by next generation nuclear technology. I encourage my colleagues to support this pro-science, fiscally responsible legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank our ranking member for yielding to me. I rise in opposition to $1.6 billion funding for President Trump’s border wall. I have visited the border of Texas and Mexico many times. Communities all along and beyond the border in my home State of Texas are opposed to this border wall.

Texas has deep and historic ties with our neighbor to the south, Mexico. The people of Texas and Mexico share a pride. A clear majority of our communities believe that the close ties between Texas and Mexico—cultural, economic, linguistic, and natural—are a symbol of friendship and cooperation.

The construction of this “big, fat, beautiful wall,” to quote President Trump, along a 2,000-mile-long U.S.-Mexico border is not only unnecessary, but would be harmful to our border communities and wildlife natural habitats along the border, and become a symbol of spite and division toward Mexico and its people.

Much of the border between the United States and Mexico is already secured by the Rio Grande River, a clear natural obstacle between the two countries. High traffic areas along our Southern border are further separated by over 650 miles of pedestrian and vehicle fencing currently on the border.

Congress has provided the Department of Homeland Security with robust funding since the Department’s creation to sharply increase the number of Border Patrol officers and surveillance tools, including aerial drones, along the border.

As a result of these substantial investments by the American people, the number of immigrants without authorization has steadily declined, while the number of border apprehensions are near a 40-year low.

The $1.6 billion funded by taxpayer dollars included in this legislation for the President’s border wall should be directed for genuine needs, like expanding education opportunities for our children, rebuilding our Nation’s aging infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues, if given the opportunity, to amend the legislation before this Chamber to remove the border wall funding. Otherwise, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in opposing the minibus appropriations bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, in closing, I want to reiterate that this bill is a departure from regular order. It wastes $1.6 billion on Trump’s border wall, uses fraudulent defense numbers, guts critical investments in clean energy, includes poison-pill riders, leaves the remaining spending bills with no path forward.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote “no,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, before I close, I just want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. LOWEY for her work, and all of the staff here for the remarkable things they have been doing over the last 3 or 4 weeks. While we may disagree strongly on some issues, our committee, as Mr. CUELLAR said a few minutes ago, works in a bipartisan way to get our bills across the finish line.

To all the members of the committee and our staff and to the ranking member, I thank them for the amicable way that we have conducted our business. It is a part of the history and tradition of our committee.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I think I closed prematurely without thanking you for your leadership. It has been really a pleasure working with you. I do hope that as we move the process forward, we will be able to have a final product that we can all be very proud of. Thank you again. You have been a very delightful person to work with.

And I thank the chairman, all my staff that has been so hardworking and
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, in closing, I would remind the House that just yesterday we voted overwhelmingly in a bipartisan way to impose tough new sanctions on three aggressions: Russia, Iran and North Korea. Each pose their unique threats to our vital interests, their neighbors, and to global stability.

But little in history would predict that sanction alone will change the malign behavior of these three regimes.

That is why we need to get this bill across the finish line, to guarantee that our military is always prepared to meet any threat from anyone anywhere, whether it be China in the Pacific; international terrorist groups like ISIS, al-Qaida, Al-Nusra, al-Shabaab, Hezbollah, Hamas; and transnational drug smugglers and criminal gangs.

Mr. Chairman, I repeat: Congress' most important constitutional duty is to provide for the common defense. This appropriations package before us allows us to meet that solid responsibility.

I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Chair, the unique circumstances of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rulemaking has subjected the Agency to a never-ending rulemaking and litigation process. The EPA's extraordinary efforts to push through this procedurally deficient and roundly disliked rulemaking created an insurmountable illegitimacy of the rulemaking that warrants immediate repeal. To facilitate this necessary action, Congress is exercising its authority to create exemptions to existing law in H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018. Section 108 of the bill provides a single-use exemption from regulatory procedure and legal requirements to allow EPA and the Secretaries of the Army to immediately withdraw the WOTUS rule. The immediate repeal of WOTUS will allow EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to start with a clean slate as they conduct a joint rulemaking, between equal partners, with full consideration of the comments and concerns raised by the American people.

In future rulemakings, including any WOTUS replacement, Congress expects federal agencies to approach their mandate to consult with state, local, and tribal governments and give full consideration to public comments with a commitment to an administrative procedure and effective rulemaking.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I would like to state my strong ob-

servation to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations portion of H.R. 3219. It would completely eliminate ARPA-E, an agency that has already demonstrated incredible success in advancing high-risk, high-reward energy technology solutions that neither the public nor the private sector would be able to support in the past. This accomplishment was highlighted in a Congressionally mandated National Academies review of the agency released just last month. I would note that ARPA-E recently announced that a group of 74 more teams has attracted over $1.8 billion in private sector follow-on funding since the agency's founding in 2009. In addition, the agency announced that 56 projects have formed new companies and 68 projects have partnered with other government agencies for further development. Bipartisan industry leaders like Norm Augustine and Bill Gates have repeatedly called for tripling this agency's budget given the unique role that it is now playing in our energy innovation pipeline. And I'd be remiss if I didn't refer my colleagues to DOE Secretary Perry's March 8th tweet, issued just 8 days before the Trump Administration proposed to eliminate the agency, which states, and I quote, "Innovators like the ones supported by our ARPA-E program are key to advancing our economy.

In addition, this bill would eliminate DOE's innovation technology loan guarantee program. The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing on this program a few months ago, and we learned that its record of accomplishment more than justifies our continued support. The DOE Loan Programs Office has been instrumental in launching the utility-scale PV industry, Tesla Motors, and the construction of our first new nuclear reactors in 30 years. In addition, it is now supporting the commercialization of new carbon capture and reuse technologies. Overall, the Loan Office's losses are only about 2 percent of its entire portfolio—a rate that is lower than market injuries and even after accounting for those losses, the interest payments from these loans and loan guarantees have returned over $1 billion to the Treasury. If we're aiming to create jobs and reduce the deficit, this is exactly the type of program we should support.

Finally, this bill makes substantial cuts to many of the Department's other critical energy technology offices for the grid, fossil energy, and nuclear energy, as well as a massive 47 percent cut to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The National Infrastructure for clean energy research would be irreparably harmed if these cuts were actually implemented.

Now, I am not going to tell you that every program that this Administration currently implements is perfect, that reforms should never be considered, or that reasonable people can't simply disagree on the best way to allocate our resources even after a careful, rigorous review. One of my largest concerns now, especially for women and at-risk veterans, is the damage that this bill would impose on our entire energy research enterprise, is that such a thoughtful review never actually took place.

In closing, I hope that we can all take a step back and more carefully consider the direction we want to move the Department in. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in the Senate to restore federal support for these vital programs.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I wanted to briefly discuss eating disorders and how it affects our servicemembers and their families. Eating disorders affects over 30 million Americans during their lifetimes, and have the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness. Studies show that eating disorders affect our servicemembers and their families at a higher rate than the civilian population, with 34 percent of female active duty servicemembers and 20 percent of children of servicemembers scoring at risk for an eating disorder.

Additionally, a Military Medicine study of female military members and veterans found significant relationships between eating disorders, PTSD and sexual trauma. As we have much to learn on how eating disorders affect our military members and their families, I would encourage the House to start considering how we can address this issue within our military.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. Tipton). All time for general debate has expired.

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

An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–30 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

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

H.R. 3219

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 "Defense, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Legislative Branch, and Energy and Water Development National Security Appropriations Act, 2018".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL REFERENCE.
This Act may also be referred to as the "Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018".

DIVISION A—DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, for military functions administered by the Department of Defense and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the Army on active duty (except members of reserve components provided for elsewhere), cadets, and aviation cadets; for members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps; and for payments pursuant to section 156 of Public Law 97–37, as amended (42 U.S.C. 402 note), and to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, $41,427,054,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For pay, allowances, individual clothing, subsistence, interest on deposits, gratuities, permanent change of station travel (including all expenses thereof for organizational movements), and expenses of temporary duty travel between permanent duty stations, for members of the
For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Navy and the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, $45,980,133,000: Provided, That not to exceed $12,478,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Navy, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Navy and the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, $45,980,133,000: Provided, That not to exceed $12,478,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Navy, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, $6,885,884,000.

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Air Force, as authorized by law, $38,592,745,000: Provided, That not to exceed $7,699,000 can be used for emergencies and extraordinary expenses, to be expended on the approval or authority of the Secretary of the Air Force, and payments may be made on his certificate of necessity for confidential military purposes.
For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance, including salaries and expenses of officers and employees; and transfers, of the Air Force Reserve; repair of facilities and equipment; hire of passenger motor vehicles; travel and transportation; care of the dead; recruiting, procuring, processing, storing, and issuing of supplies and equipment; $3,233,745,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Army National Guard, including medical care and treatment and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; hire of motor vehicles; personnel services in the National Guard Bureaus; travel expenses (other than mileage), as authorized by law for Army personnel on active duty, for Air National Guard personnel on active duty, for battalion commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, $6,135,000,000, and equipping the Army National Guard as authorized by law; and expenses of repair, modification, maintenance, and issue of supplies and equipment (including aircraft), $7,275,820,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Air National Guard, including medical care and treatment and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; transportation of things, hire of passenger motor vehicles; personnel services; expansion of public and private plants, including those furnished by the central government to the Department of Defense; travel expenses (other than mileage) on the same basis as authorized by law for Air National Guard personnel on active duty; and equipping the Air Guard commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, $9,740,000,000.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES

For salaries and expenses necessary for the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, not to exceed $5,000,000 may be used for official representation purposes.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, ARMY

For the Department of the Army, $215,809,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of the Army shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Army, and for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, NAVY

For the Department of the Navy, $288,915,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of the Navy shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Navy, and for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Navy, for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, AIR FORCE

For the Department of the Air Force, $398,749,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of the Air Force shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of the Air Force, for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For the Department of Defense, $9,002,000,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris of the Department of Defense, and for similar purposes, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Air Force, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES

For the Department of the Army, $223,673,000, to remain available until transferred: Provided, That the Secretary of the Army shall, upon determining that such funds are required for environmental restoration, reduction and recycling of hazardous waste, removal of unsafe buildings and debris at sites formerly used by the Department of Defense, transfer the funds made available by this appropriation to other appropriations made available to the Department of the Army, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which transferred: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION ACCOUNT

For assistance, including assistance provided by contract or by grants, under programs and activities of the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program authorized under the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Act, $324,600,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND

(Including Transfer of Funds)

In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $3,000,000,000, for the "Operation and Maintenance, National Defense Restoration Fund": Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: Provided further, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: Provided further, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to operation and maintenance accounts: Provided further, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

TITLE III

PROCURMENT

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, including ground handling equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including those land interests, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction projects thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment: Layaway; and other expenses necessary therefor, $4,456,533,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, modernization, and maintenance of missiles, including ground handling equipment, spare parts, and accessories therefor, as authorized by law, $800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.
therefor; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $2,581,600,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of weapons and tracked combat vehicles, including armor, and armament, spare parts, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $3,556,175,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $2,581,600,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $1,811,808,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For construction, procurement, production, and modification of vehicles, including tactical, support, and non-tracked combat vehicles; the purchase of equipment; and the purchase of parts, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $1,811,808,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, equipment, including ordnance, spare parts, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $6,356,044,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, production, modification, and modernization of aircraft, equipment, including ordnance, spare parts, and accessories thereof; specialized equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $842,853,000; Carrier Replacement Submarine (AP), $1,869,646,000; Carrier Replacement Program (AP), $2,961,058,000; Virginia Class Submarine, $3,369,315,000; Virginia Class Submarine (AP), $1,920,596,000; CVN Refueling Overhauls, $1,369,689,000; CVN Refueling Overhauls (AP), $75,897,000; DDG–1000 Program, $3,798,000; DDG–900 Program, $3,159,000; DDG–31 Destroyer, $3,499,079,000; DDG–31 Destroyer (AP), $90,334,000; Littoral Combat Ship, $1,561,971,000; Expeditionary Sea Base, $453,000,000; Expeditionary Sea Base, $1,631,000,000; TAO Fleet Oilers, $459,415,000; TAU Fleet Oilers (AP), $75,868,000; Ship to Shore, $1,940,000,000; Service Craft, $25,204,000; Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship, $141,850,000; LCU 1170, $31,850,000; and Completion of Prior Year Shipbuilding Programs, $1,377,542,000.

In all: $27,502,726,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2022.

Provided, That the national obligations may be incurred after September 30, 2022, for engineering services, tests, evaluations, and other such budgeted work that must be performed in the final stage of the construction, procurement, production, and installation thereon of such vessels, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the construction, conversion, or repair of, or the portation of things, $16,553,196,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For construction, procurement, and modernization of support equipment and materials not otherwise provided for, Navy ordnance (except ordnance for new aircraft, new ships, and ships authorized for conversion); the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; expansion of public and private plants, including the land necessary therefor, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; and procurement and installation of equipment, appliances, and machine tools in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, $7,852,952,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.
SPACE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE
For construction, procurement, and modification of spacecraft, rockets, and related equipment, including spare parts and accessories thereof; ground handling equipment, and training facilities of public and private plants, Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes including rents and transportation of things, $2,219,359,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE
For construction, procurement, production, and modification of ammunition, and accessories thereof; special equipment and training devices; expansion of public and private plants, including ammunition facilities, authorized by section 2854 of title 10, United States Code, and the land necessary therefor, for, the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon prior to approval of title; lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, and machine tools, in public and private plants; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway; and other expenses necessary for the foregoing purposes, $1,316,977,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE
For procurement and modification of equipment (including guidance and electronic control equipment, and ground electronic and communication equipment), and supplies, materials, and spare parts thereof, not otherwise provided for; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; lease of passenger motor vehicles; and expansion of public and private plants, Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon, prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, $19,318,814,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE
For expenses of activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) necessary for procurement, production, and modification of equipment, supplies, materials, and spare parts thereof, not otherwise provided for; the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only; expansion of public and private plants, Government-owned equipment and installation thereof in such plants, erection of structures, and acquisition of land, for the foregoing purposes, and such lands and interests therein, may be acquired, and construction prosecuted thereon, prior to approval of title; reserve plant and Government and contractor-owned equipment layaway, $5,239,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT PURCHASES
For activities by the Department of Defense pursuant to sections 108, 301, 302, and 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4531, 4532, and 4533), $67,401,000, to remain available until expended.

PROCUREMENT, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $12,622,931,000, for the "Procurement, National Defense Restoration Fund": Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy; Provided further, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: Provided further, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of the investments necessary to implement the strategy; Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to procurement activities and projects necessary to implement the strategy described in the allocation plan; Funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

TITLE IV
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY
For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, $9,674,222,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2020.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY
For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, $17,196,521,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE
For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, $31,874,980,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE
For expenses necessary for basic and applied scientific research, development, test and evaluation, including maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment, $9,674,222,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019.

REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS
DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS
For the Defense Working Capital Funds, $1,586,596,000.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS
DEFENSE SLEEP PROGRAM
For expenses, not otherwise provided for, for medical and health care programs of the Department of Defense as authorized by law, $33,931,566,000; of which $31,735,923,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, shall be for operation and maintenance, of which not to exceed one percent shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2019, and of which up to $15,349,700,000 may be transferred to any other program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act, $1,000,000,000, for this purpose provided herein: Provided further, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 30 days prior to making transfers from this appropriation, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfers.
prevention educational activities undertaken in connection with United States military training, exercises, and humanitarian assistance activities conducted primarily in African nations:

For expenses of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, $314,000,000.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses of the Intelligence Community Management Account, $22,100,000.

TITLE VIII
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 8001. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.

SEC. 8002. During the current fiscal year, programs, projects, and activities (except military construction, and military equipment) funded in this Act shall not be carried out in the manner provided by the Department of Defense. Provided, That salaries and expenses authorized for military personnel appropriations shall not be taken into account for purposes of the limitation on the amount of funds that may be transferred under this section.

SEC. 8003. (a) With regard to the list of specific programs, projects, and activities (and the dollar amounts and adjustments to budget activities corresponding to such programs, projects, and activities) included in the tables titled Explanation of Project Level Adjustments in the explanatory statement regarding this Act, the obligation and expenditure of amounts approved or otherwise transferred in this Act for those programs, projects, and activities for which the amounts appropriated exceed the amounts requested are hereby required by law to be treated as sub-divisions of the programs, projects, and activities contained in the tables to the same extent as if the tables were included in the text of this Act.

(b) Amounts specified in the referenced tables described in subsection (a) shall not be treated as sub-divisions of appropriations for purposes of section 8005 of this Act: Provided, That section 8005 shall apply when transfers of the amounts described in subsection (a) occur between appropriation accounts.

SEC. 8004. (a) No later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for fiscal year 2018: Provided, That the regulations included in this section shall be:

(1) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request for each appropriation or transfer as a percentage of the total amount requested for all such captions; and

(2) a separate line for each appropriation or transfer as a percentage of the total amount requested for all such captions.

(b) The following adjustments may be made pursuant to this section:

(1) The Secretary of Defense may make adjustments, that are consistent with the President's budget request for the fiscal year, to the amounts requested for each appropriation or transfer as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure that the funds available for each appropriation or transfer are utilized to the fullest extent possible.

(2) The Secretary of Defense may make adjustments to the amounts requested for each appropriation or transfer that are necessary to ensure that the funds available for each appropriation or transfer are utilized to the fullest extent possible.

(3) The Secretary of Defense may make adjustments to the amounts requested for each appropriation or transfer that are necessary to ensure that the funds available for each appropriation or transfer are utilized to the fullest extent possible.

(4) The Secretary of Defense may make adjustments to the amounts requested for each appropriation or transfer that are necessary to ensure that the funds available for each appropriation or transfer are utilized to the fullest extent possible.

(5) The Secretary of Defense may make adjustments to the amounts requested for each appropriation or transfer that are necessary to ensure that the funds available for each appropriation or transfer are utilized to the fullest extent possible.
reserves material inventory, unless the Secretary of Defense has notified the Congress prior to any such obligation.

SEC. 8009. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated for a special access agreement without prior notification through March 15, 2018, in advance procurement requirements to ensure prompt execution, consistent with availability of funding.

SEC. 8010. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available to initiate a multiyear contract for which the economic order quantity or advance procurement is not funded at least to the limits of the Government's liability.

(1) a multiyear contract that employs economic order quantity procurement in excess of $20,000,000 in any one year of the contract or that includes an uncommitted contingent liability in excess of $20,000,000; or (2) a contract for advance procurement of military equipment that employs economic order quantity procurement in excess of $20,000,000 in any one year, unless the congressional defense committees have been notified at least 30 days in advance of the proposed contract award.

(Provided, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to initiate a multiyear contract for which the economic order quantity or advance procurement is not funded at least to the limits of the Government's liability:

Further provided, That no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to initiate a procurement contract for which any symptoms or component thereof if the value of the multiyear contract would exceed $50,000,000, unless specifically authorized by this Act: Provided, That no multiyear procurement contract can be terminated without 30-day prior notification to the congressional defense committees: Provided further, That the Department of Defense shall require the use of a present value analysis to determine lowest cost compared to an annual procurement: Provided further, That none of the funds provided in this Act may be used for a multiyear contract executed after the date of enactment of this Act unless in the case of any such contract—

(1) the Secretary of Defense has submitted to Congress a budget request for full funding of units to be procured through the contract and, in the case of a contract for procurement of aircraft, that includes, for any aircraft unit to be procured through the contract for which procurement funds are requested in that budget request for production beyond advance procurement activities in the fiscal year covered by the budget, full funding of procurement of such unit in that fiscal year;

(2) any provisions in the contract do not include consideration of recurring manufacturing costs of the contractor associated with the production of unfunded units to be delivered under the contract;

(3) the contract provides that payments to the contractor under the contract shall not be made in advance of incurred costs on funded units; and

(4) the contract does not provide for a price adjustment based on a failure to award a follow-on contract.

Funds appropriated in title III of this Act may be used, subject to section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, for multiyear procurement contracts for—

V-22 Osprey aircraft and V-22 Osprey cargo lift variants;

SSN Virginia Class Submarine and Government-furnished equipment; and

DDG-51 Arleigh Burke class Flight III guided missile destroyers.

SEC. 8011. Funds appropriated in this Act may be obligated for contracts for the acquisition, installation, and related operations and maintenance of terminal high-velocity projectile launch systems and associated Government-furnished systems and subsystems.

SEC. 8012. None of the funds in this Act may be used for operation and maintenance of the Defense Department's nonprocurement funds other than those appropriated specifically for operation and maintenance of systems or projects outside the United States; provided further, That when adequate domestic supplies are not available to the Department of Defense upon a timely basis, the Secretary of Defense, as authorized by section 401(d) of title 10, United States Code, may procure equipment in the United States if the aggregate cost of the components produced or manufactured in the United States exceeds the aggregate cost of the components produced or manufactured outside the United States:

SEC. 8013. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense may be used to demilitarize or dispose of M-4 Carbine, M-1 Garand rifles, M-14 rifles, .22 caliber rifles, .30 caliber rifles, M-1911 pistols, or to demilitarize or destroy small arms ammunition or ammunition components that are not otherwise prohibited from commercial sale under Federal law, unless the ammunition or ammunition components are certified by the Secretary of the Army or designee as unserviceable or unsafe for further use.

SEC. 8014. No more than $500,000 of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used for incentive payments authorized by section 504 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1444).

Provided, That a prime contractor or a subcontractor at any tier that makes a subcontract award to any subcontractor or supplier as defined in section 504 of title 25, United States Code, or a small business that is controlled by an individual or individuals defined under section 4221 of title 25, United States Code, shall be considered a contractor for the purposes of this Act: Provided further, That none of the funds available in this Act shall be used for incentive payments authorized by this Act, or in any other Fund, at any time, to the extent that the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of the Army (or designee) considers that a purchase by the Department of Defense of commercial items under a contract or subcontract is awarded in accordance with the requirements of this Act:

SEC. 8015. Funds appropriated in title III of this Act for the Department of Defense Pilot Mentor-Protege Program may be transferred to any other appropriation contained in this Act solely in connection with the establishment of a Mentor-Protege Program as defined under section 1107 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note) civilian personnel of the Department of Defense:

SEC. 8016. None of the funds available in this Act may be used for operation and maintenance of the Department of Defense's nonprocurement funds other than those appropriated specifically for operation and maintenance of systems or projects outside the United States; provided further, That when adequate domestic supplies are not available to the Department of Defense upon a timely basis, the Secretary of Defense, as authorized by section 401(d) of title 10, United States Code, may procure equipment in the United States if the aggregate cost of the components produced or manufactured in the United States exceeds the aggregate cost of the components produced or manufactured outside the United States:

SEC. 8017. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense may be used to demilitarize or dispose of M-4 Carbine, M-1 Garand rifles, M-14 rifles, .22 caliber rifles, .30 caliber rifles, M-1911 pistols, or to demilitarize or destroy small arms ammunition or ammunition components that are not otherwise prohibited from commercial sale under Federal law, unless the ammunition or ammunition components are certified by the Secretary of the Army or designee as unserviceable or unsafe for further use.

SEC. 8018. None of the funds available in this Act shall be used for incentive payments authorized by section 504 of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (25 U.S.C. 1444).

Provided, That a prime contractor or a subcontractor at any tier that makes a subcontract award to any subcontractor or supplier as defined in section 504 of title 25, United States Code, or a small business that is controlled by an individual or individuals defined under section 4221 of title 25, United States Code, shall be considered a contractor for the purposes of this Act: Provided further, That none of the funds available in this Act shall be used for incentive payments authorized by this Act, or in any other Fund, at any time, to the extent that the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of the Army (or designee) considers that a purchase by the Department of Defense of commercial items under a contract or subcontract is awarded in accordance with the requirements of this Act:
receipt, such contributions from the Government of Kuwait shall be credited to the appropriations or fund which incurr such obligations. 

SEC. 8022. (a) Of the funds made available in this Act, not more than $190,000,000 shall be available for the Civil Air Patrol Corporation, of which—

(1) $40,000,000 shall be available from “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force” to support Civil Air Patrol Corporation operation and maintenance, readiness, counter-drug activities, and drug demand reduction activities involving youth services.

(2) $10,600,000 shall be available from “Air-Craft Procurement, Air Force”; and

(3) Amounts from “Other Procurement, Air Force” for vehicle procurements.

(b) The Secretary of the Air Force should waive the requirement that those funds used by the Civil Air Patrol for counter-drug activities in support of Federal, State, and local government agencies.

SEC. 8023. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act are available to establish a new Department of Defense (department) federally funded research and development center (FFRDC), either as a new entity, or as a separate entity administered by an organization managing another FFRDC, or as a nonprofit membership corporation consisting of a consortium of other FFRDCs and other nonprofit entities.

(b) No member of a Board of Directors, Trustees, Committee, Advisory Group, Special Issues Panel, Visiting Faculty, any member of a staff of a FFRDC, and no paid consultant to any defense FFRDC, except when acting in a technical advisory capacity, may be compensated for his or her services as a member of such entity, or as a paid consultant by more than one FFRDC in a fiscal year: Provided, That a member of any such entity, or of any nonprofit membership corporation consisting of a consortium of other FFRDCs and other nonprofit entities, may convey at no cost to the Air Force, without condition, to Indian tribes located in the States of Nevada, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Oregon, Minnesota, and Washington, relocatable military housing units in any area or category of the Department of Defense Working Capital Funds.

which were not melted and rolled in the United States or Canada: Provided, That these procurement restrictions shall apply to any and all Federal Supply Class 5915, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) specifications of carbon, alloy or armor steel plate: Provided further, That the Secretary of the military department responsible for the purchase may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis and that such acquisition must be made in order to acquire capabilites for national security: Provided further, That these restrictions shall not apply to contracts which are in being as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8025. For the purposes of this Act, the term “congressional defense committees” means the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives, the Armed Services Committee of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8026. During the current fiscal year, the Department of Defense may acquire or redesign, repair or replace of aircraft, vehicles and vessels as well as the production of components and other Defense-related articles, through competition between Department of Defense contractors and private firms: Provided, That the Senior Acquisition Executive of the military department or Defense Agency concerned, with power of delegation, shall ensure that competition bids include comparable estimates of all direct and indirect costs for both public and private bids: Provided further, That Office of Management and Budget Commissioner shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate an updated list of all Defense FFRDCs and other nonprofit entities.

(b) No member of a Board of Directors, Trustees, Committee, Advisory Group, Special Issues Panel, Visiting Faculty, any member of a staff of a FFRDC, and no paid consultant to any defense FFRDC, except when acting in a technical advisory capacity, may be compensated for his or her services as a member of such entity, or as a paid consultant by more than one FFRDC in a fiscal year: Provided, That a member of any such entity, or of any nonprofit membership corporation consisting of a consortium of other FFRDCs and other nonprofit entities, may convey at no cost to the Air Force, military housing units upon request for such units that are submitted to the Secretary by the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be used to purchase items having an investment unit cost of not more than $250,000.

(b) The fiscal year 2019 budget request for the Department of Defense shall be subject to the condition that the housing units shall be removed within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) The Operation Walking Shield Program shall resolve any conflicts among requests of Indian tribes for housing units under subsection (a) before submitting requests to the Secretary of the Air Force under subsection (b).
Sec. 8034. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for programs of the Central Intelligence Agency shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, except for funds appropriated for Contingency Operations Fund, which shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That funds appropriated, transferred, or otherwise credited to the Central Intelligence Agency from any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided for in the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts: Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from that amount that are designated for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balance the Budget or the National Security or the Biodefense Act of 1985, as amended:

"Air Force Procurement, Navy", 2016/2018, $274,000,000;
"Air Force Procurement, Air Force", 2016/2018, $82,700,000;
"Missile Procurement, Army", 2017/2019, $19,319,000;
"Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army", 2017/2019, $9,764,000;
"Other Procurement, Army", 2017/2019, $10,000,000;
"Aircraft Procurement, Navy", 2017/2019, $105,600,000;
"Weapons Procurement, Navy", 2017/2019, $54,122,000;
"Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2017/2019, $41,116,000;
"Air Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2019, $62,293,000;
"Space Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2019, $31,539,000;
"Space Procurement, Navy", 2017/2019, $150,000,000;
"Other Procurement, Air Force", 2017/2019, $105,000,000;
"Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy", 2017/2018, $34,128,000;
Sec. 8041. None of the funds available in this Act may be used to reduce the authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve for the purpose of applying any administratively imposed civilian personnel ceiling, freeze, or reduction on military technicians (dual status), unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.
Sec. 8042. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for assistance to the Department of Defense for the purpose of applying any administratively imposed civilian personnel ceiling, freeze, or reduction on military technicians (dual status), unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.
Sec. 8043. Funds appropriated in this Act for operation and maintenance of the Military Departments, Combatant Commands, and Defense Agencies shall be available for reimbursement of pay, allowances and other expenses which would otherwise be incurred against appropriations for the National Guard and Reserve when members of the National Guard and Reserve provide intelligence or counterintelligence support to Combatant Commands, Defense Agencies and Joint Intelligence Centers, including the activities and programs included within the National Intelligence Program and the Military Intelligence Program: Provided, That nothing in this section authorizes deactivation of a National Guard and Reserve personnel and training procedures.
Sec. 8044. (a) None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for any fiscal year for drug interdiction or counter-drug activities may be transferred to any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided in appropriation Acts.
(b) None of the funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency for any fiscal year for drug interdiction or counter-drug activities may be transferred to any other department or agency of the United States except as specifically provided in an appropriation Act.

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SEC. 8045. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used for the procurement of ball and roller bearings other than those produced by a domestic source and of domestic origin: Provided, That the Secretary of the Department responsible for such procurement may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet the requirements of the Department for such bearings, and that such an acquisition is necessary to ensure the availability for national security purposes: Provided further, That this restriction shall not apply to the purchase of "commercial items", as defined by section 41, United States Code, except that the restriction shall apply to ball or roller bearings purchased as end items.

SEC. 8046. None of the funds made available by this Act for Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle service competitive procurements may be used unless the competitive procurements are open for award to all certified providers of Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle-class systems: Provided, That the award shall be made to the provider that offers the best value to the government.

SEC. 8047. In addition to the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available elsewhere in this Act, $44,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense: Provided, That upon approval of the Secretary of the Secretary of Defense that it shall serve the national interest, the Secretary shall make grants in the amounts specified as follows: $20,000,000 to the United Service Organizations and $24,000,000 to the Red Cross.

SEC. 8048. None of the funds in this Act may be used to purchase any supercomputer which is not manufactured in the United States, unless the Secretary of Defense certifies to the congression- al defense committees that such an acquisi- tion is necessary to acquire capability for national security purposes that is not avail- able from United States manufacturers.

SEC. 8049. Notwithstanding any other provi- sion in this Act, the Small Business Innovation Research program and the Small Business Technol- ogy Transfer program set-asides shall be taken proportionally from all programs, projects, or activities to the extent they con- tribute to the extramural budget.

SEC. 8050. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense under this Act shall be obligated or expended for the payment of any amount paid by the contractor to an employee when—

(1) such costs are for a bonus or otherwise in excess of the normal salary paid by the con- tractor to the employee; and

(2) such bonus is part of restructuring costs associated with a business combination.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8051. During the current fiscal year, no more than $30,000,000 of appropriations made in this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" may be trans- ferred to appropriations available for the pay of military personnel, to be merged with, and to be available for the same time period as the appropri- ations to which they are transferred, for the support of such personnel in connection with support and services for eligible organizations and activities outside the Department of Defense pursuant to section 2012 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8052. During the current fiscal year, in the case of an appropriation account of the De- partment outside of which the period of availability for obligation has expired or which has closed under the provisions of section 1552 of title 31, United States Code, and which has a nega- tively liquidated or unexpended balance, an obligation or an adjustment of an obligation may be charged to any current appropriation account for the same purpose as the expired or closed account if—

(1) the obligation would have been properly chargeable (except as to amount) to the expired or closed account had the period of availability or closing of that account;

(2) the obligation is not otherwise properly chargeable to any current appropriation ac- count; and

(3) in the case of an expired account, the obligation is not chargeable to a current appropriation of the Department of Defense under the provisions of section 1552 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991, Public Law 101–510, as amended (31 U.S.C. 1551 note): Provided, That in the case of an expired account, an appropriate Department of Defense appropriation discloses that there was not in fact a negative unliquidated or unexpended balance in the ac- count, any charge to a current account under the authority of this section shall be reversed and recorded against the expired account: Pro- vided further, That the total amount charged to a current appropriation under this section may not exceed an amount equal to 1 percent of the total appropriation for that account.

SEC. 8053. (a) Notwithstanding any other provi- sion of law, the National Guard Bureau may permit the use of equipment of the National Guard Distance Learning Project by any person or entity on a space-available, reimbursable basis. The National Guard Bureau shall establish the amount of reimburse- ment for such use on a case-by-case basis.

(b) Amounts collected under subsection (a) shall be credited to the National Guard Distance Learning Project and be available to defray the costs associated with the use of equipment of the project under that sub- section. Such funds shall be available for such purposes without fiscal year limitation.

SEC. 8054. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense may be obligated to mod- ify contracts issued prior to October 1, 2004, to give Fleet Forces Command operational and adminis- trative control of United States Navy forces as- signed to the Pacific fleet: Provided, That the command and control relationships which ex- isted on October 1, 2004, shall remain in force until a written modification has been proposed to the House and Senate Appropriations Com- mittees: Provided further, That the proposed modification may be implemented 30 days after the notification unless an objection is received from either the House or Senate Appropriations Committees: Provided further, That any pro- posed modification shall not preclude the ability of the commander of United States Pacific Com- mand to meet operational requirements.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8055. Of the funds appropriated in this Act under the heading "Operation and Mainte- nance, Defense-Wide", $25,000,000 shall be for continued implementation and expansion of the section 1002 Special Victims Counsel Program: Provided, That the funds are made available for transfer to the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Depart- ment of the Air Force for the implementation and expansion of the section 1002 Special Victims Counsel Program: Provided further, That funds transferred shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which they are transferred: Provided further, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided in this Act.

SEC. 8056. None of the funds appropriated in title IV of this Act may be used to procure end-items for delivery to military forces for oper- ational training, operational use or inventory purposes without full acquisition restriction or implementation. This restriction does not apply to end-items used in development, prototyping, and test activities preceding and leading to acceptance for operational use: Provided further, That this restriction does not apply to programs funded within the National Intelligence Program: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restric- tion on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that it is in the national security interest to do so.

SEC. 8057. (a) The Secretary of Defense may, on a case-by-case basis, waive with respect to a foreign country each limitation on the procure- ment of defense items from foreign sources pro- vided in law if the Secretary determines that the application of the limitation with respect to that country would invalidate cooperative programs entered into between the Department of Defense and the foreign country, or would invalidate re- ciprocal trade agreements for the procurement of defense items entered into between the United States and the foreign country: Provided further, That the award shall be made to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That the award shall be made to the House of Representatives and the Senate writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis and that such an acquisition is necessary to ensure the availability of defense items from foreign sources pro- vided in law if the Secretary determines that the application of the limitation with respect to that country would invalidate cooperative programs entered into between the Department of Defense and the foreign country, or would invalidate re- ciprocal trade agreements for the procurement of defense items entered into between the United States and the foreign country, and the country does not discriminate against the same or simi- lar defense items produced in the United States.

(b) Subsection (a) applies with respect to—

(1) contracts and subcontracts entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) options for the procurement of items that are exercised after such date under contracts and subcontracts entered into prior to such date if the op- tion prices are adjusted for any reason other than the application of a waiver granted under subsection (a).

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated in this Act under the heading "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide" for any new start advanced concept technology demonstra- tion project or joint capability demonstration project may only be obligated 45 days after a report, including a description of the project, the proposed acquisition strategy and its development budget and its estimated annual and total cost, has been provided in writing to the congressional defense committees: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying to the congres- sional defense committees that it is in the national interest to do so.

SEC. 8058. Notwithstanding any other provi- sion of law, funds appropriated in this Act under the heading "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide" for any new start advanced concept technology dem- onstration project or joint capability demonstration project may only be obligated 45 days after a report, including a description of the project, the proposed acquisition strategy and its development budget and its estimated annual and total cost, has been provided in writing to the congressional defense committees: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense may waive this restriction on a case-by-case basis by certifying to the congressional defense committees that it is in the national interest to do so.

SEC. 8059. The Secretary of Defense shall con- tinue to provide a classified quarterly report to the House and Senate Appropriations Commit- tees, Subcommittees on Defense on certain mat- ters as directed in the classified annex accom- panying this Act.

SEC. 8061. Notwithstanding section 12310(b) of title 10, United States Code, a Reserve who is a member of the National Guard serving on full-time Guard duty under section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, may perform duties in support of the ground-based elements of the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

SEC. 8062. None of the funds provided in this Act may be used to transfer any nongovern- ment property held by the Depart- ment of Defense that has a center-fire cartridge and a United States military nomenclature des- ignation of "armor penetrator", "armor piercing incendiary tracer (API–T)", or "armor-piercing incendiary tracer (AP–T)", ex- cept to an entity performing demilitarization
services for the Department of Defense under a contract that requires the entity to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department of Defense that armor piercing projectiles are either:

(1) recyclable or recoverable and capable of reuse by the demilitarization process; or

(2) used to manufacture ammunition pursuant to a contract with the Department of Defense or the manufacture of ammunition for export pursuant to a License for Permanent Export of Unclassified Military Articles issued by the Department of State.

SEC. 8063. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, may waive payment of all or any part of the consideration otherwise due for services performed by a non-defense entity that would be required under section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, in the case of a lease of personal property for a period not in excess of 1 year to any organization specified in section 508(d) of title 32, United States Code, or any other youth, social, or fraternal nonprofit organization as may be approved by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, on a case-by-case basis.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8064. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Department of Defense," and in the report for the Department of Defense included in the unclassified P-1, R-1, and O-1 documents supporting the Department of Defense budget request:

(1) the appropriations account structure for the National Intelligence Program budget is changed to be consistent with the national security, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 8065. (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act or in any other Act may be used to take any action to modify—

(1) the appropriations account structure for the National Intelligence Program budget, including through the creation of a new appropriated or new appropriation account;

(2) how the National Intelligence Program budget is structured in the unclassified P-1, R-1, and 0-1 documents supporting the Department of Defense budget request;

(3) the process by which the National Intelligence Program appropriations are apportioned to the executing agencies; or

(4) the process by which the National Intelligence Program appropriations are allotted, obligated, and disbursed.

(b) Nothing in section (a) shall be construed to prohibit the merger of programs or changes to the National Intelligence Program budget at or below the Expenditure Center level, provided such change is otherwise in accordance with paragraphs (a)(1)–(3).

(c) The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense may jointly, only for the purposes of achieving auditable financial statements and improving fiscal reporting, study and develop joint proposals for alternative financial management processes. Such study shall include a comprehensive counterintelligence risk assessment to ensure that none of the alternative processes will adversely affect counterintelligence.

(d) Upon development of the detailed proposals described in paragraph (c), the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) provide the proposed alternatives to all affected agencies to ensure that the proposed alternatives will help achieve auditability, improve fiscal reporting, and will not adversely affect counterintelligence; and

(3) not later than 30 days after receiving all necessary certifications under paragraph (2), present the proposed alternatives and certifications to the congressional defense and intelligence committees.

SEC. 8066. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, $5,000,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense, to remain available for obligation until expended: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, that upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that it shall serve the national interest, these funds shall be available only for additional Fisher Houses Foundation, Inc., only for the construction and furnishing of additional Fisher Houses to meet the needs of military family members when confronted with the illness or hospitalization of an eligible military beneficiary.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8067. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the headings "Procurement, Defense-Wide" and "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide" shall be for the Israeli Cooperative Programs: Provided, That of this amount, $92,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Government of Israel for procurement and development of the Iron Dome defense system to counter short-range rocket threats, subject to the U.S.-Israel Iron Dome Procurement Agreement, as amended; $221,500,000 shall be for the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense (SRBMD) program, including cruise missile defense research and development under the SRBMD program, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of SRBMD missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel co-production agreement for SRBMD, as amended; $205,000,000 shall be for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, of which $120,000,000 shall be for co-production activities of Arrow 3 Upper Tier missiles in the United States and in Israel to meet Israel's defense requirements consistent with each nation's laws, regulations, and procedures, subject to the U.S.-Israel Arrow co-production agreement for Arrow 3 Upper Tier, as amended; $165,000,000 shall be for testing and integration of an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture in the United States; and $32,300,000 shall be for the Arrow System Improvement Program including development of the 3rd Generation interceptor and air-borne, detection suite: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this provision is in addition to any other transfer authority contained in this Act.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 8068. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", $117,542,000 shall be available until September 30, 2018, to fund prior year shipbuilding and conversion decreases: Provided, That upon enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall transfer funds to the following appropriations in the amounts specified: Provided further, That the amounts transferred shall be merged with and available for the same purposes as the appropriations to which transferred to:

(1) Under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2013/2018: DDG-51 Destroyer $13,000,000.

(3) Under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2012/2013: LHD Replacement $14,200,000.


(9) Under the heading "Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy", 2017/2018: DDG-996 $208,000,000.

None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity unless such program, project, or activity must be undertaken immediately in the interest of national security and only after written prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 8071. The budget of the President for fiscal year 2018 submitted to the Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, and the related congressional budget documents for costs of United States Armed Forces' participation in contingency operations for the Military Personnel accounts, the Operations and Maintenance, Defense-Wide, Test and Evaluation accounts, and the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation accounts: Provided, That these documents shall include a description of the funding requested for each contingency operation, for each military service, to include all Active and Reserve components, and for each appropriations account: Provided further, That the documents shall include estimated costs for each element of expense or object class, a reconciliation of increases and decreases for each contingency operation, and programmatic data including, but not limited to, funding needs, troop strength for each Active and Reserve component, and estimates of the major weapons systems deployed in support of each contingency: Provided further, That these documents shall include budget exhibits OP-5 and OP-32 (as defined in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation) for all contingency operations for the budget year and the two preceding fiscal years.

SEC. 8072. None of the funds in this Act may be used for research, development, test, evaluation, procurement, or production of a nuclear armed interceptors of a missile defense system.

SEC. 8073. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, to reflect savings due to favorable exchange rates, the total amount of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall include budget exhibits OP-5 and OP-32 (as defined in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation) for all contingency operations for the budget year and the two preceding fiscal years.

SEC. 8074. None of the funds appropriated or made available in this Act shall be used to reduce or disestablish the operation of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the Air Force Reserve, if such action would reduce the Weather Reconnaissance mission below the levels funded in this Act: Provided, That the Air Force shall allow the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron to perform other missions in support of national defense requirements during the non-hurricane season.

SEC. 8075. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for integration of foreign intelligence information unless the information has been lawfully collected and processed during the conduct of authorized foreign intelligence activities: Provided, That information pursuant to section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3049) during fiscal year 2018 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

SEC. 8076. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity unless such program, project, or activity must be undertaken immediately in the interest of national security and only after written prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 8077. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to transfer research and
development, acquisition, or other program authority relating to current tactical unmanned aerial vehicles (TUAVs) from the Army.

(b) The Army shall retain responsibility for and operational control of the MQ-1C Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) in order to support the Secretary of Defense in matters relating to the employment of unmanned aerial vehicles.

SEC. 8077. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for programs of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence shall remain available after the end of the current fiscal year, except for funds appropriated for research and technology, which shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

SEC. 8078. The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a table of accounts and programs in the specified funds are permanently rescinded from the following accounts and programs in the specified funds: (1) a table for each appropriation with a separate column for each year, except for funds appropriated for research and technology, which shall remain available until September 30, 2019; (2) a delineation in the table for each appropriation whose obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) results in a cumulative increase or decrease of the levels specified in the classified annex accompanying the Act unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; (3) the notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

(b) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this or any prior appropriations Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that results in a cumulative increase or decrease of the levels specified in the classified annex accompanying the Act unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements. SEC. 8084. The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a table of accounts and programs in the specified funds are permanently rescinded from the following accounts and programs:

(b) The Army shall retain responsibility for and operational control of the MQ-1C Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) in order to support the Secretary of Defense in matters relating to the employment of unmanned aerial vehicles.

SEC. 8088. (a) Any agency receiving funds appropriated by this Act for operation and maintenance Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that results in a cumulative increase or decrease of the levels specified in the classified annex accompanying the Act unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.

(b) None of the funds provided for the National Intelligence Program in this or any prior appropriations Act shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming or transfer of funds in accordance with section 102A(d) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(d)) that results in a cumulative increase or decrease of the levels specified in the classified annex accompanying the Act unless the congressional intelligence committees are notified 30 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds; this notification period may be reduced for urgent national security requirements.
Health Program to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Defense to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 8091. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense, or any other officer or official of the Department of Defense, to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement for the loan or postponement of a loan or loan guarantee to Rosoboronexport or any subsidiary of Rosoboronexport.

(b) The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation in paragraph (a) in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, determines that it is in the vital national security interest of the United States to do so, and certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that, to the best of the Secretary’s knowledge:

(1) none of the funds provided under paragraph (a) may be used to fund the reparation of lethal military equipment to, and the maintenance of existing lethal military equipment for, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic;

(2) The amounts appropriated under this section shall be made prior to June 30, 2017.

(3) The prohibition in this section shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgement that the United States was canceled during the current fiscal year due to insufficient funding.

(4) All information made available by this Act for the Department of Defense, amounts made available under this Act shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgment that the United States was canceled during the current fiscal year due to insufficient funding.

(c) The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall conduct a review of any action involving Rosoboronexport and shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of the review conducted with respect to such waiver.

The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall conduct a review of any action involving Rosoboronexport and shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of the review conducted with respect to such waiver.

SEC. 8092. Appropriations available to the Department of Defense for the fiscal year 2016 and otherwise made available in this Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, possessions, or otherwise made available in this or any other Act, and shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgment that the United States was canceled during the current fiscal year due to insufficient funding.

SEC. 8093. Upon a determination by the Director of National Intelligence that such action is necessary and in the national interest, the Director may, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer not to exceed $1,500,000,000 of the funds made available in this Act for the National Intelligence Program:

(1) none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used by the Department of Defense, or any other officer or official of the Department of Defense, to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement for the loan or loan guarantee to Rosoboronexport or any subsidiary of Rosoboronexport;

(b) The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation in paragraph (a) in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, determines that it is in the vital national security interest of the United States to do so, and certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that, to the best of the Secretary’s knowledge:

SEC. 8094. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer, release, or acquisition of any property item described in subsection (c) unless the congressional defense committees are notified of the determination of the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary and in the national interest.

SEC. 8095. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions, or to house any individual described in subsection (c) for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or otherwise made available in this Act for the Department of Defense, amounts made available under this Act shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgment that the United States was canceled during the current fiscal year due to insufficient funding.

(c) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions, or to house any individual described in subsection (c) unless the congressional defense committees are notified of the determination of the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary and in the national interest.

SEC. 8096. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of Defense, or any other officer or official of the Department of Defense, to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement for the loan or loan guarantee to Rosoboronexport or any subsidiary of Rosoboronexport.

SEC. 8097. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions, or otherwise made available in this Act for the Department of Defense, amounts made available under this Act shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgment that the United States was canceled during the current fiscal year due to insufficient funding.

SEC. 8098. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions, or otherwise made available in this Act for the Department of Defense, amounts made available under this Act shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgment that the United States was canceled during the current fiscal year due to insufficient funding.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, or otherwise made available in this Act for the Department of Defense, amounts made available under this Act shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgment that the United States was canceled during the current fiscal year due to insufficient funding.

SEC. 8099. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the purchase or manufacture of a flag of the United States unless such flag items are acquired and界定 by the Director of National Intelligence.

SEC. 8100. (a) Of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Department of Defense, amounts may be made available, under such regulations as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, to local military commanders appointed by the Secretary, or by an officer or employee designated by the Secretary, to provide at their discretion ex gratia payments in amounts consistent with subsection (d) of this section for damage, personal injury, or death caused to a United States person as a result of co-draft operations of the Armed Forces in a foreign country.

(b) An ex gratia payment under this section may be provided—

(1) the prospective foreign civilian recipient is determined by the local military commander to be friendly to the United States;

(2) a claim for damages would not be compensable under chapter 163 of title 10, United States Code (commonly known as the “Foreign Claims Act”); and

(3) the property damage, personal injury, or death was not caused by action of an enemy.

(c) NATURE OF PAYMENTS.—Any payments provided under subsection (a) shall not be considered an admission or acknowledgement of any legal obligation to compensate for any damage, personal injury, or death.

SEC. 8101. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund the performance of a flight demonstration team at a location outside the United States or with a contractor, if this prohibition applies only if a performance of a flight demonstration team at a location within the United States was canceled during the current fiscal year due to insufficient funds.

SEC. 8102. The Secretary of Defense shall post grant awards on a public Website in a searchable format.

SEC. 8103. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund the performance of a flight demonstration team at a location outside the United States or with a contractor.

SEC. 8104. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Security Agency to—

(1) conduct an acquisition pursuant to section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 for the purpose of targeting a United States person; or

(2) acquire, monitor, or store the contents (as such term is defined in section 2510(4) of title 18, United States Code) of any electronic communication services of a United States person from a provider of electronic communication services to the public pursuant to section 1010 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

SEC. 8105. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approes a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

SEC. 8106. None of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to pay the salary or pay the office expenses of an emergency fund established by this Act that the executive branch is authorized to expend to implement the transfer of administrative responsibilities or budgetary resources of any program, project, or activity financed by this Act to the jurisdiction of another Federal agency not financed by this Act unless explicitly provided for in a Defense Appropriations Act; Provided, That this limitation shall not apply to funds expressly provided for in Defense Appropriations Acts, or provisions of Acts providing supplemental appropriations for the Department of Defense.

SEC. 8107. None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated for activities authorized under section 1208 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 112–81; 125 Stat. 1621) to initiate support for, or expand support to, foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals unless the congressional defense committees are notified in accordance with the direction contained in the classified annex accompanying this Act, not less than 5 days before such support begins.

None of the funds made available in this Act may be used under section 1208 for any activity that is
not in support of an ongoing military operation being conducted by United States Special Operations Forces to combat terrorism; Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may waive the prohibitions in this section if the Secretary determines that such waiver is required by extraordinary circumstances and, by not later than 72 hours after making such waiver, notifies the congressional defense committees of such waiver.

SEC. 8108. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used with respect to Iraq in contravention of the Iraq Power Resolutions (P.L. 104-164 and 104-208) or the United States: Auxiliary equipment (including pumps) for shipboard services; propulsion equipment (including engines, reduction gears, and propellers); shipboard cranes; and spreaders for shipboard cranes.

SEC. 8110. The amount appropriated in title II of this Act for the Department of Defense, Ready Reserve Force, Maritime Administration may be used for any purposes related to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) shall be made in accordance with section 805 of this Act.

SEC. 8112. Of the amounts provided in this Act may be used by the Secretary of Defense to pay for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 8113. None of the funds provided in this Act for the National Guard personnel is subject to the same terms and conditions as the memorandum of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

SEC. 8114. Of the amounts appropriated in this Act for ‘‘Operation and Maintenance, Navy’’, $206,400,000 is hereby appropriated for the Secretary of the Treasury Fund established under section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 8115. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 8116. Of the amounts provided in this Act may be used for transfer to the United States: The United States: Auxiliary equipment (including pumps) for shipboard services; propulsion equipment (including engines, reduction gears, and propellers); shipboard cranes; and spreaders for shipboard cranes.

SEC. 8117. Additional readiness funds made available in this Act for the Department of Defense, Ready Reserve Force, Maritime Administration, Army, ‘‘Operation and Maintenance, Navy’’, ‘‘Operation and Maintenance, Air Force’’, and ‘‘Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps’’, and ‘‘Operation and Maintenance, Air Force’’ may be transferred to and merged with any appropriation of the Department of Defense for activities related to the Zika virus in order to provide health support for the full range of military operations and sustain the health of the members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees of the Department of Defense, and their families, to include: research and development, disease surveillance, vaccine development, rapid detection, vector controls and surveillance, training, and outbreak response. Use of funds provided in this section is subject to the same terms and conditions as the memorandum of the Secretary of Defense for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) shall be made in accordance with section 805 of this Act.

SEC. 8118. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network is designed to block access to pornography websites.

SEC. 8119. Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities, or for any activity necessary for the national defense, including intelligence activities.

SEC. 8120. No credits or otherwise made available in this Act may be used to carry out the Office of Economic Adjustment Development Fund may be transferred to:

SEC. 8121. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $335,000,000 for ‘‘Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide’’ to remain available until expended: Provided, That such funds shall only be available to the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Office of Economic Adjustment, to construct, renovate, repair, or expand elementary and secondary public schools on military installations in order to address capacity or facility condition deficiencies at such schools to the extent such funds remain unobligated on the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 8122. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the changes to the Joint Travel Regulations of the Department of Defense described in the memorandum of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

TITLE IX
OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/ GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM
MILITARY PERSONNEL
MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMED FORCES
For an additional amount for ‘‘Military Personnel, Army’’, $2,635,317,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY
For an additional amount for ‘‘Military Personnel, Navy’’, $912,779,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS
For an additional amount for ‘‘Military Personnel, Marine Corps’’, $101,900,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE
For an additional amount for ‘‘Military Personnel, Air Force’’, $912,779,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, ARMED FORCES
For an additional amount for ‘‘Reserve Personnel, Army’’, $24,942,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
RESERVE PERSONNEL, NAVY
For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Navy”, $9,091,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS
For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps”, $20,569,000: Provided, That such amount to amounts provided for for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESERVE PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE
For an additional amount for “Reserve Personnel, Air Force”, $20,569,000: Provided, That such amount to amounts provided for for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY
For an additional amount for “National Guard Personnel, Army”, $184,589,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE
For an additional amount for “National Guard Personnel, Air Force”, $5,104,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $1,000,000,000, for the “Military Personnel, National Defense Restoration Fund”: Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: Provided further, That such funds transferred under this heading shall only be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That none of the funds provided under this heading shall be available for programs, projects and activities specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, $5,875,015,000, of which up to $161,885,000 may be transferred to the Coal Guard “Operating Expenses” account: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve”, $1,116,640,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”, $1,376,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, $10,266,295,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, $6,944,201,000: Provided, That the funds provided under this heading, not to exceed $900,000,000, remain available until September 30, 2019, shall be for payments to reimburse key cooperating nations for logistical, military, and other support, including access, provided to United States military and stability operations in Afghanistan and to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant: Provided further, That such reimbursement payments may include amounts as the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, may determine, based on documentation determined by the Secretary of Defense to adequately account for the support provided, and such determination is final and conclusive upon the accounting officers of the United States, and 15 days following notification to the appropriate congressional committees outlining the amounts intended to be included; Provided further, That such funds provided under this heading may be used for the purpose of providing specialized training and procuring supplies and specialized equipment and providing such equipment on a non-reimbursable basis to coalition forces supporting United States military and stability operations in Afghanistan and to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and 15 days following notification to the appropriate congressional committees: Provided further, That such funds provided under this heading may be used to support the Government of Jordan, in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense may determine, to enhance the ability of the armed forces of Jordan to increase or sustain support for those security forces prior written notification to the congressional defense committees outlining the amounts intended to be included; Provided further, That such funds provided under this heading shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: Provided further, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to military personnel accounts: Provided further, That the funds transferred under this heading shall only be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That none of the funds provided under this heading shall be available for programs, projects and activities specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $2,000,000,000, for the “Operation and Maintenance, National Defense Restoration Fund”; Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: Provided further, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve”, $24,699,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, $23,980,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS RESERVE
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve”, $3,367,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve”, $58,523,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NATIONAL GUARD
For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard”, $108,111,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $1,000,000,000, for the “Operation and Maintenance, National Defense Restoration Fund”; Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2018 National Defense Strategy: Provided further, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
For the “Counter-Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant Train and Equip Fund’’, $1,769,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including training; equipment; logistics support, supplies, and services; stipends; infrastructure repair and renovation; and other necessary contract obligations, including support, forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals participating, or preparing to participate in activities to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and their affiliated or associated groups: Provided further, That these funds may be used in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense may determine to enhance the border security of nations adjacent to conflict areas including Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Tunisia resulting from actions of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant: Provided further, That the authority to provide assistance only for activities in a country designated by the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, as necessary to enhance the security of the United States, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and following written notification to the congressional defense committees: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that prior to providing assistance to elements of any forces or individuals, such elements or individuals are appropriately vetted, including at a minimum, assessing such elements for associations with terrorist groups or groups associated with the Government of Iran; and receiving such information in writing to promote respect for human rights and the rule of law: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall not, for ten days prior to obligating from this appropriation, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such obligation: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may accept and retain contributions, including assistance in-kind, from foreign governments, including the Government of Iraq and other entities, to carry out assistance authorized under this heading: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may obligating from this appropriation to foreign entities: Provided further, That the Secretary to no longer be required for transactions with terrorist groups or groups associated with the Government of Iran, and the contributions of other countries, groups, or individuals: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCURMENT

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Aircraft Procurement, Army”, $424,686,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCURMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army”, $1,191,139,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCURMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Army”, $405,572,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Aircraft Procurement, Navy”, $157,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Weapons Procurement, Navy”, $130,994,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.
For an additional amount for "Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps", $223,843,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY
For an additional amount for "Other Procurement, Navy", $207,984,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for "Procurement, Marine Corps", $64,071,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE
For an additional amount for "Aircraft Procurement, Air Force", $310,836,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE
For an additional amount for "Missile Procurement, Air Force", $381,700,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SPACE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE
For an additional amount for "Space Procurement, Air Force", $4,256,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE
For an additional amount for "Procurement, Defense-Wide", $510,741,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For procurement of rotary-wing aircraft; combat, tactical and support vehicles; other weapon systems; and other procurement items for the reserve components of the Armed Forces, $1,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That the Chief of National Guard and Reserve components shall, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, individually submit to the congressional defense committees the modernization priority assessment for their respective National Guard or Reserve component: Provided further, That none of the funds made available by this paragraph may be used to procure manned fixed wing aircraft, or procure or modify missiles, munitions, or ammunition: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

PROCUREMENT, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $6,000,000,000, for the "National Defense Restoration Fund": Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2010 National Defense Strategy: Provided further, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: Provided further, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to procurement accounts: Provided further, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriated to which transferred: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be transferred to any program, project, or activity specifically limited or denied by this Act: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to procurement accounts: Provided further, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriated to which transferred: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE
For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force", $144,508,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE
For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide", $226,996,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NATIONAL DEFENSE RESTORATION FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act, there is appropriated $1,000,000,000, for the "National Defense Restoration Fund": Provided, That such funds provided under this heading shall only be available for programs, projects and activities necessary to implement the 2010 National Defense Strategy: Provided further, That such funds shall not be available for transfer until 30 days after the Secretary has submitted, and the congressional defense committees have approved, the proposed allocation plan for the use of such funds to implement such strategy: Provided further, That such allocation plan shall include a detailed justification for the use of such funds and a description of how such investments are necessary to implement the strategy: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds only to research, development, test and evaluation accounts: Provided further, That the funds transferred shall be merged with and shall be available for the same purposes and for the same time period, as the appropriated to which transferred: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS
DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS
For an additional amount for "Defense Working Capital Funds", $148,556,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS
DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM
For an additional amount for "Defense Health Program", $395,805,000, which shall be for operation and maintenance: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DRUG INTERDICTON AND COUNTER-DUG DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE

For an additional amount for “Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense,” $196,300,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

JOINT IMPROVISED-THREAT DEFEAT FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the “Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Fund” (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS) domain amounting to $10,757,000: Provided, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of allowing the Director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization to investigate, develop and provide equipment, supplies, services, training, facilities, personnel and funds to assist U.S. government for a purpose as follows: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer funds provided herein to the Department of Defense in this Act or to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL


LEGISLATION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 9001. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title are in addition to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2018.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 9002. Upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Congress may, with the approval of the Secretary of Management and Budget, transfer up to $2,500,000,000 between the appropriations or funds made available to the Department of Defense in this title: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the Congress promptly of each transfer made pursuant to the authority in this section: Provided further, That the authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8005 of this Act.

SEC. 9003. Supervision and administration costs and costs for design during construction include all-in-house Government costs.

SEC. 9004. From funds made available in this title, the Secretary of Defense may purchase for the U.S. government any military installation in Afghanistan, may be obligated at the time of award. That, for the purpose of the section, this new paragraph shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to fund the Commander’s Emergence Response Program (CERP), for the purpose of enabling military commanders in Afghanistan to respond to urgent, small-scale, humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility: Provided, That each project (including any ancillary or related elements in connection with such project) executed under this authority shall not exceed $2,000,000: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after the end of the 6-month period that were made available pursuant to the authority provided in this section or under any other provision of law for the purpose of enabling military commanders in Afghanistan to respond to urgent, small-scale, humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 9005. Not to exceed $5,000,000 of the amounts appropriated by this title under the heading “Operation and Maintenance, Army” may be obligated at the time of award. That, for the purpose of enabling military commanders in Afghanistan to respond to urgent, small-scale, humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility: Provided, That each project (including any ancillary or related elements in connection with such project) executed under this authority shall not exceed $500,000: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a written notice containing each of the following:

(1) The location, nature and purpose of the proposed project, including how the project is intended to advance the military campaign plan for the country in which it is to be carried out.
(2) The proposed construction timeline with milestones, and completion date for the proposed project, including any other CERP funding that has been or is anticipated to be contributed to the completion of the proposed project.
(3) A plan for the sustainment of the proposed project, including the agreement with either the host nation, a non-Department of Defense agency of the United States Government or a third-party contractor to finance the sustainment of the activities and maintenance of any equipment or facilities to be provided through the proposed project.

SEC. 9006. Funds available to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance may be used to satisfy other provision of law, to provide supplies, services, transportation, including airlift and sealift, and other logistical support to allied forces participating in a combined and coordinated effort of the United States and coalition forces supporting military and stability operations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the State of Iraq and the Levant: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees regarding support provided under this section.

SEC. 9007. Not to exceed $100,000,000 appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act shall be obligated or expended by the United States Government for the purpose of (a) military or security forces of Ukraine, and for replacement of any weapons or defensive articles provided to the Government of Ukraine from the inventory of the United States: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall not, less than 15 days prior to obligating funds provided under this heading, notify the congressional defense committees of the intent to obligate such funds: Provided further, That the United States may accept equipment procured using funds to assist United States forces in the defeat of improvised explosive devices: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a written notice containing each of the following:

(1) The location, nature and purpose of the proposed project, including how the project is intended to advance the military campaign plan for the country in which it is to be carried out.
(2) The proposed construction timeline with milestones, and completion date for the proposed project, including any other CERP funding that has been or is anticipated to be contributed to the completion of the proposed project.
(3) A plan for the sustainment of the proposed project, including the agreement with either the host nation, a non-Department of Defense agency of the United States Government or a third-party contractor to finance the sustainment of the activities and maintenance of any equipment or facilities to be provided through the proposed project.

SEC. 9008. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the following laws enacted or regulations promulgated to implement the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (done at New York on December 10, 1984):

(1) Section 2340A of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 9009. None of the funds provided for the “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS) may be obligated prior to the approval of a financial and activity plan by the Afghan Resources Oversight Council (AROC) of the Department of Defense. That the AROC must approve the requirement and acquisition plan for any service requirements in excess of $50,000,000 annually and any non-standard equipment requirements in excess of $100,000,000 annually, notwithstanding price or other limitations being in effect: Provided further, That the Department of Defense must certify to the congressional defense committees that the AROC has completed and approved an acquisition plan for any service requirements in excess of $50,000,000 annually and any non-standard equipment requirements in excess of $100,000,000 annually, that the plan for any service requirements in excess of $50,000,000 annually and any non-standard equipment requirements in excess of $100,000,000 annually, is in accordance with the $196,300,000: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees a written notice containing each of the following:

(1) The location, nature and purpose of the proposed project, including how the project is intended to advance the military campaign plan for the country in which it is to be carried out.
(2) The proposed construction timeline with milestones, and completion date for the proposed project, including any other CERP funding that has been or is anticipated to be contributed to the completion of the proposed project.
(3) A plan for the sustainment of the proposed project, including the agreement with either the host nation, a non-Department of Defense agency of the United States Government or a third-party contractor to finance the sustainment of the activities and maintenance of any equipment or facilities to be provided through the proposed project.

SEC. 9010. Up to $500,000,000 of funds appropriated by this Act for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency in “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” may be used to provide assistance to the Government of Jordan to support the armed forces of Jordan and to enhance security along its borders.

SEC. 9012. None of the funds made available by this Act under the heading “Counter-ISIL, Train and Equip Fund” may be used to procure or transfer man-portable air defense systems.

SEC. 9013. For the “Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative” and “Law of the Sea” activities, $160,000,000: Provided, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including training; equipment; military and national security forces of Ukraine, and for replacement of any weapons or defensive articles provided to the Government of Ukraine from the inventory of the United States: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees a written notice containing each of the following:

(1) The location, nature and purpose of the proposed project, including how the project is intended to advance the military campaign plan for the country in which it is to be carried out.
(2) The proposed construction timeline with milestones, and completion date for the proposed project, including any other CERP funding that has been or is anticipated to be contributed to the completion of the proposed project.
(3) A plan for the sustainment of the proposed project, including the agreement with either the host nation, a non-Department of Defense agency of the United States Government or a third-party contractor to finance the sustainment of the activities and maintenance of any equipment or facilities to be provided through the proposed project.

SEC. 9014. Funds available to the Secretary of Defense may be used to purchase equipment in the United States for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

SEC. 9015. To exercise United States control over any oil resource of Iraq, funds may be obligated for any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq.
funds provided under this heading in this or prior Acts that was transferred to the security forces of Ukraine and returned by such forces to the United States: Provided further, That equipment and funds provided under this heading in this or prior Acts, and not yet transferred to the military or National Security Forces of Ukraine or returned by such forces to the United States, be considered transferred to Ukraine for the support, operation, and maintenance of the Ukrainian Armed Forces as provided in the National Security Strategy, Report on the State of the Union, the budget request of the President, or notification to the congressional defense committees: Provided further, That the funds provided in this section are designated by the Secretary of Defense upon written notification to the congressional defense committees: Provided further, That amounts made available by this Act for the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount for certain purposes, namely: 

SEC. 9019. Of the funds appropriated in Department of Defense Appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the operating accounts and programs in the specified amounts: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985:

(1) Other Procurement, Air Force, $25,100,000; and
(2) Transportation, $15,000,000; and
(3) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $10,000,000; and
(4) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $5,000,000; and
(5) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $2,000,000; and
(6) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $1,000,000; and
(7) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $750,000; and
(8) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $500,000; and
(9) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $250,000; and
(10) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $100,000; and
(11) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $50,000; and
(12) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $25,000; and
(13) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $10,000; and
(14) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $5,000; and
(15) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $2,000; and
(16) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $1,000; and
(17) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $500; and
(18) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $250; and
(19) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $125; and
(20) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $75; and
(21) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $50; and
(22) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $25; and
(23) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $15; and
(24) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $10; and
(25) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $5; and
(26) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $2; and
(27) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $1; and
(28) Programs for the Defense of the United States, $0.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE
NOTE: The next daily section is 60A. However, due to the brevity of the remaining text in this section, it is not transcribed.
For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sewer services for the Senate and House Office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate, garage, and air conditioning refrigeration facilities; for heating and operation of such buildings; heating the Government Publishing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilling water for air conditioning for the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed with the approval of the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, $106,694,000, of which $29,037,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That not more than $9,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this appropriation shall be used for obligation during fiscal year 2018.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computer Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, $31,000,000, of which $12,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

POLICE BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND SECURITY

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computer Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, $31,000,000, of which $12,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

BOTANIC GARDEN

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, $93,000,000.

CAPITOL BUILDING

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, $45,300,000, of which $19,458,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

CAPITOL GARDENS

For all necessary expenses for care and improvement of grounds surrounding the Capitol, the Senate and House office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, $13,333,000, of which $1,195,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the House office buildings, $169,294,000, of which $45,139,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022, and of which $62,600,000 shall remain available until expended for the restoration and renovation of the Cannon House Office Building. In addition to the appropriation to the Architect of the Capitol Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund, $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINSITIVE PROVISIONS NO BONUSES FOR CONTRACTORS BEHIND SCHEDULE OR OVER BUDGET

SEC. 1201. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act for the Architect of the Capitol may be used to make incentive or award payments to contractors for work on contracts or programs for which the contractor was behind schedule or over budget, unless the Architect of the Capitol, or agency-employed designer, determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant in the overall scope of the project and/or program.

SCRIMS

SEC. 1202. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for scrims containing photographs of buildings during renovation or construction projects performed by the Architect of the Capitol.

CAPITOL POWER PLANT

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sewer services for the Senate and House Office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate, garage, and air conditioning refrigeration facilities; for heating and operation of such buildings; heating the Government Publishing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilling water for air conditioning for the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed with the approval of the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, $106,694,000, of which $29,037,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That not more than $9,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this appropriation shall be used for obligation during fiscal year 2018.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computer Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, $31,000,000, of which $12,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

POLICE BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND SECURITY

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computer Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, $31,000,000, of which $12,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

BOTANIC GARDEN

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, $93,000,000.

CAPITOL BUILDING

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, $45,300,000, of which $19,458,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

CAPITOL GARDENS

For all necessary expenses for care and improvement of grounds surrounding the Capitol, the Senate and House office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, $13,333,000, of which $1,195,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the House office buildings, $169,294,000, of which $45,139,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022, and of which $62,600,000 shall remain available until expended for the restoration and renovation of the Cannon House Office Building. In addition to the appropriation to the Architect of the Capitol Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund, $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINSITIVE PROVISIONS NO BONUSES FOR CONTRACTORS BEHIND SCHEDULE OR OVER BUDGET

SEC. 1201. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act for the Architect of the Capitol may be used to make incentive or award payments to contractors for work on contracts or programs for which the contractor was behind schedule or over budget, unless the Architect of the Capitol, or agency-employed designer, determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant in the overall scope of the project and/or program.

SCRIMS

SEC. 1202. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for scrims containing photographs of buildings during renovation or construction projects performed by the Architect of the Capitol.

CAPITOL POWER PLANT

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sewer services for the Senate and House Office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate, garage, and air conditioning refrigeration facilities; for heating and operation of such buildings; heating the Government Publishing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilling water for air conditioning for the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed with the approval of the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, $106,694,000, of which $29,037,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022; Provided, That not more than $9,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this appropriation shall be used for obligation during fiscal year 2018.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computer Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, $31,000,000, of which $12,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

POLICE BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND SECURITY

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computer Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, $31,000,000, of which $12,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

BOTANIC GARDEN

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, $93,000,000.

CAPITOL BUILDING

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, $45,300,000, of which $19,458,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2022.

CAPITOL GARDENS

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HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

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ADMINSITIVE PROVISIONS NO BONUSES FOR CONTRACTORS BEHIND SCHEDULE OR OVER BUDGET

SEC. 1201. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act for the Architect of the Capitol may be used to make incentive or award payments to contractors for work on contracts or programs for which the contractor was behind schedule or over budget, unless the Architect of the Capitol, or agency-employed designer, determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant in the overall scope of the project and/or program.

SCRIMS

SEC. 1202. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for scrims containing photographs of buildings during renovation or construction projects performed by the Architect of the Capitol.
to sections 111, 119, and chapter 10 of such title may be used for the costs incurred in the administration of the Copyright Royalty Judges program, with the exception of the costs of salaries and benefits for the Copyright Royalty Judges and staff under section 802(e).

**CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For all necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 203 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166) and to revise and extend the Annotated Constitution of the United States of America, $111,474,000: Provided, That no part of such amount may be used to pay any salary or expense in connection with any publication, or preparation of material therefor (except the Digest of Public General Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress unless such publication has obtained prior approval of either the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

**BOOKS FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For all necessary expenses to carry out the Act of March 3, 1931 (chapter 400; 46 Stat. 1487; 2 U.S.C. 135a), $50,248,000: Provided, That, of the total amount appropriated, $650,000 shall be available to contract to provide newspapers to blind and physically handicapped residents at no cost to the individual.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION**

**REIMBURSABLE AND REVOLVING FUND ACTIVITIES**

SEC. 1201. (a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2018, the obligational authority of the Library of Congress for the activities described in subsection (b) may not exceed $919,642,000.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are reimbursable and revolving fund activities that are funded from sources other than appropriations to the Library in amounts obtained prior to or under any unobligated or unexpended balances in this account or accounts for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years.

**GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE**

**CONGRESSIONAL PUBLISHING**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For authorized publishing of congressional information and the distribution of congressional information, in any format, by the Government Publishing Office authorized by law to be distributed to Members of Congress; and publishing, and distribution of Government publications authorized by law, $29,000,000: Provided, That amounts of not more than $2,000,000 in any fiscal year may be expended to print a document, report, or publication after the rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 718 of title 5, United States Code, may be expended to print a document, report, or publication after the rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 718 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 718 of title 5, United States Code; benefits comparable to those payable under sections 901(5), (6), and (8) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081(5), (6), and (8)) may be paid to employees and contractors of the United States of America, $111,474,000: Provided, That, in addition, funds may be used to provide a payment to the Government Publishing Office for producing and disseminating Congressional serial sets and other related publications for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 to depository and other designated libraries; Provided further, That any unobligated or unexpended balances in this account for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years may be transferred to the Government Publishing Office for use in connection with any publication, or preparation of material therefor (except the Digest of Public General Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress unless such publication has obtained prior approval of either the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES**

SEC. 201. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act may be used for the payment of any expense for the maintenance or care of private vehicles, except for emergency assistance and cleaning as may be provided under regulations relating to parking facilities for the House of Representatives issued by the Committee on House Administration and for the Senate issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

**FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION**

SEC. 202. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond fiscal year 2018 unless expressly so provided in this Act.
DIVISION C—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes herein.

TITLE I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property of the Army, to be used by, and the implementation of, this division.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, $2,791,272,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed $101,470,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architecture, and engineering services, as authorized by law.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, $2,260,050,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed $4,725,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineering services, as authorized by law.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, $2,791,272,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense as available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same purposes, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: Provided further, That, of the amount, not to exceed $15,717,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineering services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMED FORCES CONSTRUCTION, NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENTS

For acquisition, construction, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Armed Forces Components of the National Guard and Reserve, as authorized by chapter 106 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $923,994,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $16,271,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the National Guard Bureau determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard as authorized by chapter 103 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $63,271,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architecture and engineering services, as authorized by law, unless the Air National Guard Board determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Navy Reserve as authorized by chapter 103 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $58,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $5,000,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 103 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $63,535,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed $4,725,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS

For acquisition, construction, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the provision of services and benefits for veterans as authorized by chapters 17, 18, 31, and 38 of title 38, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $301,891,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed $300,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineering services, as authorized by law.
For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installation (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $177,932,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT
For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $290,867,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY
For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $386,825,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY
For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $182,662,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $83,682,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $238,282,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE
For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $83,662,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE
For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $318,324,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE
For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, $59,169,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND
For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, $2,726,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2803 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving family housing and supporting facilities.

DEFENSE MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND
For the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund, $623,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2803 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS
SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a contract for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, where cost estimates exceed $25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 22, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriation is made in this title.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value of such land, as determined by the Secretary of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General; or (3) the estimated value is less than $25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another until prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for procurement of material or services for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have denied the opportunity to compete for procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds made available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation or realign an installation without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to obligate architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed $500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organizational member country, in any of the countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific Ocean or in any country bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed $1,000,000 to a foreign contractor.

That this section shall not be applicable to contracts awarded for the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor, or the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: Provided, Further, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kunsan Air Base, the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallense contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the Appropriations Committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States forces more than 30 days preceding, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed $100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are not completely funded, any funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design, and those projects on and subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department for construction or deferral funds for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available as construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2803 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense and referred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in “Family Housing” authorized by law, to be merged and made available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund, from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in “Military Construction” accounts, to be merged with and made available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: Provided, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development
Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be for the same purposes and retain the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters, except that not more than $15,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without outlay of funds in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing contained in section 107 and chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $95,768,862,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2018: Provided, That not to exceed $17,882,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2019 under this heading shall be reimbursed to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “Information Technology Systems” for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chap- ter 12, section 126, and section 515 of title 10, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and Pensions” appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical Care Collections Fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilita- tion benefits to or on behalf of veterans as au- thorized by chapters 19, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $11,832,175,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2018: Provided, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Sec- retary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 369 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, service-disabled veterans insurance, and vet- erans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code, $121,529,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2017, of which $19,090,000 shall become avail- able on October 1, 2018.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to transfer to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “Infor- mation Technology Systems” funds necessary for the carrying out of the provisions of the Veterans Housing Benefit Program, as authorized by the Veterans Housing and Economic Development Act of 2000, 38 U.S.C. 4001 et seq., to the extent funds are not otherwise committed.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $30,000, as au- thorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to transfer, from amounts that were designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or as an emergency re- quirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, that sum or sums to such extent as may be necessary for the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That, during fiscal year 2018, within the resources available, not to exceed $500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $178,626,000.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapter 53, title 38, United States Code: Provided, That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to transfer to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, $2,356,000, to the extent funds are not otherwise committed.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

H6395
For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Affairs, to be provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, $2,894,000,000: Provided, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraph (11) of section 3108(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible and in an environment that is safe and supportive, to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: Provided further, That an amount not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law, for administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering debts, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That the amount made available on October 1, 2018, under this heading, $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Department; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation, and equipment acquisition and for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, and improving hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2017; and, in addition, $2,399,156,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2018, under this heading, $12,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2018, under this heading, $100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020.

MEDICAL CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1701(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, biochemical services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, administrative and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code, shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2017, and, in addition, $49,160,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2018, and shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2018, under this heading, $1,400,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a patient and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: Provided further, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2018, under this heading, $100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020.

NATIONAL CEMETARY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, for new construction and modernization, for acquiring uniforms or allowances thereof; ceremonial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in ceremonial operations; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, $306,193,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department to carry out chapter 22 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, $254,000,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2017; and, in addition, $3,384,704,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2018, and shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That the amount made available on October 1, 2018, under this heading, $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

For necessary operating expenses of the Department to carry out chapter 38 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, $254,000,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that became available on October 1, 2017; and, in addition, $3,384,704,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2018, and shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That the amount made available on October 1, 2018, under this heading, $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.
Sec. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2018 for "Compensation and Pensions'', "Readjustment Benefits'', and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: Provided, That, before a transfer may be made, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

Sec. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2018, in this or any other Act, under the "Medical Services'', "Medical Community Care'', "Medical Support and Compliance'', and "Medical Facilities'' accounts, as set forth in the budget, may be transferred to the "Medical Services'', "Medical Community Care'', "Medical Support and Compliance'', and "Medical Facilities'' accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the year, as provided for in sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3701 of title 38, United States Code, and as otherwise set forth in the budget of any particular fiscal year, or as otherwise set forth in this title, may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, that any transfers made under the "Medical Services'', "Medical Community Care'', "Medical Support and Compliance'', and "Medical Facilities'' account to the "Medical Services'' account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

Sec. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 3, United States Code.

Sec. 204. No appropriations in this title (except for the appropriations for "Construction, Major Projects'', and "Construction, Minor Projects''), shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any national cemetery, or for any项目的 construction.

Sec. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 1001 through 1004 of title 38, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the "Medical Services'' account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 206. Appropriations available in this title for "Compensation and Pensions'', "Readjustment Benefits'', and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' shall be available for payment of amounts due from any account to which such amounts are credited, but such amounts may be reclassified as credits to such other accounts as the Secretary may approve and as otherwise set forth in this title.

Sec. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from section 3701 of title 38, United States Code, and sections 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from "Compensation and Pensions'' accounts.

Sec. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2018, the Secretary of
Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans’ Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” for services for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

SEC. 212. Amounts made available under “Medical Services” are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to “Construction, Major Projects” at 38 U.S.C. may be transferred to the “Medical Services” and “Medical Community Care” accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Health Organizations, which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary, that mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the “Construction, Minor Projects” account, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarter report, with the assistance of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph under the heading “General Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, “Board of Veterans Appeals”, “General Administration”, and “National Cemetery Administration” accounts for fiscal year 2018 may be transferred to the “Information Technology Systems” account: Provided, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the fiscal year in which the transfer is made; and Provided further, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the fiscal year 2018 for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “Construction, Minor Projects”, and “Information Technology Systems”, up to $297,137,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500). Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That section 222 of title II of division A of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-223) is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available in October, November, December, 2018 for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, may be transferred to the Combined Federal Medical Facilities Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500). Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts available in this title for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, a minimum of $15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Services Demonstration Account, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 223. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current combined Federal medical facilities as designated by the VA Health Care Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.
SEC. 224. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any bid savings in a major construction project that total at least $5,000,000, of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: Provided, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the program or project; and further, the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 225. None of the funds made available for "Construction, Major Projects" may be used for a project identified in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 226. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each of the Benefits Administration, Departmental Operating Expenses, Benefits Administration in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114–223: Provided further, That the report shall also include information on the number of appeals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly basis.

SEC. 227. Of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2018 for the "Medical Services" and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts, not more than $225,012,000 shall be available to develop an electronic health record: Provided, That not more than 25 percent of the amount made available for such purpose may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both House of Congress a detailed explanation of the activities to develop the Military Health System Genesis electronic health record to be funded by the Veterans Health Administration rather than the Office of Information Technology, a timeline for completion, master schedule, performance milestones, and availability of local specialty and primary care; and further, no funds made available for fiscal year 2018 under the "Departmental Administration—Office of General Counsel" shall be available until the Veterans Health Administration provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including the following elements:

1. A national realignment strategy that includes a detailed description of realignment plans within each Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN), including an updated Long Range Capital Plan to implement realignment requirements;
2. An explanation of the process by which those plans were developed and coordinated within each VISN;
3. A cost versus benefit analysis of each planned realignment, including the cost of replacing Veterans Health Administration services with contract care or other outsourced services;
4. An analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas; and
5. An inventory of capital projects with historic designation and a methodology used to determine the buildings’ condition and utilization;
6. A description of how any realignment will be consistent with requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act; and
7. Consideration given for reuse of historic buildings within newly identified realignment requirements: Provided, That, this provision shall not apply to capital projects in VISN 23, or any other VISN, which have been authorized or approved by Congress.

SEC. 229. None of the funds made available under this or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the "Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration’s Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance" published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that emergency action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the "Medical Services" account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2018 (except appropriations made to the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" account) or any discretionary unobligated balances from any single account, or by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2018, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: Provided, That transfers made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: Provided further, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a continuing resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That such authority is to transfer in such an amount as is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration rather than the Office of General Counsel.

SEC. 231. Of the amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2018 under the "Board of Veterans Appeals" and the "General Administration—Vets Benefits Administration" accounts may be transferred between such accounts: Provided, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 232. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed $5,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 233. Of the discretionary funds made available in Public Law 114–223 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2018, $313,730,000 are rescinded from "Medical Services", $63,282,000 are rescinded from "Medical Support and Compliance", and $22,960,000 are rescinded from "Medical Facilities".

SEC. 234. The amounts otherwise made available by this Act for the following accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs are hereby reduced by the following amounts:

1. Veterans Health Administration—Medical and Prosthetic Research, $5,823,000.
2. National Cemetery Administration, $3,003,000.
3. Departmental Administration—Veterans Benefits Administration, $2,000,000.
4. Departmental Administration—Board of Veterans Appeals, $1,579,000.
5. Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration, $35,470,000.
6. Departmental Administration—Information Technology Systems, $18,907,000.
7. Departmental Administration—Office of Inspector General, $716,000.

SEC. 235. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transfer that fraction of the Suicide Hotline fund under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—
1. to provide individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and
2. to adhere to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.
(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from appointing a person to a civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).
(b)(2) In this subsection—
(A) the term "civil service" has the meaning given such term in section 2101(1) of title 5, United States Code; and
(B) the term "Executive action" includes—
(i) any Executive order, presidential memorandum, or other action taken by a person acting in an official capacity;
(ii) any agency policy, order, or other directive.

SEC. 236. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or establish a bishop that any existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities located in Veterans Integrated Service Network 8 or 23 as part of a planned realignment of VA services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including the following elements:

1. A national realignment strategy that includes a detailed description of realignment plans within each Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN), including an updated Long Range Capital Plan to implement realignment requirements;
2. An explanation of the process by which those plans were developed and coordinated within each VISN;
3. A cost versus benefit analysis of each planned realignment, including the cost of replacing Veterans Health Administration services with contract care or other outsourced services;
4. An analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas; and
5. An inventory of capital projects with historic designation and a methodology used to determine the buildings’ condition and utilization;
6. A description of how any realignment will be consistent with requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act; and
7. Consideration given for reuse of historic buildings within newly identified realignment requirements: Provided, That, this provision shall not apply to capital projects in VISN 23, or any other VISN, which have been authorized or approved by Congress.

SEC. 237. Section 410(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—
1. In paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end of
2. in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “;” and “;
3. by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) notwithstanding subsection (a) of section 1344 of title 31, may use a passenger carrier (as such term is defined in subsection (h)(1) of such section) to transport such an employee between a parking facility and the medical facility of the Department at which the employee works.”.

SEC. 238. None of the funds made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the “Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration’s Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance” published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 239. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs under the "Medical Services" account may be used to provide—
1. fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran applying for an insurance or other assistance;
2. adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran;
(b) In this section:
(1) The term "service-connected" has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.
(2) The term "covered veteran" means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.
(3) The term "assisted reproductive technology" means benefits relating to reproductive assistance services provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074c(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of "Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members" issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of benefits available to such a member except that—
(A) the time periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and
(B) such term includes embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.
(4) The term "adoption reimbursement" means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.
(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115–31).

TITLE III
RELATIVE AGENCIES
AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES
For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchase and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rest of official travel space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, $75,100,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTuations ACCOUNT
For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, $33,600,000: Provided, That the amount, $500,000 shall be transferred to the Administrative Services Administration for planning and design of a courthouse: Provided further, That $2,580,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL
Cemeterial Expenses, Army
SAME AS prioR EXPEnSES
For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed $1,000,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $78,800,000, of which not to exceed $15,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the "Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies" account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME
TRUST FUND
For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund. $64,300,000, of which not to exceed $1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: Provided, That the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $22,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS
SEC. 301. Funds appropriated in this Act under the heading of "Military Construction, Army" and "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", $147,158,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 302. Amounts deposited into the special funds created by sections 301 and 303 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

TITLE V
GENERAL PROVISIONS
SEC. 301. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.
SEC. 502. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity when it makes available to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.
SEC. 503. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of existing statutory authorities and the funding, to expand their use of "E-Commerce" technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business functions and public service activities.
SEC. 504. Unless stated in reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Committee on Military Construction, Department of Defense, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Department of Defense, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.
SEC. 505. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 507. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), submit to the Congress, the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Department of Defense, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, a computerized report of the numbers of virtual machines placed and removed within the agency’s computing environment, and the estimated and actual dollar costs for each action.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—
(1) the public posting of the report promises national security.
(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.
(3) the content or the methodology of the report is exempted from public disclosure.
(4) the agency providing such data annually produces the report.

(c) The content of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.
SEC. 301. None of the funds available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.
SEC. 302. Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State,
tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 509. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, under which the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency’s fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

SEC. 512. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and used for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided for in this Act; or to any modification of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(c) An individual described in this subsection who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who

(1) is an individual of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

REFERENCES TO ACT

SEC. 513. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ‘‘this Act’’ contained in this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

REFERENCE TO REPORT

SEC. 514. Any reference to a report accompanying this Act’’ contained in this division shall be treated as a reference to House Report 115-118. The effect of such Report shall be limited to, and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided for, and the implementation of, this division.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 515. 80. This division may be cited as the ‘‘Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018’’.

DIVISION D—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT: FEDERAL BUREAUS, AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended in accordance with the authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor development, including shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.

INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when combined with contracts entered into for exploration, surveys, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, $105,000,000, to remain available until expended. Provided, That the Secretary may prepare 1,255 new construction starts during fiscal year 2018: Provided further, That the new study starts shall consist of five studies where the majority of the benefits are derived from navigation projects, project cost sharing agreements, damage reduction and one study where the majority of benefits are derived from environmental restoration: Provided further, That the Secretary shall not initiate the new starts proposed in the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SOURCE WATER RESTORATION

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; for costs of construction, design and plans and specifications of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction; $1,697,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be used only as necessary to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund as authorized by Public Law 104–303; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover one-half of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law: Provided, That the Secretary may enter into contracts for not more than two new construction starts during fiscal year 2018: Provided further, That the new construction starts shall consist of two projects where the majority of the benefits are derived from navigation transportation savings, flood and storm damage reduction, or environmental restoration: Provided further, That for new construction projects, project cost sharing agreements shall be executed as soon as practicable but no later than August 31, 2018: Provided further, That no allocation for a new start shall be considered financed until the Secretary has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an out-year funding scenario demonstrating the affordability of the selected new starts and the impacts on other projects: Provided further, That the Secretary may not deviate from the new starts proposed in the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction, navigation, including ecosystem restoration, and related services along the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, $301,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of the costs for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; and of which such sums as become available from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104–303 shall be used to cover the costs of construction and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected: Provided, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fiscal year following the quarter of the fiscal year in which such funds become available unless available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate; and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters, $32,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, $118,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the offices of the Corps of Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allowable to the civil works program, $313,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are not to exceed $5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and
only during the current fiscal year: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief Engineer of the Navy, or the execution of any civil works executive direction and management activities of the division offices: Provided further, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to carry out any existing or new emergency measures or projects, including activities necessitated by flood control, coastal erosion, or other natural disaster.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 3016(b)(3), $4,764,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That not more than 75 percent of such amount may be obligated or expended until the Assistant Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a work plan that allocates at least 95 percent of the additional funding provided under each heading in this title (as designated under such heading in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act) to specific programs, projects, or activities.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL WORKS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by more than $2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(4) reduces funds for a program, project, or activity by more than $2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(5) increases funds for any program, project, or activity by more than $2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;


(c) The Corps of Engineers shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing any transfers of funds between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to acquire or modify any contract, order, or agreement under which funds are to be reprogrammed or obligated or expended for the purposes for which the funds were appropriated.

SEC. 103. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Recreational和Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act of 2017, the amounts appropriated for the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire or modify contracts, orders, or agreements for the acquisition of real property, improvements, other facilities, or water rights for the purposes of this title: Provided, That such amounts may be used to acquire or modify contracts, orders, or agreements for the acquisition of real property, improvements, other facilities, or water rights for the purposes of this title.

SEC. 104. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for the purpose of complying with the Water Quality Certification Act of 1973, as amended.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, $3,981,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2018, of the amount made available to the Corps of Engineers under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed $1,300,000 for administrative expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related resources and projects for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and others, $1,601,790,000, to remain available until expended, of which $67,693,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and $5,551,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado Water Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced under 16 U.S.C. 6906 from the Fund or account: Provided, That such transfers may be increased or decreased as necessary to meet the overall appropriation under this heading: Provided further, That the total of the appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Fund or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6906 shall be derived from that Fund or account: Provided further, That funds contributed by the States of Utah and Colorado or any other State shall be transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6906 of Public Law 102–575, to remain available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: Provided further, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 379a shall be credited to and remain available until expended for the same purposes as the amounts appropriated under this heading: Provided further, That the funds provided herein may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1706.

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, and other restoration and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, $41,376,000, to be derived from such sums as may be collected in the Central Valley Project Account pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3406(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102–575, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102–575: Provided further, That such funds made available for this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by law from possessing the firearm; and (1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and (2) the possession is in compliance with the law of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, $3,981,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2018, of the amount made available to the Corps of Engineers under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed $1,300,000 for administrative expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related resources and projects for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and others, $1,601,790,000, to remain available until expended, of which $67,693,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and $5,551,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado Water Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced under 16 U.S.C. 6906 from the Fund or account: Provided, That such transfers may be increased or decreased as necessary to meet the overall appropriation under this heading: Provided further, That the total of the appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Fund or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6906 shall be derived from that Fund or account: Provided further, That funds contributed by the States of Utah and Colorado or any other State shall be transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6906 of Public Law 102–575, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102–575: Provided further, That funds made available for this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by law from possessing the firearm; and (1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and (2) the possession is in compliance with the law of the State in which the water resources development project is located.
For expenses necessary for policy, administration, or for activities in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the five regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2019, $59,000,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—
(1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;
(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act;
(4) authorizes or renews any program, project, or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;
(5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits—
(A) 15 percent for any program, project, or activity for which $2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or
(B) $400,000 for any program, project, or activity for which less than $2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;
(6) transfers more than $500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category; or
(7) transfers, where necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than $5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor costs, or accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments.
(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.
(c) For purposes of this section, the term “transfer” means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.
(d) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing all the fund reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.
(b) The Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classi-
remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, $177,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste disposal, for the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Public Law 97-425, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "NWPA";), including the acquisition of any real property or facility constructed or acquired, $9,000,000,000 is hereby made available until expended, and to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund: Provided, That of the funds made available in this Act for nuclear waste disposal and defense nuclear waste disposal activities, 1.62 percent shall be provided to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Nevada, to settle litigation expenses; or (2) used for appropriate activities and participate in licensing activities pursuant to the NWPA: Provided further, That of the funds made available in this Act for nuclear waste disposal and defense nuclear waste disposal activities, 2.91 percent shall be provided to affected units of local government, as defined in the NWPA, to conduct appropriate activities and participate in licensing activities under Section 116(c) of the NWPA: Provided further, That of the amounts affected under local government, 7.5 percent of the funds provided for the affected units of local government shall be made available to affected units of local government in Nevada for distribution as determined by the Nevada affected units of local government: Provided further, That of the funds made available in this Act for nuclear waste disposal and defense nuclear waste disposal activities, 3.0 percent shall be provided to Nye County, Nevada, 0.05 percent shall be provided to Clark County, Nevada, and 0.46 percent shall be provided to the State of Nevada as payment equal to 1.25% of the amounts provided thereunder in prior years: Provided further, That within 90 days of the completion of each Federal fiscal year, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Nevada, in consultation with the nationally-recognized Tribal Tribes, and each of the affected units of local government shall certify to the Department of Energy that all funds expended from such payments have been expended for activities authorized by the NWPA and this Act: Provided further, That failure to provide such certification shall cause such entity to be prohibited from any further funding provided for similar activities: Provided further, That none of the funds herein appropriated may be: (1) used for litigation expenses; or (2) used for interim storage facilities; or (3) used to support multi-State efforts or other coalition building activities inconsistent with the restrictions contained in this Act: Provided further, That all proceeds and any further funding realized by the Secretary in carrying out activities authorized by the NWPA, including but not limited to any proceeds from the sale of assets, shall be credited to this account and shall be available until expended, for carrying out the purposes of this account.

TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512(b)) under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 302(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided, That for necessary administrative expenses to carry out this Loan Guarantee program, $2,000,000 is appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided further, That $2,000,000 of the fees collected pursuant to section 302(7) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account to cover administrative expenses and shall remain available until expended, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2018 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $0: Provided further, That fees collected under section 1702(h) in excess of the amount appropriated for administrative expenses shall not be available until appropriated: Provided further, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financial obligations in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 608.10 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations: Provided further, That the subsidy amounts provided by section 1425 of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 112-32) for the cost of loan guarantees for renewable energy or efficient end-use energy technologies under section 1973 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16512(c)) shall be provided only if such loan or other financial obligations shall be made available only for construction and project support activities for such Project: Provided further, That the subsidy amounts provided by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 for commitments made by October 1, 2017, is hereby rescinded.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary for the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary for the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, $500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility for or plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $82,500,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount, $165,600,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION (INCLUDING RESCissions OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities to carry out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $1,825,461,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount, $49,000,000 is hereby rescinded: Provided further, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a continuing resolution on the budget for the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NAVAL REACTORS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise), of real property, plant and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion, $1,486,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which, $42,500,000 shall be transferred for Federal salaries and expenses necessary for Federal Nuclear Reactors Program—Nuclear Energy": for the Advanced Test Reactor: Provided, That such amount, $6,651,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For Federal salaries and expenses necessary for Federal Salaries and Expenses in the National Nuclear Security Administration, $412,895,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $12,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING RESCissions OF FUNDS)

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAnUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $5,405,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount, $300,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2019, for program direction.
For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, or the classification of Title IV, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or facility or right of way or for facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, $823,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such sum shall be available for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures:

31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, substations and appurtenant facilities, as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to $10,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power andwheeling expenditures shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures:

Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, $6,379,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed $1,500, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to $6,379,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2018 appropriation estimated at not more than $11,400,000: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to $10,000,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power andwheeling expenditures shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures:

Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7271(a)(1)(E)), and all other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, $322,276,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed $1,500, to remain available until expended, of which $230,251,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southwestern power area, $4,176,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Reclamation Fund: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southwestern power area, $392,000, to remain available until expended, of which $138,504,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2018 appropriation estimated at not more than $131,474,000: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the annual appropriations for the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, including the acquisition of real property or facility construction or expansion, $30,000,000, to remain available until expended.
(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant, contract, or cooperative agreement or appropriation that has been expended for a program, project, or activity in which funds totaling less than $1,000,000 were provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account or program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Secretary of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs”, enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning Federal Government’s obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be available for obligation and expenditure during the fiscal year for which funds are made available and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 302. Funds appropriated by this title or any other Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Committee on Appropriations of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2014 and thereafter, unless otherwise specified.

SEC. 303. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities unless the applicable independent safety oversight is conducted by the Office of Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 433.3B, or any successor departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds $100,000,000, unless a separate independent cost estimate has resulted from such shortage, and that a drawdown and sale of refined petroleum product would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage, the Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, in classified form if necessary, a report on the justification for the waiver.

SEC. 305. (a) None of the funds made available in this or any prior Act under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs” may be available to enter into new contracts with, or new agreements for Federal assistance to, the Russian Federation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy may waive the prohibition in subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such activity is in the national security interests of the United States. Such waiver authority may not be delegated.

(c) A waiver under subsection (b) shall not be effective until 15 days after the date on which the Secretary submits a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, in classified form if necessary, a report on the justification for the waiver.

SEC. 306. Notwithstanding section 161 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241), upon a determination by the President in this fiscal year that a regional support shortage of refined petroleum product of significant scope and duration exists, that a severe increase in the price of refined petroleum product will likely result from such shortage, and that a drawdown and sale of refined petroleum product would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage, the Secretary of Energy may sell refined petroleum product from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Proceeds from a sale under this section shall be deposited into the SPR Petroleum Reserve Account established under section 167 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247), and such amounts shall be available for obligation, without fiscal year limitation, consistent with the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1990; provided, That funds shall be available for construction projects in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

SEC. 307. (a) DRAWDOWN AND SALE.—Notwithstanding section 161 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241), and in addition to sales authorized in sections 403 and 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6241; 42 U.S.C. 6239 note) and section 5010 of the 21st Century Cures Act (42 U.S.C. 6241 note), the Secretary of Energy shall draw down and sell up to $8,400,000 of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during this fiscal year.

(b) PROVIDING FOR RESERVE.—Notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1998; provided, That funds shall be available for construction projects in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (division C, title III, Public Law 105–277), as amended by section 703 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106–113 (113 Stat. 1951–280), and an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, amounts under this heading shall be available for the payment of such a non-Federal share for programs undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Commission.

SEC. 308. (a) NEW REGIONAL RESERVES.—The Secretary of Energy may establish any new regional petroleum product reserve unless funding for the established new regional petroleum product reserve is explicitly requested in advance in an annual budget submission and approved by the Congress in an appropriations Act.

(b) The budget request or notification shall include—

(1) the justification for the new reserve;

(2) a cost estimate for initial operation, administration, and maintenance of the reserve, including funding sources;

(3) a detailed plan for operation of the reserve, including the conditions upon which the products may be released;

(4) the location of the reserve; and

(5) the estimate of the total inventory of the reserve.

SEC. 309. Of the amounts made available under this title, not more than $267,901,000 may be transferred to the working capital fund established under section 653 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7263).

TITLE IV

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, including the payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, $2,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by chapter 21 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 in this fiscal year that a regional support shortage of refined petroleum product of significant scope and duration exists, that a severe increase in the price of refined petroleum product will likely result from such shortage, and that a drawdown and sale of refined petroleum product would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage, the Secretary of Energy may sell refined petroleum product from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Proceeds from a sale under this section shall be deposited into the SPR Petroleum Reserve Account established under section 167 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247), and such amounts shall be available for obligation, without fiscal year limitation, consistent with the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1998; provided, That funds shall be available for construction projects in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382C(h)(2), 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, $15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, $11,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, $5,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amounts be made available only for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 15751(b) of title 40, United States Code.
SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, of no less than $250,000, to remain available until expended.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, a total of $581,137,000, of which not more than $30,000,000 shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund. Provided, That the amount appropriated herein, not more than $30,000,000 shall be available, until expended, of which $20,000,000 shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund: Provided, That, for expenses necessary for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to remain available until September 30, 2019, of which, notwithstanding section 201(a)(2)(c) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5841(a)(2)(c)), the use and expenditure shall only be approved by a majority vote of the Commission: Provided further, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at $797,829,000 in fiscal year 2018 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 302 of chapter VI of title 31, United States Code, and remain available until expended: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under title 31, United States Code, $250,000,000 shall be for activities related to the development of regulatory infrastructure for advanced nuclear technologies, and $16,200,000 shall be for interagency payments to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—SALARIES AND EXPENSES, for obligations incurred in fiscal years subsequent to fiscal year 2018 to be made available until expended: Provided further, That the amounts appropriated under this heading, $10,000,000 shall be for university research and development in areas relevant to the Commission’s mission, and $5,000,000 shall be for a Nuclear Science and Engineering Grant Program that will support multipurpose projects that do not align with programmatic missions but are critical to maintaining the discipline of nuclear science and engineering.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, not more than $31,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at $25,555,000 in fiscal year 2018 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2019, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 302 of title 31, United States Code: Provided further, That the Inspector General is authorized to use not more than $15,000,000 of the net obligations received during fiscal year 2018: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, $10,000,000 shall be for university research and development in areas relevant to the Inspector General’s mission, and $5,000,000 shall be for the Inspector General’s Nuclear Science and Engineering Grant Program that will support multipurpose projects that do not align with programmatic missions but are critical to maintaining the discipline of nuclear science and engineering.

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100–203, section 5051, $3,600,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2019.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall comply with the July 5, 2011, version of chapter VI of its Internal Commission Procedures when responding to Congressional requests for information.

SEC. 402. (a) The amounts made available by this Act for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program funding level to increase or decrease by more than $500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the fiscal year covered by this Act. (b)(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may waive the notification requirement in subsection (a) if compliance with such requirement would prohibit protection of health, the environment, welfare, or national security. (2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a waiver or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver and shall provide a detailed report to the Committees of the amount and funding levels to programs, projects, or activities.

SEC. 403. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e), the amount of $2,304,000 shall be for Inspector General services, and other services and collections estimated at $779,829,000 in fiscal year 2018 shall be available until expended.

SEC. 404. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 501. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to further implementation of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547 of July 19, 2010.

SEC. 502. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the removal of any federally owned or operated dam unless the removal was previously authorized by Congress. (b) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to conduct closure of adjudicatory functions, technical review, or support activities associated with the Yucca Mountain project, except for actions that irrecoverably remove the possibility that Yucca Mountain may be a repository option in the future.

REFERENCES TO ACT

SEC. 503. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

SEC. 504. Any reference to a “report accompanying this Act” contained in this division shall be treated as a reference to House Report 115–230. The effect of such Report shall be limited to that which is consistent with the purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, this division.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 510. (a) This Act may be cited as the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018”.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill shall be in order unless those printed in the report included in this Act, 115–259, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 473, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of that resolution.

Each further amendment printed in the report shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debateable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent may be with the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of,H6407,7/26/2017,CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE,July 26, 2017
House Resolution 473, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer amendments to a bill or resolution. Each of amendments printed in the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 473, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 20 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to request for fiscal year 2018. This

amendments each at any point for the

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 183, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $1,022,250)?"

Page 184, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $1,022,250)?"

Page 189, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $1,000,000)?"

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to page 46.2 million less than the budget request for fiscal year 2018. This amendment would simply restore a modest $1 million of it.

I know that sufficient funding for the GAO has been a topic of discussion and debate between the majority and minority on the Appropriations Committee. I would note that the ranking member raised the issue in the "Additonal Views" section of the committee report.

In the report, Ranking Member LOWEY and Representative TM RYAN, who is with us on the floor, stated it is irresponsible to underfund the GAO, especially when administration officials have reportedly been ordered not to comply with Democratic oversight requests.

Which brings me to my second reason for offering the amendment: the inspector general and at times outright adversarial approach the Trump administration has decided to take to normal routine congressional oversight work. The administration has ignored the seven-member rule, for example, an authority enacted into law in 1928, which delegates authority to any seven members of my committee, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to require any executive branch agency to submit any information requested of it relating to any matter within the jurisdiction of our committee.

The Trump administration released an opinion issued by the Office of Legal Counsel, arguing that agencies and departments are immune to requests for documents and other information from Members of the minority party.

On June 7, Republican Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, who certainly knew the benefit of getting information requests in the minority answered, wrote a scathing letter to President Trump urging him to reject the opinion. The opinion stated that only requests from committees or their chairs are constitutionally authorized. Senator Grassley, a Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, called the opinion nonsense.

In his letter to the President, he stated: "For OLC to fundamentally misunderstand and misstate such a simple fact exposes its shocking lack of professionalism and objectivity." He also wrote: "Oversight brings transparency, and transparency brings accountability. And the opposite is true. Setting down oversight requests doesn’t drain the swamp."

Those are the words of CHUCK GRASSLEY.

As the vice ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I have witnessed firsthand the committee’s volite-face on issues of oversight.

Whereas, during the Obama administration, one would have thought that, like the British Empire, the Sun never set on the jurisdiction of our committee. Now, suddenly, the majority advances a tortured and narrow interpretation of the committee’s role as the primary oversight body for the House of Representatives.

If the administration is going to ignore the minority in Congress and the majority is suddenly allergic to congressional oversight, the demands on the GAO are going to grow.

With that greater responsibility should come greater resources. First and foremost, the House should join Senator GRASSLEY and demand that this administration not impede congressional oversight activities.

In the absence of the administration acceding to this request, we have got to send a clear message about the importance to the executive branch of accountability by better funding the GAO.

This amendment will not solve the GAO funding created by this bill, but it would send a message to our colleagues in the Senate about the premium we place on the principle of robust oversight of the executive branch.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment which would increase funding for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and offset that increase with a reduction in funding for the salaries and expenses of the House of Representatives.

I am offering this amendment for three reasons.

First, this bill significantly underfunds GAO.

Second, this administration is actively thwarting congressional oversight.

And finally, Congress, which struck an aggressive posture on oversight during the Obama administration, seems to have forgotten its Constitutional duty to oversee the activities of the Executive Branch.

GAO is a vital resource for not only Congressional overseers, but also anyone interested in studying or improving the effectiveness of Federal agencies. The GAO is often referred to as the congressional watchdog. I am sure every Member of Congress has supported or requested a GAO report with the purpose of examining broad and discrete issues of executive branch oversight at some point in their career. It is a vital institution that saves taxpayer dollars.

Every dollar we invest in the GAO, Mr. Chairman, generates a $112 return for the Federal Government and for the taxpayer. This oversight dividend amounted to $63 billion in financial benefits for the Federal Government in fiscal year 2016 alone.

Unfortunately, the bill before us provides $46.2 million less than the budget request for FY 2018, which would result in the loss of 200 GAO staff by the end of the coming fiscal year.
I know the lack of sufficient funding for GAO has been a topic of discussion and debate between the Majority and the Minority on the Appropriations Committee.

I would note that the Ranking Member raised this issue in the “Additional Views” section of the Committee report for the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill.

In the report, Ranking Member Lowey and Representative Tim Ryan stated, “It is irresponsible to underfund the GAO, especially when Administration officials have reportedly been ordered not to comply with Democratic oversight requests.”

Which brings me to my second reason for offering this amendment—the indifferent and, at times, hostile approach the Trump Administration has decided to take to Congressional oversight work.

The administration has ignored the Seven Member Rule, an authority that was enacted into law in 1928 which delegates authority to any seven members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to require any Executive Branch agency to "submit any information requested of it relating to any matter within the jurisdiction of the committee."

The Trump Administration released an opinion issued by the Office of Legal Counsel on May 1, 2017, arguing that agencies are not required to respond to requests for documents and other information from Members of Congress other than the Appropriations Committee.

On June 7, 2017, Republican Senator Chuck Grassley wrote a scathing letter to President Trump urging him to reject the opinion issued by the Office of Legal Counsel. The opinion stated that only requests from committees or their chairs are “constitutionally authorized.”

Senator Grassley called the opinion “nonsensical.”

In his letter to the president he stated, “For OLC to so fundamentally misunderstand and misstate such a simple fact exposes its shocking lack of professionalism and objectivity. Indeed, OLC has utterly failed to live up to its own standards. You are being ill-served and ill-advised.

He also wrote, “Overnight brings transparency, and transparency brings accountability. And the result is true. Shifting down oversight requests doesn’t drain the swamp, Mr. President. It floods the swamp.”

And Congress is not blameless here.

As the Vice Ranking Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I have witnessed firsthand that Committee’s vote-face on issues of oversight.

Whereas, during the Obama Administration one would have thought that like the British Empire the sun never set on the jurisdiction of the Oversight Committee, now the Majority advances a tortured and narrow interpretation of the Committee’s role as the primary oversight body for the House of Representatives.

If the Administration is going to ignore the Minority in Congress, and the Majority is suddenly so Congressional oversight, the demands on GAO are only going to grow.

And with that greater responsibility should come greater resources.

First and foremost, the House should join Senator Grassley and demand that this administration not impede Congressional oversight activities.

In the absence of the administration acceding to this demand, we must send a clear message about the importance of Executive Branch accountability by better funding GAO. This amendment will not solve the GAO funding difficulties created by this bill, but it will send a message to our colleagues in the Senate about the premium we place on the principle of robust oversight of the Executive Branch.

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

Mr. Yoder, Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting Chair. The gentleman from Kansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. Yoder, Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his amendment to add $1 million to the already $545 million that we spend on the Government Accountability Office.

The GAO plays an important role in keeping the government accountable, and help the American people hold our government accountable.

That is why we work on this bill, to keep funding steady for the GAO and to help centralize IG reports to make them ultimately public and online to increase transparency. But we have tight constraints.

Even so, while we work to fund additional security needs, critical infrastructure projects that need to be funded, and much-needed cybersecurity improvements, reducing the amount of $546 million that we have by $1 million will only exacerbate those problems.

We actually have a slight increase in what the GAO can spend in our budget, getting up to $546 million. So there is a slight increase here, and that is at a time in which many budgets are being decreased across Congress. Many of our constituents are tightening their belts, decreasing across Congress. Many of our constituents are tightening their belts and learning how to do more with less in the challenges they face putting food on the table for their families and really working in a family budget.

We have to do the same thing here in Congress, Mr. Chairman.

The GAO actually gets slightly more money this year, and they have the ability to continue to carry out their function at $545 million. And I don’t believe going to $546 million is going to achieve the significant changes that maybe Mr. Connolly would like to see.

Ultimately, we are not able to accommodate this request, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Connolly has already, 12 percent below what they were when the Republicans took over the House in 2010.

We are 12 percent below, even with this expenditure, and many Members are concerned that they don’t have the resources to provide what they need to for their constituents. So cutting these budgets by $1 million more would only exacerbate those problems.

Mr. Chairman, we have to oppose this amendment. We want the GAO to remain strong, and that is why we slightly increased their funding, but we can’t really rob the MRA budgets to add to that with the many challenges we have and many priorities in this Congress.

Mr. Chairman, I would oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting Chair. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Connolly).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. LOVE

The Acting Chair. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mrs. Love, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting Chair. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 164, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $11,025,000) (increased by $11,025,000)”.

The Acting Chair. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Utah (Mrs. Love) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Utah.

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to speak about my proposed amendment to the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. My amendment will have zero budgetary impact, and the intent is to merely advocate for the expansion of permissible uses of the MRA funds that have already been designated for Member security.

Currently, the Appropriations Committee has provided MRA resources in the amount of $25,000 per Member for providing Member security away from the Capitol complex; however, this money may not be currently spent on security at a Member’s private residence.

In the current environment, however, many Members, myself included, have faced threats that extend to our homes and our families. For me, that included a person putting my address on Facebook and Twitter with a statement that stated: “We’ve signed your death certificate. You won’t see us coming.”

In fact, in recognition of this disturbing trend, a recent FEC advisory opinion held that the campaign funds may be used, “... to install or upgrade residential security systems that do not constitute structural improvements to a Members’ homes.”

My amendment proposes that MRA funds for Member security may be used
in this same way. We do not face these threats because we are candidates for office but because we are sitting Members of Congress.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), my colleague from Louisiana’s Second Congressional District.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Chair, I rise to support the gentlewoman from Utah’s amendment. I think that it is very appropriate, and, unfortunately, we find ourselves in a time where this is need-
ed. But we have the awesome responsibility, and we have to remind ourselves sometimes that we are the only 435 people in the country that will vote on this country going to war and making decisions that impact this country. Be-cause of that, I think that we need to make sure that we safeguard ourselves in this rising time of new threats and dangers.

Look, we all signed up for public service and to serve our country and to make it a more perfect Union; however, a lot of our families and our neighbors and our constituents that show up at our functions didn’t necessarily sign up for that. So for those reasons, I would just ask that my colleagues support it. I think it is a very prudent piece of legislation, amendment, at a very important time.

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE), my colleague from Oklahoma’s First Congressional District.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to thank the gentlewoman from Utah for offering this very important amendment at this time in American history. A lot of us have received threats, and I think this is a good amendment. I would like to thank the gentleman from Louisiana for stepping up to support it as well.

I would like to reiterate the point that this amendment could save lives, and it won’t add a single penny to the budget, to the debt, to the deficit. This doesn’t add a single penny, and yet it could be responsible for saving the lives of our colleagues.

So I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Utah for offering it and the gentlewoman from Louisiana for supporting it.

I would urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on this amendment.

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Chair, I would like to go ahead and reiterate my thanks to the Appropriations Committee and to my colleagues for all of the support on this amendment.

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amend-ment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Kansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank Mrs. LOVE for her elo-
quence and leadership on this issue. She has provided a very serious pro-
posal at a time in which, in light of the recent tragedy at a baseball park here in the suburbs of Virginia and what we have seen across the country, there are threats made daily against Members of Congress, the Majority Whip, and Repub-
licans. In fact, threats are up this year over what they were all of last year combined.

We know many of these threats are simply just hot air or anger being ex-
pressed in a scary way. We have all seen it on social media, on Twitter, on Facebook pages, things that are just really shocking and lack the discourse and the civility that we need to solve problems in this country. But it reaches a different level when Members of Congress are put in threatening situations where they or their families legitimately believe that someone may try to harm them. So we must ensure that we do everything we can to protect this institution, that we protect this government, that we protect democracy.

Mrs. LOVE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to thank the gentlewoman from Utah for offering this amendment and to go ahead and reiterate my thanks to the gentleman from Louisiana for sup-
pporting it.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Chair, I just want to make it unanimous here. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Utah for offering this amendment and Mr. RICHMOND for coming here to sup-
port it.

Again, everything has been said. This is appropriate. We are in unchartered waters here. We were at the baseball practice by somebody who was spe-
cifically targeting Republicans for their beliefs, that is sort of new in the world of the shootings that we have seen around the country, that someone would be specifically targeted for their beliefs.

It happened to Republicans now; it could happen to Democrats the next time. So I think we stand unified as a Congress that we must improve the se-
curity in order to protect democracy.

We signed up for this, of course, and as my colleague, Mr. RICHMOND, said, our families didn’t. Home security re-
lates to our children, our families, making sure we have cameras or whatever improvements need to be made so that people know that, if someone were to try to attack them at their home, they would be protected.

In this bill, we have addressed secu-
ri ty here in Washington, D.C. We have addressed security at our district of-
fices at home. We have even allowed personal security. But what we haven’t done is allowed some support for home security.

We have seen, in recent weeks, that the FEC has said you can spend cam-
paign dollars for this, and I think it is a reasonable request that Mrs. LOVE is making, that others are standing up for, to allow the MRA to be utilized for that.

So I think what the gentlewoman is raising will help with peace of mind. It will help stem real attacks, is limited in its scope, and ultimately protects democracy. Members of Congress should not be intimidated or injured or worse. This simply just hot air or anger being ex-
pressed.

I ask the body to support this legisla-
tion, and I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the ranking member of the Leg-
islative Branch Subcommittee.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Chairman, I just want to make it unanimous here. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Utah for offering this amendment and Mr. RICHMOND for coming here to sup-
port it.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gent-
lewoman from Utah (Mrs. LOVE).

The amendment was agreed to. The amendment as agreed to. The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as fol-
low:

Page 163, line 25, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by $250,000)”.

Page 167, line 3, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by $250,000)”.

Page 167, line 14, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by $250,000)”.

Page 176, line 18, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by $250,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is actually quite simple. It would expand the House Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program to ensure that even more wounded veterans have the opportunity to work here in Congress and contribute their talents to our work here.

We need more veterans in public service. This amendment would provide additional opportunities for veterans to continue to serve their country here in the House of Representatives as legis-
lative fellows.

I think we know that these veterans bring a particular perspective and a particular set of experiences unlike anything else we hear, and this per-
sonalizes the conversations, the discussions, and the delibera-
tions we have on all subjects, but par-
cularly on subjects related to their
experience and their particular perspective. We need these voices especially now more than ever.

We do talk a lot about ways to help veterans transition from their service to the world of work following their time in the military. This would increase the number of veterans that are given the opportunity to, right here, work alongside us and to provide us with their perspective.

The amendment is budget-neutral and provides additional opportunities for veterans to help us in our work. I think it is the right thing. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the ranking member of the subcommittee.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman.

I think the Wounded Warrior Project we have in the House of Representatives is a great project. It is a great opportunity, as you articulated, to get people into the legislative process, both in our district offices and here in Washington, D.C., and I want to voice my support for that.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, even though I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Mr. KILDEE for his leadership in bringing this to this body’s attention.

I think the work of our men and women in service defending our Nation is the highest priority for this Congress, and our support for them in services, in healthcare, in helping them find work, in education, in training, all the things they need when they come home, I think we are unified in our support that they should be recognized as the leaders they are when they come back and leave service.

Some of these men and women, in putting themselves in the field of battle have become wounded, and sometimes very severely. They have stood in the field of battle. They have stood up to our enemies. They have protected freedom around the globe and here at home, keeping us and our allies, our children, our families safe, keeping freedom and democracy safe; yet, when they do all too often, they don’t have everything they need. All too often, they don’t feel that the promises this government has made have been kept. So each and every day I think we are working on legislation to improve that.

We have passed bills in recent weeks here to continue and improve veterans’ programs, but the House Wounded Warrior Program is a great example of how this Congress is leading by example by creating 2-year fellowships for disabled veterans.

The unemployment rate is higher for these men and women than it is for nonveterans, and disabled veterans in particular, and so this fellowship program provides a valuable job, a valuable experience, an opportunity for these men and women to help serve their country, which is in their DNA. It is who they are.

When they are done serving on the battlefield, they can come serve in our congressional offices, and it provides a great service for us. They provide the opportunity for us to have an expert on not only veterans’ issues and military issues, but many issues. They can cover a whole range of things, providing better services for us and our constituents.

In our legislation, the underlying bill, we increased the total number of fellowships to 85 from 54 because there is a waiting list. This is a 57 percent increase over the previous number. And 79 Member offices are on the waiting list right now to participate in this program, so the demand is there.

We certainly believe there are many veterans who would love to serve in this capacity, and so we are excited to support this amendment putting more resources into this program, and we are going to work with the gentleman from Michigan to make sure that we can open up slots in a timely manner to help make sure we get these men and women into the offices so they can serve.

Mr. Chairman, we support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 176, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert: "(reduced by $25,438,000).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, our Nation is $20 trillion in debt, and there might be $100 trillion or $200 trillion in unfunded liabilities. I am not sure we really know what the answer is there. But we have got to find a way to reduce our spending and make sure that the things we are paying for are worthy and that we are getting something—we are actually getting what we are paying for.

I am offering an amendment to H.R. 3219 to reduce the appropriations to the Congressional Budget Office by 50.4 percent.

We all know and agree the Congressional Budget Office is tasked with determining the budget and economic impacts of proposed legislation which are critical to our everyday decisions. Often times, they are late, and, unfortunately, too often they are woefully incorrect.

I don’t mean to impugn the fine people who work at the CBO, but something is amiss. If we keep on accepting it, how are we ever going to get our policy right?

The CBO’s fiscal analysis is consistently incorrect, and, as a result, has detrimental implications on a variety of policies.

This amendment reduces the CBO’s fiscal year ’18 appropriations by 50.4 percent, which just happens to be the exact same percentage that the CBO was off when it predicted the enrollment numbers for the Affordable Care Act exchanges in 2016.

In 2010, the CBO projected that 21 million people would enroll in the exchange plans by 2016. The actual enrollment was about 10.4 million people. That is an error of 50.4 percent, Mr. Chairman.

Now, maybe the CBO’s projections would have improved as the ACA continued to take shape after 2010, and that seems reasonable. That is not correct. That is wrong. It didn’t improve.

Four years later, the CBO predicted that 23 million people would receive coverage through the exchanges. In 2014, the updated CBO analysis projected that 24 million people would receive coverage through the exchange in 2016. However, the actual 2016 enrollment in the ACA exchanges was 10.4 million people.

So it is less than half. They always predict about twice as much, or costs twice as much, and the numbers always seem to be half as much. That is a big disconnect.

We passed the American Health Care Act in here, and I went to my townhall, and CBO is saying: well, 23 to 24 million people are going to lose their insurance because of the American Health Care Act.

Well, yes, if you use the CBO’s numbers which based the analysis on what they projected.

They don’t even look at reality. We have got the reality right now. The reality is 10–15 million, not 23 and 25 million—10–14. But that is how they view this thing, and that is what we vote on here. That is a problem.
I also want to highlight the failure of the CBO to forecast the cost of the Medicaid expansion. In 2013, the CBO projected that 34 million people would be on Medicaid or CHIP in 2016; however, in 2016, the CBO doubled, once again, their projection, thereby doubling their earlier estimate to 68 million people. I mean, who gets to be off by that much and still receive—it is not like there is no accountability; there isn't any accountability, Mr. Chairman.

As recently as March of 2016, the CBO increased its projection of Federal spending for Medicaid by $146 billion. These are figures that we make decisions around here.

Mr. Chairman, the CBO simply must be held accountable for its consistent failure to accurately or even reasonably predict budget and economic impacts of legislation. CBO is a critical contribution to our discussion and decision-making. We simply need to be able to depend on it as such.

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 7 minutes.

Mr. YARMUTH of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I have been here long enough to recognize that, at times, the majority party will come to some level of disagreement with the Congressional Budget Office. We were here during the healthcare debate, we were here during tax cuts and all kinds of different things that happened in the last 15 years that I have been here.

They are not perfect, and they sometimes annoy us. As I can tell from my good friend on the other side, he is in the annunciation period with the Congressional Budget Office. But this is an essential component to what we do here.

The Congressional Budget Office sincerely attempts to give us the best, most accurate information that they could possibly provide us, and those estimates change over time as circumstances change over time. When you are talking about one-sixth of the entire United States economy, it is going to be difficult to give you entirely accurate information.

But not having this essential service here, I think, would be detrimental to this Congress, detrimental to our ability to lead forecast into the future, and so I oppose this amendment strongly and vigorously.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) who I know also has a strong opinion on this matter.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to this amendment and urge my colleagues to reject it.

Some Republicans in Congress and the Trump administration are engaged in acreative campaign to tear down the Congressional Budget Office and anyone else who does not tell them what they want to hear. This amendment is a direct assault eliminating half of CBO’s budget.

The CBO is our impartial referee. Its vigorous work has been indispensable for Congress as we consider legislation that impacts the lives of the American people. This amendment is not good for democracy, and it is not consistent with the principles of good government.

Republicans claim to care about fiscal responsibility, but this amendment would destroy the CBO. We simply need to be able to depend on it as such.

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

Mr. PERRY of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I don’t disagree with my colleagues on the other side. I said that. We need the CBO. We created the CBO. Congress needs to have reliable information. The problem is, it is not reliable. It is not reliable on the testimony that was just given against this amendment. That is the problem.

The CBO—right now where there are 104 employees—is telling us, in 2 years, there are going to be 25 million enrollees. Meanwhile, there are less exchanges open, and there are fewer insurers available. It is not going up; it is going down.

The CBO, when we say that they would reflect the current time, they absolutely don’t. That is the problem. They don’t even reflect reality when reality is right in front of them. The CBO needs to wake up. Who among us works for half the time and gets it doubly wrong and gets the same paycheck? The CBO.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire of the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 115–259.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire of the time remaining.

Mr. PERRY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire of the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire of the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire of the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting CHAIR announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NUMBER 5 OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division B (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 402. The Budget Analysis Division of the Congressional Budget Office, comprising 89 employees with annual salaries aggregating $15,000,000, is hereby abolished. The duties imposed by law and regulation upon the employees of that Division are hereby transferred to the Office of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is the amendment as ordered by House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. GRIFFITH.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.
Mr. Chairman, I would like to read the amendment because I think there must be some confusion on this, and it will become important later in the debate:

“The Budget Analysis Division of the Congressional Budget Office, comprising 89 employees, is hereby abolished. The duties—underlined duties, because it is only duties—imposed by law and regulation upon the employees of that division are hereby transferred to the Office of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.”

That is the simple amendment, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, I thank my esteemed colleagues for raising the issue, but it is more an issue of accuracy than anything else.

As we look at this, Mr. Chairman, it is real easy to look at CBO and realize that they are the one group that makes a weatherman’s 10-day forecast look accurate. They consistently miss it all the time.

When you look at the 2002 farm bill, they missed it by $137 billion. The 2008 farm bill, they missed by $306 billion. Eventually, it adds up to real money.

But even with that, let’s look at the sale of 64 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Oil Reserve. They actually said the income from that and that it costs the government to get rid of 64 million barrels of oil. What kind of analysis does that?

So if my friend opposite wants to debate this over the accuracy, I welcome it.

Mr. Chair, it is time that we deal with this.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard some of the problems with CBO from Mr. MEADOWS. We heard from Mr. PERRY immediately before on his amendment.

The CBO is meant to help Congress evaluate legislation. But I do not believe the agency, as currently constituted, has or can do so effectively.

Too often, predictions made by CBO turn out to be far off the mark.

We heard about the 2002 farm bill and the 2008 farm bill from Mr. MEADOWS. That is true, but people back home may not realize that, in fact, we don’t do a farm bill every year. We do one roughly every 5 years, sometimes a little later than that, so there have not been so many to score.

One of our favorites on the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I am pleased to serve, is the fact that, in 2015, we decided we would push forward and sell, as a nation, some broadband spectrum. CBO said zero dollars would be yielded from that sale.

Now, I use this all the time when I am talking to high school students, because you don’t have to be a CBO person living in the ivory tower that they must live in to understand that broadband spectrum has value in today’s society, and zero is not the right score.

In the end, it brought in $44 billion. When you take away the costs, it brought in a net $40 billion. CBO was wrong.

CBO has overestimated on a number of things. Mr. PERRY talked about ObamaCare. But time after time, they have gotten things wrong. They said it cost more or didn’t save as much.

In fact, I just saw, today, a report put out by Xcenda that the per-patient oncology drug costs were 0.06 to 2.3 times lower than what CBO said they were going to be from roughly 2003 to 2013, according to that study.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is breathtaking in its completely overt vindictiveness. Some Members don’t like the calls the refs make in games. You can have your opposition and your opinion. Here, we are trying to get the referee fired. We cannot function as a group here if we are going to continue to try to demean and criticize this very group that is trying to help us do our job.

As I said a few minutes ago, the Democrats have had a long list of frustrations with the CBO, but did we have the President, the leader of our party, and a significant number of Members of the United States Congress start bad-mouthing the CBO? We did not.

We had our complaints, in all fairness, but we think that this group of professionals is essential to how this body functions.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), the distinguished chairman of the Budget Committee, if you are not going to just believe Democrats on this issue.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to voice my concerns about this amendment.

I think everyone in this House has a lot of issues, as has already been talked about, who are working on. The CBO is used by the Congressional Budget Office, and I am certainly one of these people, but this amendment is not the best way to accomplish our goal of obtaining better information and analysis from CBO.

The CBO is an important organization that provides vital information that Congress does need to make the best decisions. However, the modeling and scoring methods they currently are using need to be scrutinized, especially their behavioral predictions.

For example, in 2010, the CBO projected that 21 million Americans would be covered by ObamaCare in 2016, when, in reality, less than 13 million Americans have actually obtained coverage.

In fact, during their scoring of the House Republican healthcare plan, CBO described their own estimates, which rely on behavioral predictions, as extremely uncertain.

I believe that the House Budget Committee plans to hold a series of hearings this fall on CBO to gain a better understanding of their methods and how we can work to improve their ability to give Congress better information. This is why we obviously need. As chairman of the Budget Committee, I take this responsibility very seriously, and we will approach these hearings in the pursuit of truth and accuracy so we can make laws that better serve the American people.

We all realize that CBO has room for improvement, but this amendment being offered tonight is not the best way to achieve that. Instead, we need to have a deliberative discussion in the Budget Committee and amongst every one in the House, and I look forward to doing exactly that in the coming weeks and months.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the distinguished ranking member on the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Chairman, the previous speaker said: How could a group be so far off in their analysis? Well, they were that far off with the Bush tax cuts in 2001 and 2003. Alan Greenspan was certainly off. In his commentary about economic growth, we had the slowest growth since Herbert Hoover was President, based upon $2.3 trillion worth of tax cuts.

So this is analysis. It is an economic forecast. It is not an algorithm. When you pick up the computer, you push a button, and all of a sudden you get a score.

I am in opposition to this amendment because they play a vital role every single day, even when they are not entirely accurate, in keeping a scorecard. Members and staff on both sides, particularly at the Ways and Means Committee, rely much upon the work of the ranking member on an bipartisan analysis for what they do every day.

I have never, in 29 years in this House, said to a member of CBO: Are you a Republican or are you a Democrat?

When we demean professional achievement from economists who try and strive every single day to come up with an accurate forecast, we do this institution no good. We should have a high regard for what these people do every single day—and let me say this, by the way, more accurate than the Office of Management and Budget, in my recollection, who work for Presidents and who, generally, didn’t come up
with forecasts that Presidents might or might not like.

The CBO is an independent agency and we need to keep it here. Congress could not do its work without the CBO. As Tim Ryan said a few moments ago, this is the equivalent of letting up the referee after we don’t like the outcome of the soccer game. Let’s jump the referee and tell him: You better go back in and change the score so that what we might meet, perhaps, popular polling forecast, which I also might tell you, based on what happened in November, weren’t so good, either, for all of us.

Regardless of what political party we are Members of, we should have regard for this House of Representatives and the independent role that CBO offers. Chairman Kevin Brady stands with me on this. Leave the CBO alone.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Ohio has expired.

Mr. Ryan of Ohio. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Ranking Member Lowey, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. Ryan of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. Costa).

Mr. Costa. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As one of the three co-chairs of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of Democrats committed to bringing our Nation’s deficit and debt under control, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

This amendment would, in fact, eliminate the division in the CBO area. Frankly, it serves, as we all know, a valuable role as a nonpartisan adviser to Congress on the costs and tradeoffs on legislation and the budget of the United States.

Although you don’t see these folks on TV every day, the CBO staff consists of professionals who put facts and transparency first. Forecasting the economic impacts of legislation is complex, and no estimate will ever be perfect, let’s face that. The CBO, though, is transparent about that.

That said, estimates provided by the CBO are objective and are based on facts and transparent calculations. The staff who make these estimates up aren’t swayed by the political rhetoric on either side of the spectrum on the House floor, and that is what lawmakers need in order to govern responsibly.

Without the CBO, lawmakers in Washington would be flying blind, developing major legislation without knowing what the real consequences are. Just like you wouldn’t drive a car while blindfolded, you shouldn’t be voting on legislation without knowing the real costs, intended or unintended. After all, these are taxpayer dollars.

This amendment is dangerous for our Nation, and there is no other way to describe it. As a society, one must accept facts as they are, whether the facts are in our favor or not. Facts are facts, I guess, unless you believe in alternative facts.

In fact, CBO acts as an umpire for us here in Congress, calling balls and strikes as best it can. You may not like the call, you may not like the strike zone, you may think it is simply wrong, but you don’t attack the umpire. That is what this amendment is: attack the umpire because you don’t like the call. If you attack the umpire, why don’t you improve your game?

At the end of the day, what we are talking about here is taxpayer dollars. We need to keep the Congressional Budget Office. Mr. Ryan’s legislation, as do all of the Blue Dogs. Mr. Ryan of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Beyer).

Mr. Beyer. Mr. Chairman, I, too, rise in strong opposition to this mean-spirited amendment.

This attack on the integrity and professionalism of the Congressional Budget Office is shameful and is part of a strategic assault on the objectivity and expertise of the CBO.

With this amendment, the Republicans are seeking to punish the nonpartisan CBO because they don’t agree with their finding regarding the Republican plan to replace Obamacare. I understand that Republicans and the Trump administration, it is an inconvenient truth that 23 million Americans would lose coverage under their plan, but just because you are losing the game doesn’t mean you can fire the ref. The Republican talking points cannot replace unbiased analysis.

Let’s not forget the CBO’s Director was appointed by a Republican Speaker and praised effusively by then-Budget chairman and current Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price.

Mr. Chairman, I represent more Federal employees than any other Member of the House. Most of these 89 positions at the CBO that this amendment seeks to eliminate are civil servants. It is simply unacceptable that we somehow suggest that they and others in the civil service are not honest.

The choice to pursue this political attack on the CBO through the so-called Holman rule should concern every Member of Congress. Back in January, when Republicans passed their rules package enabling Members to target individual Federal employees and their pay, I warned that the Holman rule and vanishing salaries has no net effect on budget authority or outlays. I don’t think any of us believe that.

So here is the contradiction: Your friends have on the other side of this issue: a “yes” vote means that you agree with me that something needs to be reformed at CBO; a “no” vote means that you agree with CBO’s assessment that this amendment abolishing 89 employees will have no effect. Therefore, I would submit to you that the CBO has, in effect, determined that their budget analysis division has no value. Therefore, if you actually support CBO, you must vote “present.”

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to join me with a “yes,” and let’s start the reform at CBO so we can get accurate numbers. If you don’t agree with this reform, I ask that you vote “present,” or else you, too, are agreeing with the CBO that the budget analysis division has no value.

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

Mr. Connolly. Mr. Chair, I have great respect for gentlemen who offered this amendment.

They are my colleagues, and they are my friends.

Mr. Meadows and I work very closely together on the Government Operations Subcommittee. He is my Chairman, and he knows I value his collaboration.

Mr. Griffith is a fellow Virginian, and I have the pleasure of serving on committees with Mr. Jordan (OGR) and Mr. Perry (HFAC).

And that is why it especially pains me to say this. But this amendment, which uses the disingenuous Holman Rule to eliminate the Congressional Budget Office’s Budget Analysis Division, is so transparent and so cynical it makes me want to weep.

This amendment would punish the Congressional Budget Office for exposing the House Republican repeal of the Affordable Care Act and their plan to deprive 23 million Americans of healthcare.

CBO is being retaliated against for the earnest work it conducted on the Trump Budget,
which demonstrated that the president's budget misrepresents deficit projections by $2.3 trillion.

This amendment says facts don't matter anymore.

And that is something to mourn.

The Acting Chair. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITHT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it. 

Mr. GRIFFITHT. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

-- Page 176, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $100,000) (increased by $100,000)."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment to H.R. 3219 will help ensure that buildings such as the Capitol and the House and Senate office buildings have adequate baby changing tables.

Last year, this Congress passed into law the BEES Act requiring that both male and female restrooms in many public buildings be equipped with baby changing facilities that are physically safe, sanitary, and appropriate.

That legislation ensures that there are appropriate and sanitary facilities for parents and caretakers to change the diapers of infants and toddlers in publicly accessible Federal buildings controlled by the General Services Administration.

In the same vein, I was pleased that the Legislative Branch Subcommittee included report language in its fiscal year 2017 bill recognizing the importance of providing designated baby changing stations for members of the public who visited the Capitol complex and encouraging the Architect of the Capitol to take steps to provide baby changing stations at easily accessible locations.

Let me just say briefly that I support this amendment. Making the Capitol complex and other buildings in the legislative branch more family friendly is an important priority.

People come here from all over the country to meet with us, to see the sights, and to witness democracy in action.

If you have traveled far and wide with your family like I have, you know how much of a difference that it would make even for a brief part of your day, like the inevitability of having to change a diaper. This amendment will make it a little bit easier. So this is just a very thoughtful, practical program.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would restore the funds for the Office of Technology Assessment, or otherwise known as OTA.

The Acting CHAIR. Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would restore funding to the Office of Technology Assessment, or otherwise known as OTA.

And as a father of two little girls, I have used these changing tables myself in restrooms from time to time, as Mr. RYAN has. I know he has got a young son. And so we know how important these are and how families, when they need it to make a change, they need to have a space to do that.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

-- At the end of Division B (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 32. There is appropriated, for salaries and expenses of the Office of Technology Assessment as authorized by the Technology Assessment Act of 1972 (31 U.S.C. 711 et seq.), $7,827,000, of which $2,500,000 shall be derived from a reduction of $2,647,000 in the amount provided in this Act for the item "Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Construction and Operations".

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER).
But in 1995, the OTA was defunded, stripping Congress of a valuable resource to understand both emerging technologies as well as the nuances of the legislative process. In its absence, the need for OTA has only grown. Many of the issues OTA studied 20 years ago are evening today.

Antibiotic resistant bacteria, electronic surveillance in the digital age, and testing in America’s schools, these are the complex challenges our Nation will continue to face, and Congress should have access to the thorough and insightful analysis OTA can provide.

Investing in the OTA now will actually save us money in the future. In the last year it operated, the OTA’s budget was $23 million, but its studies on the synthetic fuels corporation saved taxpayers tens of billions of dollars. Our amendment restores a modest $2.5 million to the OTA account for salaries and expenses to begin rebuilding the office.

The cost is offset by a reduction to the Architect of the Capitol’s construction and operations account. This administrative account will not take resources from specific construction projects.

Mr. Chair, a great surgeon does not operate without modern tools, a master chef does not cook without fresh ingredients, and Members of Congress should not make policy decisions without relevant and unbiased information. And with that in mind, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this amendment, to restore funding to the Office of Technology Assessment.

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. PERRY). The gentleman from Kansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my good friend and colleague and co-chair of the Deaf Caucus, Mr. TAKANO from California, for bringing this amendment, and unfortunately, I cannot support it, Mr. Chairman, and we would ask that the body reject it.

You know, Congress terminated funding for the Office of Technology Assessment in 1995, so some 22 years ago, but it is back from the dead to be here on the floor today to be reestablished.

At one point, funding totaled over $20 million for the Office of Technology Assessment, but Congress did one of the things it has attempted to do in many areas, which is try to consolidate government, make government more efficient, make it do more with less, and in this transferred the functions from the Office of Technology Assessment over to the GAO.

We have heard debate on this floor within the last hour about the value of the GAO and the great work they do and how the GAO is a trustworthy organization and how it is important and how the GAO is a trustworthy organization and how the GAO is a trustworthy organization and how the GAO has earned the trust of Members of Congress. But the GAO is not the solution to the complex challenges our Nation will continue to face.

The GAO does not provide the strategic, single-topic, long-range technology assessments that Congress needs to make informed decisions.

Today, we do need the Office of Technology Assessment. Congress does not suffer from a lack of information, but it does suffer from a lack of trusted information to help make wise policy decisions.

The OTA made was that the U.S. should move rapidly to computerized health records and that standards should be put in place to ensure what we now call interoperability.

Had we heeded this advice rather than defunding the OTA, we could have saved hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayer money and saved hundreds of thousands of American lives by ensuring accurate, up-to-date patient data that was accessible regardless of where the patient turned up for care.

This also could have helped slow or prevent the opioid epidemic by ensuring that patients would not be able to doctor shop to acquire numerous opioid prescriptions.

While we cannot slow down the rapid pace of technology, we can give our country back an important and proven tool.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment to restore this vital source of credible, nonpartisan scientific expertise to the U.S. Congress.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I reiterate my support for the Office of Technology Assessment. Congress does not suffer from a lack of information, but it does suffer from a lack of trusted information to help make wise policy decisions.

Today, we do need the Office of Technology Assessment more than ever. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is now to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 115–259.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk. The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division B (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to mail any mass mailing (as defined in subparagraph (E) of section 3218(a)(6) of title 39, United States Code) which is larger than 4 1/4 inches high x 6 inches long x 0.016 inches thick.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman...
Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, again, I wish our colleague from New Hampshire about this amendment, and that is one reason I am opposed.

There are a number of reasons why I am opposed to the amendment, the chief of which this amendment is going to negatively impact two very large constituencies—people in rural America that I serve, and many of us serve, and also areas where there is not ready access to electronic communications. Many Americans who don’t have access to electronic communications will be the most affected by the fact that Members of Congress cannot contact their constituents via mail.

By limiting Members can communicate with their constituents, Members may be more likely to make mistakes and violate the franking rules. We want to make sure that the franking rules work. Currently, postcards, communications that are 4 1/2 by 6, the size mandated by this amendment, as Chairman YODER said, make up only 10 percent of all postal mail communications.

This amendment would severely limit what many Members, both Republicans and Democrats, are able to do. By reducing the size of any mailer to a postcard, Members of Congress of both parties wouldn’t even be able to communicate in a mass mailing, so this is an amendment that I oppose.

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chairman, while I certainly appreciate my colleagues’ opinions on this and I recognize that it is not a perfect solution, I don’t think that this is a surprise. We certainly have heard from our constituents, pretty much every election cycle, when they start talking about all the mass mailings they are receiving, with many pictures and lots of ideas about what has been accomplished by the incumbent in office. It has been around for a while. Like I said, I do appreciate it, but they are still able to mail directly to a response from their colleagues or from any of their constituents.

The reality is that most people are not looking for a postcard in this world. They do look online. I understand what you are talking about. I have rural areas as well. They look online. Also, they can receive a number of other correspondence from us. It does not in any way impact the correspondence when they write to us.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.
The Federal Register contains a large amount of information, including proposed rules and public notices, regulations, executive orders, and Presidential documents. This information is compiled by the great folks at the National Archives, and published daily by the Government Printing Office, or the GPO.

Since 1994, the GPO began publishing the Federal Register online. To improve the user experience, the digital version has been enhanced over time and is now fully searchable and downloadable, and is the preferred method that staff and Members use the Register, making for quick access to any document.

Sady, despite these advances in technology, Members of Congress still receive printed copies of the Federal Register every day. This results in thousands of copies going directly into the trash, costing taxpayers $1 million annually. Mr. Chairman, this means that approximately 96 Americans have to work all year long and pay their taxes so that we can put these Federal Registers in the trash.

This amendment simply prevents the distribution of printed copies to Members' offices, unless the Member opts in to receiving a copy. Digital copies are already daily distributed.

This amendment is in line with H.R. 196, a bill I introduced, which passed this House unanimously without any opposition, and was cosponsored by Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment so that we can make it law.

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of my colleague from Kansas (Mr. RUSSELL) for continuing the tradition that he and others, particularly in Oklahoma, for some reason, have focused on cutting out government waste, finding sometimes small things, sometimes big things, and all things in between that we can reduce, cut, or eliminate that saves taxpayers' money.

Mr. Chair, $1 million is big money in States like Kansas and Oklahoma and across the country. It is real dollars to the pockets of taxpayers and to pay their taxes to this country. There are too many million-dollar expenditures that happen in this government that are overlooked and unnecessary because they are not maybe big enough for folks here to take time to pay attention to.

What Mr. RUSSELL is doing today is standing up for fiscal responsibility, for efficiency of government, and for helping the environment. This is wasted printed paper that is unnecessary. I think it is a good government measure that will help modernize and make our government more efficient and effective.

It is consistent with what this House has already done when it passed H.R. 195 earlier, which bars the distribution of the Federal Register to congressional offices and Federal agencies. That is in the Senate being marked up, maybe even today.

This is a smart amendment. It is the kind of thing that we need to keep doing more of to save money for taxpayers.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. RUSSELL for his work, and I ask my colleagues to support the amendment.

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

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my colleague from Kansas for his kind remarks. I also appreciate the colleagues from the other side of the aisle who have shown continued support for this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL). The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 115–259.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 219, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by $30,000,000)".

Page 226, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $30,000,000)":

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, advances in technology have given us the opportunity to increase access and streamline processes for veterans not only in the First District and across Michigan, but across the country. That said, we must ensure that technology is an asset and not an added burden to veterans, as it has been within the VA.

The Department of Veterans Affairs IT landscape has been the primary topic of hearings within the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, due to its critical importance and need for outdated systems and lack of interoperability within and outside the Department.

The solution is undisputed. The VA must modernize its IT systems or continue to face uphill struggles in timely claims and appeals processing, community care, scheduling, and financial management.

Earlier this week, the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee received an update from Secretary Shulkin that shows a continued lack of planning and implementation of its data center optimization program, an issue which was initially pointed out by the GAO during a hearing back in February.

With all this in mind, I was understandably troubled when I saw the underlying bill provided $52 million less for IT development and modernization than last year’s appropriation.

I understand that cuts need to be made, and that this bill aims to address other issues plaguing the VA, but it is imperative I make this point to the chairman and the ranking member.

Our veterans deserve immediate access to care and timely adjudication of their disability claims from an efficient, effective Department of Veterans Affairs. This simply cannot happen until the VA addresses the woeful state of its IT systems.

I ask that the chairman, the ranking member, and the rest of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee work with me to address this issue going forward.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, I have a question for the chairman of the MILCON Committee about the language in his committee report regarding colorectal cancer screening in the VA.

Early this week, the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee received an update from Secretary Shulkin that shows a continued lack of planning and implementation of its data center optimization program, an issue which was initially pointed out by the GAO during a hearing back in February.

With all this in mind, I was understandably troubled when I saw the underlying bill provided $52 million less for IT development and modernization than last year’s appropriation.

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I ask that the chairman, the ranking member, and the rest of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee work with me to address this issue going forward.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, I have a question for the chairman of the MILCON Committee about the language in his committee report regarding colorectal cancer screening in the VA.

Early this week, the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee received an update from Secretary Shulkin that shows a continued lack of planning and implementation of its data center optimization program, an issue which was initially pointed out by the GAO during a hearing back in February.

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I ask that the chairman, the ranking member, and the rest of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee work with me to address this issue going forward.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, I have a question for the chairman of the MILCON Committee about the language in his committee report regarding colorectal cancer screening in the VA.

Earlier this week, the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee received an update from Secretary Shulkin that shows a continued lack of planning and implementation of its data center optimization program, an issue which was initially pointed out by the GAO during a hearing back in February.

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Our veterans deserve immediate access to care and timely adjudication of their disability claims from an efficient, effective Department of Veterans Affairs. This simply cannot happen until the VA addresses the woeful state of its IT systems.

I ask that the chairman, the ranking member, and the rest of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee work with me to address this issue going forward.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.
Mr. DENT. I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. DENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 473, as the designee of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 25, and 26 are printed in House Report 115-259, offered by Mr. DENT of Pennsylvania:

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY

Page 219, line 16, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(increased by $5,000,000)”.

Page 225, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by $5,000,000)”.  

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. KIHUEN OF NEVADA

Page 220, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $1,031,808,000) (increased by $1,031,808,000)”.  

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. BEYER OF VIRGINIA

Page 220, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $2,500,000) (increased by $2,500,000)”.  

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GISHAM OF NEW MEXICO

Page 220, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $2,000,000) (increased by $2,000,000)”.  

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS OF NEW JERSEY

Page 220, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)”.  

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 221, line 25, after the dollar amount insert the following: “(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)”.  

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON OF TEXAS

At the end of division C (before the short title), insert the following:

The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Information Technology Services” (and the amount specified under such heading for operations and maintenance), and by increasing the amount made available in fiscal year 2018 for “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services”, by $2,500,000 and $2,500,000, respectively.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON OF TEXAS

At the end of division C (before the short title), insert the following:

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to charge a veteran a fee for a veteran identification card pursuant to section 5706(c) of title 38, United States Code, if the veteran uses form DD-214 to apply for the identification card and indicates on the form that the veteran is “homeless”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, these amendments have been made in order by the rule allowing consideration of H.R. 3219, and their inclusion in the en bloc has been agreed to by both sides.

I support the adoption of the en bloc package, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment and support the en bloc amendments. I appreciate the chairman’s inclusion of amendments from Democratic Members of the Committee.

The amendments included range from therapy grants to combating opioid abuse. These amendments will deliver better care to our veterans.

The minority has no objection to this amendment, and I urge a ‘yes’ vote on the en bloc amendment.

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I have no further speakers on the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, my amendment would direct the Vet Centers to use $2.5 million of the additional funding allocated in the underlying bill to provide outdoor experiences for veterans as part of their continuum of care. This program would support veterans in developing a community of support, combat-related injuries, especially those related to their behavioral health.

The Vet Centers are uniquely positioned for the collaboration and development of alternative and supplemental approaches. We know that traditional mental health services are underutilized by veterans, but a 2014 University of Texas study found that, after just a one-week-long Outward Bound veterans wilderness expedition, those veterans who participated showed clinically significant improvements in mental health variables like sense of social connection and attitudes towards seeking psychological help. They also showed important decreases in depression and anxiety.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has already included the same language in their version of the MILCON-Veterans Administration Appropriations bill.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment. I am very grateful to the chairman of the subcommittee for including this in the en bloc amendments because it will enable Vet Centers to explore alternative avenues for engaging veterans in a supportive environment to help with both mental health and readjustment to civilian life.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for yielding and the chairman for including this amendment en bloc.

Mr. Chair, this amendment addresses the ongoing and, unfortunately, growing opioid epidemic in our communities. There are 60,000 overdose deaths each year.

I am vice chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. We are looking for ways to address this issue. It is a complex issue, and we want to take a variety of actions to help those suffering from the diseases of addiction.

Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, are at increased risk of abusing opioids according to the AMA, the American Medical Association. Many brave men and women who serve our country come back with both physical and invisible wounds. We know they are not invisible. We see it every day. I have spoken to those veterans who live in my community who suffer from PTSD and, unfortunately, from the disease of addiction.

My amendment would set aside $5 million for the National Center for PTSD to study the connection between addiction and PTSD. Our veterans are suffering, and this investment will help them. Let’s get to the bottom of the connection between PTSD and opioid abuse. It is a simple but necessary way to address the epidemic.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN), who has been a passionate advocate to improve services to his rural communities.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member and the chairman for accepting my amendment.

Mr. Chair, veterans have made an incredible sacrifice for our country, and they deserve the highest quality treatment and care when they return to their civilian lives. The Department of Veterans Affairs has the obligation to provide critical services to veterans and ensure that America’s veterans have access to high-quality and affordable healthcare in their communities.

Recently, the VA decided not to renew its contract with the Ely Community Clinic in my district, and it is forcing veterans in Ely and the surrounding communities to rely solely on the Choice Program to access care.

We owe it to our veterans not to use the Choice Program as a crutch, but to make the proper investment in the healthcare of our veterans and the healthcare that they deserve. Veterans
have already fought for their country. They shouldn’t have to fight to keep their VA clinic in Ely.

The intention behind my amendment is to remind the VA that they have the responsibility to continue operating the healthcare clinic in Ely, Nevada, and to emphasize the importance of continuing to provide care in rural communities across the country.

The Choice Program was not intended to allow the VA to shirk its responsibility for certain veterans; instead, it was supposed to help veterans who have nowhere else to turn.

I was sent to Congress by the people of the Fourth Congressional District to fight for Nevada’s veterans, and I will continue fighting to ensure that veterans in rural Nevada and communities across the country do not lose access to the VA and make sure that they receive the healthcare that they have earned.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, thank you for this opportunity to briefly explain Jackson Lee Amendment No. 22.

Before I begin, let me express my appreciation and thanks to my good friends, Chairman DENT and Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their hard and constructive work in shepherding this important legislation to the floor.

Chairman DENT and I worked together constructively for many years on the Homeland Security Committee and he has always distinguished himself as one of the most bipartisan members of the House.

And Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ has for years been one of the ablest Members of this body; I thank them both for their commitment to the important work of ensuring that our veterans receive the care and support they have earned.

Jackson Lee Amendment No. 22 makes a modest but important improvement to the bill by increasing the amount of funding for the “Supportive Services for Veterans’ Families” account from $2 million to $3 million. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Today, in our country, there are approximately 107,000 veterans (male and female) who are homeless on any given night. It is estimated that 280,000 veterans are in need of special programs that allow for freedom from the country they selflessly risked their life to defend.

Homeless veterans or veterans facing homelessness who have minor age children are eligible for the SSVF program that allow for housing that welcomes children. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 22 will enable this vital program to serve more veterans’ families in need of help by providing a bit more funding for grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide supportive services to very low-income veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing.

The SSVF Program ensures that eligible veteran families receive the outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits. These services may include health care, daily living, legal services, fiduciary and payee services, personal financial planning, child care, transportation, housing counseling, and a variety of other services. The SSVF Program enables VA staff and local homeless service providers to work together to effectively address the unique challenges that make it difficult for some veterans and their families to remain stably housed.

Many veterans, including Mariano Salas and his family were the first clients to participate in Community Psychiatric Clinic’s (CPC) SSVF program. Both Mariano and his wife had lost their jobs and their young daughter was facing homelessness. The SSVF program secured their housing and helped stabilize their lives. Today, instead of focusing all our energies on fear of being homeless, we are focusing our energy on securing a stable job to support our family and put food on our table. Today, I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment and commit ourselves to the hard but necessary work of ending veteran homelessness in America.

I urge my colleagues to support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 22.

"HEROISM KNOWS NO GENDERS" - Liz (Names and some identifying information have been changed to protect confidences of the individuals) is an Army single mom. After losing her job, she struggled to pay the rent and provide for her daughter. Liz’s landlord said she had always been an excellent tenant. But the patience was wearing thin as her rent arrears continued to increase. Disheartened with a fruitless job search and unsure of where else to turn, Liz came to the Veterans Outreach Center (VOC). She was immediately connected with a Case Manager, an Employment Specialist, an Accredited State Veterans Benefits Counselor, and the legal aid provider.

In order to avoid the immediate crisis of homelessness, the Services To Enable Positive Solutions (S.T.E.P.S) program at the VOC paid Liz’s rent which had escalated to an amount that was insurmountable. Within a few short days of connecting with the team at VOC, Liz had a job interview that resulted in full-time, meaningful employment. In less than a week, she had a benefits review with an on-site counselor at the New York State Veterans Affairs during which she applied for an increase in disability compensation. The payment of Liz’s back rent allowed her and her daughter to keep their head above water.

With a roof over their heads and their living situation stabilized, Liz was able to focus on her employment and securing her benefits, which are both components of an Individual Development Plan (IDP) that will help Liz sustain permanent housing in the future.

I was able to stabilize Liz and her daughter while concurrently providing the supportive services necessary for her to maintain permanent housing. The temporary financial assistance was essential to the landlord in a timely, efficient manner with the help of a S.T.E.P.S collaborative partner.

Through coordinated case management, the aforementioned supportive services were provided quickly and effectively. The long-term result of this effort is yet to be determined, but at the 90-day benchmark, Liz has retained both her job and her home. She has realized this goal independently, without requesting any additional financial assistance.

Consequently, the VOC saved another veteran’s quality of life. Liz was able to stabilize her and her daughter while concurrently providing the supportive services necessary for her to maintain permanent housing. The temporary financial assistance was essential to the landlord in a timely, efficient manner with the help of a S.T.E.P.S collaborative partner. Through coordinated case management, the aforementioned supportive services were provided quickly and effectively. The long-term result of this effort is yet to be determined, but at the 90-day benchmark, Liz has retained both her job and her home. She has realized this goal independently, without requesting any additional financial assistance. Consequently, the VOC saved another veteran’s quality of life. Liz was able to stabilize her and her daughter while concurrently providing the supportive services necessary for her to maintain permanent housing. The temporary financial assistance was essential to the landlord in a timely, efficient manner with the help of a S.T.E.P.S collaborative partner. Through coordinated case management, the aforementioned supportive services were provided quickly and effectively. The long-term result of this effort is yet to be determined, but at the 90-day benchmark, Liz has retained both her job and her home. She has realized this goal independently, without requesting any additional financial assistance.

"YOUR UNSELFISH HELPING HAND GAVE US HOPE!" - Mariano Salas and his family were the first clients to participate in Community Psychiatric Clinic’s (CPC) SSVF program. Both Mariano and his wife had lost their jobs and their young daughter was facing homelessness. The SSVF program secured their housing and helped stabilize their lives. Today, instead of focusing all our energies on fear of being homeless, we are focusing our energy on securing a stable job to support our family and put food on our table. Today, I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee Amendment and commit ourselves to the hard but necessary work of ending veteran homelessness in America.

I urge my colleagues to support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 22.

With deepest gratitude,

Mariano Salas

Mr. Chair, thank you for this opportunity to explain Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25, which simply provides that: ‘‘None of the funds made available by this Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs—Benefits for Homeless Veterans and Training and Outreach Programs may be used in conjunction with the title 38, Part II, Chapter 20, Subchapter II and III of the U.S. Code.’’

This amendment will help ensure that the rate of homelessness among veterans in the United States does not increase.

I thank Subcommittee Chairman DENT and Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their hard work in shepherding this important legislation to the floor.

I offer Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25 because I believe reducing and eliminating
homelessness among veterans, those who risked their lives to protect our freedom, should also be one of the nation's highest priorities.

Homelessness among the American veteran population is on the rise in the United States and we must be proactive in giving back to those who have given so much to us. Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25 will help remind us of our obligation to provide for our veterans the assistance needed to avoid homelessness, which includes adequately funding for programs Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) that provide case management services, adequate housing facilities, mental health support, and address other areas that contribute to veteran homelessness.

VASH is a jointly-administered permanent supportive housing program for disabled Veterans experiencing homelessness in which VA medical Centers provide referrals and case management while Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) administer the Section 8 housing vouchers.

Mr. Chair, our veterans deserve the best services available, and I believe that we could be doing much more for them.

Today, in our country, there are approximately 107,000 veterans (male and female) who are homeless on any given night. And many experience as many (200,000) experience homelessness at some point during the course of a year.

Many other veterans are considered near homeless or at risk because of their poverty, lack of support from family and friends, and discomfort living in cheap hotels or in overcrowded or substandard housing. While significant progress has been made, ending homelessness among veterans remains a big challenge.

In my hometown of Houston for example, between the years 2010 and 2012, the number of homeless veterans increased from 771 to 1,162.

We must remain vigilant and continue to fight for those who put on the uniform and fought for us.

Providing a home for veterans to come home to every night is the very least we can do.

Mr. Chair, programs like VASH have succeeded in changing lives.

In 2012 alone, 35,905 veterans lived in the public housing provided by VASH. I have seen the impact of such grants in my home state of Texas, and within my congressional district in Houston, and I am sure that this funding has positively impacted many communities across this country.

In Texas, there are committed groups in Houston, working to eradicate the issue of homelessness.

For example, the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center has been involved in changing veterans' lives in a mighty way by providing Veterans and their families with access to affordable housing and medical services that will help them get back on their feet.

Mr. Chair, we cannot let this issue of homelessness continue.

I urge my colleagues to support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 25 and commit ourselves to the hard but necessary work of ending veteran homelessness in America.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. AL GREEN OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 220, line 22, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(increased by $70,000,000)."

Page 225, line 6, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by $70,000,000)."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN. Mr. Chair, I will be withdrawing my amendment, but I do desire to make some points.

I am grateful to the chairperson of the committee and the ranking member as well. I know them to be admirable persons who desire to do the very best for our veterans.

I would like to state, Mr. Chairman, that we have many people who are on the front line of democracy. These are the people who go to distant places, and a good many of them don't always return the same way they left, and, Mr. Chairman, as a result of this, they need special attention. They need medical attention.

We have a circumstance in our country that breaks the hearts of a good many Americans each and every day when they see persons standing on the streets with signs indicating that they are veterans and that they need help.

Mr. Chairman, what we propose to do with this amendment is to provide that additional help that they need.

This amendment would accord an additional $70 million to medical services for homeless veterans, the veterans that we see living in the streets of life, the veterans who are appealing to us for help. A good many of them need help that goes beyond something that is physically wrong with them. A good many of them may need some help because of some mental illness that they may have.

Mr. Chairman, in Texas, we have, on any given night, about 1,700 veterans who are living on the streets. According to the VA, about 40,000 veterans were homeless on a single night in January of 2016. This is a decrease from where we have been.

The decline is admirable and we ought not overlook the decline, but my belief is we can still do better and we can still help those who are in need of some services. So this amendment would accord the $70 million and bring us back to our 2017 levels.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the chairperson and the ranking member please understand that my desire is to be of service to our veterans.

Mr. Chairman, if I may engage in a colloquy at this time. You have heard my appeal. My hope is that Congressmen and I might be able to work together to do what we can to enhance the services that are needed to provide medical attention for homeless veterans. I am sure that Congressman DENT has seen the evidence of it, and this empirical evidence is for us to review if we would like to, but I would like as much assistance as we can get.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for his genuine concern and thoughtfulness with respect to veterans' homelessness. It is indeed a very severe problem. I do look forward to working with him on this issue, but I also want to mention that our bill does respond quite admirably in many ways to the homelessness challenge.

We support more than $7.3 billion in medical care, housing, social service, and job training assistance for homeless veterans, and that is about $197 million more this year than in fiscal year 2017 and almost $450 million more than 2 years ago. But Congressman GREEN is correct that we can always do more and that this challenge continues to plague us. We have made great progress in this country, but I pledge to work with Mr. GREEN on this issue.

Mr. AL GREEN. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman DENT.

And if I may just say to the ranking member on our side, I greatly appreciate the assistance of Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ having helped us to bring this to the floor to this extent, and I look forward to working with her as well.

Mr. Chair, the need to help people who are willing to give it all for us is something that we can never overlook, and I am grateful.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, if I may engage in a colloquy at this time. You have heard my appeal. My hope is that Congressmen and I might be able to work together to do what we can to enhance the services that are needed to provide medical attention for homeless veterans. I am sure that Congressman DENT has seen the evidence of it, and this empirical evidence is for us to review if we would like to, but I would like as much assistance as we can get.

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Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.
While the President tweeted that his decision came after consulting, supposedly, with our Nation’s top generals, that was apparently news to them, as it was met with utter surprise and silence from Pentagon leaders.

Additionally, the President may want to speak to his VA Secretary, as the VA has unequivocally stated VA’s policy has not changed. The VA provides care, benefits, and other VA services to all veterans, including transgender veterans.

The President’s policy reversal comes after our military has undertaken a measured and thoughtful process to make our military open to LGBT Americans to serve their Nation with pride and patriotism. This thoughtful process included the successful repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, which had the support of civilian and military defense leaders and an overwhelming number of Americans.

Unlike the President’s tweets, the decision to make our military more open was not made rashly or with the intention to discriminate.

With over 6,000 transgender Americans serving on Active Duty, in the National Guard, and in our Reserve forces, it would be reckless, dangerous, and cruel to remove brave servicemembers from their critical roles protecting the American people. It is reckless and dangerous to immediately leave vacant positions that are so vital to our national security.

It would be cruel to perniciously discharge these servicemembers less than honorably, an act that could gravely impact whether they are eligible for VA benefits.

Time and again, we see the dramatic and unintended consequences of this President’s thoughtless actions. As we fight for an open military, we will provide the proper care and resources to the over 130,000 transgender veterans that fought to defend our Nation.

Additionally, whatever my colleagues on the other side of the aisle may say, this decision was not based on a financial cost-benefit analysis.

Allowing transgender people to serve in the military would raise defense health spending by less than 0.1 percent annually, including funds for gender reassignment surgeries. That is just $2.4 million to $8.4 million.

In comparison, just so we are illustrative, the Pentagon spends $34.21 million annually on erectile dysfunction prescriptions. Of that, $41.6 million was specifically spent on Viagra.

Moreover, research has shown that greater inclusion has little or no impact on unit cohesion, operational effectiveness, or readiness. In fact, commanders have noted that these policies benefited all servicemembers by creating a more inclusive and diverse force.

Mr. Chairman, several things are clear:

This was not a decision based on fiscal responsibility.
This was not a decision based on military readiness.
This decision was apparently made to save the President’s immoral, irresponsible border wall, because some Republican Members threatened to bring down the entire minibus appropriations bill that we are debating here today over transgender medical treatment in the military.

This decision, at the end of the day, was based purely on bigotry and hate, and it is one that we will vehemently oppose.

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

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to Sec. 20 of the amendment No. 20 offered by Mr. RATCLIFFE, printed in House Report 115–259, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of section C (before the short title) insert the following:

"None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, plan for, or execute a new or additional round of base realignment and closure (BRAC).

I thank my colleagues who have supported this important amendment for the past 2 years, and I look forward to having this amendment included in this year’s Military Construction and VA Appropriations bill.

Mr. DENT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RATCLIFFE. I yield to the gentle-
man from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DENT. I just want to say for the RECORD that I appreciate the gentle-
man’s concern for his district. I am not to oppose the amendment, but I did want to say that, at some point, there will need to be a BRAC. There is a lot of excess capacity in the Army and the Air Force. But for fiscal year ’18, I can accept this amendment, but down the road I see the need to have another round of BRAC.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for accepting the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I, like many Members, have concerns regarding another round of BRAC. I realize that this is a complicated issue for all Members of Congress, especially those with military facilities in their congressional districts.

I have had this conversation with my chairman, Mr. DENT, several times. And while we both share the concerns of those Members with military bases in their district and other military facilities, the gentleman is right. We are going to need to address that we have facilities all across the country that really need to be evaluated because they are, essentially, maintaining infrastructure that is no longer needed.

For example, the Air Force’s estimate of excess capacity for the Army is 22 percent. The Air Force’s estimate of excess capacity is roughly 30 percent. Both the Army and the Air Force are strong supporters of another BRAC round.

While this amendment recently has no effect because we don’t actually have any funding in this bill for another BRAC round, it does send the message that Congress is unwilling to tackle what is arguably a tough issue.

This amendment would, essentially, an abdication of our duties as Members of this House to ensure that taxpayer resources are being used in a wise and fiscally responsible way, and...
that is something that we hear from our friends on the other side of the aisle regularly.

And given that we have a very significant increase in the defense appropriations bill, when we have resources that we are expending on potentially, wastefully—another BRAC round, then we are, essentially, leaving that money on the table when we could provide it for our national defense.

So I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. And I recognize that the chairman is willing to accept it, but we should underscore that there are no funds in this bill for a round of BRAC, so, essentially, the acceptance of this amendment adopts the same posture that this bill already holds.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Ratcliffe).

The amendment was agreed to.

[45x58]TED LIEU for cosponsoring this amendment.

[45x57]TED POE, RO KHANNA, BRIAN MAST, and AL YOUNG.

[45x57]Ms. TITUS will control 5 minutes of the time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I, too, rise in support of this bipartisan amendment. I thank my colleagues, Mr. BRAT, Mr. POE, and Mr. KHANNA, for introducing it.

We want to prohibit funds from being used by the Department of the VA on studies that cause significant pain and distress to dogs.

As a former member of the House Veterans Affairs’ Committee and a longtime advocate of animal protection, I firmly believe we should not be using taxpayer dollars to fund painful and unnecessary experimental procedures when we have technological advances that can move us toward alternative methods.

We have seen the NIH in their chimpanzee research, and they said that available technologies are more accurate, faster, and less expensive than animal testing.

The U.S. military is moving away from using live animals in trauma medical testing. We have seen that even the Coast Guard set up their live tissue training program.

The Los Angeles VA just recently announced it is suspending controversial and gruesome experiments on a colony of narcoleptic Dobermans. It is now time for the rest of the VA to do the same thing.

This amendment is supported by the Humane Society, the Animal Welfare Institute, and the White Coat Waste Project.

It is estimated that 44 percent of all households—and you heard my colleagues mention this—in the United States have a dog. In our culture, they are considered cherished pets, and they are a part of the family. They are not to be used for experiments. Even veterans themselves depend on dogs on the battlefield and at home for therapy.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and that is just the way it is.

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, but I do not plan to oppose it.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GALLAGHER). Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. Wasserman Schultz), the ranking member.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Chairman, the VA conducts animal research at 74 of its facilities, and unfortunately, Gainesville, Milwaukee, and Richmond—are still conducting experiments on dogs that involve inflicting significant pain and distress.

Just
yesterday, another whistleblower went public with graphic photos of mutilated dogs and other troubling information about dog testing at that facility.

In addition, a recent VA Office of Research Oversight investigation found that the VA failed to keep adequate records on dog and cat testing that goes back to the mid-1990s. The VA has not properly tracked the number of animals used in these studies and has consistently underreported the number of dogs used in experiments to Federal authorities.

I want to be clear that this amendment, unfortunately, does not stop all animal research at the VA, and it doesn’t even stop all dog research at the VA—again, unfortunately. Far from it, in fact. This amendment right— and simply prohibits taxpayers’ dollars from being spent on research that causes dogs significant pain and distress.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment on behalf of Bailey, Demmy, Coqui, Minnie, and Maddie Schultz.

Mr. Acting Chair. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT). The amendment was agreed to.

Ammendment No. 23 Offered by Mr. KING of IOWA

The Acting CHAIR. The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division C (before the short title), insert the following:

Sec. 2. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce prevailing wage requirements that is referenced as Davis-Bacon.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of my amendment, which simply does this: it says that none of the funds may be used to implement, administer, or enforce prevailing wage requirements that is referenced as Davis-Bacon.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Chairman recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, this is a Davis-Bacon amendment that addresses the MILCON component of the legislation that is before us.

The history of the Davis-Bacon Act goes back to, I will say, a couple of Republicans that got together and decided they didn’t want the construction market to have to face the competition of African Americans coming out of Alabama to build a Federal building in New York City. They took such great offense to that that they wrote legislation that is known as the Davis-Bacon Act, and the language says it requires a prevailing wage.

I have spent 42 years in the construction business, if I count the work my son does as he owns that company today, and we have dealt with that, I would say, nearly every year, if not every year, throughout all that time.

What we have is the Federal Government interfering in the relationship between the employer and the employee and setting a wage scale that is called the prevailing wage. But that is set by folks sitting inside a room with a closed door, and they come out of there with the equivalent of a union wage mandated by the Federal Government.

That is the net effect.

As we go forward: paying decent wages on government projects be paid no less than the prevailing wage. It requires that every construction worker on federally funded construction projects be paid no less than the prevailing wage.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to vote “no,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, as I listened to that rebuttal, I would like to bring back a little more of the history of this, and it is this: that Davis-Bacon, and I have been looking at this for a long time, as far as I know, and I believe it is true, is the last remaining Civil War law that exists in Federal statute today.

We should take care to pull it out of the Federal code. Its legacy is badly tainted. It was built as a racist law, and that needs to be eliminated, and we need to have a merit shop society where people can compete rather than the Federal Government deciding with a board or a commission behind closed doors.

Let’s build more roads, more bridges, more barracks, more airports. Let’s put our money to the best use we can. That is in keeping with Donald Trump’s philosophy: get more for less.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to vote “yes” on this and finally one day completely repeal Davis-Bacon.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to vote “no,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Chairman recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I am opposed to the amendment.

I rise in strong opposition to this misguided Davis-Bacon amendment. Why would anybody want to add this to a bill that is supposed to improve contracting with veterans? Why would anybody want to add this to a bill that is supposed to improve contracting with veterans? Why would anybody want to add this to a bill that is supposed to improve contracting with veterans?

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the Congresswoman for yielding me time.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), who has been a passionate advocate and fighter for working men and women of this country.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the Congresswoman for yielding me time.

I rise in strong opposition to this misguided Davis-Bacon amendment. Why would anybody come to this floor and say I want to add the wages for the people I represent? Why would anybody want to do that? We are here to help people raise their local standards of living.

That is what this amendment would do: it would lower the wages for the working conditions of those very men and women that we were elected to serve. It would hurt the local economy, devalue the workers’ pay.

Almost 100 years ago, two Republicans, Congressman James Davis and Robert Bacon, realized there was a problem with the Federal Government and contracts. The contracts were unfair to those local economies. In 1931,
unanimously approved, Davis-Bacon prevailing wage. It ensured construction workers coming in are paid the same as local labor—as local labor. It levels the playing field, ensures workers get paid a fair day’s pay for a hard day’s work—easy answers, very easy answers.

For my colleagues supporting this amendment, I have a few questions of you.

Do you want the Federal Government to make bad investments? Do you want local workers to suffer, people coming into your town and your community, and cut the wages? I don’t think so. We are not here to lower the standards. We are here to raise the standards.

Speaking of President Trump, guess who used and paid prevailing wage? You have got it. Donald Trump in Atlantic City. He paid prevailing wages. You have got it. The gentleman from Florida has 1 1⁄2 remaining on each side.

Chair, not to others in the Chamber in minded to direct their remarks to the ernment.

communities a say in the Federal Gov-

each and every day and play hard and quality wages to people who go to work

uct. This is what we are talking about: people in that economy build a good prod-

lantic City. He paid prevailing wages. You have got it. Donald Trump in At-

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July 26, 2017

south side of the highway as it was on

Both have disastrous economic impacts across the Nation, to include a $1.1 trillion fall in national gross domestic product and a spike in national unemployment to a rate of 11.3 percent.

A recent Department of Homeland Security report has made clear that an unexpected interruption to the Poe—the largest lock in the system—would have disastrous economic impacts across the Nation, to include a $1.1 trillion fall in national gross domestic product and a spike in national unemployment to a rate of 11.3 percent.

Again, this is the Department of Homeland Security saying this. And while Congress has authorized the construction of a new lock twice now over several years, the Soo has been tied up proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa will be postponed.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in House Report 115–259.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN TO THE AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KING TO THE BILL (H.R. 1625), CONSIDERATION IN THE DIS-amp, Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 27 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 267, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $1,000,000)".

Page 293, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by $1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes for purposes of the debate.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Make America Secure Appropriations Act bill. My amendment simply would make a provision in Title II of the S. Corps of En-
gineers’ investigations account to as-
sist with projects across the country that the Army Corps is in charge of overseeing.

Projects like modernizing the Soo Locks, the lock system located in my district in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan which connects Lake Supe-
rior to the lower part of the Great Lakes through the St. Marys River.

This is a project that has been around for a long time on the books. Projects like this that have more than 4,500 vessels and 80 million tons of cargo moving through the Soo Locks each year, this lock system plays a critical role in the transport of raw materials and other goods through the Great Lakes region to ports around the entire country.

And currently, the construction of a new lock, which is integral not only to my district, but the entire United States, is caught in a maze of uncertainty, and it all comes down to one thing: funding.

I think it is appropriate that we are considering this amendment in the context of making America secure because it might be a surprise to some to learn that modernizing the Soo Locks is a matter of national security.

A recent Department of Homeland Security report has made clear that an unexpected interruption to the Poe— the largest lock in the system— would have disastrous economic impacts across the Nation, to include a $1.1 trillion fall in national gross domestic product and a spike in national unemployment to a rate of 11.3 percent.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

The question was taken; and the Act-
ing Chair announced that the ayes ap-

Mr. BERGMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further pro-
in economic reevaluations and studies that have ultimately kept Congress and the Corps from spending the necessary funds to complete the project.

This amendment sends a message to the Army Corps and reminds Congress that better Soo Locks modernization must be a priority.

During a time when infrastructure projects and national security are at the forefront of our policy conversations, projects like the Soo Locks should not be delayed because of funding uncertainty or limits to the Army Corps of Engineers’ ability to do its due diligence in conducting the studies. I also wanted to take a minute and thank the chairman for working with me and understanding how significant and important the Soo Locks modernization and projects like this around the country are to our economy and our national security.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in very reluctant opposition to this amendment. I agree with the goal. I agree with the fine Congressman’s goal of getting that lock modernized, improving the access, and securing the Great Lakes region for generations to come. My problem lies in the offset coming out of the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy accounts.

So I would only ask the gentleman to consider advising his colleagues, who will go into conference, if we could find a different offset, it would sure be a lot more comfortable on this side of the aisle.

I want to congratulate him for his amendment again, again, reluctantly rise in opposition.

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. SIMPSON. Actually, the offset does not come out of EERE.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. May I inquire of the gentleman, where does the offset come from?

Mr. SIMPSON. It comes from Corps expenses and administration.

Ms. KAPTUR. Well, that changes my position.

Mr. SIMPSON. I knew we could get through this.

Let me just say, Mr. Chair, I understand that the Soo Locks project is of great importance to my colleague from Michigan, as well as other Members from the Great Lakes. I would be happy to work with them to see if we can advance this project to ensure continued navigation on the Great Lakes. I have to remind my colleague that the amendment increases the funding level of an account. It does not direct that funding level to a particular activity, and, for that reason, the amendment does not constitute a major shift in funding between accounts, and I will support the amendment.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN). The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 29 printed in House Report 115–259, offered by Mr. SIMPSON of Idaho:

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. BEN RAY LULIAN OF NEW MEXICO

Page 268, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $10,000,000) (increased by $10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. WELCH OF VERMONT

Page 268, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $10,000,000) (increased by $10,000,000)”.

Page 270, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by $325,000)”.

Page 273, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $8,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $6,000,000) (increased by $6,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)”.

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $325,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. STIVERS OF OHIO

At the end of division D (before the short title), insert the following:

Succ. None of the funds made available by this division may be used for the Cape Wind Energy Project on the Outer Continental Shelf off Massachusetts, Nantucket Sound.

AMENDMENT NO. 67 OFFERED BY MR. GALLAGHER OF WISCONSIN

At the end of division D (before the short title), insert the following:

Succ. For “Department of Energy—Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability” for energy storage systems demonstrations as authorized by section 641 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17231), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for “Department of Energy—Departmental Administration” is hereby reduced by $10,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 88 OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of division D, before the short title, insert the following:

Succ. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 2102 of the Water Resources Reform
The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 10 minutes.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANCE. I would further ask your assistance to ensure that the extensive work, expertise, and planning at the district level and the extensive community involvement is also followed by the Army Corps headquarters. There is growing concern in the communities I serve that Army Corps headquarters might shelve this project despite its continued authorization—as recently as the 2016 WRDA bill—and the ongoing funding from your subcommittee.

This would represent the worst kind of disconnect between the needs of communities in need and the bureaucracy of Washington. Doing nothing, wasting taxpayers’ time and money, and allowing mega-projects to endure are not an acceptable outcome.

I would respectfully ask the full committee chairman and subcommittee chairman to assist in convening a meeting with the affected Members of Congress and the Corps to ensure we continue to move forward with this chosen alternative, and proceed with the project now.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SIMPSON).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Chairman Frelinghuysen, I move to strike the last word.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my appreciation to Congresswoman KAP SIMPSON and all the members of our subcommittee on both sides of the aisle for completing our work on time and for reaching agreement on many amendments that will save the Members angst tonight and, hopefully, we won’t have to work beyond midnight.

I want to say, with the mark that we have received, we continue to move America forward on energy independence. We know that by 8 or 9 years it is projected that America will finally be exporting more energy than we are importing, and we will be 100 percent energy-efficient and energy-independent here at home.

That is quite an accomplishment thinking back to the period of time in our Nation’s history in the last century when we, as a nation, were subjected to rising oil prices because of embargoes, particularly in the world and we fell into deep recession here in our country back in the 1970s, and subsequent to that, every time gasoline went over $1 a gallon.

So when we consider the Energy and Water bill, I think we all have to put America on the back for having had consistent enlightened leaders on both sides of the aisle who understood what was important in the Nation’s best interests.

So as we consider this bill today, there were particular amendments on subjects that range as far afield as the Soo Locks and the Energy Information Administration, which we will get into in a moment, water projects that are some of the biggest job creators across this country—let’s not lose sight of the big frame.

The big frame really is that this is a bill that makes America more secure and that allows us to make progress here at home from coast to coast. All of our ports and all of our water infrastructure that is so vital not just west of the Mississippi, but the Great Lakes region and our coastal challenges we face in the Everglades, these are issues that all of America cares about, particularly when it is in your own backyard.

This is a really important bill for the country. It is not the largest bill that is considered as part of the appropriations process, but it is one that is extraordinarily important. And, of course, over half of our budget deals with national security, which we will get into in a moment.

So the challenges we face in the Everglades, these are issues that all of America cares about, particularly when it is in your own backyard.

This is a really important bill for the country. It is not the largest bill that is considered as part of the appropriations process, but it is one that is extraordinarily important. And, of course, over half of our budget deals with national security, which we will get into in a moment.
We look at the field of solar, for example. We have over 300,000 people working in the solar energy field, actually more than work in the coal fields now. Some of those solar companies are in districts that I represent. This is a new industry. Renewables represent 16 percent of all the energy that the country produces, and this has been a major accomplishment in just the last few decades.

A lot of photovoltaic research goes back to the 1960s. We are now looking at what energy, the fastest growing job sector in America. It is really for wind technicians.

I thank the members of our committee on both sides of the aisle for appreciating the opportunity to grow this massive industry, including with investments such as LEEDCO in the State of Ohio; capturing the Saudi Arabia of wind, which is Lake Erie’s complement.

So we feel a sense of accomplishment tonight as we bring this bill to the floor and we look at the horizons ahead. We know that we have to deal with the other body, we have to compromise out any of our differences, but I have a hunch that we are going to be able to do that very well.

I thank all those who may be listening this evening, particularly those who are working in our National Labs, the finest labs in the world that are inventing the future from coast to coast. Over a dozen and a half of those labs have America’s best scientists working on not just energy research, but derivative spinoffs in the commercial sector that eventually benefit the entire country.

As I mentioned, the natural gas discovery that has really been responsible for leading us toward energy independence was made possible by the fracking technology developed over many years at the U.S. Department of Energy. So as you look at gas prices going down at the pump and you look at the competition in the energy industry, we have a lot of people, many unsung heroes across our country in these labs who work tirelessly on behalf of the American people. Some are retired and some are still in place, but we owe them a deep debt of gratitude for serving the American people. Some are retired and some are in districts that I represent. This is very efficient committee, but a very efficient committee.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The Acting CHAIR. Accordingly, the Committee rose, and the Speaker Pro Tempore (Mr. MITCHELL) having assumed the chair, Mr. GALLAGHER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT NO. 32 AND AMENDMENT NO. 35 PRINTED IN HOUSE REPORT 115-259 OUT OF SEQUENCE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 3219, pursuant to House Resolution 473, amendment No. 32 and amendment No. 35, printed in House Report 115-259, may be offered out of sequence.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3219.

Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) kindly resume the chair?

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my fiscally responsible amendment that is one step in securing America’s future.

My amendment is a simple 10 percent cut to administrative expenses of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of the Interior, and Department of Energy. These savings would be used to reduce the deficit.

Our national debt stands at $20 trillion, and growing. Our unfunded liabilities add another $100 trillion to $200 trillion to the Federal debt, and that is only a guess. Our deficit last year was over $500 billion. That is not sustainable. It jeopardizes our future and must be taken seriously. Paying lip service to the problem will not solve it. Talk is cheap. We must now be responsible, before it is too late.

I come from the world of private business and know the importance of having our fiscally sound in order. I also know that being fiscally responsible starts with small steps, which, when added together, make a big impact.

Early in my career, I worked at Chrysler at the time when Lee Iacocca was CEO and went through the first loan guarantee. His famous fiscal savvy and focus helped save Chrysler, which was destined for bankruptcy. If not for Iacocca taking strong but necessary measures, a great Michigan company would have been lost.

Lee Iacocca understood that fiscal responsibility starts on a small scale. He once said if he had a manager who couldn’t cut administrative costs by 10 percent, he needed a new manager.

Mr. Chair, that is what I propose today, a 10 percent cut to administrative costs of government agencies, which is a small cut, when combined with others like it, could yield back results and big savings for taxpayers. Moreover, these cuts would restrain an overactive government bureaucracy.

The Republican-led Congress has worked hard to undo years of copious overregulation, but another solution is to have fewer regulators and fewer bureaucrats passing on regulations that make it hard for businesses to survive and taxpayers to live their lives.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to choose fiscal responsibility, choose a secure American future, make a modest cut in the administrations costs of...
our government, and support my amendment.
Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.
Mr. Chair, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. I understand that reducing the size of the bureaucracy is an important issue for many Members, and should be for all of us.
As chair of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I am always open to hearing if my colleagues have particular concerns with agency budget requests. I could be supportive of thoughtful strategies for reducing the size of government by making agencies more efficient and carrying out their statutory goals. That is not what this amendment does. This amendment simply slashes 10 percent from each administrative account in the bill.
Most of these accounts have been held flat or even slightly decreased over the past several years. Reducing them an additional 10 percent, with no clear plan as to how much of such cuts would be absorbed, is simply not the right way to address the size of the Federal Government. It could take longer to review and improve important water resource projects—I hear about that all the time from my colleagues—or to issue grants and approve research agreements—I hear about that all the time from my colleagues—or to respond to congressional information requests—I hear about that all the time from my colleagues.
These cuts would also put at risk the cybersecurity efforts of each agency, reducing their efforts to secure their own IT infrastructure. I don’t think that is what the gentleman from Michigan intended, but that is a very possible result of this amendment.
Mr. Chair, for those reasons, I must urge a “no” vote on this amendment.
Mrs. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?
Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.
Mrs. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I also rise in opposition to this amendment. I respect the gentleman from Michigan, but I do think that cuts to these particular accounts really are counterproductive, for the following reasons.
First of all, the most important step any country can take to deal with the deficit is to grow the economy. This particular budget, this particular set of accounts, particularly the Army Corps of Engineers, has the type of construction and building accounts that produce income. They produce income for people who do the work, but they also improve our ports.
If you look all around Michigan, if you look at the Soo Locks, if you look at the assets just in our region of the country, the progress that a region can make, because it improves its ports and attendant roads and rails and so forth, creates opportunity for companies to locate there.
We just had a phenomenal announcement in the city of Toledo this week by the Cleveland-Cliffs company. We have been working for 30 years to improve the port to connect rail and to have fast, easy access, north to south highway improvements. By golly, it worked with a $700 million investment by the private sector. It was just so exciting to bring ore from Michigan and Minnesota into the lower lakes. It was really quite incredible.
So these dollars yield results. They don’t happen in one year. They take a while to happen, but they happen.
I also oppose the gentleman’s amendment because there are $82 billion of backlog in the Army Corps of Engineers alone. I don’t know if you saw the stories about the Department of the Interior. People are lined up to get into the national parks through those turnstiles, trying to get into our national forests.
We need to improve those parks. We need to make sure that we are doing things like dealing with the Forest Service so that the underbrush is cut out and that our forests aren’t burning up all the time.
We have such a maintenance backlog across this Nation, and with budgets of this size, we don’t want to be in a position where we under account for the funds that are being spent.
So to reduce funding for critical oversight in the administrative departments of these very large agencies, I think is not wise. In fact, it is penny-wise and pound-foolish in the end.
Mr. Chair, for all of those reasons—our jobs, our security, of taxpayer funds, and for the sake of the future—I oppose the gentleman’s amendment and urge my colleagues to join me.
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I certainly did not intend the adverse impacts that are outlined by the chairman or the ranking member, nor do I believe they will arise.
My experience in years of management, or in the detail item by-item the cuts to be made, allow the leadership of agencies to determine where they can be more efficient. I honestly have to say, I can’t imagine that we cannot be more efficient than we are in the Federal Government. I admit my experience is somewhat more brief than many, but I am, frankly, shocked some days.
I urge support of my amendment. I realize it may not be popular, but, at some point in time, we need to start to cut the incredible costs of this government.
Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand what the gentleman’s concern is. It is a concern not only in Florida, but all over the country. It is a concern in Ohio. It is actually a concern in Idaho. You wouldn’t think about that, but they are having some problems in Idaho with algal blooms, also. So it is something that we need to get on top of.

I would just like to clarify that the amendment does not direct funds to any particular activities so that doesn’t necessarily mean that this will get done, but I understand what the gentleman is trying to do.

For that reason, and because it doesn’t upset the balance of the bill, I will not oppose the amendment, but I want to work with him, as well as, I am sure, the ranking member, because this is an issue we have got to address across the country. I appreciate him bringing this matter and this issue to our attention so that we can talk about it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to add a bit to that.

I thank Congressman Mast very much for offering this amendment. I do think we need to work with the Corps. Obviously, this is a growing problem. We have heard from Florida colleagues. We have heard from colleagues in Nevada, throughout the Great Lakes region.

These algal blooms are truly frightening. In the Midwest, in the Great Lakes region, a major water system was shut down for 3 days in the city of Toledo, denying water to over half a million people for 3 days. It is quite frightening.

At the moment, there is no—and I say this for the Corps’ benefit, because it would require cooperation with other agencies—ecosystem satellite mapping or drone technology currently that is able to photo large regions and home in on where the nutrients are that are causing the problem.

As I have gotten into this more deeply, we need high science, whether it is high-frequency infrared or whatever we can use, we need to home in on where the causes are coming from. And we have to work with the Corps to make sure that this goes in the area that we want the Corps to address.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 270, line 22, after the dollar amount insert "increased by $500,000".

Page 273, line 1, after the dollar amount insert "reduced by 500,000".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Heck) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington. Mr. HECK. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is about tackling a problem that we have in our state or, frankly, in one of our states in every single one of our districts, and that is storm water. Most of us probably don’t think about it very much, but, frankly, when rain falls—it does a lot of that in the Northwest—and flows through our streets and off the shoulders of our highways, it picks up all sorts and kinds of pollutants. We are talking, frankly, about some really nasty stuff: toxic chemicals like arsenic and flame retardants, as well as oil and pesticides.

Stop and think. The single largest contributor of water pollution in the United States of America is storm water runoff—up to 80 percent in some places.

Toxic storm water runoff harms our rivers and our lakes and our waterways. But it not only harms our environment, it harms our businesses that depend on clean water, like the shellfish industry in Washington State which employs, literally, thousands of people.

In Puget Sound, the largest estuary in America, storm water runoff literally can kill a salmon in a few hours. Well, salmon and other fish are a way of life in Washington, to the tune of a $50 billion, with a B, economy.

Salmon also serve as a vital resource of immeasurable value. For the 19 federally recognized Tribes in the Puget Sound, salmon is their way of life. They are called the salmon people.

If we fail to address the problem posed by storm water, these resources will continue to decline, and our communities will continue to pay an avoidable price.

So what are we doing right now to stop this from happening? The answer is: a few things, but nowhere near enough.

We are going to truly address the problem, the Federal Government needs to do the basic, and that is set an example. The good news is that Congress has recognized this in the past, because about 10 years ago this body passed a law which requires Federal agencies to reduce storm water runoff when they develop or redevelop property. That is a commonsense requirement, but we can’t stop there.

Research shows that the most cost-effective and efficient way to reduce storm water runoff is through what is called green infrastructure, or low-impact development, things like rain gardens and permeable pavement and green roofs.

You probably won’t be surprised when I share that the largest storm water research center in the United States of America is in my district at our land-grant university, Washington State University’s extension campus in Puyallup. So I am a witness to the promise and the potential of this approach.

This amendment simply provides funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to determine to what extent they are using these technologies and techniques to comply with the requirements already imposed by Congress.

Mr. Chairman, if we are going to help communities and businesses impacted by toxic storm water runoff, it is crucial that the Federal Government set the example and lead the way. So I ask you to join me as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensure that Federal agencies are using the latest and most efficient technology to manage storm water runoff.

Finally, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the chair of the committee, my friend from Idaho, and the ranking member from Ohio very, very much. I urge adoption of this amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I agree with what the gentleman is trying to do. I would just point out again that this amendment does not direct the funds to any particular activity, so it will actually take some coordination with us and some conversation with the Army Corps of Engineers to make sure that this goes in the area that we would like it to go to. But just what the gentleman was talking about.

But because it doesn’t direct it to a particular activity, for that reason and because it does not upset the balance of

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Finally, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the chair of the committee, my friend from Idaho, and the ranking member from Ohio very, very much. I urge adoption of this amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I agree with what the gentleman is trying to do. I would just point out again that this amendment does not direct the funds to any particular activity, so it will actually take some coordination with us and some conversation with the Army Corps of Engineers to make sure that this goes in the area that we would like it to go to. But just what the gentleman was talking about.

But because it doesn’t direct it to a particular activity, for that reason and because it does not upset the balance of
the bill, I will not oppose the amendment. In fact, I will support the amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Heck).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MS. KAPTUR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 37 printed in House Report 115–259. Ms. Kaptur, you are recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAP'TUR. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would essentially strike the provision related to the waters of the United States. Section 108 offers a roadblock in the way of us moving our bills forward.

However, let me be plain. This rider is worse than any of those previous versions, and it will not gain the Democratic votes necessary to become law. It actually is a roadblock in the way of us moving our bills forward.

This rider would exempt the repeal of the clean water rule from laws that would otherwise apply, including the Administrative Procedure Act, essentially allowing the President to act unilaterally, the executive branch to act without any input from the public. That doesn’t sound like America to me.

The Administrative Procedure Act was a Republican idea to make sure that government is accountable to its citizens and that their input be considered. People have come to expect this in their own communities. Exempting this action on clean water is a very slippery slope toward government by fiat, by an administration which deserves more scrutiny, I might add, on that front than any in our history.

So I urge all my colleagues to support the Kaptur-Beyer amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, this is going to be something that the ranking member is going to have to do. Poison pill riders—I have always liked that term, “poison pill riders.” What they are are policy changes. If they are policy changes you like, they are policy changes. If you don’t like them, they are poison pill riders. So when they had the majority, they put what we considered poison pill riders in their bill, but they were policy changes, and that is what we do in some appropriations bills.

But I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. I have been debating this issue for, I don’t know, probably 10 years. While the change in the administration means that we are able to redress the number of the issues we needed to address in this bill, some issues warrant continued congressional attention—WOTUS is one of them.

My reason for opposing the Obama administration’s WOTUS rule remains the same. The rule would greatly expand Federal jurisdiction over the Clean Water Act. The Supreme Court has twice ruled that the definition used under the Clean Water Act of navigable waters was hard to define and told them that they need a new definition.

Well, the EPA’s design on a new definition is okay, we will just control everything. So everybody thinks that those waters that are now under control of the Clean Water—I mean, of the WOTUS rule written by the Obama administration were unregulated before. They were not unregulated. They were regulated by the States, and the States did a good job of regulating those things.

But now the Federal Government has come in and taken control of all of those States. We think, and the courts have ruled, that this is too broad a definition of what they intended and what the Clean Water rule states.

Nobody wants dirty water—nobody.

But what we want is a rule that separates what the Federal Government has the authority to control and what the States have the authority to control. President Trump moved quickly on this issue by issuing an executive order in February, and a few weeks ago, the EPA and the Corps announced the first step in a two-step process: a proposed rule to rescind the WOTUS rule and recodify the previous regulatory text.

The second step will be a second rulemaking to reevaluate the definition of waters of the United States in a manner consistent with the Supreme Court decision.

The provision in this bill is supportive of these efforts. First, it provides clear authorization to withdraw the Obama administration’s rule. Second, it clarifies what rule will be in effect if the WOTUS rule is withdrawn.

For these reasons, I have to oppose this amendment, and I strongly oppose this amendment.

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

Ms. KAP'TUR. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to comment in asking my colleagues to support this amendment, that the amendment itself is intended to address the two Supreme Court decisions. And in addition, if we leave this language in the bill, the chairman was correct, this is at the policy level. This doesn’t belong in an appropriation bill. Let them deal with this in the courts and the authorizing committees.

I think it creates a very, very high speed bump that threatens our bill’s passage as we move forward, so I ask my colleagues to support us on striking the provision related to the waters of the United States, section 108 offered by myself and Mr. BEYER of Virginia.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. Jenk-Ins).

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman so much for his leadership on this issue. WOTUS, waters of the U.S., it has really been talked about for a number of years. This is a classic case of Barack Obama, the administration prevailing to the Trump administration, overreaching in its authority. This is executive branch takeover, waters of the U.S., saying that we have got what is called navigable waters and using the executive authority to redefine what navigable waters are.

This hurts farmers. This hurts small businesses. The suggestion that just a puddle, a small creek is defined as a navigable water, we know that is simply not the case.

Let me remind folks about the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judiciary. We have Supreme Court decisions that were putting a stop to the overreach of the Obama administration’s WOTUS rule.

Thank you to the courts.

We now have an opportunity as the legislative branch. We appreciate the work of the executive branch. We appreciate the fact that Donald Trump and Scott Pruitt and this administration are working to put a stop to it, because the Court said, as we all know, the Obama administration overreached.

Now what we are doing, what this appropriations bill provides is the voice of the legislative branch to say, yes, the prior administration overreached; the executive branch historically needs to be curtailed; the courts were right. We need to speak as the legislative branch giving the authority to stop this overreach.

I applaud the work of the Appropriations Committee. We need to put the legislative stamp of approval on what the Trump administration is doing to stop this overregulation.
I thank the chair, and I certainly oppose this proposed amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. SIMPSON. I urge an "aye" vote on the Castor amendment.

Mrs. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to rule 22, a motion to recommit with instructions has been made by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. McKinley).

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from West Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, let's step back a minute on this issue.

As you can see from this chart, coal, natural gas, and oil—fossil fuels—make up 81 percent of this country's energy consumption—81 percent.

But the proportion of R&D funding, you can see, is only 18 percent, which is far below what is currently being spent on renewables and nuclear.

The reality is that America and the entire world are going to be dependent on fossil fuels for years to come. The Energy Information Administration estimates that by the year 2040, fossil energy will still make up 78 percent of the energy used around the globe.

Are my friends on the other side serious about addressing these emissions?

Shouldn't America's goal be to develop the technologies so that we can utilize coal and natural gas around the world in the cleanest, most efficient way possible?

Shouldn't America be that global leader on energy technology?

You can't do that without research.

Mr. Chairman, we can't be cutting research on fossil fuels and technology. We should actually be increasing it.

Fossil fuels will be around for the foreseeable future. I think we have a responsibility for our children and our grandchildren to make sure that it is burned and used in the most efficient, clean manner that we can, and this requires research.

Mr. Chairman, the House has soundly defeated similar amendments to this in the past, year after year, and I hope they will defeat this one, too.

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from West Virginia. He is a well-spoken advocate for his State.

I am not zeroing out the fossil fuel research for R&D, but, instead, we have got to look towards the future.

Where are the jobs being created now?

It is in renewable energy and energy efficiency, things that are going to put money back into the pockets of consumers and unleash this technological revolution so America can stay the leader in the world.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for an "aye" vote on the Castor amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Ms. Castor's remarks, and I enjoy working with her in committee.

But the realization is fossil fuels are consumed in all 50 States. It is not West Virginia we are dealing with.

I think Ms. Castor is concerned about her State, the water quality in her State, and that issue, this research is going to take care of.

We have got to maximize the amount of money that has been put into it. In
the past, we had far more amount of money in this.

We need to preserve what we have, and, actually, I am hoping we can plus it up a little bit.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

The question was taken; and the Acting CHAIR announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $161,725,000)"

Page 286, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $323,450,000)"

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, this important amendment looks to the future and what we need for our 21st century clean energy economy. It redirects funds so we are sufficiently investing in renewable energy jobs of tomorrow.

It is a simple change. The amendment simply moves $162 million to the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy. It leaves the amount in that account, and the underlying bill still exceeds what the administration requested.

Certainly my colleague from West Virginia understands that investing in the future in technology is extremely important.

This bill provides $354 million more for fossil fuels. But by providing the additional resources for energy efficiency and renewable energy, we can better meet the needs of the future economy. I happen to agree, we need to invest in all of the above. But we also must invest in solar, wind, water, and geothermal. In fact, New Jersey is second in the Nation leading in solar and renewables. We must seek that cost-effective way of reducing energy costs for our manufacturing plants, our office buildings, and certainly our homes.

We shouldn’t underfund our energy future, because that makes it hard to do that. We should invest in it, the way we are in this bill. But we can redirect a small portion of that for future needs of renewable energy.

Tomorrow might be too late to do the investigation and that research. We can do it today because we need a long-term strategy that takes the best of what we do here in America and continues that. If it is clean coal, we can do that. If it is solar, we can do that. If it is wind, we can do that. We have the ability to do all that, and add high-paying jobs.

Let’s make this simple change and reallocate just a small portion of the fund. I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment and embrace the clean energy future.

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

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman from New Jersey’s amendment.

The fossil Energy Research and Development account actually helps the Nation use the full extent of our resources wisely, and efficiently. I always hear—and I have heard it several times tonight already—that they support an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy.

Unfortunately, this amendment does just the opposite. It picks energy winners and losers. The level of funding for fossil Energy R&D in this year’s bill recognizes the important role fossil energy plays in our Nation’s future.

At a time when fossil power generation is actually expanding around the globe, the activities funded in the bill advance our Nation’s position as a leader in fossil energy technologies.

I just hosted a conference in my home State of West Virginia on something that is of particular attention lately: rare earth elements.

I want everybody just to think about that phone that they hold in their hand or, if they are watching on TV, that TV in their home.

Guess what. Those phones and those TVs have what is called rare earth elements. And you would think by the term “rare earth,” it must mean, gosh, they are rare, hard to find. Guess what? Rare earth elements are found in many places. Amazingly, coal contains an abundant supply of rare earth elements.

This is important to our national security because, currently, China has a monopoly on the rare earth element market. Ninety percent of all rare earth elements that are in every phone and every TV are controlled by China. But we know that coal, through research, can unlock an abundant supply of these critical elements that we need for everyday technology.

So this just isn’t about energy production. This is about everyday items that impact our life.

So for our Nation’s security and electric grid reliability and use of our domestic fossil fuel resources, investment in fossil R&D is critical. Each of these programs represent a partnership with the private sector that provides an even greater leverage to Federal funds. Therefore, I urge our Members to vote against the gentleman from New Jersey’s amendment to support fossil energy R&D for our country and for our future.

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, in many ways, I think my colleague from the other side of the aisle is agreeing with me. We need to do research, that R&D that he is speaking about, but it is about balance. The dollars that were in the underlying bill far exceeded that of what the administration asked for.

We are simply saying, let’s not pick one winner, let’s pick them all, and see where that technology of tomorrow is taking us.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the Congresswoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) for her remarks.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Norcross amendment, and I want to thank my colleague for calling attention to this issue and the importance of EERE.

I represent the State of Maine, and we have over 3,000 miles of tidal coastline and millions of acres of forest. We are famous for our natural resources and the recreational opportunities that they provide, so it would be no surprise that these resources are providing our residents with an abundance of renewable energy sources.

Our State’s natural resources and our efforts have made us one of the leaders in renewable energy development. From solar, to wind, to tidal, to biomass, Maine is a leader in renewable energy.

Because our State is largely a rural one, with many diverse energy needs in our rural and island communities, we are particularly attentive to rising energy costs and the need to have more ways to solve them.

This amendment today would restore funds to the EERE account, and it will help the State of Maine, like so many other States like it that are working hard to move our energy policy to the 21st century.

We have traditionally been one of the most oil-dependent States in the country, this will help us address rising energy costs with more tools and technologies at our disposal.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support renewable energy, and I support this amendment.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman from New Jersey’s amendment.

Let me simply state, while he possibly suggests we have agreement, both Mr. I am opposed to this amendment guts the fossil energy R&D. It takes over $300 million out of the fossil research and development, the kinds of research and
development that can generate rare Earth elements and other things that we have talked about, in addition to use for our power generation.

Mr. Chair, I simply oppose this amendment and ask for its rejection.

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, this is the first time I have ever heard “gutting” by giving millions of additional dollars over the administration.

I have worked in nuclear power houses. I have worked in coal power houses, gas-fired, I have worked in solar fields. This is absolutely about the future of our energy needs. We don’t know what it holds, but I do know that investing in research and development is the way to go.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the nays appeared to have it.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. QUIGLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 40 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount insert “(increased $921,000,000)”: Page 297, line 21, after the dollar amount insert “(increased $921,000,000)”: The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, some of us in this room are old enough to remember duck and cover. As kids, the notion was that, if you hid under a half-inch plywood piece of desk under a thermonuclear attack, you would be safe. It is not a particularly rational idea, but not much more rational than our current nuclear posture.

For decades, Presidents and Members of Congress from both parties have worked together to prevent the use and spread of nuclear weapons and materials. Starting with President Reagan’s leadership, American Presidents have reduced the size of America’s nuclear arsenal from its Cold War peak. In fact, Republican Presidents have cut the arsenal far more aggressively than their Democratic counterparts, yet this year’s Energy and Water bill doubles down on an outdated Cold War strategy by unnecessarily diverting precious resources to build new nukes.

It remains unclear how these weapons will solve 21st century national security threats such as terrorism, cyber attacks, or global warming.

Rather than divert money that is necessary to keep up the status quo, we must find ways to replace the U.S. nuclear arsenal while maintaining a force capable of deterring nuclear attack against the United States and its allies.

In 2015, the Pentagon determined that the U.S. could reduce its deployed strategic nuclear force by one-third below its current levels and still meet security requirements. According to Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Joint Chiefs of Staff, the military utility of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons, such as the B61, is practically nil. Defense Secretary Mattis has raised doubts about the need for new ICBMs, and they should not be used to fund the new nuclear-armed cruise missile.

Rather than wasting tax dollars to keep up the status quo, we must find ways to replace the U.S. nuclear arsenal while maintaining a force capable of nuclear deterrence.

It is worse than that. This bill proposes to add nearly $1 billion to the nuclear weapons activities account by gutting the Department of Energy office responsible for research and application of technology to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy. DOE’s EERE has traditionally enjoyed bipartisan support and is crucial to research and development in clean renewable energy technologies, vehicle engines, geothermal technology, and advanced batteries.

This is a government success story. The $12 billion we invested in EERE, through 2013, yielded more than $230 billion-benefit to the U.S. economy, and EERE has an annual return on investment of more than 20 percent. Entire industries are built on the back of the work EERE does, stimulating a robust domestic clean energy economy.

The role of EERE is also critical to furthering the transition to a low-carbon economy and ensuring long-term, robust, sustainable economic growth. That is why this amendment would take $922 million from nuclear weapons activities and give it back to EERE.

Just to be clear, this would still be a cut to that office. The current bill funds EERE at $986 million less than the current enacted level, but it would go a long way towards fixing this mistake.

Mr. Chair, I urge committee members to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment—not just opposition to this amendment, but strong opposition to this amendment.

This bill fully funds the request of $10.2 billion for weapons activities, which, as the gentleman stated, an increase of $921 million over fiscal year 2017.

I have got to tell you, from his comments, you would think we were growing the nuclear stockpile. The reality is we are decreasing the size of the nuclear stockpile currently under the new START program. But even if you have done that, you have too bad to the modernization of our nuclear stockpile, and it is one of my highest priorities in this bill.

The activities the gentleman proposes to cut are the primary reasons the Energy and Water bill is being included as a division in the defense minibus, because maintaining the nuclear weapons stockpile is essential to our Nation’s national security.

The increase provided in this bill to weapons activities is needed to extend the life of four nuclear warheads and to ensure the continuation of the infrastructure at the Department of Energy’s nuclear sites. These investments are long overdue and must be funded if our Nation is to have a credible nuclear deterrent, regardless of the size of that nuclear deterrent.

I will say that the Department of Defense is carrying out a nuclear posture review that will inform future funding needs. Until that concludes, there is no change in our Nation’s nuclear defense requirements, and Congress, I believe, must fully fund those requirements if our Nation is to have a credible nuclear deterrent.

Increases are also needed, as I said, to address the aging infrastructure at the Department of Energy’s nuclear energy sites.

Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose this amendment that the gentleman from Illinois is offering and would encourage my colleagues to vote against it.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, respectfully, what the gentleman is talking about has been done many times. Again, in 2013, the Pentagon said we could do this with one-third of the weapons we have now.

The cost of restoring a weapon like the B61 is more than its weight in gold. We have already been told we have too many. So the plan here is, let’s restore as many as possible, build as many as we possibly can, and maybe in the future we will be told again that we don’t need this many. In the meantime, we are using those resources to cut necessary programs.

Mr. Chair, I ask for Members’ support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I would say that the Secretary of Energy is required to report to the President on
the safety and reliability of our nuclear stockpile. This is part of that requirement by the Department of Energy so that they can assure the President that our nuclear stockpile is safe and reliable. Modernizing these nuclear weapons makes sense.

Now, we can sit and argue whether we need all these nuclear weapons or not—I happen to think we can get by on quite a number fewer nuclear weapons—but we still have to maintain the nuclear weapons stockpile that we currently have and let the Department of Defense do their Nuclear Posture Review and make a determination of what ought to be the ultimate number of nuclear weapons we have, but, as long as we have this, we have got to make sure they are safe and they are reliable.

Mr. Chair, I would encourage my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY). The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 41 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $986,292,000)".

Page 286, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $634,600,000)".

Page 297, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $532,080,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, my amendment would simply restore the funding cuts to the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy account just to fund at the same levels it was funded last year. That is $986 million. And I will tell you where we find those funds and take it from in a minute. It takes them from two programs: the fossil fuel energy and research. I oppose it also because it takes money out of the fossil energy R&D, and redlines it elsewhere. They keep trying to fund those programs: the fossil fuel energy and research. As they said every time I ask them to do and that our other labs can also.

But this amendment, I think, is directly the wrong direction to go.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I am not opposed to the EERE. I actually like the program. But we had to make some difficult decisions, and our highest priority is maintaining our nuclear stockpile and making sure that our defense activities were fully funded.

Secondly, it was making sure that the Army Corps of Engineers was fully funded at the WRDA level that our colleagues here on the floor always insist on. That means we had to make some difficult decisions within the Department of Energy. EERE, we did the best we could.

But when the gentleman says, you know, we are not living in the Cold War anymore, so we don’t need the nuclear weapons and stuff and we don’t need these facilities and stuff, you are right, we are not living in the Cold War anymore. It is scarier times right now than it was in the Cold War.

You never need those facilities until you need those facilities, and you better have had them. That is the problem. It is not looking forward.

So I oppose this amendment because we have done our best within the weapons activities to make sure that we do what our Nation requires, and that is to make sure that nuclear weapons are safe, reliable, and secure nuclear stockpile.

And we ought to let the Defense Department come out with their Nuclear Posture Review and tell us what they believe we need as a weapons system, altogether, when that review comes out.

I oppose it also because it takes money for the arguments made by my friends from West Virginia, because it takes money out of the fossil energy research. As they said every time I have asked the Department of Energy, “What do you think the amount of energy we are going to consume over the next 20 or 30 years that comes from hydrocarbons, coal, and natural gas, is going to be in the future”? It is actually a larger part, not a smaller part.

And while I have been to NREL, I think NREL is a great lab. They do some incredible work out there. We want to support them. We want to make sure that they stay open and that they can do the job that we have asked them to do and that our other labs can also.

Directly the wrong direction to go.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Will the gentleman yield by then?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chair, I am sitting here with my colleague from West Virginia, who NETL is actually physically in his district. There is no stronger champion of NETL than...
the gentleman from West Virginia. This is hundreds of jobs in our State, in his district, but the impact of their work reaches across the country and literally around the world.

I spoke on a previous attack on this funding ago. I defend strongly the work of the fossil energy R&D. And to suggest this is just looking to yesterday is missing the point that I made a moment ago talking about rare earth elements and unlocking the potential that these fossil resources have in so many ways, not just energy production.

So I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for recognizing and supporting fossil energy R&D; and my colleague from West Virginia, who is such a staunch supporter of NETL, and my ability to work with him.

Please, I encourage people to reject the gentleman’s amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for recognizing the importance of Energy Efficient Renewable Energy account. It is an incredibly high priority for economic development. We talked about the jobs and technology transfers that come out of that fund. We also talked about its need for energy independence in our future.

I hope the chairman is willing to work on finding other agreeable funding sources to hold that account harmless and plus it up.

I want to highlight a couple of other important projects funded from the EERE account, large and small. One example is the EERE’s Vehicle Technologies Office which awarded $500,000. It doesn’t sound like a lot, but it makes an enormous difference on the ground for the Clean City Coalition to support Project FEVER, to foster the development of Colorado State’s accelerators for electric vehicles, which are in extremely high demand.

The Clean Cities project helped to develop a comprehensive electric vehicle strategy, including supply readiness and awareness. The project has already saved over 7.5 billion gallons of petroleum.

These are just some of the many projects that we should be focused on because they are truly our future. Raising more expanding our nuclear arsenal, rather than throwing money into the past with additional fossil fuel research, we can move toward cleaner air, cleaner water, more jobs, a stronger economy, and energy independence through clean, renewable energy.

That is why I ask you to support my amendment that will increase EERE funding and decrease funding for fossil fuel research and unnecessary and dangerous nukes that would destroy the world more than is reasonably needed as a deterrent.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to adopt my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 42 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CLERK will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

On page 286, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $33,400,000)”.

On page 288, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by $33,400,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is simple. We are merely restoring the Fossil Energy Research & Development program back to the levels of 2017—merely back to the levels of 2017. We must put it in perspective. It is still $300 million less than it was under President Bush.

Let’s all look at it in perspective. As I showed earlier on the chart, the consumption of fossil fuels make up 81 percent of all the country’s energy consumption: 81 percent fossil fuels of coal, natural gas, and oil. But the level of research is only at 18 percent of the money that we have currently.

Now, I just heard a minute ago someone say this is pretty balanced. Look, I may be just an engineer, but I don’t think 18 percent is the equivalent of 81 percent. There is something wrong with that.

I am not here to argue that America shouldn’t be investing in renewables and nuclear. That wouldn’t be appropriate. But the reality is that America and the entire world will be relying on fossil energy for years to come.

The Energy Information Administration estimated that by 2040, fossil energy is still going to make up 78 percent of the world’s consumption. So shouldn’t it be America’s goal to lead the world, to have that mantle of leadership, to develop the technologies that we can export to other countries around the world that are going to continue to use coal and gas and oil in the cleaner and more efficient way? Shouldn’t we, again, see that global leader on this?

But we can’t do this without leadership.

Mr. Chairman, let’s consider the history of this. The fossil fuel is reduced from the Federal Government. Just remember the threats years ago, back in the eighties, we had of acid rain. It was the research in our Federal labs all across America that reduced the emissions of SOx and NOx gases and addressing clean coal. It reduced it.

The reduction in CO2 emissions around the globe and around America have come as a result of fossil fuel re-search. On a per capita basis today, we are now emitting—a per capita basis, this is the lowest level of CO2 emissions we have had in over 50 years, thanks to fossil fuel research.

And the shale gas revolution that made America the biggest producer of oil in the world, it originated in our Federal laboratories in research. That is just part of where we have been.

Now go into the future. Someone said this is a fuel of the past. How can it be when the R&D money—look what they are working on in our labs all across America, virtually in every one of our districts across this country. We are doing a carbon capture, utilization, and storage. We are doing chemical looping. They are studying and understanding methane hydrates.

You talked earlier about rare earth elements being detected now in coal seams all across America.

What about oxy-combustion?

All of that is coming out of current research. Fresh research that will be able to export around the world so that other countries will be able to burn their coal more cleanly.

So, look, Congress should not be in the way, picking winners or losers, and it shouldn’t jeopardize the work of our laboratories. If we are serious about reducing emissions, Congress should be putting more money into this program, not reducing it.

In an ideal world, the funding level for R&D should be much higher. As I said, under President Bush it was $300 million more than it is today. But I understand the fiscal constraints we have.

So let’s utilize our domestic energy source, energy supply in the most efficient and clean way possible. We do that through our research from our Federal laboratories.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the House to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. I respect Congressman McKinley’s amendment and his desire to help America and help his own State. And for my entire career, I have voted for clean coal research and development because southern Ohio has a whole lot of BTUs underground in the form of coal.

However, I really object to the gentleman taking the funds from the Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy account. I would like you to know that that account, in this bill, is cut $986 million below last year’s level, and that is a deep concern because that is the part of our economy that is growing.

Ten percent of the jobs produced in the energy sector are in renewables, and we actually employ more people in solar than in wind energy in which we do in coal extraction. So we know that a major part of our future lies in new energy technologies, these developing
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion was agreed to. Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) having assumed the chair, Mr. DONOVAN, acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3219, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115–261) on the resolution (H. Res. 478) providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3219.

Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) kindly resume the chair.

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3219.

Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) kindly resume the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 43 printed in House Report 115–259, offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, let me just close quickly by saying we are not talking about West Virginia. We are talking about all across the country. These laboratories are located in colleges and universities all across America.

Coal is something that is expanding. Our exports are up 58 percent. People around the world are going to use coal. I think it is the responsibility for us to show them how to burn it cleanly. China is going to increase their use by 43 percent. India is going to double its consumption in that same timeframe.

When you compare the amount of renewable energy, yes, and this bill already does that with sufficient funding to the fossil energy accounts. Our country should be leading investment in these technologies, not just for our own energy security, but also for economic opportunities and the jobs that this expanding market is already providing us.

We can’t really afford to cede this market to any other country in the world, and I oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, let me just close quickly by saying we are not talking about West Virginia. We are talking about all across the country. These laboratories are located in colleges and universities all across America.

Coal is something that is expanding. Our exports are up 58 percent. People around the world are going to use coal. I think it is the responsibility for us to show them how to burn it cleanly. China is going to increase their use by 43 percent. India is going to double its consumption in that same timeframe.

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We can’t really afford to cede this market to any other country in the world, and I oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, let me just close quickly by saying we are not talking about West Virginia. We are talking about all across the country. These laboratories are located in colleges and universities all across America.

China is a great market manipulator. There, they steal your IT there. There and you take your technology directly—if you invest over $2,300,000,000, the Chinese are hacking into these technologies which have been proving themselves.

An additional cut of $33.4 million in the EERE account would further weaken these new technologies. And I will guarantee you that the technologies are so valuable that the Russians and the Chinese will be chasing these companies repeatedly because of their importance to the future, and they recognize where the future is headed. And we have got a real job on our hands to hold on to these technologies because of the value and because of their market manipulation.

China is a great market manipulator. She has a state-run economy, and it is not fair. If they can’t steal the technology directly—if you invest over there and you take your technology there, they steal your IT there.

So just since 2003, our country has spent $2.6 trillion importing foreign petroleum. When you think about the importance of America being energy independent here at home, coal, clean coal, has a role to play in that, but these new technologies have a major role to play and should support all energy portfolio to eliminate our reliance on imported energy—some would say addiction to imported energy. We have been breaking that addiction.

We should be advancing technology to clean up fossil energy, yes, and this bill already does that with sufficient funding to the fossil energy accounts. Our country should be leading investment in these technologies, not just for our own energy security, but also for economic opportunities and the jobs that this expanding market is already providing us.

We can’t really afford to cede this market to any other country in the world, and I oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, let me just close quickly by saying we are not talking about West Virginia. We are talking about all across the country. These laboratories are located in colleges and universities all across America.

Coal is something that is expanding. Our exports are up 58 percent. People around the world are going to use coal. I think it is the responsibility for us to show them how to burn it cleanly. China is going to increase their use by 43 percent. India is going to double its consumption in that same timeframe.

When you compare the amount of renewable energy, yes, and this bill already does that with sufficient funding to the fossil energy accounts. Our country should be leading investment in these technologies, not just for our own energy security, but also for economic opportunities and the jobs that this expanding market is already providing us.

We can’t really afford to cede this market to any other country in the world, and I oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.
Hydropower is safe. It harms neither fish nor man. It all faces a comprehensive and regular regulatory approval process.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair. I rise today in support of Mr. FERRY’s amendment and the power and potential of clean marine hydrokinetic energy, and I first want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their leadership in supporting the Water Power Technologies Office. The Water Power Technologies Office invests in research and development that supports hydropower, pumped storage, and marine energy.

Furthermore, I want to thank the chair and ranking member for including $30 million in the 2017 omnibus for the creation of a wave energy test center, which is now located at Oregon State University. This robust investment will help the United States lead in the field of marine hydrokinetic energy. The increase this amendment proposes will support hydropower and the development of innovative hydropower technologies, along with marine and hydrokinetic energy technologies. Development of these new technologies can offer the United States leadership in an emerging area of abundant renewable energy.

Marine and hydrokinetic energy, in particular, energy from waves, currents, and tides, is an exciting frontier in the renewable energy sector. Currently, Oregon State University, University of Washington, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks are partnering to support the testing and research activities of the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center. This center will provide visionary entrepreneurs with a domestic location to test wave energy devices, along with other technologies, rather than traveling to Scotland to use the European test center. Without continued Federal investment, Europe will remain the leader in this important work.

When fully developed, wave and tidal energy systems could generate a significant amount of total energy used in the United States. As Congress promotes technologies that can help lower our constituents’ energy bills, we must explore new and innovative solutions like marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy.

Thank you again to the chairman and ranking member for their hard work and legislative leadership on this issue, and thank you to Representative Parish for his leadership.

Mr. Chair, I urge support for this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FERRY. Mr. Chairman, a lot of what we hear is that our constituents wish that we would work together more often, and I thank the gentlewoman for her comments and her support; and I think it is just proof that we can work together for something that we agree on, which is clean power, the power to just power our future, and that comes from hydroelectricity.

I don’t know why it is not as sexy as it should be. I think it is one of the greatest marvels of technology starting back since the beginning of time since it is clean, and when power was first generated, and I don’t understand why we don’t rely on it more.

To that end, literally 60,000 megawatts of preliminary permits and projects await final approval and are pending before FERC in 45 States right now. Eighty thousand—80,000—nonpower dams in the United States, of which 600 have immediate hydro capability, right now could be producing energy.

Mr. Chair, 80,000 nonpower dams in the United States, just think about that. And the State I hail from and I am privileged to represent the portion of Pennsylvania, has 678 megawatts of untapped hydroelectric power.

Mr. Chair, I would just urge all of our colleagues to vote for this amendment.

I, again, appreciate the chairmen of the committee and of the subcommittee for this opportunity, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the remaining time, please.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. Pingree), a strong supporter of hydropower.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much to my colleague from Oregon for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, I, too, want to rise in support, today, of the Perry amendment.

I thank my colleague from Oregon and my colleague from Pennsylvania for their leadership on this important renewable energy issue.

I also want to thank the chair of the committee, Mr. SIMPSON, whom I am fortunate to also serve on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Mr. SIMPSON has worked hard on this bill to increase some of the levels of funding above the abysmal levels that were proposed by the administration’s budget earlier this year.

And also, to our ranking member, Ms. KAPTUR, my friend from Ohio, I thank her for her commitment to renewable energy and our energy future.

The amendment before us today would provide a modest increase in funding to the Department of Energy’s Water Power Program, a bipartisan effort, and I am pleased to be part of that. It comes from the fact that many parts of the country are seeking the real benefits of tidal energy that generates incredible power, or of hydrokinetic power that taps the power of flowing water.

In response to my colleague from Pennsylvania, in Maine, we think tidal energy is very sexy.

The Department of Energy supports private sector research, development, and implementation of hydropower, pumped storage, and marine tidal energy. It supports cutting-edge research and makes sure that the office supports all three types of water-based technologies.

Last year, nearly 100 teams competed in a competition for an Energy Department-funded wave energy prize, with 20 finalists coming from 10 States, showing the breadth of interest in this work. Congress needs to support multifaceted work at a level that will continue to allow for innovation.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all my colleagues to support renewable energy, support water power, and support the Perry amendment.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support this amendment and encourage all of you to do the same.

As the sponsor of the amendment explained, this does not take additional money, it cuts down on bureaucracy, and puts the dollars into important work, like marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support, and I yield the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2115 AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 44 printed in House Report 115-259.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 286, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by $20,000,000)”.
Page 288, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $40,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 59, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to increase funding for the Advanced Manufacturing Office by $20 million.

I want to thank my colleagues, Representative Tom Reed, John Katko, and Representative Hultgren for their support in this bipartisan amendment.

Our amendment is about protecting and creating millions of good-paying...
jobs in Connecticut and across the country. Our amendment will help us ensure that the technologically advanced products of the future will be manufactured, not in China, not in India, but right here in the United States of America.

The Department of Energy’s Advanced Manufacturing Office is the only technology development office within the Federal Government that is dedicated to enhancing American manufacturing competitiveness. The Advanced Manufacturing Office works to help manufacturers improve energy and material efficiency, technology, and productivity. Unfortunately, the appropriations bill before us today cuts funding to the Advanced Manufacturing Office by $155.5 million from fiscal year 2017 enacted levels, and that is a mistake.

Manufacturing is one of the most important and important sectors of the U.S. economy. In 2016, manufacturing contributed $2.18 trillion to our economy and employed 12.3 million workers. In my home State of Connecticut, manufacturing has long been our economic backbone. Connecticut is home to nearly 6,000 manufacturing companies that provide good-paying jobs for 76,000 Connecticut residents. This amendment helps American manufacturers all across the country to be more competitive by reducing energy costs.

Manufacturing is very energy intensive. In fact, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, manufacturers consume more than 30 percent of our Nation’s energy. That translates to $130 billion in costs to U.S. manufacturers every year.

Adequately funding the Advanced Manufacturing Office, will help reduce energy costs to manufacturers, freeing up that money to invest in research and development, expand their facilities, and, most importantly, hire more people.

Our amendment also helps American manufacturers to hire more competitive American workers, by addressing critical workforce needs in energy efficiency.

Last year, I visited Forum Plastics, a plastic molding company based in Waterbury, Connecticut. I met with employees to discuss the expectations and challenges facing manufacturers in America today, and one of the topics that came up was how businesses struggle to hire workers with the right skills. Yet, that same year, Forum Plastics worked with the Advanced Manufacturing Office to carry out an industrial assessment project.

The Industrial Assessment Centers program is a tool for employers to recruit individuals with hands-on experience in manufacturing. It is the time to increase our support for U.S. manufacturing. I know all of us in this Chamber are committed to promoting good-paying jobs in the communities we represent, but it is not enough to say we are committed.

We need to make job creation a priority, and that means making American manufacturing a priority. I urge my colleagues to support our amendment which increases funding to the Department of Energy’s Advanced Manufacturing Office by $20 million, fully and in addition to the $350 million plus-up to funding for the Office of Fossil Energy Research & Development.

This bipartisan amendment is a win for American manufacturing and a win for our country. I urge my colleagues to support our bipartisan amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, first, let me say, it was not a $300-some-odd-million plus-up in the fossil energy research. In fact, I think the fossil energy research account was down from last year.

It was more than the President requested, but it is not a plus-up from what it was in 2017.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. The amendment would reduce funding for the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy by $20 million but has to use $40 million from the Fossil Energy Research & Development account as an offset.

This bill was the result of some tough choices. I have to admit, they were some tough choices. It is not that I oppose the program that the good lady advocates for, but there were some tough choices. We had to prioritize research and development that will increase our energy independence.

Our domestic energy resources are vast, and this bill strikes a balance to lay the foundations for future energy generation technologies, while maintaining full support for the resources we use most today.

Increasing funding for EERE by diverting funding from fossil energy strikes the wrong balance when considering the Nation’s electricity needs. Fossil fuels produce 65 percent of the electricity we use today and will continue to provide the majority of the Nation’s energy needs in the future.

This amendment would reduce funding for a program that ensures that we use our Nation’s fossil fuel resources as efficiently as possible. For all of the reasons that team fossil talked about earlier tonight, I must oppose the amendment and urge my Members to do the same.

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

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 30 seconds remaining.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, again, I urge my colleagues to support this. If we can help our manufacturers be more efficient in their use of energy, we can help them be more competitive, hire more people, and develop that clean energy technology for coal.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 46 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 49 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 49 printed in House Report 115-259.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk. The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, in these difficult times, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member, Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR of the subcommittee, for shepherding this legislation to the floor, and for their efforts, and the commitment that we all have to preserving America’s great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment increases funding for the DOE departmental administration by $1 million, which should be used to enhance the Department’s Environmental Justice program activities.

The Environmental Justice program is an essential tool in the effort to improve the lives of low-income and minority communities, as well as the environment at large. Twenty years ago, this particular program was established directing Federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations.

That we have engaged with Historically Black Colleges, minority-serving institutions, Tribal colleges, and other organizations to improve and develop the sustainability through developing
young people and faculty to work on these important issues. The crisis in Flint, Michigan, teaches us how important it is that minority groups and low-income communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to environmental threats and hazards like lead in drinking water or nesting areas for mosquitos carrying the Zika virus. I particularly remember convening a Zika task force in Houston to ensure that areas in my community, because of the sitting water and the heat, did not breed these mosquitos to create a devastating condition in some of our communities.

This Environmental Justice program is extremely important, involving community education and advisory projects, community capacity building through technology, the Community Leaders Institute, and, more importantly, it works on important research.

Mr. Chair, might I find out how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I want to make note of the fact that in some of the universities that participate in this program, the chairs, meaning the faculty chairs— are a team of world-class scholars, researchers, and educators from 14 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, one Hispanic-serving institution, who advance research, enhance academics, promote partnerships, and effect outreach in the environmental sciences.

Finally, the Minority Serving Institutions Program that includes a wide array of institutions provides funding to minority-serving institutions to advance scientific research, student internships, faculty fellowships, and curriculum development.

Mr. Chair, the more we can invest in science and research, helping to improve our environment and let me make it very clear, in urban and rural areas. This is not an urban program only. It is urban and rural areas. The more we can help our communities be clean and environmentally safe and secure, the more we create a better quality of life for all people, no matter what their economic station in life or where they live.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kapur for shepherd legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America’s great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment increases funding for DOE, from $1,000,000 which would be a program enhancement to Department’s Environmental Justice program activities.

Mr. Chair, the Environmental Justice Program is an essential tool in the effort to improve the lives of low income and minority communities as well as the environment at large.

Twenty years ago, on February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, directing federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations. A healthy environment sustains a productive and healthy community which fosters personal and economic advancement. Maintaining funds for environmental justice that go to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, and other organizations is imperative to protecting sustainability and growth of the communities. The funding of these programs is vital to ensuring that minority groups are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to the environment and the continued preservation of their homes.

The crisis in Flint, Michigan teaches us how important it that minority groups and low-income communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to environmental threats and hazards like lead in drinking water or nesting areas for mosquitos carrying the Zika virus.

Through education about the importance of environmental sustainability, we can promote a broader understanding of science and how citizens can improve their surroundings.

Funds that would be awarded to this important cause would increase youth involvement in STEM fields and also promote clean energy, weatherization, clean-up, and asset revitalization. These improvements would provide protection to our most vulnerable groups.

This program provides better access to technology for underserved communities. Together, the Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture have distributed over 5,000 computers to low income populations.

The Community Leaders Institute is another vital component of the Environmental Justice Program. It ensures that those in leadership positions understand what is happening in their communities and can therefore make informed decisions in regards to their communities.

In addition to promoting environmental sustainability, DOE also brings important factors including public health and economic development into the discussion for community leaders.

The CLJ program has been expanded to better serve Native Americans and Alaska Natives, which is a prime example of how various other minority groups can be assisted as well. Through community education efforts, teachers and students have also benefitted by learning about radiation, radioactive waste management, and other related subjects.

The Department also places interns and volunteers from minority institutions into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The DOE also works to increase low income and minority access to STEM fields and help students attain graduate degrees as well as find employment.

Since 2002, the Tribal Energy Program has also funded 175 energy projects amounting to over $41.8 million in order to help tribes invest in renewable sources of energy. With the continuation of this kind of funding, we can provide clean energy options to our underserved communities and help improve their environments, which will yield better health outcomes and greater public awareness.

We must help our low income and minority communities and ensure equality for those who are most vulnerable in our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support the Jackson Lee Amendment for the Environmental Justice Program.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 50 OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 50 printed in House Report 115-259.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 297, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $98,000,000) (increased by $98,000,000)."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chair, my amendment ensures that NNSA has adequate work space to fulfill its national security mission. In my home State of New Mexico, over 1,000 Federal and contract employees at NNSA currently work in a network of old and rapidly deteriorating facilities on Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.

A portion of the existing facility includes a 60-year-old former military barracks, which creates a number of health, safety, and quality-of-life issues for its employees. These employees are involved in some of our Nation’s most important national security work, including managing our Nation’s nuclear deterrent and reducing global nuclear and radiological threats.

The NNSA administrator, Lieutenant General Klotz, said that:

The highly talented employees in Albuquerque are frankly forced to work in facilities that are inadequate to NNSA’s current mission.

Furthermore, because of the age of the buildings, NNSA is forced to spend approximately $6 million every year on maintenance and repairs just to keep the facilities habitable.

In fact, the $40 million worth of deferred maintenance alone on the old buildings is approximately one-fifth of what it would cost to build a new, modern, and reliable facility. So this is a perfect opportunity to save money in the long run.

I strongly support NNSA’s efforts to replace the existing complex with a single new building that will provide
safe, reliable, and sustainable infrastucture that improves the safety and working environment for approximately 1,200 employees.

The new state-of-the-art facility will meet enhanced environmental standards and accommodate staff for a more efficient delivery and support of the important national security work at NNSA.

The current total project cost is $202 million, and I agree with Chairman Simpson that we have an obligation to ensure that every single taxpayer dollar for this project is used efficiently and effectively.

I know that the chairman shares my concerns to ensure that NNSA has the infrastructure and resources it needs to fulfill its national security mission now and in the future. That is why I am pleased that he has agreed to work with me to ensure that we are fulfilling our oversight responsibilities while moving the construction of the Albuquerque complex project forward.

With that, I am prepared to withdraw my amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentlewoman’s concern and thank her for her advocacy for this project.

The committee has been supportive of this project and has provided $42 million in prior years. The bill includes an additional $18 million to ensure that the project moves forward, and I am happy to work with her as the project advances and understand this amendment will be withdrawn, and I appreciate that.

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

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chairman’s words and respect his work prior to this and in this current effort to get this space and the facility infrastructure issues addressed. I look forward to working with him on a variety of ideas to make sure that we get this project completed in a timely and effective manner.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MR. FOSTER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 51 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 297, line 27, after the dollar amount, insert: “(reduced by $10,000,000) (increased by $10,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 47, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is a symbolic adjustment to the NNSA budget intended to raise awareness about two areas of emerging national security risk that I believe deserve more attention and investment.

As the only Ph.D. physicist in Congress, I feel a special responsibility to speak out on issues of national security, especially when they concern emerging technological threats that Congress may not be sufficiently aware of.

Any student of the history of warfare is well aware of the dangers of fighting the last war, and for more than 70 years, nuclear weapons have held center stage among threats to our national security and global safety because of their unique capabilities to threaten the existence of mankind. That threat remains, but I fear that the balance of our defensive investments do not adequately reflect emerging threats.

We now appear to be in the process of deciding to spend over $1 trillion to upgrade our nuclear weapons despite the fact that our existing systems are far more sufficient to deter any rational actor. There is no adversary of ours who is not intimidated by our nuclear arsenal but who will suddenly fall in line if we add just one more upgrade or additional weapons manufacturing capability. Put simply, another generation of nuclear weapons will not make us significantly safer.

On the other hand, we live in a world where newly emerging and potentially equally great threats loom: first, bio-terror, driven by recent breakthroughs in genetic engineering and off-the-shelf biotechnology; and, second, lethal autonomous weapons systems.

Both of these technologies pose equally great threats to our national security and global safety, especially when they concern clear proliferation, where the multimillion-dollar investment to enrich and separate nuclear fissile material pretty much limits nuclear weapons either to established nation-states or perhaps terrorists organizations with access to fissile material from poorly guarded facilities.

Anyone who is unconvincing that we need to take these emerging threats seriously needs only to look at what happened in cybersecurity. One of the painful lessons we have learned in recent years is that everything evil that can be done with computer viruses has, in fact, been done. In large part, this is because of the low barriers to entry and the difficulty of attributing an attack. Both of these features are shared fully by both bioterror and lethal autonomous weapons systems.

So if we are going to stay ahead of these threats, we need to be strategic about our investments. It is time to reconsider the wisdom of pouring hundreds of billions of dollars into Cold War weapons which contribute negligibly to our national security and past time to consider a much more rapid increase in investments in defensive measures against lethal autonomous weapons systems and against bioterror, because by the time they become a reality, it will be too late to react.

As a leader in technology and innovation, the United States should act now to circumvent any danger these technologies could pose.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentleman’s concern on this issue and appreciate the fact that...
he brought it up for discussion here tonight.

I would note that the weapons activities accounts provides funding to ensure the reliability of our Nation’s nuclear weapons stockpile. The NNSA does not use funds within this account to counter proliferation of biological weapons, although I understand it is an important issue, and I agree with them we need to address this issue.

However, this amendment increases and decreases the same account and has no effect on the bill overall. Could I accept the gentleman’s amendment?

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and to take the time to educate themselves about these emerging threats.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 52 printed in House Report 115-256.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 297, line 21, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by $118,017,000)”. Page 298, line 11, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by $118,017,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Chairman, I think we ought to be on a roll here, given the last amendment being accepted on a “yes” vote.

This amendment would make America more secure by focusing our very limited tax dollars on programs to keep nuclear material out of the hands of terrorists rather than excess national laboratory infrastructure spending.

According to The Washington Post, the world dodged a bullet when ISIS failed to realize that it had the ingredients for a dirty bomb under its control in Mosul for more than 3 years. This underscores the importance of the need for U.S. leadership and resources to secure nuclear material around the world.

My amendment would provide an increase of $118 million for the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, DNN, funding. DNN funding includes critical programs such as the nuclear smuggling and detection program, which works with partner countries to improve intelligence, law enforcement, and border security capabilities to detect nuclear material trafficking.

It also supports programs to improve the security of radiological material and to remove it from areas where nuclear materials cannot be adequately and safely secured.

The Make America Secure Appropriations Act makes significant cuts to these programs. Nuclear material, the act would remove it from the hands of terrorists and those who would then use that material to do us harm. For example, there is a 30 percent cut from the nuclear smuggling detection funding; a 79 percent cut from the highly enriched uranium reduction programs; and, overall, a $150 million cut to this program.

At the same time, the underlying legislation would increase by 38 percent, a plus-up above what the administration and is not supported by the Senate. The underlying bill already includes a $59 million increase in the infrastructure recapitalization spending and a $71 million increase over the fiscal year 2017-acted level for maintenance and repair facilities.

We can go on and on. We have heard discussions here already about the trillion-dollar-plus expansion of the nuclear weapons programs.

Specifically, this money that I would move out of this particular infrastructure recapitalization account is for the construction of a new facility to build nuclear plutonium pits. These pits are presumably going to be needed for a weapon that is almost certainly not going to be built, which is the interoperable weapon.

The interoperable weapon is to go on existing and remodeled rockets for the Navy and for the Air Force, neither of whom thinks it is a particularly good idea. So that program, should it ever come to pass, will be delayed, and we could then use this $118 million now to deal with a known problem.

If, in the future, we decide that we need to be able to produce somewhere between 30 and 80 new pits a year, there is time enough to do that. The account that calls for the maintenance of the existing facilities will provide sufficient funds to meet all of the known needs, with the exception of the interoperable nuclear weapon, which, in all probability, is not ever going to be built or needed.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, although I am opposed to the amendment, I have to admit that I do enjoy our annual discussion on this.

I oppose this amendment because the bill already shows strong support for the nonproliferation programs of the NNSA. Funding for nuclear defense nonproliferation is $1.83 billion—$76.5 million below fiscal year 2017 and $16.8 million below the budget request.

Within nonproliferation, the bill largely supports funding as requested, but makes a limited number of realignments within the account to emphasize the importance of nonproliferation research and development activities and to meet international commitments for plutonium disposition agreements.

Our understanding—and this is the important point. Our understanding is that budget request is down because NNSA still has significant unexpended balances in this account due to slow progress on international nonproliferation agreements.

Specifically, the NNSA reported in May that it had approximately $2.2 billion in funds available to carry out its nonproliferation mission, of which over $680 million is left over from prior years. For years, NNSA has struggled to execute funding in its nonproliferation budget because it could not obtain agreement from other nations to do the work as quickly as planned or as we would have liked to do.

This amendment also targets funding from the weapons activities infrastructure recapitalization program. Created in fiscal year 2014 by Congress, the recapitalization program has been highly successful in addressing the aging and deteriorating infrastructure at NNSA sites. Replacing things like telephone poles, leaking fireman valves, roofing, and addressing other basic infrastructure needs are essential to the safe and continued operation of these nuclear security sites.

The budget request proposed to cut the program, and the bill increases funding $118 million above the request to restore that program to the fiscal year 2017 level. We should not divert funding needed to address these urgent infrastructure needs, and I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. GARAMENDI. That might be sufficient. Mr. Chairman, although I doubt I will persuade the worthy chairman, with whom we have had this little tussle back and forth.

The fact of the matter is that there are two accounts to deal with this issue of the nuclear sites and the maintenance of them.

One is a maintenance facility, which is plussed-up and sufficient to maintain and upgrade the existing facilities, particularly the plutonium pit, the metallurgical facility, as well as continue the construction of the highly enriched uranium facilities.
The Acting CHAIR. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is now before the Committee.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is now before the Committee.

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

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Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support and as a proud cosponsor of this amendment. I do so in defense of one of our most magnificent natural resources: the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes contain a fifth of the water on our planet, and a fifth of the world’s fresh water. They are the oldest and the largest of our Nation’s surface waters. The Lakes are an important asset to our economy and the quality of life of our Nation, and in my district in particular.

The National Ocean Policy also helps protect the vitality of our Great Lakes ecosystem. However, section 505 of this bill will undermine our National Ocean Policy and the ability of agencies to coordinate with States, local governments, and other agencies to protect these beautiful waters. That is why I support striking section 505.

We have a profound obligation to be responsible stewards of the environment and to pass on to a clean, healthy, and dynamic environment for future generations.

Mr. Chair, I support the Pingree amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment. While there may be instances—and I am sure there are—in which greater coordination would be helpful in ensuring our coastal resources are available for future generations, any such coordination must be done carefully to protect against Federal overreach.

As we saw with the Obama administration’s WOTUS rule to redefine waters of the United States, thorough and strong Congressional oversight is needed to ensure we protect private property rights.

Unfortunately, the way the Obama administration developed the National Ocean Policy increased the opportunities for Federal overreach. The implementation plan is so broad and so sweeping that it may allow the Federal Government to affect agricultural practices, mining, energy producers, fishermen, and anyone else whose actions may have an impact on the oceans.

The facts is that the previous administration did not work with Congress. This is their National Ocean Policy. They never brought it to Congress.

If you are going to do something this sweeping, you need to have congressional input. They never came to Congress to develop its plan, and they had even refused to provide relevant information to Congress. So we can’t be sure how sweeping it actually could be if left unchecked.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Chair, I yield today in strong support and as a proud cosponsor of this amendment. I do so in defense of one of our most magnificent natural resources: the Great Lakes.

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If you are going to do something this sweeping, you need to have congressional input. They never came to Congress to develop its plan, and they had even refused to provide relevant information to Congress. So we can’t be sure how sweeping it actually could be if left unchecked.

I need 2200 more words to explain why I oppose this amendment.
Let's debate it. Let's have a good debate. If we let these activist groups have their Say, then there is no debate. Let the administration override if we don't agree. And so the administration made this morning on military policy, which was contrary to the vote we took just this week on the appropriations process.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL).

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Chair, I want to thank all of my colleagues for their leadership and work on this important amendment to strike this harmful rider, to prevent implementation of the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Policy ensures we act in concert with marine planning efforts based on management components of the National Ocean Policy. It also allows coordination between Federal agencies to make sure they are working in a collaborative manner to improve our ocean's health.

This brings all stakeholders together, including conservationists, fishermen, scientists, shipping companies, and those who live and work in our ocean communities, and it will allow them to have a voice in finding solutions for effective management of our oceans.

Healthy sustainable ecosystems and economic growth are not mutually exclusive. That is why we need to make sure we strike this harmful rider.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman from Maine has expired.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I will just say, the usurpation by the administrative branch of government over Congress happens with both Republican and Democratic administrations. I remember someone standing up and saying: Well, if Congress won't do it, I have a pen and a phone.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), in support of this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to allow this forward-thinking approach to continue. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman so much for coming to the floor tonight, and I want to thank all of our colleagues who have spoken out so eloquently on the importance of National Ocean Policy in supporting the Pingree, et al. amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE). The question was taken; and the Acting CHAIR announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Maine will be postponed.
Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk. The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment. The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 326, strike lines 1 through 7.

"The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment strikes language in the bill that would prohibit the closure of the Yucca Mountain project, which includes the storage of high-level nuclear waste in my district. As you may know, in 1987, Nevada was targeted as our Nation’s nuclear waste dump through the “Screw Nevada” bill. In the 30 years since the bill passed, Congress has wasted $3.7 billion of taxpayer money. Yucca Mountain sits in a seismically active area less than 100 miles away from Las Vegas, which holds an urban area with over 2 million residents. Mr. Chairman, just last week, there was an earthquake 33 miles away from Yucca Mountain. This place is not safe for our nuclear waste. Moreover, the city sees tens of thousands of visitors traveling to Las Vegas each and every year, many of whom are your constituents from your districts. In 2016 alone, over 40 million visitors traveled to Las Vegas. I have grave concerns with the transportation of nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain should this project continue against the will of my constituents. This project will not just impact my constituents. It impacts constituents in 329 congressional districts in 44 different States and Washington, D.C. Putting a nuclear repository in our backyard means that this high-level nuclear waste must travel through your backyards.

Your constituents will see high-level nuclear waste transported through their communities on rail and truck. A simple car crash or train derailment would leave your constituents at risk and cost our taxpayers more money to clean up the mess.

As it stands, Mr. Chairman, this transportation plan also damages our national security and the ability of the Nevada Test and Training Range, the largest air and ground range in the contiguous United States, to meet and train our servicemembers.

Mr. Chairman, I have been to Yucca Mountain. I have driven through the desert that is home to the bighorn sheep and desert tortoises and ancient petroglyphs and relics of the whestward expansion. It is clear that reopening Yucca Mountain threatens the health and safety of Nevadans and Americans from across the country.

Our State, which has no nuclear energy-producing facilities, should not be the dumping ground for the rest of the country’s nuclear waste. And the bottom line is this: If any of my colleagues would support this bill to bring Yucca Mountain nuclear waste to our State, then I am sure you support bringing it to your State. I am sure we can find a location in your State, and I would love to work with you on that. I am sure you wouldn’t like your neighbors bringing their trash to your backyard. Don’t bring it to my backyard either. Don’t bring it to my constituents. My constituents are from Nevada.

I urge your support for my amendment. Prevent billions and billions of dollars, taxpayer dollars, being wasted by continuing to pursue the Yucca Mountain project. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment. The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WALKER). The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 326, strike lines 1 through 7.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WALKER). The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would tell the gentleman that they have brought a lot of nuclear waste to the State of Idaho. We process it there. It was a dirty business, they say, when they cleaned up. It wasn’t cleaned up; it was moved to Idaho because we got most of them. There is kind of what happens.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this amendment. I think we all understand why my colleagues from Nevada oppose Yucca Mountain, their position on Yucca Mountain; however, I cannot support this amendment. It is time to move forward with the Yucca licensing process. The previous administration ignored the law. I repeat that—ignored the law. Ignoring our obligation to take responsibility for this spent fuel, and breaking trust with 32 States stopped this process in its tracks. I don’t think I have to state why that happened. It wasn’t because of science or anything else. We all know why they stopped the licensing process at Yucca Mountain.

The decision has already cost taxpayers $6 billion in claims, and the Department of Energy estimates at least another $24 billion in claims.

This administration has taken swift action to put us back on track, and the budget for this bill includes $150 million for Yucca licensing efforts. Licensing efforts will continue to involve experts in geochemistry, hydrology, geology, seismology, volcanology, and more to ensure that Yucca Mountain, already one of the most studied pieces of land on Earth—I would say the most studied piece of land on Earth. There were 52 or 53 National Academy of Sciences studies on Yucca Mountain that have been done. But it will get a careful review from all aspects of its license applications. Once that application is finished, all Members of this body and of the Senate will have the opportunity to decide whether we move forward to construct and use the facility. But killing the process at this point is shortsighted, and, therefore, I oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), my esteemed colleague.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Chairman, I want to echo the sentiments of my colleague from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN) by making one thing perfectly clear: Nevadans are completely against becoming the Nation’s nuclear dumping ground. And make no mistake, that is exactly what this appropriations bill does.

Without Mr. KIHUEN’s amendment, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor, Congress will tie the hands of this administration by explicitly prohibiting, even considering, closing Yucca Mountain or conducting a technical review before licensing activities begin. You heard that right. The underlying bill forbids any funds from being used to conduct activities that preclude Yucca Mountain from becoming the Nation’s dumping ground for radioactive waste, no matter the evidence.

And we already have the evidence that bringing America’s nuclear waste to Yucca is bad for Nevadans and bad for Americans. We know that Yucca is unsafe for nuclear waste because it is seismically active and sits above an aquifer. And with 70,000 metric tons of radioactive waste through my district and through the heart of Las Vegas, those visitors from all across the country and the world will be exposed.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I would just say in response: Then change the law. The law is that Yucca Mountain is the waste repository for high-level nuclear waste. All we are asking is to continue the licensing process.

As I said during my opening statement, Congress will have a change to vote on whether to proceed with the construction of this facility. That is the reality. But we have got to get off the dime and start moving and handling this nuclear waste or it is going to cost us billions and billions and billions of dollars.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN). The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 56 printed in House Report 115–259. Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.
The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division D, before the short title, insert the following:

Sec. 5. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are reduced by $3,000,000,000 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Civil—Investigations, and in any event the amount made available for these purposes shall not exceed $33,000,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to Mr. SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their work on this legislation in the most critical of the nation’s infrastructure.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The CHAIR recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I am going to take this opportunity just to show this picture to my colleagues on the floor of the House and the headline that says: Urban Flooding in Houston is on the Rise.

I clearly just used the city of Houston by coincidence, but I will tell you that this is what we are facing, really, across America.

The opening sentence of the article says: Before you can fix a problem, you need to know what’s causing it. My amendment is just that. I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their work on this legislation in doing the best that we can under the circumstances of trying to preserve the balance—speaks to the need for robust funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ investigations account by redirecting $3 million for increased funding for postdisaster watershed assessment studies, like the one that has been contemplated in many areas around the country.

As the Federal agency that collects and studies basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, marine transportation, ecosystem restoration, and conducts detailed studies, plans, and specifications for river and harbor and flood and storm damage reduction, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a critical role in building, maintaining, and expanding the most critical of the Nation’s infrastructure.

When questioning the Army Corps of Engineers about a certain area in my community covering a number of bayous, which we are called The Bayou City—Sims Bayou, Greens Bayou, Brays Bayou, Buffalo Bayou, Addicks, Barker, and Greens Bayou—this is the same all over the nation: the Army Corps of Engineers said they need to study the issue to know how to best resolve it.

My amendment is just that. It is resources to be directed to ensure that we are allowed to study issues so that we can focus the dollars correctly as we attempt to work collaboratively with our local communities.

And my amendment to support this amendment and I make this point: such a study is certainly needed, given the frequency and severity of historic-level flood events in many parts around our Nation and in the area in which I live.

On April 15, 2016, an estimated 240 billion gallons of water fell in the Houston area over a 12-hour period.

Let me be very mindful, this is not an exercise in simple math that we should have the resources to study these issues so that we can direct monies in the right way.

Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me conclude my remarks by indicating that I believe this particular amendment will be helpful in general to, in essence, providing funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ investigations account and ensuring that a postdisaster watershed assessment can result.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Ms. KAPTUR in particular. We have spoken about this from over a 2-year period. I think the very fact that my particular area can be cited as an example of what happens when you have urban flooding is just an example.

Over this past summer, we knew that we have had the serious loss of life when rivers have overflowed or areas where water is and people have been recreating have overflowed, and so the idea of saving lives is part of my amendment as well.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America’s great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment speaks to the need for robust funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ “investigations” account by redirecting $3 million for increased funding for postdisaster watershed assessment studies, like the one that is being contemplated for the Houston/Harris County metropolitan area.

As the federal agency that collects and studies basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and conducts detailed studies, plans, and specifications for river and harbor, and flood and storm damage reduction, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a critical role in the building, maintaining, and expanding of the most critical of the nation’s infrastructure.

The Houston Watershed Assessment Flood Risk Management System (FRM) infrastructure.

The purpose of the Houston Regional Watershed Assessment is to identify risk reduction measures and optimize performance from a multi-objective systems performance perspective of the regional network of nested and interconnected watersheds, flood flow conveyance systems, storm water detention basins, and related Flood Risk Management (FRM) infrastructure.

Special emphasis of the study, which covers 22 primary watersheds within Harris County’s 1,756 square miles, will be placed on extreme flood events that exceed the system capacity resulting in impacts to asset conditions/ functions and loss of life.

Mr. Chair, during the May 2015 Houston flood, 3,015 homes were flooded and 8 persons died; during the April 2016 Houston flood, 5,400 homes were flooded and 8 deaths recorded.

The economic damage caused by the 2015 Houston flood is estimated at $3 billion; the 2016 estimate is being compiled and is estimated to be well above $3 billion.

Mr. Chair, minimizing the risk of flood damage to the Houston and Harris County metropolitan area, the nation’s 4th largest, is a matter of national significance because the region is one of the nation’s major technology, energy, finance, export and medical centers.

Port of Houston is the largest bulk port in the world;

Texas Medical Center is a world-renowned teaching, research and treatment center;

Houston is home to the largest conglomeration of foreign bank representation and second only to New York City as home to the most Fortune 500 companies; and

The Houston Watershed Assessment study area sits within major Hurricane Evacuation arteries for the larger Galveston Gulf Coast region.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 56.

I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their work in shepherding this bill to the floor.

[From the Houston Public Media] Urban Flooding in Houston is on the Rise

(By Marissa Cummings) Before you can fix a problem, you need to know what’s causing it.
The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 107, noes 314, not voting 12, as follows:

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<td>Castro (TX)</td>
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Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment, for if I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 107, noes 314, not voting 12, as follows:

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<th>AYES—107</th>
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<td>Abraham</td>
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<td>Flores</td>
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<td>Gaetz</td>
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<td>Castro (TX)</td>
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The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the demand of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), the amendment is withdrawing from the calendar, and I yield back the balance of my time.
AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITHT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. All Members are reminded we are in a 2-minute vote sequence. Please stay close to the floor.

This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 191, noes 236, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 418]
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. King) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 178, noes 249, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 419]

**AYES—178**

Amendment No. 23 Offered by Mr. King of Iowa

**Mr. LOUDERMILK.** Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 2257, I mistakenly voted “yes” when I intended as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).

[Not voting]
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Ms. Castro) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignates the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE
The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.
A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 186, noes 246, not voting 6, as follows:

(ROLL No. 420)

AYES—186

Barr
Beatty
Bezozzi
Boggs
Bumgardner
Burke
Burton
Carbajal
Carlsbad
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castore (FL)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Claypool
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly
Connors
Cooper
Crist
Crowley
Culberson (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DePasco
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutsch
Dingell
Doggett
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Espallard
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabhard
Gallagher

NOES—246

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amestoy
Arrington
Babin

Barrett
Beatty
Bezozzi
Boggs
Bumgardner
Burke
Burton
Carbajal
Carlsbad
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castore (FL)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Claypool
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly
Connors
Cooper
Crist
Crowley
Culberson (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DePasco
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutsch
Dingell
Doggett
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Espallard
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabhard
Gallagher

NOT VOTING—6

Castello (PA)
Cummings

Jeffries
Scalise

APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

Mr. WELCH changed his vote from "no" to "aye." So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR: A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 203, noes 224, not voting 6, as follows:

AYES—203

Barr
Barton
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Brown
Buck
Bueschel
Bush
Budd
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carte (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Collin
Collin (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Connaway
Cook
Correa
Costa
Crawford
Craim
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DeLauro
Demings
Devin
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Emmer
Engler
Eom
Fahy
Graves (GA)

NOT VOTING—6

Costello (PA)

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. Esty) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. Esty) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Garamendi) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment by the
No voting as follows:  

AYES—180

not voting 6, as follows:

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 192, noes 235, not voting 6, as follows:  

AYE—180

noes 235

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 192, noes 235, not voting 6, as follows:

AYE—180

not voting 6, as follows:  

AYE—180

noes 235

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 192, noes 235, not voting 6, as follows:
The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 234, noes 192, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 425]

AYES—234

Abraham
Adams
Aguiar
Barragan
Bass
Beatty
Bimmerman
Bustos
Capuano
Carballo
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Castro (TX)
Chea
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Cousins (NJ)
Courtney
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Curlee
Curry
Dent
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Driscoll
Farr
Farr (CT)
Ferguson
Ferrer-Flores
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Gabbard
Gallego

NOES—192

Brad (NY)
Bradenton
Bradley
Braga
Brownlee
Brown (MD)
Brooks (IN)
Brady (PA)
Blunt Rochester
Beyer
Bera
Berman
Boyle
Brown (CA)
Burke
Burgos
Cárdenas
Catalanuto
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castor (TX)
Chu
Clark (CA)
Clark (NY)
Clay
Cliff 

NOT VOTING—6

Costello (PA)
Costello (NY)
Costello (PA)
Costello (NY)
Costello (PA)
Costello (PA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded. A recorded vote was ordered.
the amount made available for the same account, by $100,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I again thank the chairman and the Ranking Member of the subcommittee for this very critical work.

My amendment speaks to the need for robust funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' construction account by redirecting $100 million for increased funding for critical construction projects like those projects that are current and future projects throughout the Nation.

As a Federal agency that collects and studies basic information pertaining to river and harbor, and flood and storm damage reduction, it is important that the Army Corps of Engineers and the construction unit have the funding to focus its resources around the Nation again.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a critical role in the building, maintaining, and expanding of the most critical of the Nation's infrastructures.

The Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee has an important responsibility, and it is to ensure the safety of the Nation's waterways.

Some of these waterways are in and around many of our States, particularly in the State of Texas. Not only do we have a concept of bayous, but, for example, we are surrounded in many parts by the Gulf. We have an enormous amount of water in rivers, and the Army Corps of Engineers is particularly important as it relates to flooding.

But we have seen flooding across America. So this particular amendment is to ensure that resources are there as Americans face unusual flooding that has been occurring over the last decades.

I will give you an example. During May 2015, in the Houston flood, 3,015 homes were flooded and eight people died. During the April 2016 Houston flood, 5,400 homes were flooded and eight deaths were recorded. The economic damage caused by the 2015 Houston flood is estimated at $3 billion. I urge my colleagues to know that this amendment is not for a region or an area. It is really to help the Nation.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude by simply thanking the committee and staff and, again, reminding individuals that we can save lives through the work of the Army Corps of Engineers in stopping flooding that impacts not only my region of the country, but really across the country.

I conclude with one final statement: We are entering hurricane season all over the Nation. This will be a very important amendment as we enter hurricane season all over the Nation.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America's great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment speaks to the need for robust funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers “Construction” account by redirecting $100 million for increased funding for critical construction projects, like those current and future projects proposed for the Houston/Harris County metropolitan area.

As the federal agency that collects and studies basic information pertaining to river and harbor, and flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and conducts detailed studies, plans, and specifications for river and harbor, and flood and storm damage reduction, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer plays a critical role in the building, maintaining, and expanding the most critical of the nation's infrastructure.

We understand this very well in my home state of Texas and the Fourteenth Congressional District that I represent. The Army Corps of Engineers has been working with the Harris County Flood Control District since 1937 to reduce the risk of flooding within Harris County.

Current projects include 6 federal flood risk management projects:

1. Sims Bayou
2. Greens Bayou
3. Brays Bayou
4. White Oak Bayou
5. Hunting Bayou, and
6. Clear Creek.

In addition to these ongoing projects, the Army Corps of Engineers operates and maintains the Addicks and Barker (A&B) Detention Dams in northwest Harris County. Such a study is certainly needed given the frequency and severity of historic-level flood events in recent years in and around the Houston metropolitan area, it is clear that much more needs to be done to minimize the vulnerability of the nation's 4th largest metropolitan area and economic engine from the flood damage.

On April 15, 2016, an estimated 240 billion gallons of water fell in the Houston area over a 12 hour period, which resulted in several areas exceeding the 100 to 500 year flood event record. The areas that experienced these historic rain falls were west of I-45, north of I-10, and Greens Bayou.

Additionally, estimated 140 billion gallons of water fell over the Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, and Addicks watershed in just 14 hours.

Mr. Chair, during the May 2015 Houston flood, 3,015 homes were flooded and 8 persons died; during the April 2016 Houston flood, 5,400 homes were flooded and 8 deaths recorded.

The economic damage caused by the 2015 Houston flood is estimated at $3 billion; the 2016 estimate is being compiled and is estimated to be well above $2 billion.

Mr. Chair, minimizing the risk of flood damage to the Houston and Harris County metropolitan area, the nation's 4th largest, is a matter of national significance because the reason is one of the nation's major technology, energy, finance, export and medical centers:

1. Port of Houston is the largest bulk port in the world;
2. Texas Medical Center is a world renowned teaching, research and treatment center;
3. Houston is home to the largest conglomerate of foreign bank representation and second only to New York City as home to the most Fortune 500 companies; and
4. The Houston Watershed Assessment study area sits within major Hurricane Evacuation arteries for the larger Galveston Gulf Coast region.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 57.

I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their work in shepherding this bill to the floor.

Mr. Chairman, I ask support for the Jackson Lee Amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 58 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 58 printed in House Report 115-259.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. . None of the funds made available by this Act for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science” may be used in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is a very simple amendment that promotes STEM education, which is really a vital part of the future of this Nation.

In particular, my amendment says: “None of the funds made available by this act for ‘Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science’ may be used in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act.”

This amendment was approved and adopted just in the last session. Twenty years ago, on February 11, we were directed to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations.

The Department of Energy ceased to provide equal access in these opportunities for underrepresented groups in STEM, including minorities, Native Americans, and women.

Mr. Chairman, women and minorities make up 70 percent of college students, but only 45 percent of undergraduates...
are STEM degree holders. This large pool of untapped talent is a great potential source of STEM professional, but it also deprives the United States of its best minds to be able to help it in the 21st century.

As the Nation’s demographics are shifting and now more children under the age of 1 are minorities, it is critical that we close the gap in the number of minorities who seek system opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, there are still a great many scientific riddles left to be solved. And perhaps one of these days, a minority engineer or biologist will come up with some of the solutions.

As many have done in the past, the larger point is that we need more STEM educators and more minorities to qualify them. My amendment turns our importance to the importance of energy and science education programs, funded in part by this bill, and will help to ensure that members of underrepresented communities are not placed at an disadvantage when it comes to environmental sustainability, preservation, and health.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, let me take note of some of the colleagues that I have had the privilege of being neighbors to. NASA's Johnson Space Center is, if I might say, one of the neighbors of my community, great respect for the astronauts; Major Bolden, who serves as head of NASA; and Mae Jemison is my neighbor, the first African-American woman who went into space. I want more of those individuals coming from our Nation's schools, and I ask my colleagues to support this amendment that will encourage those in low-income populations, minorities, Native Americans, and women.

Mr. Chair, women and minorities make up 70 percent of college students, but only 45 percent of undergraduate STEM degree holders.

This large pool of untapped talent is a great potential source of STEM professionals.

As the demographics are shifting and now most children under the age of one are minorities, it is critical that we close the gap in the number of minorities who seek STEM opportunities.

I encourage Energy Secretary Perry to surpass the commendable efforts of predecessors to continue working on combating the economic competitiveness and enabling more of our people to realize their full potential.

Mr. Chair, there are still a great many scientific riddles left to be solved—and perhaps one of these days a minority engineer or biologist will come up with some of the solutions.

The larger point is that we need more STEM educators and more minorities to qualify for them.

The energy and science education programs funded in part by this bill will help ensure that members of underrepresented communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to the environmental sustainability, preservation, and health.

Through education about the importance of environmental sustainability, we can promote broader understanding of science and how citizens can improve their surroundings.

Through community education efforts, teachers and students have also benefited by learning about radiation, radioactive waste management, and other related subjects.

The Department of Energy places interns and volunteers from minority institutions into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

The DOE also works to increase low income and minority access to STEM fields and help students attend graduate degrees as well as find employment.

With the continuation of this kind of funding, we can increase diversity, provide clean energy options to our most underserved communities, and help improve their environments, which will yield better health outcomes and greater public awareness.

But most importantly businesses will have more consumers to whom they may engage in related commercial activities.

My amendment will help ensure that underrepresented communities are able to participate and contribute equitably in the energy and scientific future.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 58.

Mr. Chair, I ask for support of the Jackson Lee Amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 58 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 59 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SNC... None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prepare, promulgate, or otherwise rely on the analysis contained in—


The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a common sense amendment that will protect American jobs and the economy by prohibiting funds from being used to implement the Obama administration’s flawed Social Cost of Carbon, or SCC, valuation. This job-killing and unlawful guidance sneakily attempts to pave the way for cap-and-trade-like mandates.

Congress and the American people have repeatedly rejected cap-and-trade proposals. Knowing that he could not lawfully enact a carbon tax plan, President Obama attempted to circumvent Congress by playing loose and fast with the Clean Air Act to unilaterally implement this unlawful new requirement under the guise of guidance.

The Obama administration continuously used the SCC valuation models, which can be easily manipulated, to try and justify new job-killing regulations.

Although President Trump issued an executive order in March to disband the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases, Federal
Regardless of one’s positions on climate change, my colleagues surely must respect the constitutional role of the legislative branch and oppose bureaucratic efforts to circumvent Congress to impose an extremist environmental agenda that is not based on best available science. Congress must provide certainty to business and consumers that the costly and scientifically bankrupt Social Cost of Carbon valuation will not creep its way into our regulatory process.

My amendment provides that certainty.

Over the last 2 years, this effort has received support from the American Energy Alliance, Americans for Limited Government, Americans for Tax Reform, Arch Coal, Competitive Enterprise Institute, the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, FreedomWorks, National Mining Association, the National Taxpayers Union, and Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

Amongst these flaws are, one, that the ‘‘projected costs of carbon emissions can be manipulated by changing key parameters such as timeframes, discount rates, and other values that have no relation to a given project undergoing review.’’

Two, ‘‘OMB and the other Federal agencies developed the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates without any known or opportunity for public comment during the development process.’’

Three, ‘‘OMB’s draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates are based primarily on global rather than domestic costs and benefits.’’

Four, ‘‘there is still considerable uncertainty in many of the assumptions and data elements used to create the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates, such as the damage functions and modeled timeframes.’’

Mr. Martella’s testimony was spot on. Congress, not Washington bureaucrats, should dictate our country’s climate change policy. The sweeping and costly changes that the Social Cost of Carbon metric would impose are not only misguided and unwise, they are also based on fundamentally flawed policies that sidestepped Congress, did not go through the normal regulatory process, and received no public comment.

Worse yet, the model utilized to predict the Social Cost of Carbon can be easily manipulated to arrive at the desired outcome.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) by unanimous consent, is permitted to use his time this evening where we will have significant debate at this point, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Regardless of one’s positions on climate change, my colleagues surely must respect the constitutional role of the legislative branch and oppose bureaucratic efforts to circumvent Congress to impose an extremist environmental agenda that is not based on best available science. Congress must provide certainty to business and consumers that the costly and scientifically bankrupt Social Cost of Carbon valuation will not creep its way into our regulatory process.

My amendment provides that certainty.

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Amongst these flaws are, one, that the ‘‘projected costs of carbon emissions can be manipulated by changing key parameters such as timeframes, discount rates, and other values that have no relation to a given project undergoing review.’’

Two, ‘‘OMB and the other Federal agencies developed the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates without any known or opportunity for public comment during the development process.’’

Three, ‘‘OMB’s draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates are based primarily on global rather than domestic costs and benefits.’’

Four, ‘‘there is still considerable uncertainty in many of the assumptions and data elements used to create the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates, such as the damage functions and modeled timeframes.’’

Mr. Martella’s testimony was spot on. Congress, not Washington bureaucrats, should dictate our country’s climate change policy. The sweeping and costly changes that the Social Cost of Carbon metric would impose are not only misguided and unwise, they are also based on fundamentally flawed policies that sidestepped Congress, did not go through the normal regulatory process, and received no public comment.

Worse yet, the model utilized to predict the Social Cost of Carbon can be easily manipulated to arrive at the desired outcome.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) by unanimous consent, is permitted to use his time this evening where we will have significant debate at this point, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Regardless of one’s positions on climate change, my colleagues surely must respect the constitutional role of the legislative branch and oppose bureaucratic efforts to circumvent Congress to impose an extremist environmental agenda that is not based on best available science. Congress must provide certainty to business and consumers that the costly and scientifically bankrupt Social Cost of Carbon valuation will not creep its way into our regulatory process.

My amendment provides that certainty.

Over the last 2 years, this effort has received support from the American Energy Alliance, Americans for Limited Government, Americans for Tax Reform, Arch Coal, Competitive Enterprise Institute, the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, FreedomWorks, National Mining Association, the National Taxpayers Union, and Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

Amongst these flaws are, one, that the ‘‘projected costs of carbon emissions can be manipulated by changing key parameters such as timeframes, discount rates, and other values that have no relation to a given project undergoing review.’’

Two, ‘‘OMB and the other Federal agencies developed the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates without any known or opportunity for public comment during the development process.’’

Three, ‘‘OMB’s draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates are based primarily on global rather than domestic costs and benefits.’’

Four, ‘‘there is still considerable uncertainty in many of the assumptions and data elements used to create the draft Social Cost of Carbon estimates, such as the damage functions and modeled timeframes.’’

Mr. Martella’s testimony was spot on. Congress, not Washington bureaucrats, should dictate our country’s climate change policy. The sweeping and costly changes that the Social Cost of Carbon metric would impose are not only misguided and unwise, they are also based on fundamentally flawed policies that sidestepped Congress, did not go through the normal regulatory process, and received no public comment.

Worse yet, the model utilized to predict the Social Cost of Carbon can be easily manipulated to arrive at the desired outcome.

The amendment was agreed to.
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I recognize the underlying bill has language on this issue, but I understand that the requirement may not be as comprehensive as my colleague supports. I am concerned that the amendment before us may have unintended consequences. If my colleague would withdraw the amendment today, I will commit to working together as this bill moves through the legislative process to see if we can address her concerns in a manner acceptable to everyone. Otherwise, I will have to oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the intent of the gentlewoman’s amendment. I am very glad to hear the gentlewoman is saying. She is trying to do everything she can to support American-made products and particularly American-made anchor chain. I would be willing to work with the chairman and the gentlewoman if the process goes forward to ensure we purchase American-made products. I just wanted to express that support. I thank the gentleman for his offer.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, if the gentlewoman is willing to withdraw the amendment, we will work together to see if we can solve this.

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman’s willingness to work with me on this important issue and also Representative KAPTUR for her support.

Our Nation can’t afford to lose its critical production capability. We shouldn’t allow companies to be left behind, so I look forward to working with the gentleman and the gentlewoman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 61 printed in House Report 115-236.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division D (before the short title) insert the following new section:

Sec. ___. None of the funds made available in this division may be used—

(1) to implement or enforce section 430.32(x) of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(2) to implement or enforce the standards established by the tables contained in section 3251(1)(B) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295(1)(B)).

with respect to BPAR incandescent reflector lamps, BR incandescent reflector lamps, and ER incandescent reflector lamps.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to prevent implementation of the free market by the Federal Government.

Since its passage in 2007 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, I have heard from virtually tens of thousands of constituents about the language in that act and how it will take away consumer choice when constituents are deciding which lightbulbs they will use in their homes. Mr. Chairman, they are right.

Mr. Chairman, in the interest of time, I want to point out this exact amendment was accepted for the past 6 years by the House. Three of those years it was accepted by voice vote. It was included in the annual appropriations legislation signed into law by President Obama every year since its final passage in 2011, and has been a priority of the Republican Conference since its adoption into law. It allows consumers to continue to have a choice and to have a say about what type of light bulb they will put into their homes. Congress should fight to preserve the free market. It is common sense.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, with all the respect I have for Congressman BURGESS, I oppose this damaging rider which would block the Department of Energy from implementing or enforcing commonsense energy efficiency standards for light bulbs.

This rider was a bad idea when it was first offered 7 years ago, and it is even more unacceptable now. Why do I say that? Because every claim made by proponents of the rider have been proven wrong.

Number one, we have been told, including by Dr. BURGESS, that the energy efficiency standards would ban incandescent light bulbs. That is simply false. You can go to the store today and see shelves of modern energy efficient incandescent light bulbs that meet the standard, and they are the same as the old bulbs except they last longer, use less electricity, and save consumers money.

Then we heard for years that the energy efficiency standards restrict consumer choice.

If you have shopped for light bulbs lately, which I have, you know that isn’t true. In fact, modern incandescent bulbs, compact fluorescent light bulbs, and LEDs of every shape, size, and color are now available.

Consumers have never had more choice, and the efficiency standard spurred innovation that dramatically expanded options for consumers. I am amazed how many shelves light bulbs now occupy in the stores.

Critics of the efficiency standards claim that they would cost consumers money. In fact, the opposite is true. According to a preliminary impact assessment, the average American family will save about $100 per year. That is pretty good. That is $12.5 billion in savings for consumers and businesses nationwide every year. That is $12.5 billion. But this rider threatens those savings. That is why consumer groups have consistently opposed this rider.

Here is the reality. The 2007 consensus energy efficiency standards for light bulbs were enacted with bipartisan support and continue to enjoy overwhelming industry support. U.S. manufacturers are already meeting the efficiency standards.

The effect of the rider is to allow foreign manufacturers to sell old, inefficient light bulbs in the United States that violate the efficiency standards. That is unfair to domestic manufacturers who have invested millions of dollars in U.S. plants to make efficient bulbs that meet the standards.

Why on Earth would we want to pass a rider that favors foreign manufacturers who ignore our laws and penalize U.S. manufacturers who are following our laws?

But it gets even worse. The mere existence of this rider poses additional threat to U.S. manufacturing. The bipartisan 2007 Energy bill required the Department of Energy to establish updated light bulb efficiency standards by January 1 of this year. It also provided that, if final updated standards are not issued by then, a more stringent backstop standard of 45 lumens per watt automatically takes effect, and incandescent light bulbs currently cannot meet this backstop standard.

Well, we are well into 2017, and the Burgess light bulb rider has remained on the books. So, earlier this year, the Department of Energy had to go forward with finalizing the 45-lumens-per-watt backstop standard.

Moving this rider year after year is ultimately what blocked the Department of Energy from issuing the required efficiency standards in time to avoid such stringent measures. Ironically, it is this rider that would effectively ban the incandescent light bulb in 2020.

The Burgess rider directly threatens existing light bulb manufacturing jobs in the United States. It would stifle innovation and punish companies that have invested in domestic manufacturing. This rider aims to reverse years of technological progress, only to kill jobs, increase electricity bills for our consumers, and worsen pollution.
It is time to choose common sense over rigid ideology. It is time to listen to the manufacturing companies, consumer groups, and efficiency advocates who all agree that this rider is harmful.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to vote “no” on the Burgess lightbulb rider, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I will disagree on the economics that were just presented. But apart from the economics of the lightbulb mandate, that is, in fact, only part of the story.

With the extreme expansion of Federal powers undertaken in the last administration, when the Democrats were in charge of Congress for 4 years, Americans have just now begun to see how far the Constitution’s Commerce Clause has been manipulated from its original intent. The lightbulb mandate is a perfect example of this manipulation.

The Commerce Clause was intended by our Founding Fathers to be a limitation on Federal authority, not a catchall in order to allow for any topic to be regulated by Washington. Indeed, it is clear that the Founding Fathers never intended for this clause to be used to allow the Federal Government to regulate and pass mandates on consumer products that do not pose a risk to either human health or safety.

Mr. Chairman, in December of 2007, when this bill was first passed, the amendment was offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and I yield the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the further amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 62 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

SEC. 42. Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to begin by thanking the committee for their hard work on this appropriations bill.

Every year, I come to this floor through the appropriations process to present amendments calling for 1 percent across-the-board spending re-duction. Indeed, our budget does increase. But I have to tell you, the chairman and his team have done an incredible job this year.

The outlays that we see in this bill this year are $209 million—think about that—less than the budget authority from last year. That is significant, and it should be recognized and should be praised, because that is the type of work that we need to see.

Now, I do continue to present the 1 percent across-the-board amendment because we are facing a time in our Nation where 1 percent makes a difference, just as we are seeing from the good work that they have done.

Passing this amendment for the 1 percent across-the-board spending reduction would save us an additional $376 million. It is important to do because we are facing $20 trillion in debt. Because of that, we have to ask ourselves: Is it important to spend some of the money that is being spent on programs that we see taking place in the Department of Energy? It is important to us. We have to ask ourselves what programs and talk about priorities, where we should spend those precious dollars that are not Federal dollars. They are taxpayer dollars that are coming out of the pockets of hardworking men and women.

Indeed, we have, many times, quoted Admiral Mullins’ comments from July 6, 2010, that the greatest threat to our Nation’s security is our Nation’s debt. Because of that, I recognize and applaud the good work that has been done, but I encourage support for my amendment and the continued honing of what takes the taxpayer money that is spent by this body.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, let me first say that the gentlewoman for her consistency. She is a true budget hawk in trying to make sure that we ultimately balance this budget. It is tough work to do that.

We have actually, as she mentioned, reduced spending in this bill over last year. Could we reduce it another 1 percent across the board? The problem is we have to choose some priority in the bill.

The highest priority we had was our Nation’s defense, the nuclear weapons complex. Even though the overall bill is down $206 million, the defense activities are actually up nearly a billion dollars.

We then have to look at the infrastructure of this Nation and the fact that we have deteriorating infrastructure, and Congress has told us that each year we have to meet what is called the WRDA target. We have to spend with the Army Corps of Engineers. We have to meet the needs of our harbors, dams, and inland waterways and restore those things, because it is very important to our commerce and something that Congress supports greatly.

So when we have had to increase the Army Corps of Engineers funding over what was spent last year and then we have had to increase weapons activity, that means the Department of Energy has been significantly reduced over what they were last year.

We have had to make some very hard choices. We have cut the EERE, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, program in half from $2 billion to $1 billion, roughly. So when we had to eliminate the ARPA-E program, a program that I happen to support, but we just don’t have the money for it.

So we have had to eliminate the loan guarantee program, a program that, again, I support, but we just don’t have the money for it.

So we have made some significant reductions while prioritizing basic science research and those types of activities within the Department of Energy. Indeed, I think we have done a good job, given a pretty skinny budget. We have made tough choices. That is okay.

That is what we do all the time in the Appropriations Committee.

The reality is, if we are ever going to balance this budget, if anybody looks at the numbers, right now we are spending about 70 percent of our total Federal budget on mandatory programs. We have been reducing discretionary spending over the years. As a portion of the total budget, it has gone down every year.

If we don’t get a hold of mandatory spending—Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and interest on the debt—within 10 years we will have enough money for our mandatory programs and defense, nothing else—zero.

We are not going to balance this budget by reducing discretionary spending. Keeping control of it, you bet, that is what we have been doing. That is what the Appropriations Committee has been doing since 2010, or earlier. We have actually been reducing spending. It is very important that we do that. But we have to get a hold of mandatory spending if we are going to balance the budget.

So I think the gentlewoman is trying to do, I agree with her, we need to balance this budget. We need to balance this budget. Unfortunately, this is not the way to do it.

So I have to oppose this amendment and hope my colleagues would oppose it also.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.
Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I will tell you every comment that Mr. SIMPSON made about the mandatory spending is something that I agree with. Yes, we have to do that. But just as we in Congress have reduced our Legislative Branch budget by about 20 percent over the last few years and just as our Appropriations Committee has done a wonderful job of pulling back on the spending that is done to discretionary, we need to give that same challenge to the bureaucracy, to those in-the-White-House federal employees and challenge them to go save a penny on a dollar out of what they are appropriated. Find a way to yield savings to the work that they do and help us with this process to rein in spending.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage support of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 81 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 81 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the final rule published by the Secretary of Energy entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps” published on July 5, 2017 (82 Fed. Reg. 1426).

Mr. Chairman, there are outlets for regulatory relief for those rank-and-file Federal employees who are struggling to struggle in this economy, and the only thing that is going to put them out is this regulation, Mr. Chairman.

While well-intended, it is not going to be helpful. These folks are trying to do the right thing, but the government is getting in the way.

Believe it or not, Consumer Reports actually recommended against buying some of these systems under this testing rule because the systems had higher costs and poor repair records. Believe it or not, Mr. Chairman, the free market actually fixes most of this. I urge passage.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this particular amendment.

I say to the gentleman: For the companies in your district, the regulations include the opportunity for waiver. And I would hope that the company in your district would be able to work that out.

The amendment that the gentleman proposes seeks to prohibit the Department of Energy from implementing testing procedures for the energy efficiency standards set for heat pumps and air-conditioners.

I, as the consumer, whether I am paying for a heat pump, a furnace, a refrigerator—and every American who now shops for one of those—that is like the sticker. That is what you really look for, and you want to know how much you are going to pay every year for that product that you buy for energy. And the better product you have, and you are able to put that on a label and it is verified by the Department of Energy, that helps sales.

The original standards that were created were supported by the Edison Electric Institute, the association which represents all investor-owned utilities. The amendment, by the way, is opposed by the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute which represents manufacturers of HVAC systems that employ over 1.3 million Americans. And industry opposes the amendment, environmentalists oppose it, because it would cost an average—a cumulative cost to Americans of $12.2 billion over 30 years.

So there is a lot of opposition to this. It is important to note that these standards were negotiated in a collaborative process by industry groups, environmental nonprofits, and consumer advocates with the Department of Energy. A rider like this one damages the integrity of the negotiated rulemaking process, which is designed to provide certainty and voice to the industry and education and information to consumers.

Test procedures are simple and important. The Department of Energy develops them to make sure companies are ratifying their product accurately so consumers don’t get stuck paying higher prices than they expect, so you know what you buy.

Let’s be clear. This amendment would effectively nullify the efficiency standards for heating and cooling systems, in spite of the fact that these standards benefit Americans: $35 billion over the period that they are applied, and that is equivalent to having 1 million fewer homes connected to the grid over the same period. It is an enormous savings.

If there is a particular company that is unfairly impairing by these rules, there are outlets for regulatory relief through waivers, as I have mentioned, and this amendment would neuter
Mr. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MR. BUDD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 64 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Francis Rooney), I have an amendment to the amendment. The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment. The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 1. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing wage requirements in subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

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

Mr. Chairman, the Davis-Bacon Act hinders economic growth and increases Federal construction costs. By this Act imposes enormous burdens, stifles contractor productivity, ignores skill differences for different jobs, and imposes rigid craftwork rules.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the Davis-Bacon Act will raise Federal construction costs by $13 billion between 2015 and 2023.

Now, wages are often set at or above the union scale, despite the fact that only 13 percent of the private construction workforce is unionized nationwide. Mr. Chairman.

The Davis-Bacon wage determinations have also been known to be lower than the current market rate, which is equally problematic and especially detrimental for local contractors. It is just erratic.

The GAO, the Government Accountability Office, has repeatedly criticized DOL’s Davis-Bacon wage determination process for its lack of transparency in the published wage rates and its tendency to gather erroneous data through unscientific wage surveys.

Repealing the DBA would allow the government to build more infrastructure and create 155,000 new construction-related jobs at the very same cost to the taxpayers. In fact, repealing Davis-Bacon would have saved the Federal government $19.9 billion, and that was back in 2011.

This amendment would uphold the government’s responsibility to deliver quality infrastructure improvements at the best possible price to the taxpayers, which is certainly what we owe them. It is imperative that all levels of government guarantee the general public that their tax dollars are being spent in the most effective way possible.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Francis Rooney) for his work on this amendment, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 65 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 70 OFFERED BY MR. MITCHELL

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. Perry). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 70 printed in House Report 115–259.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 1. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to delay the release of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Brandon Road Study.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as an advocate of the Great Lakes. It is with that spirit I propose my amendment to prevent funds to be used to further delay the release of the Brandon Road Study.

Anyone who has spent time in my home State of Michigan or any of the Great Lakes States knows the beauty and importance of the lakes. In addition to their majesty, the Great Lakes supply 90 percent of the United States freshwater supply. Thirty million people live at the Great Lakes Basin, and they are all impacted by the quality of our lakes, whether as a water source, source of business, recreational opportunity, or the lakes’ inherent value as a natural wonder. Any risk to the Great Lakes is a significant problem, no matter how you measure that risk.

One of the threats facing our lakes is the potential entry of invasive species, the most pressing of which, at this time, is the threat of Asian carp entering the Great Lakes.

Asian carp have no natural predators in the lakes, meaning once they enter the Great Lakes, there is no way to stop their spread. Their unrestrained growth would disrupt the entire ecosystem.

In addition to the damage to native wildlife in the lakes, the introduction of Asian carp would damage several multibillion-dollar industries, including the fishing and boating industries which support countless jobs in my
home State of Michigan and the Great Lakes.

Given the threat imposed by invasive species, the Army Corps of Engineers has been studying the best way to prevent introduction of the Asian carp into the Great Lakes Basin. Their study, the Brandon Road Study, was initially slated to be released on February 28 but has been delayed until further notice.

Delaying this study impedes the ability of all interested parties to develop a long-term strategy to thwart this threat. The continued delays create a great risk, yet no reason for delaying that release has been provided.

In late June, a live Asian carp was caught in the Illinois waterway about 2 miles below the T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam, 9 miles from Lake Michigan. This is the first time an Asian carp has been discovered in such close proximity to our lakes.

Though further study is necessary to determine how this carp entered the area, it is an alarming warning that the window is quickly closing to prevent large-scale devastation to the Great Lakes’ ecosystem.

The best way to mitigate the damage of Asian carp in our lakes is to stop it from happening altogether. For several months, members of the Great Lakes Task Force have requested the release of the Brandon Road Study, to no avail. I stand here today to again call on the Corps and maybe the administration from expending any more funds to further delay the release of this study for public comment.

My colleagues should know that this study is already completed. After working on it for years at a cost of nearly $7 million, it now sits on a shelf at the Corps, and they are unwilling to release it for reasons we do not understand.

Asian carp represent a serious economic and environmental threat to the entire Great Lakes. These mean critters are voracious eaters. They destroy native species and overwhelm their new ecosystems. They have gotten into the Ohio River, and they have gotten into rivers near Peoria. They eat up everything in their sight. They completely upend native ecosystems, and it is truly terrifying what they will do to our lakes.

We should be aggressively pursuing action to prevent the spread of the Asian carp to the Great Lakes, yet the roadmap to getting there is locked in bureaucratic purgatory.

Finally, I would like to point out that this is not a partisan issue. We are all in agreement. We are all concerned, and we are all doing as much as we can to prevent this from happening. But I know that there are Members who also have concerns about that, but that is, frankly, why you release a draft report, so that you can get the comments.

During full committee consideration on the Energy and Water bill, we discussed a similar amendment that was offered by Ms. KAPTOR, my ranking member, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. MOGLENAAR; and I committed to them at the time that I would work with all interested parties and Members to try to move these efforts forward, and I am happy to reiterate that commitment now.

What I am asking is if the gentleman will withdraw the amendment, give me a chance, and I commit to try to get this report out, because I think it needs to get done, and I think, together, we can convince the Army Corps and maybe the administration that it needs to get done. So that would be my request.

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, in deference to Mr. SIMPSON, I will work with him and others in the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus to see if we can’t move forward on this issue. But, believe me, I understand and have learned from Ms. KAPTUR and the members of the Great Lakes States when I was chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. And now she sits on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee with me, and they have all come and talked to me about this problem.

This, unfortunately, pits kind of one State against another, and what I am asking is find a solution to this, because I happen to agree with these individuals that it seems rather silly that we go out and ask for a report to be done and then can’t seem to get it released—not only the final report, we can then get a draft report released that will go out for comment. That doesn’t make any sense to me.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, while I would like to support this amendment, unfortunately, I can’t. But, believe me, I understand and have learned from Ms. KAPTUR and the members of the Great Lakes States when I was chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. And now she sits on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee with me, and they have all come and talked to me about this problem.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, the amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr.
EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

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1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent, if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
3 Military air transportation.

HON. DURIE BLOCH, Chairman, July 13, 2017.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2017

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1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent, if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
3 Military air transportation.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, July 13, 2017.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2088. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affiliation with the interim rule as final rule — Sweet Onion Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate (Docket No.: AMS-SC-16-0116; SC17-0561-P1R) received July 24, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2088. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Selected Acquisition Report for the Army Major Defense Acquisition Programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2089. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "Premarket Approval of Pediatric Uses of Devices — FY 2015"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2090. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Incorporation by Reference of American Society of Mechanical Engineers Codes and Code Cases [NRC-2011-0088] (RIN: 3150-A197) received July 26, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2090. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's revision 4 of ROG 1.20 rule — Comprehensive Vibration Assessment Program for Reactor Internals During Preoperational and Startup Testing [Regulatory Guide 1.20] received July 26, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2091. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's regulatory guide withdrawal — Evaluation of Shipper-Receiver Differences in the Transfer of Special Nuclear Material [Regulatory Guide 5.28, Revision 0]; Internal Transfers of Special Nuclear Material [Regulatory Guide 5.49, Revision 0]; Shipping and Receiving Control of Special Nuclear Material [Regulatory Guide 5.57, Revision 1] received July 26, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2092. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, transmitting the Agency's 2016 Annual Report, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 2002(b); Public Law 109-469, Sec. 702(b); (120 Stat. 3594); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2093. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threatened to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2094. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. D/DTC 17-016, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the...
Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2096. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDS-2016-0498, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2097. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC-2016-042, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2098. A letter from the Acting Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2017 inventory of commercial and inherently governmental activities, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2099. A letter from the Chief, Legal, External Affairs and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting a notice of a designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5316; (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.


2101. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary rule — Enhanced Safety Zone for Potomac River, Sherwood Forest, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2017-0688] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2102. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Navigation and Navigable Waters, and Shipping; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0498] received July 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.


2104. A letter from the Board Members, Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting the annual report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 910(a); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title VII, Sec. 709 (as added by Public Law 98-21, Sec. 145); (97 Stat. 102); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2957. A bill to amend the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1977 to strengthen partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-290). Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Committee on Rules. House Resolution 473. Resolution providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3409) to make appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of motions to recommit the bill (H.R. 3409) with instructions (Rept. 115-261). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 3389. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide a deduction for interest and taxes relating to land used for dwelling purposes owned or leased by cooperative housing corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 3400. A bill to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to establish a national strategy and pilot program for the development of a national system of trails; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3389), as amended.

H.R. 3401. A bill to amend chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, to require a cybersecurity plan for highly automated vehicles and, for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LANCE (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 3408. A bill to amend section 30113 of title 49, United States Code, to establish new exemptions for motor vehicle safety standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. VEASKEY, Mr. LANCE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BRATTY, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 3409. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit pyramid promotional schemes and to ensure that compensation is not based upon recruitment or evaluation purposes to cover manufacturers of highly automated vehicles and automated driving systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. NICHINES, Mr. RUSH, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BASS, Ms. SH-WELL of Alabama, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 3410. A bill to enhance public health and safety by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal prison system for incarcerated pregnant women and mothers by establishing a pilot program of critical-stage, developmental nurseries in Federal prisons for children born to inmates, that an individual needs assessment for risk and recidivism reduction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 3411. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of a Highly Automated Vehicle Advisory Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for the purpose of being determined by each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California (for herself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 3405. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to elevate the standards for motor vehicle safety requirements for automated vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 3406. A bill to amend section 30113 of title 49, United States Code, to increase the requirements for motor vehicle safety features, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 3407. A bill to amend chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, to require a cybersecurity plan for highly automated vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
the testing, deployment, and updating of automated driving systems; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MULLIN: H.R. 3414. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Disability Mobility Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding advancing mobility access for the disabled community who are dependent on automated driving systems; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLIJIKIS (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL): H.R. 3413. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration an official on Improving Mobility Access for Underserved Populations and Senior Citizens; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HARPER (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL): H.R. 3414. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Disability Mobility Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding advancing mobility access for the disabled community who are dependent on automated driving systems; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York): H.R. 3415. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate care for victims of sexual assault, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH): H.R. 3416. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Rural and Mountainous Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding the testing and deployment of highly automated vehicles and automated driving systems in areas that are rural, remote, mountainous, insular, or unmapped; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. SCHAKOWSKY: H.R. 3417. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a pilot program to improve community-based care infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. BASS, Mr. LANGEFVIN, and Ms. MOORE): H.R. 3418. A bill to require States to inform children in foster care under the responsibility of the State who have attained 14 years of age to be informed of all government programs under which the child may be eligible for financial assistance for expenses related to higher education; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. GOMERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Ms. MURCIA): H.R. 3419. A bill to repeal the Department of Agriculture bioenergy subsidy programs and other related subsidy programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, 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 Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE): H.R. 3420. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emission fees; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. YODER, and Mrs. LOFgren): H.R. 3421. A bill to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies related to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. EMER (for himself and Mr. DEFAZIO): H.R. 3422. A bill to establish a website for Federal Government apps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GONZALES of Texas (for himself, Mr. O’ROURKE, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska): H.R. 3423. A bill to prohibit the removal from the United States of certain veterans, to expedite their naturalization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and 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. GUTRERIE: H.R. 3424. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a Highly Automated Vehicle Information Sharing Advisory Council to make recommendations regarding the development of a framework that allows manufacturers of automated vehicles to share information related to testing or deployment events on public streets; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. ABRAHAM): H.R. 3425. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the volumetric excise tax credit for liquid fuel derived from natural gas through the Fischer-Tropsch process; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas: H.R. 3426. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act relating to the establishment of a National Registry of Mexican-born aliens for naturalization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. RASKIN): H.R. 3427. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to the taxation of interest costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLY of Illinois (for herself and Mr. ROY): H.R. 3430. A bill to establish in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration a National Advisory Committee on Injuries from Automated Vehicles to advise the Secretary of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on the development of regulations; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. DE LAURO, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. RASKIN): H.R. 3431. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the provision that allows certain middle-class taxpayers to claim the earned income credit in the year in which they retired as the result of a terminal illness; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MRSALY (for herself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Ms. SINEMA): H.R. 3432. A bill to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies related to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. EMER (for himself and Mr. DEFAZIO): H.R. 3422. A bill to establish a website for Federal Government apps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
H.R. 3436. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a southwest border threat analysis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 3437. A bill to prevent States from countering certain conditions as State spending to reduce TANF work requirements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PITTENGER:

H.R. 3438. A bill to increase the employment, job retention, and earnings of former TANF recipients; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 3440. A bill to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. JOBY (for himself)):

H. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution effectuating the Compact for a Balanced Budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. CURIELLO of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ of Illinois, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. KHUEUEN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SARLAN, Mr. O’ROURKE, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. COHNER, and Mrs. TORREIA):

H. Res. 476. A resolution supporting the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos in environmental protection and conservation efforts; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GAETZ (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BIDGOS, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. GOMER, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. YOHO, Mr. BJM, Mr. DESJARDINS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. JODY B. HICK of Georgia, Mr. BRAT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. AMODEI):

H. Res. 477. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a special counsel should be appointed by the Attorney General or his designee to investigate misconduct by former Attorney General Loretta Lynch and former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James B. Comey with regard to the investigation of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for Comey with regard to the investigation of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII.

95. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 138, condemning the immigration Executive Order and firing of the Acting Attorney General; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 3399.

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

Article I, Section 7, Clause 1.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 3400.

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

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, clause 18.

By Ms. SCHAUKOWSKY:

H.R. 3401.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 3402.

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

Article I, Section 8 empowers Congress to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:

H.R. 3403.

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

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18).

By Mr. GARDENAS:

H.R. 3404.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California:

H.R. 3405.

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

Article I, Section 8.

"The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce . . . among the several States . . . ."

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 3406.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. KINZINGER:

H.R. 3407.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. LANCE:

H.R. 3408.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 3409.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Necessary and Proper Clause.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 3410.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (WHEREAS clause) "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; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States" and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (WHEREAS clause) "The Congress shall have the Power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes"

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 3411.

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

Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BIJARAKIS:

H.R. 3412.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (WHEREAS clause) "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; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"

By Mr. HARPER:

H.R. 3413.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution which states that Congress has 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. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 3414.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution which states that Congress has 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. ELLISON:

H.R. 3415.

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

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution which states that Congress has 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. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 3416.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Necessary and Proper Clause.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 3417.

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

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 3418.

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. BIGGS:
H.R. 3419.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. BLUMENAUER:
H.R. 3420.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mr. BUCSHON:
H.R. 3421.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:
H.R. 3422.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. DELANEY:
H.R. 3423.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. DELAURO:
H.R. 3424.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. DeSANTIS:
H.R. 3425.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes; and 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 Officer thereof.
By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 3426.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section VIII
By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Penn-
sylvania:
H.R. 3427.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation 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 Indian tribes.
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18; The Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all of the Power vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department Officer thereof.
By Mr. EMMER:
H.R. 3428.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.
By Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas:
H.R. 3429.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 13, of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 14, of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 15, of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. GUTHRIE:
H.R. 3430.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have power . . . To regu-
late commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes
By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:
H.R. 3431.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. Art. I, sec. 8 cl. 18
By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 3432.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Con-
stitution, to "provide for the common de-
Fense and general welfare of the United States.''
By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:
H.R. 3433.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
US Const. Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 3 ("The Con-
gress shall have Power To regulate Com-
merce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes, ") (This bill would amend federal crop insur-
ance law to incentivize farmers to grow more fruits and vegetables—thereby altering the supply of crops, and therefore food prices) (Cf. Wickard v. Filburn).
By Mr. PAYNE:
H.R. 3434.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Con-
gress 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.
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Power, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department Officer thereof.
By Mrs. LOWEY:
H.R. 3435.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I
By Ms. McSALLY:
H.R. 3436.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Con-
gress 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.
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—To make Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Power, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department Officer thereof.
By Mrs. NOEM:
H.R. 3437.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD:
H.R. 3438.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to the Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.
By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:
H.R. 3439.
Congress has the power to enact this legis-
ation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
ADDITIONAL SPONSORS
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolu-
tions, as follows:
H.R. 19: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. LOBANDO, Mr. CURBelo Of Florida, Mr.
PRACK, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr.
PETTerson.
H.R. 38: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 44: Mr. WUSTEMBER.
H.R. 233: Ms. TsONGAS.
H.R. 299: Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsyl-
vania, Ms. SPEIER, and Mrs. McMorris Rodg-
er.
H.R. 360: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 449: Ms. Eshoo.
H.R. 490: Mr. Hill.
H.R. 592: Mr. SRHMAN, Mr. Payne, and Mr.
Ryan of Ohio.
H.R. 525: Mr. SAPFORD.
H.R. 629: Mr. Culellar and Mr. RUSSELL.
H.R. 891: Mr. Long, Mr. Ross, and Mr.
WITTman.
H.R. 671: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 719: Mr. MeDOWNS and Mr. Lambor.
H.R. 772: Mr. SHIMmUs.
H.R. 788: Mr. Collins Of New York and Mr.
THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 818: Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 830: Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr.
CRIST, Mr. KUSTOFF OF Tennessee, and Mr.
WELCH.
H.R. 849: Mr. Lucas.
H.R. 866: Ms. NORTON and Ms. Barragan.
H.R. 873: Mr. Evans and Mrs. Bratty.
H.R. 909: Miss González-colón OF Puerto Rico.
H.R. 931: Mr. Calvert.
H.R. 959: Ms. Slaughter and Ms.
Barragan.
H.R. 1007: Mr. McNerney, Mr. DeFazio, Ms.
SPEIER, Mr. RICK OF South Carolina, and Mr.
BOST.
H.R. 1098: Ms. McCollum.
H.R. 1144: Ms. Garberd.
H.R. 1164: Mrs. NorM, Mr. Walberg, Mr.
Long, Mr. Smith OF New Jersey, and Mr.
Amodei.
H.R. 1171: Mr. Huffman.
H.R. 1189: Mr. Brady OF Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1230: Mr. Merh.
H.R. 1232: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 1276: Mr. CarBajaL.
H.R. 1318: Mr. Lance.
H.R. 1341: Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 1361: Mr. Tonko.
H.R. 1406: Mr. Pallone.
H.R. 1432: Mr. CuYers.
H.R. 1450: Mr. RosKam.
H.R. 1528: Mr. Ben Ray Luján OF New Mex-
ico, Mr. Amodei, and Ms. McCollum.
H.R. 1606: Mr. King Of Iowa and Mr. Olson.
H.R. 1626: Mr. CarBAjaL.
H.R. 1673: Mr. Jefffries.
H.R. 1686: Mr. Correa.
H.R. 1762: Mr. PhILmutter.
H.R. 1776: Mr. MCcollum.
H.R. 1796: Mr. McGovern, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr.
Khanna.

July 26, 2017
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
H6467


H.R. 1825: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 1861: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H.R. 1864: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 1910: Mr. MCNENNY.
H.R. 2000: Mr. CONDERS.
H.R. 2001: Mr. CONDERS.
H.R. 2003: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 2069: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 2118: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2133: Mr. ARKINTON and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2173: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2235: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 2285: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 2299: Mr. CURCELO of Florida and Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 2319: Mr. SINEMA.
H.R. 2327: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 2498: Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. JUDY Chu of California, Mr. VISCOLSKY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DONOVAN, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 2499: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DONOVAN, and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 2506: Mr. COSTA and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 2651: Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 2692: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 2715: Mr. D'AMATO.
H.R. 2716: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2821: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2852: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2876: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. CUMINS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2925: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2926: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2927: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. WALZ, Mr. VELA, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2960: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2968: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 2985: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2991: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ROTTHUIS.
H.R. 2996: Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 3048: Mr. McNERNEY.
H.R. 3053: Mr. KOHIBARACHER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. HILL, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 3067: Mr. WOODALL.
H.R. 3071: Mr. JODY B. HICH of Georgia.
H.R. 3082: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 3117: Mr. ABACHER, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. HOCHUL, Mr. TARASIUK, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ROUER, Mr. BISHAM, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. HURD, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. OLSON, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BACON, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 3359: Mr. King of New York.
H.R. 3361: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 3380: Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 3394: Mr. BEN RAY Luján of New Mexico, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.J. Res. 1: Mr. FLORES, Mr. King of Iowa, and Mr. CHABOT.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. FLORES, Mr. King of Iowa, and Mr. CHABOT.
H.J. Res. 51: Mr. LUCAS.
H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. FASCHELL.
H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH.
H. Res. 30: Mr. McCaul.
H. Res. 129: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MESSER, and Mrs. BEATTY.
H. Res. 201: Mrs. LOWRY and Mr. POE of Texas.
H. Res. 259: Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 274: Mr. WITTMAN.
H. Res. 279: Mr. NORCROSS.
H. Res. 317: Mr. JAYAPAL, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. KOHIBARACHER, Mr. SENSENBERNER, and Mr. SIMPSON.
H. Res. 400: Mr. ROSS and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
H. Res. 401: Mr. CIRRELA and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H. Res. 435: Mr. VEASEY and Mrs. BEATTY.
H. Res. 446: Ms. BASS and Mrs. LOWRY.
H. Res. 456: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H. Res. 474: Mr. CONVERS.

H.R. 2926: Mr. Sessions, Mrs. Watson Coleman.
H.R. 3191: Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 3277: Mr. LoBiondo.
H.R. 3329: Mr. Roskam, Mr. O'Halleran, Ms. Hanabusa, and Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3332: Mr. Carson of Indiana, Mrs. Walorski, Mr. Black, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mrs. Noem, Mr. Bishop of Michigan, Mr. Reed, Mr. Marchant, Mr. Holding, Mr. Nunes, Mr. Tiberi, Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas, Mr. Brady of Texas, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Reichert, Mr. Paulsen, Mr. Curless of Florida, Mr. Roskam, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Renacci, Mr. Smith of Missouri, Mr. Schweikert, Mr. Donovan, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Kinzinger, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Bisham, Mr. Coffman, Mr. Hurd, Mr. Ratcliffe, Mr. LaMalfa, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Hartzler, Mr. Wensstrup, Mr. Pittenger, Mr. Olson, Mr. Lucas, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Bacon, and Mr. Graves of Louisiana.
H.R. 3359: Mr. King of New York.
H.R. 3361: Mr. Foster.
H.R. 3380: Mr. Sanders, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Barragán, Mr. Kinzinger, Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Nunes.
H.R. 3394: Mr. Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico, Mr. Vargas, and Mr. Grijalva.
H.J. Res. 1: Mr. Flores, Mr. King of Iowa, and Mr. Chabot.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. Flores, Mr. King of Iowa, and Mr. Chabot.
H.J. Res. 51: Mr. Lucas.
H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. Paschell.
H. Res. 30: Mr. McCaul.
H. Res. 129: Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Messer, and Mrs. Beatty.
H. Res. 201: Mrs. Lowry and Mr. Poe of Texas.
H. Res. 259: Mr. Bucshon and Mr. Wilson of South Carolina.
H. Res. 274: Mr. Wittman.
H. Res. 279: Mr. Norcross.
H. Res. 317: Mr. Jayapal, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Rohrabacher, Mr. Sensenbrenner, and Mr. Simpson.
H. Res. 400: Mr. Ross and Mrs. McMorris Rodgers.
H. Res. 401: Mr. Correa and Ms. Jayapal.
H. Res. 435: Mr. Veasey and Mrs. Beatty.
H. Res. 446: Ms. Bass and Mrs. Lowry.
H. Res. 456: Mr. Thompson of Mississippi.
H. Res. 474: Mr. Conyers.