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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 12, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK D. LUCAS 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.

ARLINGTON CEMETERY'S HONOR GUARD NEVER LEAVE THEIR POST

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the country is recovering from natural disasters that are taking place all over our land: on the West Coast and the Northwest, we have the wildfires; over the weekend, we had Hurricane Irma going through Florida, now through the Southeastern States causing havoc; and then, of course, we are still reeling from the hammering that we received in Houston and other areas because of Hurricane Harvey, where thousands have lost their homes, over a million cars are destroyed. Natural disasters are taking place.

In the midst of all of this, yesterday was a day we should also remember, not because we had natural disasters, but because we had an attack on the United States 16 years ago. Yes, September 11, 2001.

All of us who are old enough remember exactly what we were doing, as we should always remember what we were doing that day—a defining moment in our personal lives.

I was a judge in Texas at that time. I was driving my Jeep—an old, red, beat up Renegade Jeep—to the courthouse, and I was listening to KILT Radio, Hudson & Harrigan in the Morning, a country-western station. Robert B. McIntyre, the newscaster, came on and said that a plane had hit one of the towers in New York City. Like most folks, I didn't know what to make of that. I thought maybe it was an accident. But a few minutes later, he was back on the air talking about a second plane crashing into the other tower in New York City.

I pulled over to the side of the road, as other people were doing, and listened to what was taking place in America as we were attacked. We all know the rest of the story about some wonderful people who were hijacked on a plane in Pennsylvania who took that plane down that apparently was headed for Washington, D.C., probably this building. They saved the lives of Members of Congress and people who worked in Washington. The fourth plane crashed into the Pentagon.

I would just like to talk about that fourth plane. That plane, American Airlines Flight No. 77, takes off from Dulles, takes to the air, in less than 50 minutes turns around, and is headed back to the Pentagon.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon is right next to Arlington Cemetery. At the top of the crest of Arlington Cemetery is the Tomb of the Unknown. I call it the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It is the Tomb of the Unknown.

The Tomb of the Unknown is guarded 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all of the time, by the United States Army 3rd Infantry Division. The oldest infantry division in the United States has the honor, the duty, and the privilege to guard the tomb of America's unknown who died for us.

So what happened on September 11 when the two planes crashed into the World Trade Center and the other plane is headed toward the Pentagon? Yes, the soldiers are on guard. And did they leave their post? Absolutely not. In fact, they not only did not leave their post, Mr. Speaker, they called for reinforcements, and they had 30 other soldiers create a perimeter around the tomb to guard it from whatever may occur from that terror that hit in the skies. They were there on duty.

I assume, and I don't know this, but I assume those guards that day knew about the first two planes that hit the World Trade Center. The sergeant major on duty did not want those soldiers to leave the post. He called for reinforcements to protect the tomb from that terror in the skies.

Remarkable stories that took place that day, Mr. Speaker, stories about Americans helping other Americans, just like Americans are helping Americans today with the wildfires and the hurricanes. There are many other stories that we will never know about.

We know that on that day, as the smoke was burning in New York and in Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon, our first responders, when that terror came to America, they didn't run. They ran toward that terror in the skies. Those men and women in our law enforcement agencies, our fire departments, emergency medical technicians, and thousands of others ran to help other

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people, strangers, when those planes, those terrorists, attacked America.

We know that right down the street here at the Tomb of the Unknown where Arlington Cemetery is, where we bury our war dead, we know, of course, that that tomb stayed guarded, protected from that terror in the skies. Remarkable people, these Americans.

And that is just the way it is.

INCREDIBLE WORK DONE AT THE ALEXANDRIA MEGA SHELTER

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the incredible work performed by those running the Alexandria Mega Shelter in my district during the Hurricane Harvey evacuation.

In Louisiana, we know too well how devastating hurricanes and flooding can be. When our neighbors in Texas needed help, Louisiana answered the call. At its peak, the Alexandria Mega Shelter housed 1,800 people displaced by Hurricane Harvey.

I visited with some of the victims and the workers, and I want to share with you some of the amazing work that went on there. The shelter provided a roof and a bed for people whose homes were flooded and destroyed; but as a physician, I was most impressed with the medical response that I saw at the shelter. On short notice, local healthcare providers banded together to set up a clinic to meet the health needs of these displaced people, including dialysis patients who could not miss treatments; if they did, they could die. The clinic allowed most patients to be treated in-house right there in the Mega Shelter, making their stay in the shelter easier than it might have been otherwise.

Additionally, the shelter was able to send 1,800 pounds of donated medications and medical supplies to patients in Beaumont, Texas, whose people were struggling in the aftermath of the storm just to get the medicines they needed to survive themselves.

Local pilots and aviators donated air time and resources to fly these medicines and these badly needed supplies to Beaumont where they could help these good people.

I want to specifically mention the efforts of the Louisiana National Guard; the Louisiana State Police, including Superintendant Kevin Reeves and his troopers; Rapides Parish Sheriff William Earl Hilton and his deputies; and Azar Kayal and his staff at the Louisiana Department of Public Safety for their role in assisting the people at the shelter.

I also want to mention Dr. Spencer Tucker, Dr. Emily Smith Grezaffi, Laura Pickett, Melinda Sanders, Nici English, Dr. David Holcombe, and all those with the Louisiana Department of Health, and emergency and local pharmacies who helped meet the medical needs of all these people displaced at this one shelter.

Recovery from Harvey will be difficult, and now our prayers and thoughts are also with our friends in Florida who are dealing with the effects of Hurricane Irma that just passed. As tragic as these storms can be, they also tend to bring out the best in us as Americans, who always answer the call to serve and help those who are suffering. We are all one big family when these disasters hit.

Thank you to all those at the Alexandria Mega Shelter who welcomed these displaced people in their time of need and hopefully made their ordeal a little better.

NEW JERSEYANS EMBODY THE BEST AMERICA HAS TO OFFER

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last week I was outraged when President Trump announced that he would be ending the DACA program. DACA recipients are contributing members of our society, have no criminal record, and have known only this country as home. They work at leading American companies. They have served our country in the military.

On the day of the President's decision, I met with several young people at Rutgers University in my district who may now face deportation. I was impressed by their courage in coming forward to tell their stories and to challenge the President's reckless action.

Some examples: Yeimi, a 17-year-old from Freehold, left Mexico when she was 1 year old. She said at the meeting I had: ''I do want to become something in life, because that is why I am here. I do not want this dream to be shattered because DACA, apparently, is going to be killed.''

Then there is Alma, a 23-year-old from Perth Amboy in my district, who added: ''DACA has opened doors for me that I never knew existed. The elimination of this executive order without an appropriate replacement would not only be devastating for DREAMers but to the country as a whole.'' And I agree with Alma.

Mr. Speaker, these New Jerseyans embody the best America has to offer, and I will continue to stand by their side as we work together to protect their DACA status. We need to pass the Dream Act as quickly as possible.

JOLENE HERFEL, VICE PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an educator in my district whose dedication to her students has earned her an important award.

Jolene Herfel, who serves as the assistant principal at St. Michael-Albertville High School, was recently named the Vice Principal of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals.

Jolene has served as assistant principal at St. Michael-Albertville High School for 9 years. She is known for her strong leadership and commitment to providing students with a great environment in which to learn and a top-notch education.

She has shown her commitment by consistently improving curriculum and implementing many different programs designed to assist her students. One program she created is called Freshman Connections which helps build relationships between incoming freshman students and their upperclassmen peers.

Successful students are the key to our future, so it is important that we recognize educators like Jolene who are guiding our students on the path to success. Congratulations, Jolene, on being named the Vice Principal of the Year. You deserve it.

ST. CLOUD HOSPITAL IS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST WIRED HOSPITALS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Cloud Hospital for being recognized as one of the most digitally connected hospitals in the Nation. This is not St. Cloud Hospital's first major award. In fact, just last year, they were named one of the top 100 hospitals in the country.

As technology continues to develop and advance, our Nation's hospitals are better suited to provide their patients with the very best care possible, which is exactly what the St. Cloud Hospital does each and every day.

We are proud that the St. Cloud Hospital is a leader in this healthcare industry and in utilizing useful technology, allowing patients to stay in touch with their doctors and nurses, renew prescriptions, gain access to their records, and even take part in virtual physician exams.

This high distinction is the result of the healthcare providers and the information systems staff working for CentraCare Health and the St. Cloud Hospital. Thank you for your service, and thank you for making the St. Cloud Hospital a leader in 21st century healthcare.

THE HUBINS ARE NAMED THE PIZZA RANCH FRANCHISEES OF THE YEAR

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Randall and Sheryl Hubin, the owners of the Pizza Ranch in Andover, on being recognized as the Pizza Ranch Franchisee of the Year.

The Hubins received this award not just because of their dedication to the Pizza Ranch brand but also because of their commitment to the Andover community.

Randall and Sheryl have owned the Pizza Ranch for the past 4 years, and, as a direct result of its success, not only have they been named Franchisee

of the Year, but they were also awarded the Community Impact Award last year.

Opening and operating a franchise business is not an easy job. We appreciate the jobs that people like Randall and Sheryl Hubin create and the commerce they bring to our communities.

Congratulations, Randall and Sheryl, on your award, and thank you for your contribution to Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District and the Andover community.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING POW/MIA DAY

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National POW/MIA Day and to remember the brave Americans who became prisoners of war during their service and those still missing in action.

Since America's founding, hundreds of thousands of Americans have been held as prisoners of war. To this day, more than 80,000 Americans remain missing in action.

These patriots answered the call of duty during some of our Nation's darkest times. Their service and enormous sacrifice must never be forgotten or taken for granted. So I stand here today reaffirming our Nation's commitment to these Americans.

They deserve to return home, and their families deserve answers. That is why every third Friday in September we not only honor these Americans, but we recommit to our promise to search until every missing soldier is accounted for.

Today, I ask that we all pause for a moment to remember these Americans.

Remember their sacrifice, and if they are still missing, pray for their homecoming.

HONORING THE FALLEN ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nearly 3,000 souls that were taken from us much too soon on September 11, 16 years ago.

Like many others, the events of September 11, 2001, are forever etched in my memory. On that day, I was in Raleigh, North Carolina, serving in the State legislature, and recall an aide coming in to share the news.

Naturally, when hearing about the first plane hitting the World Trade Center, we all thought it was a terrible accident that had occurred. My colleagues and I were in a state of shock and grief when we heard about the second plane and the subsequent attacks that followed.

What I remember most is the feeling of abject horror and disbelief that we experienced on that day. That horror is still felt by the family members who were left behind, robbed of their loved ones who were violently taken too soon.

I often think of the brave first responders who ran towards danger with thought of little else other than to save their fellow Americans.

The terror attacks seemed surreal, yet the aftermath has a finality which does not dissipate with time. As years passed, the shock of the attack has diminished, but the memory of the feeling of hope that arose from the acts of selfless Americans is stronger.

In my mind, one of the very worst events in human history became overshadowed as the very best in us—as a people—was made evident through countless acts of kindness and dignity. It is this dignity we must hold on to in order to honor the fallen.

From the first responders, citizens, volunteers, and, finally, the devoted souls on board Flight 93, I remember the moments in which the very best parts of Americans shone brightest. These moments include when our citizens were no longer categorized by their differences, but were defined by their shared determination not only to survive, but also to overcome an unthinkable tragedy.

If a student asks me about my memories of September 11, I always tell them honestly of the horror I felt, and I tell them of the hope that emerged as our people did their level best to turn evil into good.

While I will never forget September 11, 2001, and the lives that were forever lost to us on that day, 16 years ago, I take some comfort in knowing that a loving and never-changing God called them to Heaven to live in His presence forever.

Now, more than ever before, we must recall the sacrifices made by so many in the aftermath of September 11 and recall that freedom is never truly freely given. It is earned. It is hard-fought for, and it is something we must all work together to continue to achieve.

May God bless all of those who lost their lives on September 11, those who were left behind, and those who continue to fight for our freedom.

CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL NEEDS TO CONTINUE

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of August, I was able to join the majority leader and a number of my fellow freshmen on an 8-day trip to Israel.

I would like to thank Leader MCCARTHY for organizing this informative and memorable visit, which taught me so much about the importance of the U.S.-Israel relationship and the numerous challenges and opportunities facing our two countries and our other allies in the region.

It is impossible to visit Israel without feeling the weight of history, from Biblical times to modern day. Staying in Jerusalem, seeing Bethlehem up close, viewing Israel from atop the Golan Heights, and traveling all along the Jordan River, all made a lasting impression.

My time in Israel also impressed me on Israel's undeniable security needs in the face of the persistent threat from Iran and its proxies in Syria and Lebanon, as well as the instability and violence stemming from the long-running conflict with the Palestinians.

Listening to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's presentation to our congressional delegation greatly enhanced my level of support for Israeli foreign aid, just as listening to the Palestinian Authority's presentation greatly enhanced my opposition to foreign aid for Palestine.

For these reasons, I believe U.S. security assistance to Israel should continue to be a high priority, and I am proud that defense collaboration between our two countries has yielded many important developments, including the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system, which is among the top missile shield technologies in the world.

Considering the growing threat of North Korea's nuclear missile program and Iran's ballistic missile development, it is clear that our efforts in this field are more important now than ever.

In addition to our successful cooperation on defense, the U.S. and Israel also work together on many other issues. One of these issues that is of particular interest to me is agriculture. I never dreamed that Israel's agriculture industry would be as advanced as it was.

Despite a very challenging ecosystem, Israel produces enough food to feed their entire country, as well as boasts a very impressive agriculture export market.

In conclusion, I believe the close working relationship between our two governments will remain critically important for many years to come, and I am grateful for the opportunity to advance these ties in one small way through my visit last month.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 22 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As Members of the people's House return to Washington, delayed by the storms that have blown through the Southeast, we ask Your blessing upon them that they might be all the more focused in their work and, as modeled by so many Americans in their efforts these past days in helping their neighbors, prepared to work together to address our Nation's most pressing needs.

Continue to bless those who are recovering from hurricane destruction and those fighting, still, the storms of wildfire that plague our Western States.

Blanket those who fight to overcome these national disasters with Your spirit of strength and endurance, and preserve them all from harm.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCGOVERN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

MEDIA IGNORES FACTS ON DACA

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's recent decision to end the unconstitutional DACA program has received unfair criticism by the liberal media.

When reporting on President Trump's decision to end the DACA program, outlets such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, and CBS all included former President Obama's criticism of the announcement. What is not being reported is that then-President Obama stated over 20 times before issuing DACA that executive amnesty is an overstep of executive authority and is unconstitutional.

To use former President Obama's criticism of the termination of DACA without also noting that he, himself, considered DACA unconstitutional is biased reporting designed to promote a pro-amnesty agenda. It is no wonder that the media's credibility with the American people is now at a record low.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as kids, we were taught that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Still, far too many students—especially those living in poverty—arrive at school hungry each day. Congress can and must do more to bolster our school breakfast programs so that all students across the country have access to a nutritious breakfast to start the day.

I have joined my Republican colleague on the House Agriculture Committee, Congressman RODNEY DAVIS, on a bill to expand commodity support to the School Breakfast Program. The bipartisan Healthy Breakfasts Help Kids Learn Act will provide schools with additional nutritious food to ensure no student starts his or her day hungry. Importantly, this legislation will allow schools to expand their breakfast programs, improve their menus, and serve students nutritious, American-grown foods.

Mr. Speaker, school meals are just as essential as a textbook when it comes to helping our kids learn and succeed. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this bipartisan legislation that, combined with other antihunger safety net programs, will work to end hunger now.

RECOGNIZING ALLIANCE FOR A HEALTHIER GENERATION

(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 work of the Alliance for a Healthier Generation in its mission to help our schoolchildren lead healthier lives. The alliance works closely with schools in Pennsylvania and nationwide to improve student health and wellbeing.

Over the past decade, Healthier Generation's groundbreaking work with schools, communities, and businesses have benefited more than 25 million children across this country. More than 950 Pennsylvania schools have teamed with Healthier Generation, helping more than half a million children in the Commonwealth make healthier choices.

Since 2007, 18 Pennsylvania schools have been recognized with National Healthy School Awards for their exceptional work. The Healthy Out-of-School Time program has helped more than 11,000 Pennsylvania children have access to healthier foods and focus on more active community programs outside the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Nutrition, I am so proud of our schools and our students who work to serve healthier meals and snacks, get students to move more, offer high-quality physical and health education, and empower school leaders to become healthy role models.

BRING UP THE DREAM ACT

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, Congress—and, actually, Congress today—should act to pass the Dream Act. House Democrats are working to pass a permanent solution to protect 800,000 DREAMers, children who were brought here to the United States by their parents through no fault of their own, many of them as very young children. America is the only country they know. They have registered with the government. They pay their taxes. They make great contributions to our society.

We have to ask ourselves: Do we want to deport these youngsters from the only country they have ever known? Is that the morally right question?

We can argue the economics, and I can argue that it is an economic mistake to lose these individuals, but it is essentially a moral question. If a Member of Congress believes that we should deport 800,000 productive people who only know this country, who were brought here as children, then come to the floor of the House and put that on the record. Vote ''yes'' or ''no,'' but bring up the Dream Act.

This is an important question, and it is the work of Congress, and we should do it now.

HONORING THE BRAVERY AND SACRIFICE OF THE 442ND MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank the airmen of the 442nd Mission Support Group who returned home to Whiteman Air Force Base last month after a 6-month deployment. These dedicated reservists were deployed across six bases in support of Operation Resolute Support and provided vital base functions for our military overseas.

The reservists of the 442nd left their homes, jobs, families, and friends to travel overseas to support our military's mission. I admire their commitment, their sacrifice, and dedication to our Nation. Their bravery and sacrifice deserve our appreciation and respect, and I am glad to welcome them home

and thank them for their service to our country.

I would also like to take a moment to thank their families for their commitment to our country. America's military families say good-bye to their spouses, parents, children, and siblings for extended periods of time for the good of our Nation. They are unsung heroes, and they, too, deserve our recognition for their sacrifice.

So to the airmen of the 442nd, you and your families have our undying gratitude. You are truly heroes. Welcome home, and thank you for your service.

IT IS TIME TO FUND WILDFIRES

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

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, for the past few weeks, the country has tuned in to watch as catastrophic hurricanes pummel Texas and Florida, but out West we have been facing our own natural disaster, one that doesn't get nearly as much attention but one that can be equally devastating and destructive. I am talking, of course, about wildfires raging, burning a total of 7.8 million acres. In my home State of Oregon, we currently have 26 active fires.

As a member of this body, I have routinely supported emergency appropriations packages when national disasters strike this country. I have supported funding for Superstorm Sandy. I supported funding last week for Hurricane Harvey, and I will support funding for Hurricane Irma. I have done this because, as an American and as a Member of Congress, it is the right thing to do. I call on my colleagues, now, to also support us in the West. We need to change the way we pay to fight these wildfires.

My good friend from Idaho MIKE SIMPSON and I have once again introduced bipartisan legislation, H.R. 2862, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, that will begin to treat wildfires like the national disasters they are. The bill will create a fund dedicated to the costs of fighting wildfires so the Forest Service and BLM will no longer have to spend over 50 percent of their budget on fighting fires that should be spent on managing our forests and their sustainable health.

This is common sense, my friends. It is time to act, time for this body to recognize the importance of this issue, especially to those of us out West who face these infernos every year.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, September is Hunger Action Month, a month where people all over America stand together with the nationwide network of food banks to fight hunger. Hunger can affect people from all walks of life.

Too many Americans are one job loss or one medical crisis away from food insecurity, and some people, like children and seniors, stand at a greater risk of facing hunger. That is why I am proud of the Bucks County Fresh Connect program, a free farmers market bringing fresh and healthy food to our hungry neighbors. The Fresh Connect program provides reliable and needed food to the 57,000 residents of Bucks County facing hunger, about a third of whom are children.

This month I participated in the Fresh Connect program at Solly Farm in Ivyland, where fresh produce was collected and delivered to the Bucks County Community College in Bristol for distribution.

I want to thank Philabundance, the Bucks County Opportunity Council, the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger, St. Mary Medical Center, United Way of Bucks County, Rolling Harvest Food Rescue, and Solly Farm for all of their hard work in making this program possible. Mr. Speaker, these organizations and all of their generous volunteers are a tribute to our community and to our Nation.

HONORING SCHOOL NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor school nutrition professionals across the country and in my congressional district located in central and southwestern Illinois. From Monticello's Washington Elementary School, to Edwardsville's St. Boniface Catholic School, I have seen firsthand the great work they do in schools across my district.

Now, as summer comes to an end and children head back to school, these professionals will be working hard to ensure students receive healthy and appealing meals, which is not an easy task. Each schoolday, nearly 100,000 schools serve lunch to 30.4 million students. Nutritious meals at school are an essential part of the day and help to nourish children and enable them to learn.

This could never be possible without dedicated school nutrition professionals. School nutrition professionals are passionate about ensuring that students have access to the nutrition they need to succeed. I would like to take this opportunity to honor school nutrition professionals who should take pride in the work they do every single day.

Thank you, and keep up the great work.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 11, 2017, at 7:58 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3732.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Monday, September 11, 2017:

H.R. 3732, to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2017 and 2018 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

□ 1215

JOINT COUNTERTERRORISM AWARENESS WORKSHOP SERIES ACT OF 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3284) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3284

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 ''Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017''.

SEC. 2. JOINT COUNTERTERRORISM AWARENESS WORKSHOP SERIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 529. JOINT COUNTERTERRORISM AWARENESS WORKSHOP SERIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall establish a Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (in this section referred to as the 'Workshop Series') to address emerging terrorist threats and to enhance the ability of State and local jurisdictions to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks.

''(b) PURPOSE.—The Workshop Series established under subsection (a) shall include the following components:

''(1) Reviewing existing preparedness, response, and interdiction plans, policies, and procedures related to terrorist attacks of the participating jurisdictions and identifying gaps in such plans, operational capabilities, response resources, and authorities.

''(2) Identifying Federal, State, and local resources available to address the gaps identified in accordance with paragraph (1).

''(3) Providing assistance, through training, exercises, and other means, to build or sustain, as appropriate, the capabilities to close such identified gaps.

''(4) Examining the roles and responsibilities of participating agencies and respective communities in the event of a terrorist attack.

''(5) Improving situational awareness and information sharing among all participating agencies in the event of a terrorist attack.

''(6) Identifying and sharing best practices and lessons learned from each Workshop Series established under subsection (a).

''(c) DESIGNATION OF PARTICIPATING CITIES.—The Administrator shall select jurisdictions to host a Workshop Series from those cities that—

''(1) are currently receiving, or that previously received, funding under section 2003; and

''(2) have requested to be considered.

''(d) WORKSHOP SERIES PARTICIPANTS.—Individuals from State and local jurisdictions and emergency response providers in cities designated under subsection (c) shall be eligible to participate in the Workshop Series, including the following:

''(1) Senior elected and appointed officials.

''(2) Law enforcement.

''(3) Fire and Rescue.

''(4) Emergency management.

''(5) Emergency Medical Services.

''(6) Public health officials.

''(7) Private sector representatives.

''(8) Other participants as deemed appropriate by the Administrator.

''(e) REPORTS.—

''(1) WORKSHOP SERIES REPORT.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and officials from the city in which a Workshop Series is held, shall develop and submit to all of the agencies participating in such Workshop Series a report after the conclusion of each such Workshop Series that addresses the following:

''(A) Key findings about lessons learned and best practices from each such Workshop Series.

''(B) Potential mitigation strategies and resources to address gaps identified during each such Workshop Series.

''(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter for the next five years, the Administrator, in consultation with the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a comprehensive summary report of the key themes, lessons learned, and best practices identified during the Workshop Series held during the previous year.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to carry out this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 528 the following new item:

''Sec. 529. Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as we gather this week and mark the 16th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we remember the nearly 3,000 innocent people lost in that heinous act—including 18 from my home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Additionally, we honor the more than 400 first responders who perished and the countless more whose long-term health was impacted because of their courageous action. Each of us in this Chamber has heard stories of those brave firefighters, police officers, and EMTs who ran toward the danger and chaos on that Tuesday morning and made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their community and their country. Today we remember them, and we recommit to recognize their efforts and those efforts of all first responders around our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, since 9/11, we have seen the devastating impact of coordinated terrorist attacks on civilian targets. In these cases, first responders—including local police, fire, and emergency medical personnel—are the main response force. It is critical that these men and women have the training and tools to operate in these planned attacks.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 3284, the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017, to authorize a vital workshop series allowing State and local jurisdictions to prepare for coordinated terrorist attacks.

H.R. 3284, as amended, authorizes the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series for 5 years and delineates the activities that are required to be part of each workshop, including a review of current plans, policies and procedures, and an examination of the roles and responsibilities of each participating agency.

H.R. 3284 ensures that the whole community—from government officials, law enforcement, fire, EMS, and public health officials to the private sector—participates in the workshop.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this bill allows the FEMA Administrator to select jurisdictions to participate in such workshops from jurisdictions that currently receive, or previously received, Urban Area Security Initiative funding and have requested to host a workshop.

Finally, H.R. 3284 requires the participants to develop a summary report after each workshop that includes the key findings and strategies to mitigate the identified gaps.

I introduced this bill with bipartisan support, and I am proud to have the backing of two first responder organizations that I trust when working on this type of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support from the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a letter of support from the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS,
Fairfax, VA, July 21, 2017.

Hon. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE FITZPATRICK: On behalf of the nearly 12,000 fire and emergency service leaders of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I express our support for H.R. 3284, your legislation to authorize the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (JCTAWS). These multidisciplinary exercises help local jurisdictions prepare for the threat of complex, coordinated terrorist attacks.

The terrorist threat continues to evolve. As terrorist incidents in Mumbai in 2008, Paris in 2015, and Brussels in 2016 demonstrate, complex, coordinated terror attacks using multiple teams and a variety of tactics are a growing threat that local jurisdictions will have to address. Local jurisdictions must be prepared to respond to multiple incidents at the same time involving active shooter incidents, explosives and the use of fire as a weapon.

The JCTAWS exercises provide an environment where local fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical service, private sector and other disciplines can plan for joint response to these incidents. The JCTAWS allows federal, state and local partners to collaboratively evaluate their options and learn how to best protect their communities. The exercises also bring together resources from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the National Counterterrorism Center, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to leverage the strengths of these major agencies. After a jurisdiction hosts a JCTAWS exercise, key findings are communicated to the participants as well as mitigation strategies and resources to address gaps in preparedness.

The IAFC endorses this legislation and thanks you for authorizing funding for this critical exercise program. We look forward

to working with you to pass this legislation this year.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief JOHN D. SINCLAIR,
President and Chairman of the Board.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC.

FLEOA COMMENDS FITZPATRICK, MURRAY, DONOVAN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS BILL

WASHINGTON, DC.—The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) applauds Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (PA–08), Stephanie Murray (FL–07), Dan Donovan (NY–11), and the members of the House Homeland Security Committee for expanding the training and collaboration of emergency first responders through introduction of H.R. 3284, the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series (JCTAWS) Act of 2017. FLEOA is the nonpartisan, not-for-profit professional organization representing more than 26,000 federal officers and agents from over 65 agencies.

FLEOA President Nathan Catura stated, ''The horrific damage and loss of life caused by terrorists 16 years ago reminds us of the devastation into which first responders insert themselves on a regular basis. Whenever state, local, federal, and tribal first responders react as one unified team, the public benefits in countless ways.''

''As a former federal agent, Congressman Fitzpatrick knows the benefits H.R. 3284 will have by expanding the unified training and communication of responders,'' Catura continued. ''It is because of the previous JCTAWS training and the additional training H.R. 3284 will generate that the public safety community has made considerable progress since the 9/11 attacks.''

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Throughout our Nation's history, our first responders have always stood for peace, security, and ordered liberty that make our communities great and our country strong. For this we are eternally grateful. As we remember those who gave their lives on September 11, we, unfortunately, recall that the threats of coordinated terrorist attacks are not going away. Today it remains critical that our first responders have the resources and the tools needed to protect our communities. The Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series is one of these vital tools.

Mr. Speaker, as a first responder myself, I am proud to work with the House Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications on moving this meaningful legislation, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting our first responders by voting ''yes.''

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3284, the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, in a crisis like the attacks of September 11, 2001, our Nation's first responders—police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel—take on enormous responsibilities. They contain the situation, care for the injured, and keep people safe while putting their own lives at risk. These weighty responsibilities are central in terrorism-related crises.

Today there is an appreciation of the importance of the whole-of-Nation response where efforts among diverse stakeholders, including nontraditional first responders, are well coordinated and thoroughly planned.

The Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series is a program where one-day events are hosted across the country that bring people together who play a critical role in keeping their city's residents safe during a terrorist attack. The multicity series is a collaborative effort among Federal, State, local and private sector entities that empowers cities to provide the best response to an organized, coordinated, and multisite terrorist attack.

One of these workshops was conducted in Los Angeles, near my district. I represent the Port of Los Angeles—America's port. It touches every congressional district and faces a variety of threats that require coordinated preparation and response from Federal, State, and local agencies.

Enactment of H.R. 3284, the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act, would codify this important program in law. Specifically, H.R. 3284 requires the FEMA Administrator, in consultation with the Directors of the National Counterterrorism Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to establish a Joint Counterterrorism Workshop Series.

Importantly, this bill requires that, at the conclusion of each event, the FEMA Administrator, in consultation with the NCTC and FBI Directors and officials from the participant city hosting the workshop series, provide all participants with an after-action report that includes key findings about lessons learned and best practices from the event, and potential mitigation strategies and resources to address gaps identified during the event.

I strongly support this counterterrorism training program, and I believe that Congress should show its support for the program by enacting this legislation. I urge my House colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3284 is an important piece of legislation that has strong support on both sides of the aisle. It empowers officials and individuals on the local level to come together to make their communities more secure.

This workshop series helps address new, evolving terrorist threats. It also enhances the ability of State and local jurisdictions to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terror attacks here in the homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3284, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3284, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 3284, ''Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017.''

This bipartisan bill would formally authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to hold counterterrorism workshops with state and local officials in order to address emerging terrorist threats and to enhance the ability of state and local jurisdictions to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks.

The coordination program under the measure would include:

1. Reviewing existing preparedness, response, and interdiction plans, policies, and procedures related to terrorist attacks of the participating jurisdictions and identifying gaps in such plans, operational capabilities, response resources, and authorities;
2. Identifying Federal, State, and local resources available to address the gaps identified;
3. Providing assistance, through training, exercises, and other means, to build or sustain, as appropriate, the capabilities to close such identified gaps;
4. Examining the roles and responsibilities of participating agencies and respective communities in the event of a terrorist attack;
5. Improving situational awareness and information sharing among all participating agencies in the event of a terrorist attack; and
6. Identifying and sharing best practices and lessons learned from each Workshop Series.

I would like to take the time to thank FEMA for their response to Hurricane Harvey and their efforts with Hurricane Irma.

Since Hurricane Harvey, 617,000 individuals have registered for assistance through FEMA with 13,585 interactions with survivors taking place. FEMA is an integral part of security for survivors of catastrophes. By providing these workshops, we will continue to provide security when our country is most vulnerable.

The bill would authorize $1 million a year from fiscal year 2018 through 2022 to establish the Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series.

This workshop series is intended to help local jurisdictions prevent and respond to coordinated terrorist attacks.

This bill would authorize funding for five years instead of the one-year authorization in the committee-approved version and would modify FEMA's reporting requirements.

The series would provide training and other resources to close gaps in local counterterrorism preparedness plans, and to improve coordination among state and local agencies.

Participants would include state and local officials, law enforcement officers, first responders, public health personnel, and private-sector representatives.

The most chaotic times for first responders are in response to natural disasters, leaving little to no resources to respond to a potential terror attack.

Those who seek to do our nation harm can take advantage of the lack of available first responders trained to handle counterterrorism during a natural disaster, such as Hurricane Harvey and the flooding that took place in Houston.

During Hurricane Harvey, Texas first responders were facing double effort with both a hurricane and flood; preventing proper response to a homeland security event should it have happened.

It is important to include in their training, a resource for first responders to learn how to manage a terror threat during a catastrophic event such as Hurricane Harvey.

It is imperative to provide these resources to local law enforcement agencies in order to protect the United States when it is most vulnerable.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3284.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3284, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

DHS INTELLIGENCE ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM ACT OF 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2453) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2453

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 ''DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2017''.

SEC. 2. INTELLIGENCE ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM.

Section 844 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 414) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) INTELLIGENCE ROTATIONAL ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program as part of the Rotation Program under subsection (a).

''(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Chief Human Capital Officer, in conjunction with the Chief Intelligence Officer, shall administer the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program established pursuant to paragraph (1).

''(3) ELIGIBLITY.—The Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be open to employees serving in existing analyst positions within the Department's Intelligence Enterprise and other Department employees as determined appropriate by the Chief Human Capital Officer and the Chief Intelligence Officer.

''(4) COORDINATION.—The responsibilities specified in paragraph (3)(B) of subsection (a) that apply to the Rotation Program under such subsection shall, as applicable, also apply to the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program under this subsection.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security currently has nine designated component intelligence programs with trained analysts who could benefit from an authorized, better organized rotation program. In order to truly develop homeland security intelligence expertise, the DHS has to develop and expand programs to cross-train their broad cadre of analysts.

One of the major lessons we learned from the September 11 terror attacks was the vital need to connect the dots by sharing information across analytical silos and across agencies. The bill we are considering today builds upon this foundation by authorizing a rotation program for intelligence analysts across the Department.

Having served as an intelligence analyst in the Marine Corps and in the intelligence community, including at the National Counterterrorism Center and the Drug Enforcement Agency, I know firsthand the value of analysts gaining experience in different mission areas and broadening their analytical skills.

H.R. 2453, the DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2017, supports the effort to develop an integrated workforce of analysts that will ultimately develop a homeland security intelligence expertise. The bill authorizes the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program, or IRAP, and directs the Department to promote and reward participation.

There is an existing IRAP, but based on oversight efforts over the past year, it is clear the DHS needs a more integrated, coordinated, and transparent rotation program. For example, numerous intelligence components are not aware of the IRAP's existence, and it is not being coordinated with other rotational programs offered by the Department or the intelligence community at large.

Moreover, a recent joint inspector general review involving IGs from the intelligence community, the DHS, and the Department of Justice specifically referenced the creation of the IRAP as an important step to help unify the DHS intelligence enterprise, but noted the lack of incentives to encourage participation in this initiative. So this legislation seeks to address these shortcomings by authorizing the IRAP and providing the program with a management structure and participation incentives.

Having a robust analyst rotation program is important for a number of reasons. First, it offers key professional development opportunities to analysts by exposing them to the legal authorities, collection capabilities, and data sets associated with different intelligence offices across the DHS. It also is an important building block in the development of homeland security intelligence as a core competency above and beyond individual mission areas at the Department.

Finally, the IRAP enhances the cohesion of the DHS intelligence enterprise by exposing intelligence analysts to their counterparts in one of the eight other intelligence components, thus encouraging them to see themselves as part of the larger DHS intelligence enterprise.

In short, this bill promotes a more robust intelligence analyst rotation program to ensure the Department is building a network of employees with a true homeland security intelligence expertise.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will make the country more safe. I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, September 8, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,

Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I understand H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470 are slated for consideration on the suspension calendar next week. All three bills amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security by requiring the Secretary, acting through the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department, to perform specific intelligence-related functions. All three bills are virtually identical to specific provisions contained in H.R. 2825, the House-passed ''Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017'' for which I wrote to you about on June 27, 2017. Accordingly, since H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470 implicate National Intelligence Program (NIP)-funded activities, I expect that they would be sequentially referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (the Committee).

As discussed in previous correspondence regarding H.R. 2825, we signed a Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security and exchanged letters on January 11, 2017 (January 2017 Exchange of Letter), to clarify the Committee's exclusive jurisdiction over NIP-funded elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The January 2017 Exchange of Letters affirmed that, consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) is the vehicle that through which Congress authorizes annual appropriations for the NIP, including NIP-funded elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Moreover, those Letters made explicit that the Committee on Homeland Security would not report to the House any bill that authorizes any elements of DHS funded through the NIP, and that if any such bill is reported by the Committee

on Homeland Security, this Committee will request a sequential referral of the bill.

In order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470, the Committee will forego consideration of all three measures. This courtesy, is however, conditioned on our mutual understanding and agreement that it will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in these bills or any similar measure. It is also conditioned on the Committee on Homeland Security's adherence to the agreement embodied in the January 2017 Exchange of Letters.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would request that you include in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of all three bills, a copy of this letter, your response, and the January 2017 Exchange of Letters, including the Memorandum. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Best Regards,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2017.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NUNES: Thank you for your letter supporting the Committee on Homeland Security's plans to conduct a comprehensive reauthorization of the Department of Homeland Security (''the Department'') in the 115th Congress, as expressed in the 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security.''

I appreciate your willingness to help ensure the Department is fully authorized, and recognize that there may be areas of jurisdictional interest to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (''Intelligence Committee'') in such an authorization. Rule X (j)(3) of the House of Representatives grants the Committee on Homeland Security jurisdiction over the ''functions of the Department of Homeland Security,'' including those functions related to the ''integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information,'' while Rule X(11)(b)(1) grants the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence jurisdiction over ''proposed legislation relating to . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act'' and ''[a]uthorizations for appropriations, both direct and indirect, for the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act;''

The Committee on Homeland Security does not intend to authorize any elements of the Department that are funded through the National Intelligence Program (''NIP'') as part of the Department authorization bill it reports to the House this Congress, although we both agree that the reported bill may include Department-wide provisions that could affect Department elements that happen to receive funding through the NIP, Accordingly, I will oppose as nongermaine any amendments which may be offered in my committee's markup related to the NIP-funded elements of the Department. I further agree to consult you before taking any action on similar amendments which may be offered during consideration of the bill by the full House.

In the interest of ensuring the most robust Department authorization possible, we further agree that you may offer an amendment during consideration of the bill in the full House. That amendment will contain the text of any legislative provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS previously reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. If the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has not reported any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS, you will not offer an amendment. Understanding, however, that both of our committees have a jurisdictional interest in the Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, we agree to work together to ensure that the Office receives the most effective congressional guidance.

Finally, I reiterate my intention that nothing included in the 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security'' alters the jurisdiction of either the Committee on Homeland Security or the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The Committee on Homeland Security appreciates the past success we have enjoyed working with the Intelligence Committee. I am grateful for your support and look forward to continuing to work together toward our mutual goal of ensuring that the Department and its components are authorized on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: In accordance with paragraph 10 of the January 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security,'' I write to confirm our mutual understanding of the procedure through which the House will authorize the elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funded through the National Intelligence Program (NIP).

I appreciate your dedication to producing a comprehensive reauthorization of DHS that will improve congressional oversight of the Department. As you know, Rule X(11)(b)(1) of the House of Representatives grants the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence sole jurisdiction over ''proposed legislation . . . relating to . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act'' and ''[a]uthorizations for appropriations, both direct and indirect, for . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act;'' and Rule X (j)(3) of the House of Representatives grants the Committee on Homeland Security jurisdiction over the ''functions of the Department of Homeland Security,'' including those functions related to the ''integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information.''

As you also know, the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) is the annual vehicle through which Congress authorizes appropriations for the NIP, including for elements of DHS that receive funding through the NIP. The IAA includes a classified schedule of authorizations, incorporated into the statute by reference, and direction and recommendations in a classified annex to the report of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Nothing in the January 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security,'' shall be construed to grant the Committee on Homeland Security jurisdiction over proposed legislation relating to the NIP or authorizations for appropriations for the NIP.

In keeping with these principles, the Committee on Homeland Security will not report to the House any bill that authorizes any elements of DNS funded through the NIP. If any such bill is reported by the Committee on Homeland Security, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will request a sequential referral of the bill. Understanding, however, that both of our committees have a jurisdictional interest in the Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, we agree to work together to ensure that the Office receives the most effective congressional guidance.

We further agree that if the Committee on Homeland Security reports a DHS-wide authorization bill to the House, I may offer an amendment during consideration of the bill in the full House. That amendment will contain the text of any legislative provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS previously reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. If the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has not reported any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS, I will not offer an amendment, and the DHS-wide authorization bill will not contain any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS. We further agree that you will oppose as nongermane all amendments related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS in markup in the Committee on Homeland Security. If any amendments related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS are subsequently offered during consideration by the full House, you agree to consult with me before taking action.

Finally, we agree that you will support the appointment of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to any committee of conference on a DHS-wide authorization bill that includes any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS.

In accordance with Rule X(11)(b)(2) this understanding does not preclude either the Committee on Homeland Security or the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence from authorizing other intelligence and intelligence-related activities of DHS, including, but not limited to, the Homeland Security Intelligence Program. In keeping with paragraph 5 of the January 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security,'' our committees will work jointly to vet and clear any provisions of a DHS authorization bill related to these other intelligence and intelligence-related activities of DHS. Furthermore, I hope the staff of our committees can continue to closely and expeditiously to conduct rigorous oversight of intelligence activities throughout DHS.

The understanding detailed by this letter is limited to the 115th Congress. It shall not constitute an understanding between our committees in any subsequent congress.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding. I look forward to working with you to continue congressional oversight of DHS intelligence activities, and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING AUTHORIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SUBMITTED BY HON. PAUL D. RYAN OF WISCONSIN

We, the chairs of the committees with jurisdiction over the Department of Homeland

Security or its components, are hereby recording our agreement on the following principles for the 115th Congress:

1. The Department of Homeland Security (''the Department'') and its components should be authorized on a regular basis to ensure robust oversight and improve its operation.

2. Committees with jurisdiction over the Department and its components will prioritize the authorization of the Department and any unauthorized or expiring component in that committee's authorization and oversight plan.

3. To the maximum extent practicable, the committees with jurisdiction over unauthorized or expiring components of the Department shall coordinate with the Committee on Homeland Security to produce a comprehensive authorization bill for the Department.

4. The Committee on Homeland Security shall coordinate with the committees with jurisdiction over unauthorized or expiring components of the Department in the development of any comprehensive authorization bill for the Department.

5. The Committee on Homeland Security and the committees with jurisdiction over components of the Department shall jointly develop a process for the vetting and preclearing of base text and amendments offered at subcommittee and full committee markups of a DHS authorization bill in the Committee on Homeland Security that fall within the jurisdiction of a committee other than or in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security.

6. The committees will expedite consideration of any comprehensive authorization bill for the Department, including timely resolution of any matters subject to a sequential or additional referral.

7. To the extent that there are policy differences between the committees regarding a provision of the comprehensive authorization bill for the Department, the committees will make best efforts to resolve any such dispute.

8. The Committee on Homeland Security Committee shall not include any provision in a comprehensive authorization bill that the chair of the Committee on Ways and Means has determined to be a revenue provision or a provision affecting revenue. If the chair of the Committee on Ways and Means makes such a determination, nothing in this agreement shall be construed to preclude that chair from exercising an additional or sequential referral over the measure, or a point of order under clause 5 (a) of Rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

9. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as altering any committee's jurisdiction under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives or the referral of any measure thereunder.

10. Further, nothing in this memorandum precludes a further agreement between the committees with regard to the implementation of a process to ensure regular comprehensive authorizations of the Department.

Signed,

GREGG ''WALDEN,
Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce
DEVIN NUNES,
Chair, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chair, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
BILL SHUSTER,
Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chair, Committee on Homeland Security
BOB GOODLATTE,
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
LAMAR SMITH,
Chair, Committee on Science, Space and Technology
KEVIN BRADY,
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 11, 2017.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NUNES: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2453, H.R. 2468, and H.R. 2470. I appreciate your support in bringing these very important pieces of legislation before the House of Representatives, and appreciate the willingness of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to forego seeking a sequential referral.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing a sequential referral on these bills at this time, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in any of these bills or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on any of these bills be necessary, I would support your request to have the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence represented for provisions within your jurisdiction on the conference committee.

Additionally, the Committee on Homeland Security recognizes and appreciates the importance of the Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security and the letter exchange on January 11, 2017. The Committee on Homeland Security contends that per such agreement the bills considered on the floor today do ''not intend to authorize any elements of the Department that are funded through the National Intelligence Program (NIP). . . . but may include Department-wide provisions that could affect Department elements that happen to receive funding through the NIP.''

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of these bills on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my friend's bill, H.R. 2453, the DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, 16 years ago, Americans were jarred by the spectacle of the mighty Twin Towers collapsing and fires at the Pentagon and in a Pennsylvania field. The perpetrators of the attacks sought to bring the United States to its knees. While, without question, a deep wound that may never fully heal was inflicted on the heart of this Nation on that day, we remain strong and resolute.

We emerged from that devastating experience more determined and with lessons learned about the need for better information sharing, interoperability, and coordination.

One major reform was the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security as a multimission agency, which today has 240,000 men and women serving in a range of capacities at our land, air, and seaports, as well as in the field, working to protect critical infrastructure from cyber and other attacks.

The DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act seeks to provide DHS employees with the opportunity to do a rotational assignment within the DHS' Intelligence and Analysis division.

By establishing this program, officers and analysts across the DHS who have a passion for keeping our Nation secure would be provided the opportunity to develop or broaden their intelligence and counterterrorism skills. Organizations with such programs find that they yield benefits far beyond what the individuals who participate learn.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2453 was overwhelmingly approved by the Committee on Homeland Security. The rotational program that it authorizes has the potential to not only provide some dedicated DHS employees a boost in morale and fresh perspective on the mission, but also to enrich DHS' contributions to the intelligence enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, as such, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2453, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for her hard work, and I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2453, to bolster the Department of Homeland Security's Intelligence Analyst Program and, thereby, strengthen the DHS intelligence enterprise.

Additionally, I want to thank Chairman NUNES and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for working with the Committee on Homeland Security to bring my bill, as well as H.R. 2468, offered by Representative PERRY, and H.R. 2470, offered by Representative ROGERS, to the floor.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following exchange of letters:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I understand H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470 are slated for consideration on the suspension calendar next week. All three bills amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security by requiring the Secretary, acting through the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department, to perform specific intelligence-related functions. All three

bills are virtually identical to specific provisions contained in H.R. 2825, the House-passed ''Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017'' for which I wrote to you about on June 27, 2017. Accordingly, since H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470 implicate National Intelligence Program (NIP)-funded activities, I expect that they would be sequentially referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (the Committee).

As discussed in previous correspondence regarding H.R. 2825, we signed a Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security and exchanged letters on January 11, 2017 (January 2017 Exchange of Letter), to clarify the Committee's exclusive jurisdiction over NIP-funded elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The January 2017 Exchange of Letters affirmed that, consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) is the vehicle that through which Congress authorizes annual appropriations for the NIP, including NIP-funded elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Moreover, those letters made explicit that the Committee on Homeland Security would not report to the House any bill that authorizes any elements of DHS funded through the NIP, and that if any such bill is reported by the Committee on Homeland Security, this Committee will request a sequential referral of the bill.

In order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470, the Committee will forego consideration of all three measures. This courtesy, is however, conditioned on our mutual understanding and agreement that it will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in these bills or any similar measure. It is also conditioned on the Committee on Homeland Security's adherence to the agreement embodied in the January 2017 Exchange of Letters.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would request that you include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of all three bills, a copy of this letter, your response, and the January 2017 Exchange of Letters, including the Memorandum. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Best Regards,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2017.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NUNES: Thank you for your letter supporting the Committee on Homeland Security's plans to conduct a comprehensive reauthorization of the Department of Homeland Security (''the Department'') in the 115th Congress, as expressed in the 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security.''

I appreciate your willingness to help ensure the Department is fully authorized, and recognize that there may be areas of jurisdictional interest to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (''Intelligence Committee'') in such an authorization. Rule X(j)(3) of the House of Representatives grants the Committee on Homeland Security jurisdiction over the ''functions of the Department of Homeland Security,'' including those functions related to the ''integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information,'' while Rule X(11)(b)(1) grants the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence jurisdiction over ''proposed legislation . . . relating to . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act'' and ''[a]uthorizations for appropriations, both direct and indirect, for . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act;''

The Committee on Homeland Security does not intend to authorize any elements of the Department that are funded through the National Intelligence Program (''NIP'') as part of the Department authorization bill it reports to the House this Congress, although we both agree that the reported bill may include Department-wide provisions that could affect Department elements that happen to receive funding through the NIP. Accordingly, I will oppose as nongermaine any amendments which may be offered in my committee's markup related to the NIP-funded elements of the Department. I further agree to consult you before taking any action on similar amendments which may be offered during consideration of the bill by the full House.

In the interest of ensuring the most robust Department authorization possible, we further agree that you may offer an amendment during consideration of the bill in the full House. That amendment will contain the text of any legislative provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS previously reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. If the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has not reported any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS, you will not offer an amendment. Understanding, however, that both of our committees have a jurisdictional interest in the Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, we agree to work together to ensure that the Office receives the most effective congressional guidance.

Finally, I reiterate my intention that nothing included in the 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security'' alters the jurisdiction of either the Committee on Homeland Security or the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The Committee on Homeland Security appreciates the past success we have enjoyed working with the Intelligence Committee. I am grateful for your support and look forward to continuing to work together toward our mutual goal of ensuring that the Department and its components are authorized on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: In accordance with paragraph 10 of the January 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security,'' I write to confirm our mutual understanding of the procedure through which the House will authorize the elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funded through the National Intelligence Program (NIP).

I appreciate your dedication to producing a comprehensive reauthorization of DHS that will improve congressional oversight of the Department. As you know, Rule X(11)(b)(1) of the House of Representatives grants the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence sole jurisdiction over ''proposed legislation . . . relating to . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act'' and ''[a]uthorizations for appropriations, both direct and indirect, for . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act;'' and Rule X (j)(3) of the House of Representatives grants the Committee on Homeland Security jurisdiction over the ''functions of the Department of Homeland Security,'' including those functions related to the ''integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information.''

As you also know, the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) is the annual vehicle through which Congress authorizes appropriations for the NIP, including for elements of DHS that receive funding through the NIP. The IAA includes a classified schedule of authorizations, incorporated into the statute by reference, and direction and recommendations in a classified annex to the report of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Nothing in the January 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security,'' shall be construed to grant the Committee on Homeland Security jurisdiction over proposed legislation relating to the NIP or authorizations for appropriations for the NIP.

In keeping with these principles, the Committee on Homeland Security will not report to the House any bill that authorizes any elements of DHS funded through the NIP. If any such bill is reported by the Committee on Homeland Security, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will request a sequential referral of the bill. Understanding, however, that both of our committees have a jurisdictional interest in the Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, we agree to work together to ensure that the Office receives the most effective congressional guidance.

We further agree that if the Committee on Homeland Security reports a DHS-wide authorization bill to the House, I may offer an amendment during consideration of the bill in the full House. That amendment will contain the text of any legislative provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS previously reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. If the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has not reported any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS, I will not offer an amendment, and the DHS-wide authorization bill will not contain any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS. We further agree that you will oppose as nongermanc all amendments related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS in markup in the Committee on Homeland Security. If any amendments related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS are subsequently offered during consideration by the full House, you agree to consult with me before taking action.

Finally, we agree that you will support the appointment of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to any committee of conference on a DHS-wide authorization bill that includes any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS.

In accordance with Rule X(11)(b)(2) this understanding does not preclude either the Committee on Homeland Security or the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence from authorizing other intelligence and intelligence-related activities of DHS, including, but not limited to, the Homeland Security Intelligence Program. In keeping with paragraph 5 of the January 2017 'Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security,'' our committees will work jointly to vet and clear any provisions of a DHS authorization bill

related to these other intelligence and intelligence-related activities of DHS. Furthermore, I hope the staff of our committees can continue to closely and expeditiously to conduct rigorous oversight of intelligence activities throughout DHS.

The understanding detailed by this letter is limited to the 115th Congress, It shall not constitute an understanding between our committees in any subsequent congress.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding. I look forward to working with you to continue congressional oversight of DHS intelligence activities, and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2453.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PATHWAYS TO IMPROVING HOMELAND SECURITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL ACT

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2427) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2427

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 ''Pathways to Improving Homeland Security At the Local Level Act''.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL CATALOG ON DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING, PUBLICATIONS, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES FOR STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

Section 2006(b)(4) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 607(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) produce an annual catalog that summarizes opportunities for training, publications, programs, and services available to State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies from the Department and from each component and office within the Department and, not later than 30 days after the date of such production, disseminate the catalog, including by—

''(i) making such catalog available to State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, including by posting the catalog on the website of the Department and cooperating with national organizations that represent such agencies;

''(ii) making such catalog available through the Homeland Security Information Network; and

''(iii) submitting such catalog to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GALLAGHER. 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 materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act, sponsored by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS), ensures that State and local law enforcement will continue to receive valuable information on DHS resources and programs available to law enforcement.

The bill requires the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog that summarizes opportunities for training, publications, programs, and services available to non-Federal law enforcement agencies from the Department of Homeland Security, and to disseminate the catalog to State and local law enforcement entities within 30 days of production.

This also requires DHS to share the catalog through the Homeland Security Information Network. By requiring the Office to share this catalog through this existing information sharing platform, it will expand the number of State and local law enforcement partners who receive it.

This bill is a commonsense measure focused on increasing transparency on DHS tools and resources available to State and local law enforcement.

I commend the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) for her work on this measure. She is unable to be present today because of Hurricane Irma. Our thoughts and prayers are with her, her district, and the State of Florida as recovery efforts continue.

On behalf of the Committee on Homeland Security, I want to express our appreciation to the Judiciary Committee for working with us to move this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write with respect to H.R. 2427, the ''Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act.'' As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 2427 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 2427 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any (House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2427 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2017.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2427, the ''Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act.'' I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on the Judiciary will forego further consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of this bill at this time, the Judiciary does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2427, Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act.

Sixteen years ago, the terrorist attacks of September 11 brought home the reality that terrorism prevention and preparedness is a shared Federal, State, and local responsibility.

Today, the Department of Homeland Security's training catalog is a primary resource for State and local jurisdictions to find opportunities to enhance their counterterrorism and preparedness capabilities. H.R. 2427 seeks to ensure that, going forward, this vital resource remains available to the first responder community.

Specifically, H.R. 2427 directs DHS' Office for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and distribute an annual catalog of DHS' training, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement.

Further, to ensure that this information is shared throughout the law enforcement community, the Pathways to Improving Homeland Security at the Local Level Act requires this comprehensive catalog be posted on the DHS website, as well as on the Homeland Security Information Network.

My district is home to the Coast Guard, DHS personnel, and officials from the Port of Los Angeles, who all have to work together to prepare and respond to threats. This bill would provide the information they need to work together and get the necessary training.

This measure, which was introduced by my Democratic colleague on the Homeland Security Committee, Representative VAL DEMINGS, highlights the importance of equipping law enforcement with necessary tools so that they can quickly adapt and discover new ways to evolve with the current terrorist threat landscape.

Enactment of this bill will further strengthen the Department's partnership with State and local law enforcement to help protect the homeland.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2427 is an important piece of legislation that has strong support on both sides of the aisle.

Consideration of this measure today is particularly timely, as this week we remember those who sacrificed their lives and ran toward danger during the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil. We owe it to their memory and to the men and women that today stand on the front lines to ensure that they have access to the training and tools they need to keep their communities secure.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2427, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Once again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2427 to ensure that State and local law enforcement continue to receive valuable information on the Department of Homeland Security's services and resources.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 2427, Pathways to Improving Homeland Security At the Local Level Act.

This bipartisan bill would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

The coordination program under the measure would include:

1. Producing an annual catalog that summarizes opportunities for training, publications, programs, and services available to State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies from the Department and from each component and office within the Department;

2. Making such catalog available to State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, including by posting the catalog on the website of the Department and cooperating with national organizations that represent such agencies;

3. Making such catalog available through the Homeland Security Information Network; and

4. Submitting such catalog to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

It is important to ensure our first responders and local law enforcement agencies are trained in homeland security programs, especially in times of natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma.

During relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey and the widespread flooding in Houston, Sgt. Steve Perez of the Houston Police Department drowned after his patrol car got stuck on a flooded road. His death could have been prevented if first responders were given proper materials and training on how to manage crisis situations in rising flood water.

Currently, we fail to provide proper training for catastrophic flood events that would ensure greater safety of both citizens and first responders.

Programs and materials need to be created in order to train our responders in handling wide-spread flooding that simulate dangerous situations that could be encountered in their day-to-day life.

Over the past three years, Houston has experienced record-breaking flooding. If first responders were provided with proper tools and trainings in handling rescues in these conditions, we would see less of loss of life among both citizens and responders.

The most chaotic times for first responders are in response to natural disasters, and it is important to ensure that our nation is protected when we are the most vulnerable.

During Hurricane Harvey and the flooding that followed, if there were to have been a homeland security incident, Texas would have been left susceptible due to the chaos surrounding our first responders.

It is important to equip our first responders with every opportunity for training in homeland security to ensure that in times of natural disaster such as Hurricane Harvey and the flooding across Southeast Texas, they are prepared to handle any situation they may face, with the smallest amount of lives lost as possible.

The bill would produce an annual catalog with training opportunities and other services available to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, which I wish to ensure address catastrophic flood events.

The department's Office for State and Local Law Enforcement would have to publish the catalogs on the DHS website within 30 days of production and distribute them through the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN).

Sharing the catalog on the HSIN would allow the office to reach as many stakeholders as possible.

Through this catalog, local law enforcement agencies would be able to ensure their first responders are aware of training programs over counterterrorism and homeland security.

It is vital to provide these resources to local law enforcement agencies in order to ensure they are aware of opportunities for their first responders, so they are trained to protect the United States and its citizens when it is most vulnerable.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2427.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2427, 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.

HOMELAND THREAT ASSESSMENT ACT

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2470) to require an annual homeland threat assessment, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2470

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 ''Homeland Threat Assessment Act''.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL HOMELAND THREAT ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 210G. HOMELAND THREAT ASSESSMENTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section and for each of the next five fiscal years (beginning in the fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this section) the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, and using departmental information, including component information, and information provided through State and major urban area fusion centers, shall conduct an assessment of the terrorist threat to the homeland.

''(b) CONTENTS.—Each assessment under subsection (a) shall include the following:

''(1) Empirical data assessing terrorist activities and incidents over time in the United States, including terrorist activities and incidents planned or supported by persons outside of the United States targeting the homeland.

''(2) An evaluation of current terrorist tactics, as well as ongoing and possible future changes in terrorist tactics.

''(3) An assessment of criminal activity encountered or observed by officers or employees of components in the field which is suspected of financing terrorist activity.

''(4) Detailed information on all individuals denied entry to or removed from the United States as a result of material support provided to a foreign terrorist organization (as such term is used in section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189)).

''(5) The efficacy and spread of foreign terrorist organization propaganda, messaging, or recruitment.

''(6) An assessment of threats, including cyber threats, to the homeland, including to critical infrastructure and Federal civilian networks.

''(7) An assessment of current and potential terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and organized groups seeking to unlawfully enter the United States.

''(8) An assessment of threats to the transportation sector, including surface and aviation transportation systems.

''(c) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The assessments required under subsection (a)—

''(1) shall, to the extent practicable, utilize existing component data collected from the field; and

''(2) may incorporate relevant information and analysis from other agencies of the Federal Government, agencies of State and local governments (including law enforcement agencies), as well as the private sector, disseminated in accordance with standard information sharing procedures and policies.

''(d) FORM.—The assessments required under subsection (a) shall be shared with the appropriate congressional committees and submitted in classified form, but—

''(1) shall include unclassified summaries; and

''(2) may include unclassified annexes, if appropriate.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d) of section 201 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(27) To carry out section 210G (relating to homeland threat assessments).''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210F the following new item:

''Sec. 210G. Homeland threat assessments.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GALLAGHER. 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 on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in favor of this bill on behalf of Congressman MIKE ROGERS. He is dealing with the aftereffects of Hurricane Irma, which is the tropical storm affecting his district.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2470 received bipartisan support during consideration by the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence in May, and was included in the Department of Homeland Security authorization bill, which passed the floor in July.

H.R. 2470 requires the Department of Homeland Security to release an annual comprehensive homeland security threat assessment. This will provide a common threat picture across the Department and for Federal, State, and local partners.

This week, we are recognizing 16 years after the horrific events of 9/11. Sixteen years later, our ability to accurately identify and evaluate threats to the homeland remains stunted, in many ways.

Though talented professionals across Federal agencies and at the State and local level are hard at work gathering and analyzing threat information, there is still not a formalized process that evaluates homeland threats in a meaningful and comprehensive way.

The assessment in this bill requires DHS to incorporate and analyze Departmental data in a strategic picture. By relying on information provided by the on-the-ground professionals, including State and local police and the Department's operational component, this threat assessment will be a unique contribution to the intelligence community, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

By requiring the Department to consider specific cyber, transportation, and border security threats, in addition to traditional terrorism threats, H.R. 2470 ensures that DHS will focus on critical mission areas where it can provide real value.

Additionally, the threat assessment required by H.R. 2470 can inform the Department's budgeting and planning by clarifying the nature and scale of the threats DHS was created to counter.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 2470, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2470, the Homeland Threat Assessment Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, since the attacks of September 11, 2001, which claimed the lives of over 3,000 innocent people, the terrorist threat has metastasized and is decentralized. That was how then-DHS Secretary John Kelly described it in April. He went on to warn that ''the risk is as threatening today as it was that September morning almost 16 years ago.''

Whereas, in 2001, there was a centralized, well-funded terrorist organization planning and carrying out major attacks, today the landscape is a patchwork of small cells and lone wolves eager to embrace violence in furtherance of their terrorist ideology.

Today, we consider H.R. 2470 a bill that requires DHS to conduct an assessment of the terrorist threat to the homeland on an annual basis. The factors to be considered include: data on terrorist incidents and activity in the U.S.; current and potential future terrorist tactics; cyber threats, particularly those to critical infrastructure and Federal IT networks; threats to surface and aviation transportation; and the efficacy of foreign terrorist propaganda.

In my district, these threats are an everyday reality for the Port of Los Angeles, which has the largest container volume in the country and faces threats to their shipping, cybersecurity, and infrastructure. This bill will help DHS assess those threats and provide the right response after an incident.

We learned from the September 11 attacks about the importance of recognizing and analyzing the ever-evolving terrorist threat landscape. This annual assessment will ensure that DHS comprehensively examines all forms of terrorism and extremism that could damage the homeland today so that, as a nation, we can be vigilant.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to again express my support for this bill and highlight a particular provision that seeks to strengthen interagency collaboration on examining the threat.

The provision requires DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis to continue working with fusion centers, which are the focal points for sharing threat-related information between Federal, State, local, and private sector partners.

DHS must continue to address and improve the Nation's fusion centers' capabilities in gathering, analyzing, and sharing threat-related information between partners on every level.

I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) for sponsoring this legislation.

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

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2470, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following exchange of letters:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, September 8, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,

Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I understand H R. 2453, 2468, and 2470 are slated for consideration on the suspension calendar next week. All three bills amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security by requiring the Secretary, acting through the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department, to perform specific intelligence-related functions. All three bills are virtually identical to specific provisions contained in H.R. 2825, the House-passed ''Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017'' for which I wrote to you about on June 27, 2017. Accordingly,

since H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470 implicate National Intelligence Program (NIP)-funded activities, I expect that they would be sequentially referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (the Committee).

As discussed in previous correspondence regarding H.R. 2825, we signed a Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security and exchanged letters on January 11, 2017 (January 2017 Exchange of Letter), to clarify the Committee's exclusive jurisdiction over NIP-funded elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The January 2017 Exchange of Letters affirmed that, consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) is the vehicle that through which Congress authorizes annual appropriations for the NIP, including NIP-funded elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Moreover, those letters made explicit that the Committee on Homeland Security would not report to the House any bill that authorizes any elements of DHS funded through the NIP, and that if any such bill is reported by the Committee on Homeland Security, this Committee will request a sequential referral of the bill.

In order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470, the Committee will forego consideration of all three measures. This courtesy, is however, conditioned on our mutual understanding and agreement that it will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in these bills or any similar measure. It is also conditioned on the Committee on Homeland Security's adherence to the agreement embodied in the January 2017 Exchange of Letters.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would request that you include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of all three bills, a copy of this letter, your response, and the January 2017 Exchange of Letters, including the Memorandum. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter,

Best Regards,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2017.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NUNES: Thank you for your letter supporting the Committee on Homeland Security's plans to conduct a comprehensive reauthorization of the Department of Homeland Security (''the Department'') in the 115th Congress, as expressed in the 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security.''

I appreciate your willingness to help ensure the Department is fully authorized, and recognize that there may be areas of jurisdictional interest to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (''Intelligence Committee'') in such an authorization. Rule X(j)(3) of the House of Representatives grants the Committee on Homeland Security jurisdiction over the ''functions of the Department of Homeland Security,'' including those functions related to the ''integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information,'' while Rule X(11)(b)(1) grants the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence jurisdiction over ''proposed legislation . . . relating to . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act'' and ''[a]uthorizations for appropriations, both direct and indirect, for . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act;''

The Committee on Homeland Security does not intend to authorize any elements of the Department that are funded through the National Intelligence Program (''NIP'') as part of the Department authorization bill it reports to the House this Congress, although we both agree that the reported bill may include Department-wide provisions that could affect Department elements that happen to receive funding through the NIP. Accordingly, I will oppose as nongermaine any amendments which may be offered in my committee's markup related to the NIP-funded elements of the Department. I further agree to consult you before taking any action on similar amendments which may be offered during consideration of the bill by the full House.

In the interest of ensuring the most robust Department authorization possible, we further agree that you may offer an amendment during consideration of the bill in the full House. That amendment will contain the text of any legislative provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS previously reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. If the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has not reported any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS, you will not offer an amendment. Understanding, however, that both of our committees have a jurisdictional interest in the Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, we agree to work together to ensure that the Office receives the most effective congressional guidance.

Finally, I reiterate my intention that nothing included in the 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security'' alters the jurisdiction of either the Committee on Homeland Security or the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The Committee on Homeland Security appreciates the past success we have enjoyed working with the Intelligence Committee. I am grateful for your support and look forward to continuing to work together toward our mutual goal of ensuring that the Department and its components are authorized on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I understand H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470 are slated for consideration on the suspension calendar next week. All three bills amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security by requiring the Secretary, acting through the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department, to perform specific intelligence-related functions. All three bills are virtually identical to specific provisions contained in H.R. 2825, the House-passed ''Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017'' for which I wrote to you about on June 27, 2017. Accordingly, since H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470 implicate National Intelligence Program (NIP)-funded activities, I expect that they would be sequentially referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (the Committee).

As discussed in previous correspondence regarding H.R. 2825, we signed a Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security and exchanged letters on January 11, 2017 (January 2017 Exchange of Letter), to clarify the Committee's exclusive jurisdiction over NIP-funded elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The January 2017 Exchange of Letters affirmed that, consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) is the vehicle that through which Congress authorizes annual appropriations for the NIP, including NIP-funded elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Moreover, those letters made explicit that the Committee on Homeland Security would not report to the House any bill that authorizes any elements of DHS funded through the NIP, and that if any such bill is reported by the Committee on Homeland Security, this Committee will request a sequential referral of the bill.

In order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 2453, 2468, and 2470, the Committee will forego consideration of all three measures. This courtesy, is however, conditioned on our mutual understanding and agreement that it will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in these bills or any similar measure. It is also conditioned on the Committee on Homeland Security's adherence to the agreement embodied in the January 2017 Exchange of Letters.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would request that you include in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of all three bills, a copy of this letter, your response, and the January 2017 Exchange of Letters, including the Memorandum. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Best Regards,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2017.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NUNES: Thank you for your letter supporting the Committee on Homeland Security's plans to conduct a comprehensive reauthorization of the Department of Homeland Security (''the Department'') in the 115th Congress, as expressed in the 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security.''

I appreciate your willingness to help ensure the Department is fully authorized, and recognize that there may be areas of jurisdictional interest to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (''Intelligence Committee'') in such an authorization. Rule X(j)(3) of the House of Representatives grants the Committee on Homeland Security jurisdiction over the ''functions of the Department of Homeland Security,'' including those functions related to the ''integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information,'' while Rule X(11)(b)(1) grants the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence jurisdiction over ''proposed legislation . . . relating to . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act'' and ''[a]uthorizations for appropriations, both direct and indirect, for . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act;''

The Committee on Homeland Security does not intend to authorize any elements of the Department that are funded through the National Intelligence Program (''NIP'') as part of the Department authorization bill it reports to the House this Congress, although

we both agree that the reported bill may include Department-wide provisions that could affect Department elements that happen to receive funding through the NIP. Accordingly, I will oppose as nongermane any amendments which may be offered in my committee's markup related to the NIP-funded elements of the Department. I further agree to consult you before taking any action on similar amendments which may be offered during consideration of the bill by the full House.

In the interest of ensuring the most robust Department authorization possible, we further agree that you may offer an amendment during consideration of the bill in the full House. That amendment will contain the text of any legislative provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS previously reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. If the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has not reported any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS, you will not offer an amendment, Understanding, however, that both of our committees have a jurisdictional interest in the Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, we agree to work together to ensure that the Office receives the most effective congressional guidance.

Finally, I reiterate my intention that nothing included in the 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security'' alters the jurisdiction of either the Committee on Homeland Security or the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The Committee on Homeland Security appreciates the past success we have enjoyed working with the Intelligence Committee. I am grateful for your support and look forward to continuing to work together toward our mutual goal of ensuring that the Department and its components are authorized on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: In accordance with paragraph 10 of the January 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security,'' I write to confirm our mutual understanding of the procedure through which the House will authorize the elements of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funded through the National Intelligence Program (NIP).

I appreciate your dedication to producing a comprehensive reauthorization of DHS that will improve congressional oversight of the Department. As you know, Rule X(11)(b)(1) of the House of Representatives grants the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence sole jurisdiction over ''proposed legislation . . . relating to . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act'' and [a]uthorizations for appropriations, both direct and indirect, for . . . the National Intelligence Program as defined in Section 3(6) of the National Security Act;'' and Rule X(j)(3) of the House of Representatives grants the Committee on Homeland Security jurisdiction over the ''functions of the Department of Homeland Security,'' including those functions related to the ''integration, analysis, and dissemination of homeland security information.''

As you also know, the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) is the annual vehicle through which Congress authorizes appropriations for the NIP, including for elements of DHS that receive funding through the NIP. The IAA includes a classified schedule of authorizations, incorporated into the statute by reference, and direction and recommendations in a classified annex to the report of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Nothing in the January 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security,'' shall be construed to grant the Committee on Homeland Security jurisdiction over proposed legislation relating to the NIP or authorizations for appropriations for the NIP.

In keeping with these principles, the Committee on Homeland Security will not report to the House any bill that authorizes any elements of DHS funded through the NIP. If any such bill is reported by the Committee on Homeland Security, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will request a sequential referral of the bill. Understanding, however, that both of our committees have a jurisdictional interest in the Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, we agree to work together to ensure that the Office receives the most effective congressional guidance.

We further agree that if the Committee on Homeland Security reports a DHS-wide authorization bill to the House, I may offer an amendment during consideration of the bill in the full House. That amendment will contain the text of any legislative provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS previously reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. If the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has not reported any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS, I will not offer an amendment, and the DHS-wide authorization bill will not contain any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS. We further agree that you will oppose as nongermane all amendments related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS in markup in the Committee on Homeland Security. If any amendments related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS are subsequently offered during consideration by the full House, you agree to consult with me before taking action.

Finally, we agree that you will support the appointment of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to any committee of conference on a DHS-wide authorization bill that includes any provisions related to the NIP-funded elements of DHS.

In accordance with Rule X(11)(b)(2) this understanding does not preclude either the Committee on Homeland Security or the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence from authorizing other intelligence and intelligence-related activities of DHS, including, but not limited to, the Homeland Security Intelligence Program. In keeping with paragraph 5 of the January 2017 ''Memorandum Regarding Authorization of the Department of Homeland Security,'' our committees will work jointly to vet and clear any provisions of a DHS authorization bill related to these other intelligence and intelligence-related activities of DHS. Furthermore, I hope the staff of our committees can continue to closely and expeditiously to conduct rigorous oversight of intelligence activities throughout DHS.

The understanding detailed by this letter is limited to the 115th Congress. It shall not constitute an understanding between our committees in any subsequent congress.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding. I look forward to working with you to continue congressional oversight of DHS intelligence activities, and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 2470, Homeland Threat Assessment Act.

This bipartisan bill the Homeland Security Department (DHS) would conduct annual terrorist threat assessments for the next five years using information from DHS offices and fusion centers.

The assessment under this measure would include:

1. Empirical data assessing terrorist activities and incidents over time in the United States, including terrorist activities and incidents planned or supported by persons outside of the United States targeting the homeland;

2. An evaluation of current terrorist tactics, as well as ongoing and possible future changes in terrorist tactics;

3. An assessment of criminal activity encountered or observed by officers or employees of components in the field which is suspected of financing terrorist activity; and

4. Detailed information on all individuals denied entry to or removed from the United States as a result of material support provided to a foreign terrorist organization (as such term is used in section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189));

5. The efficacy and spread of foreign terrorist organization propaganda, messaging, or recruitment;

6. An assessment of threats, including cyber threats, to the homeland, including to critical infrastructure and Federal civilian networks;

7. An assessment of current and potential terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and organized groups seeking to unlawfully enter the United States; and

8. An assessment of threats to the transportation sector, including surface and aviation transportation systems.

During natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, the United States is vulnerable to terror attacks due to the lack of first responders available.

It is important to ensure our first responders and local law enforcement agencies are aware of the terror threats that would be reported in each assessment in order to provide continued support, especially during vulnerable situations such as Hurricane Harvey and the Southeast Texas floods.

The most chaotic times for first responders are in response to natural disasters and it is important to ensure that our nation is protected when we are the most susceptible.

During Hurricane Harvey and the flooding that followed, if there had been a homeland security incident, Texas would have been left vulnerable due to the chaos surrounding our first responders.

It is important to equip our first responders and local law enforcement agencies with these assessments in order to offer greater protection and heightened security during vulnerable situations such as natural disasters.

Additionally the assessment may incorporate relevant information and analysis from other agencies of the Federal Government, agencies of State and local governments (including law enforcement agencies), as well as

the private sector, disseminated in accordance with standard information sharing procedures and policies.

Fusion centers were established administratively after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to serve as focal points at the state and local levels to receive, analyze, and share threat-related information with the federal government and the private sector.

The assessments would have to utilize data collected from the field and could incorporate relevant information from other government agencies and the private sector.

During recovery efforts for incidents such as Hurricane Harvey, having terrorist threat assessments would be valuable in keeping vulnerable citizens secure.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2470.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2470.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1245

UNIFYING DHS INTELLIGENCE ENTERPRISE ACT

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2468) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a homeland intelligence doctrine for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2468

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 ''Unifying DHS Intelligence Enterprise Act''.

SEC. 2. HOMELAND INTELLIGENCE DOCTRINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 210G. HOMELAND INTELLIGENCE DOCTRINE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department, in coordination with intelligence components of the Department, the Office of the General Counsel, the Privacy Office, and the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, shall develop and disseminate written Department-wide guidance for the processing, analysis, production, and dissemination of homeland security information (as such term is defined in section 892) and terrorism information (as such term is defined in section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 485)).

''(b) CONTENTS.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

''(1) A description of guiding principles and purposes of the Department's intelligence enterprise.

''(2) A summary of the roles and responsibilities of each intelligence component of the Department and programs of the intelligence components of the Department in the processing, analysis, production, or dissemination of homeland security information and terrorism information, including relevant authorities and restrictions applicable to each intelligence component of the Department and programs of each such intelligence component.

''(3) Guidance for the processing, analysis, and production of such information.

''(4) Guidance for the dissemination of such information, including within the Department, among and between Federal departments and agencies, among and between State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, including law enforcement, and with foreign partners and the private sector.

''(5) An assessment and description of how the dissemination to the intelligence community (as such term is defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))) and Federal law enforcement of homeland security information and terrorism information assists such entities in carrying out their respective missions.

''(c) FORM.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(d) ANNUAL REVIEW.—For each of the five fiscal years beginning with the fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall conduct a review of the guidance required under subsection (a) and, as appropriate, revise such guidance.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210F the following new item:

''Sec. 210G. Homeland intelligence doctrine.''.

SEC. 3. ANALYSTS FOR THE CHIEF INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.

Paragraph (1) of section 201(e) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''The Secretary shall also provide the Chief Intelligence Officer with a staff having appropriate expertise and experience to assist the Chief Intelligence Officer.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which 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 Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, 16 years ago, an unprecedented attack against the United States revealed immense gaps in how the United States approached domestic security and information sharing. As a result, the Department of Homeland Security was established to consolidate 22 existing Federal agencies and reshape the domestic intelligence and counterterrorism structure in the United States.

Over the years, DHS has matured and refined its Intelligence Enterprise, or what we know as DHS IE. Even now, however, the Department has struggled to fully unify the various intelligence offices within the component agencies. This has limited the value DHS provides to the intelligence community and its State and local partners. Disparate guidance for the intelligence components within DHS undermines the Department's ability to fully utilize important data and conduct analysis.

DHS needs to follow the model of many other members of the intelligence community and produce an intelligence doctrine that clearly articulates roles and priorities across the DHS Intelligence Enterprise. The lack of this internal structure reflects a painful legacy from the pre-9/11 era in which bureaucracies operated as silos and were poorly coordinated.

H.R. 2468 empowers DHS to address this continued failure. By requiring the Department to produce guidance to all its components on the processing, analysis, production, and dissemination of information and intelligence, this bill helps to professionalize the DHS Intelligence Enterprise. Such a doctrine will guide how operational information from across DHS is incorporated into a wider strategic Homeland Security picture. This will increase the use of Department-specific information in its analytic products and processes.

H.R. 2468 also takes another step in strengthening the Department's Intelligence Enterprise by formalizing the Department's existing support for the DHS Chief Intelligence Officer, or the CINT. Though the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, or the I&A, serves as the Department's Chief Intelligence Officer, these two roles carry different statutory authorities and distinct missions.

Therefore, Congress should support both functions by authorizing staff support for the CINT. H.R. 2468 does not authorize new hiring but, rather, reauthorizes the Department's existing staff assignment and, most importantly, makes those assignments permanent.

It is now time to hold the Department accountable for developing a common foundation among members of the Department's Intelligence Enterprise. By requiring DHS to produce these guidelines and by ensuring the Department's leadership is properly and reliably supported, H.R. 2468 helps us to work to fulfill the promises made to the American people 16 years ago: Never again.

I am very pleased the text of H.R. 2468 was included in the larger DHS authorization bill, which passed this very House in July. I urge my colleagues to support the standalone measure to improve the quality of DHS' analytical

products and help the Department better serve the intelligence community and its State and local partners.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2468, the Unifying DHS Intelligence Enterprise Act of 2017, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this measure seeks to help safeguard our Nation's homeland security information. Specifically, it requires the Department of Homeland Security to develop and distribute Departmentwide guidance on the proper procedures for handling and sharing information related to homeland security and terrorism.

The 9/11 Commission Report found that the U.S. Government did not fully share or pool intelligence information prior to the attacks. In response, policies and procedures were reformed at all levels to ensure that critical national security information is properly shared.

Intelligence sharing is critical to terrorism prevention, but it must be carried out in a manner that ensures that sensitive information is properly handled and distributed. H.R. 2468 seeks to do just that.

The bill requires the establishment of rules and regulations for the dissemination of such information both within DHS and with homeland security stakeholders at the State and local levels as well as in the private sector.

I urge my House colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2468 has strong support on both sides of the aisle. Effective security measures to improve our intelligence systems and mechanisms are critical to the mission of protecting the homeland.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for his work on this important legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2468, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2468, 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.

HOMELAND SECURITY ASSESSMENT OF TERRORISTS USE OF VIRTUAL CURRENCIES ACT

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2433) to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2433

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 ''Homeland Security Assessment of Terrorists Use of Virtual Currencies Act''.

SEC. 2. THREAT ASSESSMENT ON TERRORIST USE OF VIRTUAL CURRENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis, as authorized by section 201(b)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121), shall, in coordination with appropriate Federal partners, develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding the actual and potential threat posed by individuals using virtual currency to carry out activities in furtherance of an act of terrorism, including the provision of material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization. Consistent with the protection of classified and confidential unclassified information, the Under Secretary shall share the threat assessment developed under this section with State, local, and tribal law enforcement officials, including officials that operate within State, local, and regional fusion centers through the Department of Homeland Security State, Local, and Regional Fusion Center Initiative established in section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''foreign terrorist organization'' means an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(2) The term ''virtual currency'' means a digital representation of value that functions as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, or a store of value.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Homeland Security Assessment of Terrorists Use of Virtual Currencies Act introduced by the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) is an important measure targeting new ways terrorists may be raising or transferring funds through the use of virtual currencies.

The bill directs the DHS Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, in coordination with Federal partners, to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding the actual and potential threat posed by individuals using virtual currency to carry out activities in furtherance of an act of terrorism, including the provision of material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization. It also directs the Under Secretary to share this threat assessment with State, local, and Tribal law enforcement officials through the National Network of Fusion Centers.

As the threat of terrorism evolves, so do the methods to finance and support the actors who plot to attack the United States. The Federal Government must evolve as well to meet these novel and technologically-based challenges. This bill positions the Department to detect the new digital-based methods in terrorist financing and support methods that have already been utilized and to prepare for those that are soon to follow.

This measure was considered by the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence and included in the Committee on Homeland Security's DHS authorization bill, which passed this very House in July.

I want to take time to thank the gentlewoman for her work and for her diligence on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support her bill.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 2433, the Homeland Security Assessment of Terrorists Use of Virtual Currencies Act.

Yesterday marked 16 years since the September 11 attacks when 19 terrorists hijacked four passenger planes, two of which struck the World Trade Center towers in my home State of New York.

In the 16 years since the deadliest terrorist attack in American history, the United States has led the global campaign to combat terrorism, thwarting plots and preventing attacks on American soil, identifying and disrupting terrorist networks around the world, hunting down terrorists wherever they hide, and proving that they can and will be brought to justice.

We know that the threat of terrorism is not the same as it was 16 years ago. It is a threat that constantly evolves, and we need to evolve ahead of it. That is why I introduced H.R. 2433.

In recent years, we have seen instances in which members of some terrorist groups have turned to virtual currencies to support themselves and fund their operations. Last year, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies investigated a terrorist funding campaign in which a terrorist group in the Gaza Strip received donations to the virtual currency bitcoin. Earlier this year, Indonesian authorities reported that a Syria-based Indonesian with ties

to ISIL used virtual currency to fund attacks in Indonesia.

Virtual currencies offer high-speed and low-cost networks and access to users all over the world, which creates significant potential appeal to terrorists, particularly lone-wolf attackers because of the nominal cost often associated with carrying out that type of attack.

Research suggests that terrorists' use of virtual currencies have so far been limited to a handful of instances, two of which I have mentioned. But with groups like ISIL becoming more technologically sophisticated and virtual currencies becoming more widely accessible, the table is set for this threat to grow significantly in a very short time. That is why it is critical that we act now to assess and understand this emerging threat.

My bill requires DHS' Office of Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment of the use of virtual currencies to support terrorist activities. Further, to ensure that this information is shared throughout the law enforcement community, my bill requires the assessment to be shared with State, local, and Tribal law enforcement, including those offices that operate within State, local, and regional fusion centers.

Enacting this bill will give counterterrorism and law enforcement officials at all levels the information they need to evolve ahead of this threat and help keep Americans safe. I urge my House colleagues to support my bill.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, my friend from New York has done an excellent job in outlining, explaining, and articulating her legislation; therefore, I have no other speakers. If the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), has no other speakers, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2433 is an important piece of legislation that received overwhelming bipartisan support in the Committee on Homeland Security. Enactment of H.R. 2433 will ensure that the Department of Homeland Security closely monitors this evolving threat so that we are prepared to prevent terrorists from using virtual currencies to finance attacks on the U.S. and around the world. I encourage my colleagues to support my legislation, H.R. 2433.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support a good, well thought-out, meaningful, and useful bill, H.R. 2433.

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2433.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DATA FRAMEWORK ACT OF 2017

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2454) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a data framework to provide access for appropriate personnel to law enforcement and other information of the Department, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2454

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 ''Department of Homeland Security Data Framework Act of 2017''.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY DATA FRAMEWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall develop a data framework to integrate existing Department of Homeland Security datasets and systems, as appropriate, for access by authorized personnel in a manner consistent with relevant legal authorities and privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties policies and protections. In developing such framework, the Secretary shall ensure, in accordance with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, the following information is included:

(1) All information acquired, held, or obtained by an office or component of the Department that falls within the scope of the information sharing environment, including homeland security information, terrorism information, weapons of mass destruction information, and national intelligence.

(2) Any information or intelligence relevant to priority mission needs and capability requirements of the homeland security enterprise, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(b) DATA FRAMEWORK ACCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the data framework required under this section is accessible to employees of the Department of Homeland Security who the Secretary determines—

(A) have an appropriate security clearance;

(B) are assigned to perform a function that requires access to information in such framework; and

(C) are trained in applicable standards for safeguarding and using such information.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(A) issue guidance for Department of Homeland Security employees authorized to access and contribute to the data framework pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) ensure that such guidance enforces a duty to share between offices and components of the Department when accessing or contributing to such framework for mission needs.

(3) EFFICIENCY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall promulgate data standards and instruct components of the Department of Homeland Security to make available information through the data framework under this section in a machine-readable format, to the greatest extent practicable.

(c) EXCLUSION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may exclude from the data framework information that the Secretary determines access to or the confirmation of the existence of could—

(1) jeopardize the protection of sources, methods, or activities;

(2) compromise a criminal or national security investigation;

(3) be inconsistent with the other Federal laws or regulations; or

(4) be duplicative or not serve an operational purpose if included in such framework.

(d) SAFEGUARDS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall incorporate into the data framework systems capabilities for auditing and ensuring the security of information included in such framework. Such capabilities shall include the following:

(1) Mechanisms for identifying insider threats.

(2) Mechanisms for identifying security risks.

(3) Safeguards for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

(e) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure the data framework required under this section has the ability to include appropriate information in existence within the Department of Homeland Security to meet its critical mission operations.

(f) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—

(1) OPERATIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the data framework required under this section is fully operational, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide notice to the appropriate congressional committees of such.

(2) REGULAR STATUS.—The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees regular updates on the status of the data framework required under this section, including, when applicable, the use of such data framework to support classified operations.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' has the meaning given the term ''appropriate congressional committee'' in section 2(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101(2)).

(2) NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term ''national intelligence'' has the meaning given such term in section 3(5) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(5)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1300

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Sixteen years after the 9/11 attacks by al-Qaida terrorists on our homeland,

most Americans would be dismayed that information-sharing stovepipes still exist.

While information sharing since that fateful day has improved dramatically, we still have work to do at the Department of Homeland Security. When the DHS was created, 22 component agencies were brought together with different missions, databases, and legal authorities.

The DHS personnel have to deal with a costly, cumbersome process to search and vet information against a large number of databases, using different logins, passwords, and legal restrictions.

The DHS data framework was designed to bring together these vital DHS datasets, including travel and cargo information, investigative data, and critical infrastructure data, among others.

The other important element of the framework is the replication of the platform on a classified network to allow classified analysis and vetting of law enforcement data against intelligence information.

Given the importance of the Data Framework Initiative, the need to weigh security versus civil liberties, as well as the Federal Government's history of delays and cost overruns on IT projects, it is critical that this program receive congressional oversight.

This bill provides the first authorization for the data framework, mandates privacy and security safeguards, as well as training for Department personnel with access to the system.

In addition to the personnel training and privacy safeguards, this bill also requires the Secretary to ensure information in the framework is both protected and audible.

I was pleased that the Committee on Homeland Security included this bill in the DHS authorization bill, which passed the floor in July, and I urge my colleagues to again support this measure.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2454, the Department of Homeland Security Data Framework Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security Data Framework Act directs the DHS to consolidate existing intelligence databases and systems at the Department in order to establish a data framework.

Specifically, H.R. 2454 requires the DHS to ensure that the data framework is accessible to DHS employees who the Secretary determines have an appropriate security clearance, have responsibilities that require access to framework information, and are trained in applicable standards for safeguarding and using such information.

By strengthening the DHS data framework, authorized personnel from each of the components and offices at the Department will have easier access to the data that they need in a timely manner.

Additionally, the DHS Security Data Framework Act of 2017 allows the DHS Secretary to incorporate into the data framework systems capabilities for auditing and ensuring the security of information within the framework. Such capabilities include mechanisms for identifying insider threats and security risks, and safeguards for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.

The anniversary of 9/11 is a time for reflection and remembrance, and also a time to enhance our defenses. We cannot allow weak data infrastructure to leave the homeland vulnerable to attacks, and I thank my good friend and colleague from Texas, Mr. HURD, for introducing this commonsense legislation, and I urge my House colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this is an important bill that has strong support on both sides of the aisle. It maintains effective security measures while consolidating systems, creating a more feasible way for the men and women at the DHS to access the data that they need to fulfill their critical mission.

I thank Mr. HURD for his diligence on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2454, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York (Miss RICE), for her work on these initiatives. And I thank Chairman MCCAUL and the ranking member for the bipartisan way in which we focus on these important issues of homeland security.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2454, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2454—Department of Homeland Security Data Framework Act of 2017, which is the first authorization bill for the Department of Homeland Security since its creation.

I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for working diligently to bring this suspension bill before the House of Representatives.

H.R. 2454 directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to:

develop a data framework to integrate existing DHS datasets and systems for access by authorized personnel in a manner consistent with relevant legal authorities and privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties policies and protections;

ensure that all information of a DHS office or component that falls within the scope of the information sharing environment, and any information or intelligence relevant to priority mission needs and capability requirements of the homeland security enterprise, is included; and

ensure that the framework is accessible to DHS employees who have an appropriate security clearance, who are assigned to perform a function that requires access, and who are trained in applicable standards for safeguarding and using such information.

The bill excludes information that could:

jeopardize the protection of sources, methods, or activities;

compromise a criminal or national security investigation;

be inconsistent with the other federal laws or regulations; or

be duplicative or not serve an operational purpose.

DHS shall incorporate into such framework systems capabilities for auditing and ensuring the security of information.

Few can image how complex the federal government response to a Hurricane can be.

For example the need for information sharing is crucial to effect disaster response prior to, during and after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

U.S. cooperation with the European Commission, facilitated by the Department of State, allowed for rapid activation of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS) over the Texas and Louisiana coasts affected by Category-4 Hurricane Harvey, the largest recorded rainstorms ever to hit the contiguous United States.

This service has provided local, state, and federal disaster managers with free, real-time, all-weather radar satellite images of the affected areas; we are grateful to our European partners, including the European Space Agency and the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, for their assistance during this challenging time.

Since August 25, Europe's Copernicus EMS, at no cost to the United States, has generated up-to-date, satellite-based maps of the flood extent.

In combination with U.S. satellite data, these maps are critical tools for relief operations by U.S. federal, state, and local disaster responders.

First responders were in critical need of accurate information on persons who were trapped by Hurricane Harvey flood waters.

The statistics are staggering.

21 trillion gallons of rainfall fell in Texas and Louisiana in the first five days of the storm.

The estimated maximum sustained winds exceeded 130 miles per hour as the hurricane made landfall near Rockport, Texas on August 25.

A record 4,323 days, which is nearly 12 years, elapsed since a major hurricane (Category 3 or above) made landfall in the United States prior to Hurricane Harvey; the last Category 3 hurricane to hit the United States was Hurricane Wilma in 2005, the same year Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of New Orleans.

The city of Cedar Bayou received 51.88 inches of rainfall, breaking the record for rainfall from a single storm in the continental United States; my city of Houston received more than 50 inches of rainfall.

More than 13,000 people have been rescued in the Houston area and more than 30,000 persons are expected to be forced out of their homes due to the storm.

More than 8,800 federal personnel were staff deployed to help respond to Hurricane Harvey, supplying approximately 2.9 million meals, 2.8 million liters of water, 37,000 tarps, and 130 generators.

In the first three days of the storm, more than 49,000 homes had suffered flood damage and more than 1,000 homes were completely destroyed in the storm.

And today, two weeks later, thousands of Texans are still without permanent and stable housing situations.

That is why the additional $7.4 billion in CDBG funding provided in the legislation is desperately needed.

Mr. Speaker, valiant emergency responders in my state worked to exhaustion, with an invaluable assist from citizen volunteers, to rescue their neighbors and save lives.

That is who Texans are and this is what we do.

We do not yet know the full cost in human lives exacted by Hurricane Harvey.

But what we do know is that the costs of recovery and reconstruction will far exceed any natural disaster in memory; best estimates place the cost in the range of $150–$200 billion.

Mr. Speaker, there is much more work to be done in my city of Houston, and across the areas affected by the terrible, awesome storm that will be forever known simply as Hurricane Harvey.

This same resource was put into use for Hurricane Irma to support response to that major storm.

This sharing of important satellite data is provided by the United States-European Commission Cooperation Arrangement on Earth Observation Data Related to the Copernicus Program.

The Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs negotiated the data sharing agreement, which has been in effect since October 2015.

The arrangement reflects a shared U.S.-E.U. vision to pursue full, free, and open data policies for government Earth observation satellites, fostering greater scientific discovery and encouraging innovation in applications and value-added services for the benefit of society at large.

I offer the thanks and appreciation for our nation—its people—especially the residents along the Gulf Coast including the residents of the 18th Congressional District in Houston and the surrounding communities for the support from our Allies in our nation's time of need.

The Suspension before the House will facilitate data sharing among law enforcement agencies in support the mission of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and maintain a unity of effort approach to security our nation from terrorist threats.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2454.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2454, 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.

FEDERAL INFORMATION RESOURCE TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2017

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2442) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2442

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 ''Federal Information Resource to Strengthen Ties with State and Local Law Enforcement Act of 2017'' or the ''FIRST State and Local Law Enforcement Act''.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON OFFICE FOR STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Section 2006(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 607(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph (5):

''(5) ANNUAL REPORT.—For each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022, the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report on the activities of the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement. Each such report shall include, for the fiscal year covered by the report, a description of each of the following:

''(A) Efforts to coordinate and share information regarding Department and component agency programs with State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

''(B) Efforts to improve information sharing through the Homeland Security Information Network by appropriate component agencies of the Department and by State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

''(C) The status of performance metrics within the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to carry out responsibilities set forth within the subsection.

''(D) Any feedback from State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies about the Office, including the mechanisms utilized to collect such feedback.

''(E) Efforts to carry out all other responsibilities of the Office of State and Local Law Enforcement.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2442, the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement Information Sharing Review Act, introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The Office for State and Local Law Enforcement is authorized in section 2006(b) of the Homeland Security Act and is located within the DHS Office of Partnership and Engagement. The office largely serves as a source of information on DHS resources available to State and local law enforcement partners, as well as a point of contact for questions regarding DHS policies and programs.

This bill requires a report on the activities of Office of State and Local Law Enforcement within the Department of Homeland Security. The report must include how the office is working to improve information sharing between DHS and law enforcement agencies, an overview of the performance metrics used by the office to measure success, feedback from State and local stakeholders, and an overview of ongoing activities.

This reporting requirement will ensure the office is continually identifying areas for improvement in the Department's information-sharing efforts with State and locals, and coordinating with relevant DHS component agencies to close these gaps.

I applaud the gentlewoman from Texas for including a sunset on the reporting requirement after 5 years. While the information gathered through this report will be valuable for congressional oversight, it is important that we do not continue to require never-ending reporting requirements from the Department.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, I write with respect to H.R. 2442, the ''Federal Information Resource to Strengthen Ties with State and Local Law Enforcement Act.'' As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 2442 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 2442 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2442 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2017.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2442, the ''Federal Information Resource to Strengthen Ties with State and Local Law Enforcement Act of 2017''. I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Judiciary will forego further consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of this bill at this time, the Judiciary does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Judiciary represented on the conference committee.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2442, the Federal Information Resource to Strengthen Ties with State and Local Law Enforcement Act of 2017, or the FIRST with State and Local Law Enforcement Act.

Mr. Speaker, today we consider H.R. 2442, a bill to require the DHS to submit an annual report to Congress on the activities of the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement.

This bill, authored by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), seeks to highlight the activities of this important hub of outreach to State and local law enforcement within the DHS.

The report is to include detailed information on those efforts, including steps taken to improve them and performance metrics to evaluate the effectiveness, and feedback received from State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies.

Yesterday, the Committee on Homeland Security released a staff report that looked at the DHS' progress, over the past decade, at implementing the 9/11 Commission Act.

With respect to information sharing, it found that policies and procedures have been reformed, at all levels, to ensure that critical national security information is shared, and recommended that the DHS continue to refine its channels for sharing such information to ensure that they evolve to address the threat, landscape, and stakeholder needs.

Constructive engagement, through the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement, is central to this effort.

Sixteen years after the September 11 attacks, it is important that we stand together and recommit ourselves to doing all we can to prevent future terrorist attacks. I urge my House colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the FIRST with State and Local Law Enforcement Act seeks to ensure that, for years to come, State and local law enforcement know that the DHS is a full partner in their efforts to keep their communities secure.

As such, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, H.R. 2442, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues once again to support H.R. 2442, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2442, 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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CLASSIFIED FACILITY INVENTORY ACT

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2443) to require an inventory of all facilities certified by the Department of Homeland Security to host infrastructure or systems classified above the Secret level, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2443

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 ''Department of Homeland Security Classified Facility Inventory Act''.

SEC. 2. INVENTORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, to the extent practicable—

(1) maintain an inventory of those Department of Homeland Security facilities that the Department certifies to house classified infrastructure or systems at the secret level and above;

(2) update such inventory on a regular basis; and

(3) share part or all of such inventory with—

(A) Department personnel who have been granted the appropriate security clearance;

(B) non-Federal governmental personnel who have been granted a Top Secret security clearance; and

(C) other personnel as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(b) INVENTORY.—The inventory of facilities described in subsection (a) may include—

(1) the location of such facilities;

(2) the attributes of such facilities (including the square footage of, the total capacity of, the number of workstations in, and the number of conference rooms in, such facilities);

(3) the entities that operate such facilities; and

(4) the date of establishment of such facilities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are advancing another bill to support the men and women who answer the call to keep their neighbors safe.

Yesterday we honored the first responders and countless other Americans who were murdered in the September 11 terrorist attacks. We will never forget them, nor their great sacrifices of their families and loved ones.

I come from Pennsylvania, which has a proud history of service, from the National Guard to police, to fire houses, to EMTs. Even one of our former Governors, Tom Ridge, was a key player in setting up the Department of Homeland Security.

Today, we, in Congress, continue to work to reduce the blind spots that led to 9/11, and ensure our Nation's newest Department is able to get local law enforcement officers the resources that they need to keep our communities safe.

Having served as mayor of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, I have long known that it will be the police officer on the streets of Hazleton, Shamokin or Shippensburg, not some analyst in Washington, who will recognize when a member of our community has radicalized or been recruited by a gang or terrorist sect.

That is one of the reasons why I worked with the committee to introduce H.R. 2443, the Department of Homeland Security Classified Facility Inventory Act.

My bill strengthens information sharing between local, State, and Federal law enforcement by requiring the DHS to maintain an inventory of facilities certified to store information classified above the secret level.

This is a follow-up to the Fusion Center Enhancement Act of 2017, which I first introduced last Congress and has successfully passed the committee in the House.

I come from a State with three fusion centers: the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center, known as PaCIC, in Harrisburg; Delaware Valley Intelligence Center in Philadelphia; and Southwestern PA Region 13 Fusion Center in Pittsburgh.

This bill is part of my efforts to make the DHS share information with its State and local partners.

□ 1315

More and more, State and local officials are now getting the security clearances they need to get important national security information that will help them; however, gaps remain.

This bill will ensure that DHS is tracking the specific location of all the Department's secure facilities and make this information available to the appropriate State and local personnel as well as Department employees.

To be honest, it is frustrating that this legislation is even needed. Congress and DHS share the same goal of keeping our communities safe. We must make it clear that information needs to be shared to allow for proper oversight both now and in the future. Our State and local law enforcement officials are professionals and leaders of our communities. However, far too often, I have heard complaints that Federal officials do not take local information seriously simply because someone has not been able to obtain a certain security clearance. My legislation will help address this concern.

Specifically, this bill requires greater transparency and information sharing on the locations of all facilities certified by DHS to store classified infrastructure or systems above the secret level, commonly known as SCIFs. This will give local law enforcement the tools that they need to protect their communities and our Nation as a whole.

Additionally, by requiring DHS to maintain an updated list of all of these facilities, this bill will ensure that the Department does not invest in new facilities in areas already covered, in turn, reducing the chances of wasteful spending.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure, which passed the House once already as part of the larger DHS authorization bill in July. I hope that my colleagues in the Senate will realize the critical need for my bill and will act quickly so President Trump can sign it into law.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2443, the Department of Homeland Security Classified Facility Inventory Act of 2017.

This measure addresses a concern to many of us in the counterterrorism arena—the absence of a centralized inventory of classified systems within DHS.

DHS is the third largest Federal agency and has a vast footprint, yet DHS does not maintain a centralized list of all the spaces around the country where individuals with clearances can access classified information.

H.R. 2443 tackles this issue by requiring DHS to maintain an inventory of all DHS certified facilities that house classified systems above the secret level on a regular basis. It requires DHS to share part or all of the inventory, in accordance with standard information-sharing procedures and policies. This legislation will enhance Congress' ability to assist DHS with protecting classified facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2443 is an important piece of legislation. It has strong support on both sides of the aisle.

Extensive efforts have been made to enhance information sharing, establish the DHS intelligence enterprise, and support the National Network of Fusion Centers. It is important that DHS' partners at all levels know where to go to access classified information, particularly when a terrorist or other national security incident occurs.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2443, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2443, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2443, 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.

TERRORIST RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COUNTER EXTREMIST RECIDIVISM ACT

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2471) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to share with State, local, and regional fusion centers release information from a Federal correctional facility, including name, charging date, and expected place and date of release, of certain individuals who may pose a terrorist threat, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2471

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 ''Terrorist Release Announcements to Counter Extremist Recidivism Act'' or the ''TRACER Act''.

SEC. 2. TERROR INMATE INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Attorney General and in consultation with other appropriate Federal officials, shall, as appropriate, share with State, local, and regional fusion centers through the Department of Homeland Security Fusion Center Partnership Initiative under section 210A of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124h), as well as other relevant law enforcement entities, release information from a Federal correctional facility, including the name, charging date, and expected place and date of release, of certain individuals who may pose a terrorist threat.

(b) SCOPE.—The information shared pursuant to subsection (a) shall be—

(1) for homeland security purposes; and

(2) regarding individuals convicted of a Federal crime of terrorism (as such term is defined in section 2332b of title 18, United States Code).

(c) PERIODIC THREAT ASSESSMENTS.—Consistent with the protection of classified information and controlled unclassified information, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall coordinate with appropriate Federal officials to provide State, local, and regional fusion centers described in subsection (a) with periodic assessments regarding the overall threat from known or suspected terrorists currently incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility, including the assessed risks of such populations engaging in terrorist activity upon release.

(d) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—Prior to affecting the information sharing described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall receive input and advice from the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, the Officer for Privacy, and the Chief Intelligence Officer of the Department of Homeland Security.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as requiring the establishment of a list or registry of individuals convicted of terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the victims of the 9/11 attacks and to voice my support for the TRACER Act.

Mr. Speaker, 16 years ago, 19 cowardly terrorists hijacked four airplanes and used them as missiles to kill 3,000 innocent people. The souls that were lost belonged to moms and dads, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters.

It was a day that we will never forget. Each year, as we look back, we all remember something different about that morning. There are those who remember getting a phone call and listening to a frantic voice on the other end. Some remember running into the streets as the Twin Towers fell and feared for their lives. Others saw the Pentagon in flames and wondered who did this and why.

There are many other images and thoughts that are seared into our minds. However, we can also remember the heroism of our first responders, the brave firefighters and police officers who raced to the scene and charged up the stairs of the World Trade Center to save their fellow countrymen.

We can picture strangers helping strangers navigate through the dust and debris in downtown New York, and we can be grateful for the courageous passengers on United Airlines Flight 93 who saved an untold number of lives and perhaps this very building that we stand in here today.

Yesterday morning, I stood at Ground Zero in New York and listened to each of the victims' names that were read. I remembered a nation that came together and stood by one another as we recovered from this heinous attack.

September 11 showed the entire world that terrorists could knock our buildings down, but they could not dent the American spirit. In the aftermath, we pledged to work with one another and prevent such a tragedy from ever happening again.

Today, we are still engaged in a generational fight to defeat Islamist terrorism, but I believe we will eventually win that fight as long as we pursue policies that will make it easier to protect our homeland and the American people.

One of the lessons we learned from 9/11 was the need to strengthen information sharing among Federal, State, and local authorities, and while we have taken steps to address this in the past, we need to do more.

This act, the TRACER Act, introduced by Congressman RUTHERFORD, would require the Department of Homeland Security to share with local and regional fusion centers important information regarding potential risks posed by individuals who were previously convicted on charges related to terrorism. More specifically, it would allow DHS to share the expected place and date of release of these incarcerated terrorists.

Providing law enforcement officials with this information will allow them to minimize potential risks to their communities by countering extremist recidivism. This legislation is an opportunity to strengthen coordination between all levels of law enforcement and help keep Americans safe.

Again, I would like to thank Congressman RUTHERFORD for all of his hard work on this legislation, and I hope that his constituents and the entire State of Florida make a strong recovery in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

As someone who has personally toured devastated communities back home in my home State of Texas as a result of Hurricane Harvey, it is clear that there are still many long days ahead. However, we can be very thankful for the men and women at DHS, including FEMA and the United States Coast Guard, as well as thousands of local first responders and volunteers who have been called to action.

The American people deserve to know that all levels of government are working together to keep our homeland safe. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2471, the Terrorist Release Announcements to Counter Extremist Recidivism Act, or TRACER Act.

Mr. Speaker, today we consider H.R. 2471, a narrowly tailored bill that seeks to ensure that certain local authorities are notified when convicted terrorists who have completed their prison terms are expected to be released into their communities.

This legislation was drafted in response to testimony received by our committee about the need for such information to be shared for situational awareness. The bill requires DHS, in coordination with appropriate Federal partners, as well as State and local law enforcement, to conduct periodic threat assessments regarding the overall threat from known or suspected terrorists currently incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility.

It is our hope that those who were convicted of providing materiel support to foreign terrorist organizations or taking other actions in support of ISIL or an al-Qaida affiliate have turned away from their terrorist past. However, in an age where lone-wolf terrorist attacks are more common, it just makes sense to let local law enforcement know when a former terrorist is returning to the community they are entrusted to safeguard.

I support this bill that seeks to improve situational awareness at all levels of law enforcement to potential terrorist threats. I urge passage of H.R. 2471.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2471 will further enhance the ability of law enforcement, particularly those participating in the National Network of Fusion Centers, to monitor potential terrorist threats and take action to prevent attacks.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. It is bipartisan, ensures that State and local law enforcement have greater access to Federal counterterrorism information and, most importantly, neighborhoods; when terrorists are released back into the communities, they at least know who they have in their neighborhoods.

I also want to applaud Congressman RUTHERFORD, who cannot be here today because of Hurricane Irma. My thoughts and prayers are with the State of Florida as they continue to respond and recover from that devastating hurricane.

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 Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2471, 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.

FIREFIGHTER CANCER REGISTRY ACT OF 2017

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 931) to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 931

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 ''Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017''.

SEC. 2. POPULATION-BASED REGISTRY FOR FIREFIGHTER CANCER INCIDENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall develop and maintain, directly or through a grant or cooperative agreement, a voluntary registry of firefighters (referred to in this section as the ''Firefighter Registry'') to collect relevant history and occupational information of such firefighters that can be linked to available cancer registry data collected by existing State cancer registries.

(b) USE OF FIREFIGHTER REGISTRY.—The Firefighter Registry shall be used for the following purposes:

(1) To establish and improve collection infrastructure and activities related to the nationwide monitoring of the incidence of cancer among firefighters.

(2) To collect, consolidate, store, and make publicly available epidemiological information related to cancer incidence and trends among firefighters.

(c) RELEVANT DATA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the voluntary data collection for purposes of inclusion under the Firefighter Registry, the Secretary should seek to include the following information:

(A) Identifiable information from a representative sample size, as determined by the Secretary under subsection (d)(2)(A), of volunteer, paid-on-call, and career firefighters, independent of cancer status or diagnosis.

(B) With respect to individual risk factors and work history of firefighters, available information on—

(i) basic demographic information, including the age of the firefighter involved;

(ii) a listing of status of the firefighter as either volunteer, paid-on-call, or career firefighter;

(iii) the number of years on the job and a detailing of additional employment experience that was either performed concurrently alongside firefighting service, before, or anytime thereafter;

(iv)(I) a measure of the number of fire incidents attended as well as the type of fire incidents (such as residential house fire or commercial fire); or

(II) in the case of a firefighter for whom information on such number and type is not available, an estimate of such number and type based on the method developed under subsection (d)(2);

(v) a list of additional risk factors, including smoking or drug use, as determined relevant by the Secretary; and

(vi) other physical examination and medical history information relevant to a cancer incidence study or general health of firefighters not available in existing cancer registries.

(C) Any additional information that is deemed necessary by the Secretary.

(2) DIAGNOSES AND TREATMENT.—In carrying out the data collection for purposes of inclusion under the Firefighter Registry, with respect to diagnoses and treatment of firefighters diagnosed with cancer, the Secretary shall enable the Firefighter Registry to link to State-based cancer registries, for a purpose described by clause (vi) or (vii) of section 399B(c)(2)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280e(c)(2)(D)), to obtain information on—

(A) administrative information, including date of diagnoses and source of information; and

(B) pathological data characterizing the cancer, including cancer site, state of disease (pursuant to Staging Guide), incidence, and type of treatment.

(d) METHODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes described in subsection (b), the Secretary is authorized to incorporate questions into public health surveys, questionnaires, and other databases.

(2) REQUIRED STRATEGY.—The Secretary shall develop a strategy, working in consultation with the stakeholders identified in subsection (e), to maximize participation in the Firefighter Registry established under this Act. At minimum, the strategy shall include the following:

(A) Identified minimum participation targets for volunteer, paid-on-call, and career firefighters.

(B) A strategy for increasing awareness of the Firefighter Registry and maximizing participation among volunteer, paid-on-call, and career firefighters to meet minimum participation targets.

(C) Additional steps that may be required to ensure the equitable representation of groups identified in paragraph (5).

(D) Information on how the Secretary will store data described in subsection (c)(1) and provide links to relevant health information described in subsection (c)(2).

(E) Working in consultation with the experts described in subsection (e), a reliable and standardized method for estimating the number of fire incidents attended by a firefighter as well as the type of fire incident so attended in the case such firefighter is unable to provide such information.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit the strategy described in paragraph (2) to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate not later than 30 days after the date of the completion of the strategy.

(4) GUIDANCE FOR INCLUSION AND MAINTENANCE OF DATA ON FIREFIGHTERS.—The Secretary shall develop, in consultation with the stakeholders identified in subsection (e), State health agencies, State departments of homeland security, and volunteer, paid-on-call, combination, and career firefighting agencies, a strategy for inclusion of firefighters in the registry that are representative of the general population of firefighters, that outlines the following:

(A) How new information about firefighters will be submitted to the Firefighter Registry for inclusion.

(B) How information about firefighters will be maintained and updated in the Firefighter Registry over time.

(C) A method for estimating the number of fire incidents attended by a firefighter as well as the type of fire incident so attended in the case such firefighter is unable to provide such information.

(D) Further information, as deemed necessary by the Secretary.

(5) ENSURING REPRESENTATION OF UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS IN REGISTRY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall take such measures as the Secretary deems appropriate to encourage the inclusion of data on minority, female, and volunteer firefighters in the Firefighter Registry established under this section.

(e) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, seek feedback regarding the utility of the Firefighter Registry established under this section and ways the Firefighter Registry can be improved from non-Federal experts in the following areas:

(1) Public health experts with experience in developing and maintaining cancer registries.

(2) Epidemiologists with experience in studying cancer incidence.

(3) Clinicians with experience in diagnosing and treating cancer incidence.

(4) Active and retired volunteer, paid-on-call, and career firefighters as well as relevant national fire and emergency response organizations.

(f) RESEARCH AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall develop and make public a process for de-identifying data from the Firefighter Registry and making such data available without a fee for research or other purposes. Such process shall provide that such data shall be made available for such research purposes only if there is an agreement to make findings, journal articles, or other print or web-based publications derived from such research public or available to the relevant stakeholders identified in subsection (e).

(g) PRIVACY.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary shall apply to the Firefighter Registry developed under subsection (a) data security provisions and privacy standards that comply with the best practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and provide for data privacy and security standards similar to those in the HIPAA privacy regulation, as defined in section 1180(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d–9(b)(3)).

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated $2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

SEC. 3. CUT-GO COMPLIANCE.

Subsection (f) of section 319D of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–4) is amended by striking ''through 2018'' and inserting ''through 2017, and $128,300,000 for fiscal year 2018''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

□ 1330

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017, introduced by my friend and colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Representative CHRIS COLLINS from New York, who we will hear from shortly, will create a national registry to collect information to better understand cancer incidence in firefighters.

These heroic first responders experience occupational health risks every day. In my district, it is oftentimes from forest fires, like we are having all summer long. This past weekend I saw firsthand what our firefighters face as they battle a number of fires raging in Oregon, putting themselves in harm's way to save property, infrastructure, lives, watersheds, habitats, and our forests.

I was deeply reminded yesterday morning, as I watched some of the news coverage that took us back 16 years ago to 9/11, and seeing the scenes of the buildings collapsing and burning and the people emerging, individual citizens, first responders, caked in dust and toxins and dealing with smoke, you realize just the peril that our first responders often find themselves in. They rush into buildings to save lives, and we deeply appreciate what they do. That is why this legislation is an important step to help them.

Nationwide, we have this problem with our firefighters. They came to us and said: We need this registry.

Again, going back to the West and what we face, and I saw it when I flew across the country to come here, not only are there fires and smoke throughout Oregon, but also all across the West: Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, hill and valley choked with smoke.

Close to 8 million acres burned in wildfires so far this year; more than half a million in Oregon on both public and mostly private lands. Thousands of residents have had to be evacuated. Firefighters, of course, stayed behind. They do what they do.

Multiple studies have shown a correlation between firefighting and cancer. However, the reasons behind this are not fully understood. We owe it to these first responders to understand the causal link to cancer. Having better data to identify why firefighters are at an increased risk for some cancers will hopefully lead to better protective measures and ultimately reduce some of the hazards that they face when putting their lives on the line.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York (Mr. COLLINS) for his good work on this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017. Yesterday we recognized the sixteenth anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks. The tragic

events on that day exhibited the heroism our firefighters and other first responders display as they run toward disaster while everyone else runs away.

The long-term health consequences on September 11, including several forms of cancer and chronic respiratory conditions among first responders, also serve as a reminder of the unique health risks firefighters face. As firefighters run into burning buildings and other environments, they often do not know whether carcinogens or hazardous materials are present. Such exposures have resulted in cancer becoming the leading cause of line of duty death among firefighters. My grandfather was a captain in the Houston Fire Department and died of cancer.

We still do not fully understand the relationship between firefighters and cancer risk. That is why a more comprehensive approach is needed to understand this relationship. H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, will create a voluntary cancer registry of firefighters to collect data on their cancer risks and outcomes related to their job exposures. This registry will inform research into the health risks facing firefighters, as well as ways to mitigate such risks. That evidence will allow us to implement new practices and develop new tools to protect the health of individuals who courageously put their lives at risk to protect the public.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS), the author of this very important legislation and an important member of our committee.

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I come before you in support of my bill, H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act.

Sixteen years ago yesterday, on September 11, 2001, we witnessed a horrible tragedy that will leave an impression on generations of Americans forever. Through this tragedy, we witnessed the heroic actions of America's brave first responders working and volunteering in the days and weeks that followed.

We lost many first responders during those attacks of 9/11, and we continue to lose more every year from ongoing health effects.

All firefighters across our Nation sacrifice their health every day to face the dangers of smoke inhalation and toxic chemicals. These dangers cannot be entirely avoided, which is why this bill, H.R. 931, is so important. This bipartisan legislation takes an important first step towards addressing the detrimental health impacts faced by our Nation's firefighters.

The career of firefighting is a dangerous one. There are nearly 1.2 million men and women serving as firefighters in the United States. With every single fire they fight, these heroes take their lives into their own hands. Firefighters bravely risk their safety to protect our families, our homes, and our communities.

Unfortunately, the risks of firefighting surpass the scene of the fire. These men and women are exposed to dangerous smoke and chemicals that often result in a lifetime of health trouble. We see firefighters all across the United States with higher rates of cancer than the general population, and it is vital that we learn more about this correlation.

That is why I, along with my colleague, Representative BILL PASCRELL, introduced the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act. This bill will require the CDC to establish a registry to track cancer incidence in the firefighting community. This comprehensive registry will work with fire departments across our Nation to include the important variables of a firefighter's career, including years of service, number of fires attended, and the types of fires attended. This information is essential to the development of future protocols, safeguards, and the development of equipment that will better protect these men and women.

Firefighters put their lives at risk every day, and Congress should do all it can to shed light and reduce the health hazards they face. I would like to commend Chairman WALDEN and Ranking Member PALLONE of the full committee, and Chairman BURGESS and Ranking Member GREEN of the Health Subcommittee for a bipartisan showing of support during both markups of this legislation. I cannot think of a more relevant week to bring this legislation to the House floor. I urge the rest of my colleagues to support the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, as we honor tragic losses of September 11.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), a cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act. I want to thank my partner, the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS), for introducing this bill. I thank as well Chairman WALDEN, Ranking Member PALLONE, Dr. BURGESS, and Mr. GREEN for helping to shepherd our bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee and onto the floor day.

As co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and lead Democratic sponsor of this bill, I am proud to stand up for the brave men and women of our fire service. It is these individuals who put their lives on the line day in and day out to keep our communities safe.

In addition to ensuring that our first responders are prepared in advance of disasters and other emergencies, we must also ensure that they receive the necessary medical care and services after answering the call of duty.

When the courageous men and women in the fire services enter dangerous situations, they do not stop to ask whether they are subjecting themselves to long-term health risks.

Yesterday, across this Nation, we honored the first responders that answered the call of duty after the terrorists attacked us on September 11. Many of those brave men and women gave their lives, and many more are living with long-term health problems stemming from the time they spent at toxic Ground Zero.

As evidenced on that day, many before and since, our first responders do whatever is necessary to keep our communities safe. That is why we must have their backs.

While we know that firefighters are routinely exposed to a variety of known carcinogens in chaotic and uncontrolled environments, we do not have a good sense of the full picture of the negative impacts of the exposure.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, firefighters are at higher risk for certain kinds of cancer, including brain cancer, leukemia, lung cancer, and kidney cancer, when compared with the general population.

Despite the knowledge we have gained through these studies, many have been limited by small sample sizes and an underrepresentation of key demographic groups.

The first step to finding solutions is understanding the nature of the problem. Further public health research on this topic is needed so we can start working to find ways to alleviate this risk.

I am pleased that H.R. 931 is on the floor today. It would create a national cancer registry for firefighters diagnosed with this deadly disease. The creation of a specialized firefighter cancer registry will provide scientists and medical professionals with the detailed national data that will allow them to study the relationships between firefighters' exposure to dangerous fumes and harmful toxins and the increased risk for several major cancers. In the future, this information could also allow for better protective equipment and prevention techniques to be developed.

This bill enjoys strong support from major fire organizations across our Nation, including the International Association of Firefighters, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the New Jersey State Firefighters' Mutual Benevolent Association, and the International Fire Service Training Association.

Taking care of the brave men and women of the fire service is an important task. We cannot delay in getting them the help they need. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to pass this bill swiftly so we can work on getting it through the Senate and onto the President's desk.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), the chairman of the

Subcommittee on Health, the gentleman who helped move this legislation forward, and leads our committee on matters of health.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act.

In 2015, a 5-year study of nearly 30,000 firefighters found that these individuals had a greater number of cancer diagnoses and cancer-related deaths than matched controls in the general population.

While this built upon prior studies that have examined the link between firefighting and cancer, our understanding of this connection is still limited. To improve our ability to alleviate the health risks that these public servants face, Representatives COLLINS and PASCRELL introduced H.R. 931. This will authorize funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create a national registry for the collection of data pertaining to cancer incidence among firefighters.

This national registry will fill the void in our understanding of the health risks that our firefighters face and better prepare us to care for them.

Yesterday did mark the 16th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. We are reminded of the firefighters' willingness to run toward danger to help anyone who is in harm's way. Across our country, firefighters answer the call whenever our families or our communities are in need. Supporting these important public health bills is one way we can give back to these heroes, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 931.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), another very important member of our Energy and Commerce Committee, who I know had many constituents horribly affected by the tragic events of 9/11.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act sponsored by my close friends, Congressman COLLINS and Congressman PASCRELL.

Congressman COLLINS has been involved in this issue for many years, including as an Erie County executive in western New York. Congressman PASCRELL has spent his entire public career in defense of firefighters as mayor of Paterson, as a member of the State legislature, and for more than two decades as a Member of Congress.

□ 1345

This bill will direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters. We need this data to help save the lives of the brave heroes who put their lives on the line every day.

The CDC will compile critical information like risk factors and the dangers to which firefighters are exposed. This information collected on a voluntary basis will help develop better protective equipment and prevention techniques that can be disseminated across the country.

It is fitting that we consider this legislation this week as our Nation mourns the somber anniversary of the September 11 attacks. This country can never forget the images of firefighters, police, EMS, and other first responders initiating rescues and putting themselves in grave danger, both during and after the attacks.

Many lives were lost that day and, in the years that have followed, from the rescue and recovery work. Let's do all we can to make sure this information and best practices are shared so that we can protect as many lives as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FASO), who also had constituents who were very affected by the events of 9/11.

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chairman's yielding of time.

As we take this week to somberly remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, it is equally important that we remember the first responders who bravely ran towards the tragedy of 16 years ago, who woke up the next day, on September 12, 2001, still beaten, tired, and bruised but, again, walked towards those tragedies. Still, today, these first responders heroically risk life and limb to run toward tragedies.

As Americans, we owe our first responders a great debt. For this reason, I ask my colleagues to support Mr. COLLINS' bill, H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, which makes important first steps in lifesaving cancer research and future medical advancements for firefighters, who have disproportionately higher cancer risks.

I would like to thank all of our first responders and urge passage of this important legislation, and I thank the bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation as well.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, we all join in thanking our first responders. This is the least of the things we can do to show how much we care about our firefighters, and I would encourage our colleagues in the House to support this very important legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 931, 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.

LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2611) to modify the boundary of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2611

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 ''Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act''.

SEC. 2. LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

Section 2 of Public Law 105–356 (112 Stat. 3268) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—The boundary of the historic site is modified to include the 7 residences on South Park Street in Little Rock, Arkansas, consisting of 1.47 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Central High School National Historic Site Proposed Boundary', numbered 037/80,001, and dated August, 2004.''; and

(3) in subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''(1) The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''(2) The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(3) COORDINATION.—The Secretary''; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the owners of the 7 residences referred to in subsection (b) pursuant to which the Secretary may use appropriated funds to mark, interpret, improve, restore, and provide technical assistance with respect to the preservation and interpretation of the properties.

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—An agreement entered into under subparagraph (A) shall include a provision specifying that no changes or alterations shall be made to the exterior of the properties subject to the agreement, except by the mutual agreement of the parties to the agreement.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), the sponsor of this excellent piece of legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, 60 years ago today, all eyes were on South Park Street that fronts the beautiful facade of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Just days before, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus had called out the National Guard to prevent nine Black students from entering the school on September 4. Central High and its beautiful neighborhood had become ground zero in the march to end the five-decade legacy of Plessy v. Ferguson, ''separate but equal,'' to bring it to reality.

Now, just over 3 years after the Brown decision, it was time for action. In a few days, on the 25th of this month, we will celebrate the successful integration of Central High School, when the Little Rock Nine entered the school escorted by the troops of the 101st Airborne.

It is fitting today, Mr. Speaker, that we pay tribute to the Little Rock Nine, their defenders, and the successful end to separate but equal. We recognize this important milestone today on this House floor by passing a bill on the suspension calendar that expands the park boundary of the national historic site at Little Rock Central High School. This is a historic and important touchstone for all of those modern-day history travelers retracing the steps of the civil rights movement.

The Little Rock National Historic Site Visitor Center was opened in 2007 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High. Today's measure, H.R. 2611, is a simple one: extending the park boundaries to take in the houses that fronted the school along beautiful South Park Street so that future generations will be able to picture this tranquil street, an architecturally significant facade of Central High, and reflect back on those 21 days of trauma in September 1957.

I thank my colleague who is in our Chamber today, civil rights pioneer and courageous actor JOHN LEWIS, for his cosponsorship.

I thank our majority leader, Chairman BISHOP, and the Natural Resources Committee for their expeditious treatment of this important measure, and I salute Senator COTTON for his leadership in advancing this important legislation in the United States Senate.

I look forward to President Trump signing this bill and again recognizing that we have to embrace our past and learn from our history.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor at this time to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), a civil rights pioneer and legend.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Hawaii for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill. I am proud to join the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) in sponsoring this legislation to update the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.

In 1954, the Supreme Court issued a historic decision in the Brown v. Board of Education case, which desegregated our Nation's public schools. Unfortunately, the law of the land did not become the practice of its people overnight. It took the will of brave men and women and some very brave children, like the Little Rock Nine.

Parents swallowed the fear for their children. Strong, innocent little children put their bodies on the line to force the change that justice demands. The actions changed the heart and the soul of our Nation, and we must admit today that our country is a better country and we are a better people because of these children, the mothers and fathers, the teachers, and many of our citizens.

When Little Rock, Arkansas, leaders attempted to desegregate Central High School, the Governor fought back. He choose to stand on the side of hate and bigotry. It took a determined mayor, a strong President, the U.S. Army, and the Arkansas National Guard to protect these nine teenagers as they entered the school.

In 1957, Mr. Speaker, I was 17 years old, and I vividly remember those days. These young people inspired all of us to stand up, to speak up, and to speak out. And many of us started saying: If the children in Little Rock can do what they are doing, we, too, can do it.

For those of us watching on television, listening to the radio, and reading the newspapers, we were deeply inspired. We were moved to do something, to say something. I said to myself: We need to stand up the same way the people and students in Little Rock are standing up. I remember thinking that I could—that I must—find a way to get in the way.

Mr. Speaker, Central High is part of our history that must be preserved for a generation yet unborn.

I remember very well, a few years ago, I visited that school and walked through the halls with a young African-American student who was president of the student body, who the principal asked to escort me through the school. I felt like I was walking in a special place, almost a holy place. It brought tears to my eyes.

During those dark and difficult times, the national historic site became a beacon of hope, an inspiration that we can never give up, that we can never give in as we strive towards equal rights and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas for introducing this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to stand with the gentleman from Arkansas and the gentlewoman from Hawaii and support this piece of legislation.

□ 1400

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), also a member of our committee and who has helped shepherd this bill through our committee and here on the floor.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleague from Arkansas Congressman FRENCH HILL's bill, H.R. 2611, that will modify the boundary of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site to include seven residences on South Park Street in Little Rock, Arkansas.

While this bill would authorize the National Park Service to enter into cooperative agreements with private property owners of the South Street properties, H.R. 2611 will do more. It will also help us to remember. It will help us to remember that on September 25, 1957, nine young people, with Federal troops for escorts, bravely walked past crowds of hatred, bigotry, emotional degradation, and even physical abuse to desegregate Little Rock Central High School.

On that historic day in 1957, nine young people showed the United States and the world that we were and are better than segregation and better than racism and injustice. They proved to the world that, as Americans, we really do believe the Declaration of Independence when it says that all men are created equal.

I believe that allowing the historical residences surrounding Little Rock Central High School to slip into disrepair or oblivion would be a severe injustice to those who gave of themselves to further the cause of civil rights and equality.

I would like to thank my colleague from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for their work on this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2611, introduced by Representative HILL and cosponsored by civil rights pioneer and legend, Representative LEWIS of Georgia, amends Public Law 105–356, which established Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.

H.R. 2611 would modify the park's boundary and expand the park's authority to enter into cooperative agreements. The proposed boundary modification would include seven privately owned residences on South Park Street, consisting of 1.47 acres. The cooperative agreement authority provided by the bill will allow the National Park Service to give financial and technical aid to the property owners to preserve the facades and maintain the ambience of a 1957 historic scene.

Images of the South Park Street properties are inextricably associated with the 1957 events. As images of the Little Rock Nine, crowds of protesters, the public, and the National Guardsmen appeared in newspapers across the Nation and were broadcast live through the emerging media of television, the neighborhood became as recognizable as the high school itself.

Because South Park Street in front of Central High School retains a high degree of historical integrity, this legislation would provide a unique opportunity to preserve a setting that will allow visitors to more accurately visualize the events that occurred there in 1957 when the Little Rock Nine attempted to attend Central High School.

In 1996, the surrounding neighborhood, including these seven privately owned homes, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Central High School Neighborhood Historic District. The designation recognized the neighborhood's association with the significant events of 1957 as well as the architectural characteristics and qualities that remain relatively unchanged from that period.

All the property owners and several community members have expressed their support for this proposal, including Central High Neighborhood, Inc., and Preserve Arkansas.

As we move forward in these turbulent times, it is important that we do not forget the struggles of the Little Rock Nine and the neighborhood that moved America forward towards an integrated education system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill, to me, is an extremely important bill. Sixty years ago, during this month, nine extraordinary students attended Little Rock, Arkansas' Central High School. They were kids picked for their academic ability and their maturity level because they were going to go through a year that no one had seen before and, hopefully, will ever see again.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps because I taught high school for almost 30 years, I understand the environment that took place here, and I have a great deal of empathy for these nine kids who went there. They could have easily been my students.

This becomes a significant concept that on September 4, 60 years ago, the Governor of Arkansas ordered the National Guard to bar these nine kids from entrance into Central High School in Little Rock; then, after some pressure, he withdrew the protection so the kids were subject to the mobs and the violence that took place there at that time.

On September 25, 60 years ago, Dwight Eisenhower had the courage and leadership—one of the reasons I respect him so much as a President—to order the Army 101st Airborne Division to go down to Little Rock to Central High School and to escort these nine kids through that first year and lead them to a school year like no other has ever been.

This situation was, in my estimation, a pivotal moment in our Nation's civil rights history as well as our education history. We have often talked about how buildings and monuments are used to interpret history. That is exactly what Mr. HILL is attempting to do here with a significant site in America's history, to make sure that it is preserved—and not just the high school itself, but the seven residences that are across the street on South Park Street. Those residences there are part of the historical landmark which was made and designated in the Reagan administration. They are part of the designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

Finally, in 1998, the high school and some surrounding areas were established as a National Historic Site. Those buildings still have significant historical integrity. They add to the definition and the story of history which must—which must—be remembered at all times.

This bill expands the boundaries of this National Historic Site to include those residences so the National Park Service can, in cooperative agreements with the residents who still live there, make sure that that area will always be preserved as a place to interpret, improve, and provide the technical assistance to make sure this story of American history is not forgotten. It is part of the milieu.

As the gentlewoman from Hawaii said, when you see pictures of these kids giving press conferences, you see these homes in the background. It is part and parcel to this story. The residents who live across the street are connected to the landmark events in September of 1957 and provide the backdrop for this particular element.

I am appreciative of Mr. HILL of Arkansas for leading forth with this particular bill, realizing the significance, and I am happy that today, on the very month this was happening 60 years ago, we actually are talking about this particular event and desiring to secure these areas so that the history of this country will be remembered to its fullest extent.

One of our staffers in the committee who helped in the drafting of this bill had the opportunity of having lunch with one of those Little Rock Nine. His essay won, and his reward was to have a chance to actually meet one of these heroic young women who went to Little Rock's Central High School 60-plus years ago.

This is significant, and I cannot think of this story without in some way feeling choked up inside because I know what it must have been like for those kids to go there, and I know what it must have been like to be part of that milieu. This was historic. They were true heroes. They were truly brave kids who took this event on and did it with such aplomb. They need to be remembered.

That is why I am happy that this bill is coming forward, so that we can expand the horizon and we can expand the area of this historic site so that we can make sure that this will be a protected area, so that the history will not be forgotten and so what these kids did in that very historic year of 1957 and 1958 in Little Rock will not be forgotten, and so the significance and the conviction those kids had and the experience they had to go through can be remembered and that we can never again go back there. We could never again replicate that area, and we will move forward in the area of civil rights as well as education.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here to support this bill. I am going to ask my colleagues to support this bill because it says so much about us, about our commitments, about our priorities, and about what we want to do, and it says so much about what is good in this country. This is the primary example of what we are attempting to do.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, we appreciate all those who have spoken on behalf of this particular bill, those who have worked on this bill, and those who have sponsored this bill. This bill is something I think is really significant. It says something that is very positive about this country and helps us to remember that which is positive about this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am urging all my colleagues to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2611.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 3354.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 504 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. 3354.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) kindly take the chair.

□ 1412

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. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, with Mr. MCCLINTOCK (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Friday, September 8, 2017, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 77 printed in House Report 115–297 offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) had been postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CULBERSON OF TEXAS

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 504, as the designee of Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, I offer amendments en bloc No. 3 as part of consideration of division C of H.R. 3354.

The list of amendments included in the en bloc, Mr. Chairman, is at the desk and has been agreed to by both sides.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 3 consisting of amendment Nos. 81, 82, 84, 86, 88, 89, 90, 92, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 103, 107, 110, and 111 printed in House Report 115–297, offered by CULBERSON of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 81 OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

Page 251, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $13,000,000) (increased by $13,000,000)' ''.

AMENDMENT NO. 82 OFFERED BY MR. REICHERT OF WASHINGTON

Page 249, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1)''.

Page 250, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1)''.

Page 269, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Page 291, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 291, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 292, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 84 OFFERED BY MRS. DEMINGS OF FLORIDA

Page 252, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

Page 264, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 86 OFFERED BY MR. COURTNEY OF CONNECTICUT

Page 258, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 88 OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

Page 260, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,100,000) (increased by $10,100,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 89 OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

Page 260, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,200,000) (increased by $1,200,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 90 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI OF OREGON

Page 260, line 1, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $21,775,000) (reduced by $21,775,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 92 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI OF OREGON

Page 260, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduce by $5,000,000) (increase by $5,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 93 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

Page 260, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $8,000,000)''.

Page 264, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $8,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 95 OFFERED BY MRS. DEMINGS OF FLORIDA

Page 269, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 296, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 96 OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO

Page 269, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 291, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

Page 291, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 97 OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

Page 269, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,500,000)''.

Page 298, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,500,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 98 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Page 269, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $7,000,000)''.

Page 291, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $7,000,000)''.

Page 294, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $7,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 99 OFFERED BY MS. MCSALLY OF ARIZONA

Page 269, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Page 291, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 292, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 100 OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA

Page 276, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Page 291, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 293, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 293, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 102 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN OF TENNESSEE

Page 280, line 21, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(decreased by $4,000,000)''.

Page 298, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 103 OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

Page 280, line 21, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

Page 291, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

Page 294, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

Page 295, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 107 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 282, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

Page 286, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 110 OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE OF RHODE ISLAND

Page 294, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $100,000,000) (increased by $100,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 111 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 295, line 1, strike ''$12,000,000'' and insert ''$14,000,000''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1415

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I am in support of the en bloc amendments. We have worked on it jointly, and I support all of the amendments that are included in the en bloc.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN).

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my colleague Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY's amendment to increase funding for veterans treatment courts.

Veterans courts keep our heroes struggling with addiction or a mental health condition from going to jail, instead providing them with the care they need and a second chance.

Our Nation's military is returning home from a decade and a half of war with invisible wounds: PTSD, depression, TBI, trauma, and more. Researchers are continuing to find links between substance abuse and combat-related mental health struggles.

Specialized drug court participants are significantly less likely than nonparticipants to relapse or later commit crimes. By keeping veterans out of prisons, focusing on rehabilitation and sobriety, these programs offer long-term solutions rather than short-sighted punishments.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting ''yes'' for this amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to seek support for my en bloc amendment to H.R. 3354.

As we all know, drug overdose deaths in our country have dramatically increased since the turn of the century. Over the past decade alone, overdose deaths have increased by more than 400

percent. In 2015, more Americans died from opioids than in the Vietnam war. Mr. Chairman, that is astonishing.

This is a national emergency. I have seen the effects firsthand in my district. In 2016, nearly one-fifth of all opioid-related deaths in South Carolina took place in my district.

My amendment would provide more funds to opioid prevention by transferring $7 million from the DOJ General Administration account to the opioid abuse reduction activities. More than ever, we must provide as much funding as possible to defeat this national epidemic.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in combating this crisis.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the en bloc amendment, which includes my amendments to increase funding for the ocean acidification program and increase coastal monitoring and assessment of algal blooms.

Oregon's economic vitality is dependent on the ocean economy. Ocean acidification and harmful algal blooms threaten ocean health, the tourism industry, and our valuable fisheries.

Communities along the coasts are vulnerable to the effects of our changing climate. I applaud NOAA's acidification program and coastal monitoring and assessment programs that give our coastal community the tools they need to understand and address these threats.

I thank the chairman and ranking member for including these amendments and for their hard work on this bill.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I wish to address the gentlewoman's comments, very briefly.

I want to thank the gentlewoman for bringing this matter to the House's attention. Harmful algal blooms are an important issue, especially to the State of Florida. We know how dangerous they are and the terrible effect they have had on our friends in Florida, who are already suffering the effects of this hurricane. Our prayers and thoughts are with them. All of us in Houston understand the severity of the problem they face, and we are praying for them and look forward to helping them in any way we can.

I will certainly continue to work with the gentlewoman on this issue that she brings to the House's attention.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

Mr. REICHERT. I thank the chair for yielding and for all his hard work in working together with us to address the issue of gun crime in this country.

As everyone knows, over the last several years especially, high-profile shootings and violent crime have caught the attention of Americans all across this country and sparked a debate about what should be done to reduce gang violence and gun crime in the United States.

Well, the truth is, there is an answer and a proven solution that actually worked for many years when I was the sheriff in King County in Seattle, Washington. It is a program called Project Safe Neighborhoods. It was first the Safe Cities Initiative by the Clinton-Gore administration and then changed to Project Safe Neighborhoods under George Bush.

Through strong partnerships, Federal, State, and local governments created local gun crime reduction task forces and form coalitions with other agencies, community groups, and citizens committed to reducing gun crime.

Between 2001 and 2009, when data was collected on the program, cities that were first to implement the program achieved a significant decline in violent crime.

We need to fund this program. The data and the statistics that were collected that show this is a proven solution was ignored by the previous administration. Despite the high rates of success for cities that have implemented the program, funding for the program has steadily decreased.

My amendment to increase funding for Project Safe Neighborhoods is fully offset by a reduction to the General Administration account at the Department of Justice.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to support this amendment.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to take a moment to say to my friend that my prayers and my thoughts are with him, his family, his constituents, Texas, Florida, the Caribbean, South Carolina, my birthplace of Puerto Rico, and all the other folks who have been through this very difficult time.

I intend to use my vote on appropriations in whatever way it can to serve to help those communities as they get back on the road to recovery.

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the en bloc amendment. It is made up of noncontroversial items that we have worked out with the minority, and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. Lipinski. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my two amendments included in the en bloc package being considered for Division C of H.R. 3354 I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member SERRANO for their leadership on this division, and for including these amendments in the en bloc package. These bipartisan amendments, cosponsored by me and my friend Mr. LOBIONDO of New Jersey, protect critical functions at the National Weather Service. The Weather Service is essential to so much of what we do. From its critical functions like helping us predict, prepare for, and ride out extreme weather events to its everyday functions like telling us whether or not to carry an umbrella, life without up-to-date weather information is hard to imagine.

My first amendment (No. 89) directs the National Weather Service not to cut $1.2 million from the Climate Prediction Center. one of its National Centers for Environmental Protection The Service is further directed not to consolidate the functions of the Climate Prediction Center into the Weather Prediction Center. Keeping these two centers separate recognizes the essential and very different services each one provides. The medium- and long-term predictions offered by the Climate Prediction Center are used for planning by diverse industries including transportation, agriculture, energy, and public health. Its global datasets are used by the Department of Defense and the U.S. Agency for International Development to understand international phenomena like flood and drought that could impact food supplies and regional stability.

My second amendment (No. 88) directs the National Weather Service not to cut $10.1 million from its budget for Information Technology Officers, and to maintain an on-site IT Officer at each Weather Forecast Office. These officers do software maintenance, technical systems upgrades, and develop software and data products to meet local office needs. According to the Weather Service's assessment of its performance during Hurricane Matthew (2016), ''[Weather Forecast Offices] were unanimous in their support of having a local [IT Officer] present to address issues before, during, and after hurricane season.'' In addition, a significant number of IT Officers are also trained, experienced meteorologists who can augment the forecasting staff during extreme weather.

I think all of my colleagues can agree that supporting the National Weather Service is more important now than ever and I urge support for these amendments and for the en bloc package.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Minority Business Development Agency, the MBDA. My amendment, number 84, which is included in the en bloc amendment, would increase funding for the MBDA by $5 million in Fiscal Year 2018.

With three MBDA Business Centers in Florida, including one in my home district, we in Florida understand the value the MBDA provides. In 2012, Florida had the third highest number of minority-owned businesses, in the country, with a high concentration of: African American-owned firms; Native American-owned firms; Asian American-owned firms; Hispanic American-owned firms; and Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander-owned firms. All that rely on the assistance of the MBDA.

For 48 years, the MBDA has been the only government agency focused solely on fostering the growth and development of minority-owned businesses; identifying and assisting to overcome the barriers to economic growth.

According to the 2007 U.S. Census Bureau's Survey on Business Owners, minority-owned businesses contributed $1 trillion in economic growth to the $16 trillion U.S. economy, and employed 6 million Americans. Additionally, minority-owned businesses are twice as likely to generate sales through exports, compared to non-minority owned firms, due to their language and cultural ties.

While their economic contributions are significant, minority-owned businesses struggle in acquiring private capital and securing government contracts at disproportionate rates, compared to non-minority owned businesses.

Studies have also shown that minority loan-seekers are given less information on loan terms and offered less help with their loan applications. They are also denied loans at three times higher than non-minority firms.

The MBDA assists minority-owned businesses in: financing, joint ventures, and more. Firms assisted by MBDA secure an average of $5.4 billion dollars in contracts and investments. Given this significant contribution to the U.S. economy, it is vital to support the work done by the MBDA to grow our nation's 8.5 million minority-owned business.

I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member SERRANO for including this amendment in the en bloc amendment. I would also like to thank my colleagues, Representatives BUTTERFIELD, JACKSON LEE, and VELÁZQUEZ for their co-sponsorship of my amendment, and for their previous work on these important issues.

Mr. Chair, the en bloc amendment also includes my amendment, number 95, which increases funding for the Office of Juvenile Justice Programs' Youth Mentoring Grants by $5 million—restoring those grants to the Fiscal Year 2017 enacted level.

These grants allow local jurisdictions to develop, expand or sustain youth mentoring efforts using evidence-based best practices.

Mr. Chair, improving outcomes for disadvantaged youth requires more than simply expanding opportunities at school, because the challenges they face often extend beyond the schoolhouse door.

In my 27 years in law enforcement, I saw this first-hand. As Chief of Police for the City of Orlando, Florida, I had the honor of founding Operation Positive Direction—a program through which OPD Officers mentor Orlando youths.

Across the nation, youth participating in these programs show improvements in their perception of social support and acceptance, their family relationships and a decrease in antisocial behaviors. Youth that meet regularly with their mentors are 46 percent less likely to start using illegal drugs, and youth that face opportunity gaps, but have a mentor are 55 percent more likely to go to college.

Again, I want to thank Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member SERRANO for including amendment number 95 in the en bloc amendment as well. I would also like to thank my colleagues, Representatives LANGEVIN and BUTTERFIELD, not only for their co-sponsorship of my amendment, but for their continued leadership on these issues.

I urge all my colleagues to support the en bloc amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield to gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), my good friend.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy with the chairman about the COPS Hiring Program.

Managed by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS, the COPS Hiring Program is vital to State and local law enforcement agencies. The program provides our communities with the much-needed funding to hire law enforcement officers and meet public safety demands.

Since its beginning, the COPS Hiring Program has placed more than 129,000 officers in communities across the United States to advance policing and crime prevention efforts.

Make no mistake, these officers are necessary for the safety of our neighborhoods, constituents, and loved ones. Staffing challenges not only jeopardize the safety of our men and women in uniform, but also directly lead to the breakdown and trust between law enforcement and our communities.

From my over 33 years of experience in law enforcement, I know that police departments and sheriffs' offices must have the staff necessary to engage with their communities and proactively respond to their needs, instead of running from one call to the next.

COPS Hiring is a proven program that studies have shown reduces crime without a corresponding increase in arrests. Effective policing lowers crime rates and builds strong community relationships. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fighting to keep this program funded. It is the same this year.

While I appreciate that the bill before us includes a $100 million increase for Byrne-JAG law enforcement grant program, and I thank the chairman for his efforts, I am disappointed that it doesn't provide funding for the COPS Hiring Program.

As this process moves forward, I urge the chairman to include funding for the COPS Hiring Program. We must continue this program that has been so important to State and local law enforcement. This program is not just good for those who put their lives on the line every day, but it benefits all citizens as our country works to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague from Washington for his service to the people of Seattle, the people in his State, his service here, and for his devotion to this program.

I absolutely recognize the importance of the COPS Hiring Program and what an important impact it has had on the safety of local communities. We are especially grateful to our first responders in southeast Texas, southwest Louisiana, and the people of Florida. I don't know what we would do without our first responders. Our police officers and firemen have done a magnificent job in the wake of these terrible storms that we have had.

Given the staffing shortages and the current issues facing our law enforcement, the COPS program is especially important. As you know, the Senate has funded the COPS program in its bill, and I look forward to working with the gentleman to make sure the COPS program is funded in conference.

Mr. REICHERT. I thank the chairman, and I just mention that I know in my heart his compassion and dedication to the men and women who wear the uniform across our country. I look forward to working with him in making sure the COPS program is funded once again.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 83 printed in House Report 115–297.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 85 printed in House Report 115–297.

AMENDMENT NO. 87 OFFERED BY MRS. TORRES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 87 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mrs. TORRES. 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 258, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

Page 258, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

Page 269, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer my amendment to this appropriations bill.

Mr. Chairman, since I have been in Congress, I have been working with manufacturers in my congressional district to ensure that we are doing all we can in Congress to support them in creating good-paying, high-skilled jobs right here at home.

Last month, I took a ''Made in the 35th'' tour and traveled across my district, meeting with manufacturers who are creating jobs here in the U.S. They told me about how they are competing with importers from Asia and an unfair playing field created by how our trading partners support their manufacturers.

I continued my tour to the Port of Los Angeles, where it became clearer where this unfair playing field has left us. Ships from Asia come in full and leave empty.

Mr. Chairman, the ships that leave Los Angeles should be full of American-made goods. This is the goal of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, or MEP: supporting American businesses through expanding markets and supporting innovation.

Two of the nine MEP success stories in California have happened in my congressional district. Insulfoam in Chino used the MEP to increase production by 20 percent, while reducing their energy costs by more than 5 percent.

Diamond Wipes, a very impressive company that I visited on my Made in the 35th tour, used the MEP to expand their wet wipes business to markets around the world.

A small investment in MEP meant real wins and expansions for these real American businesses.

□ 1430

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is common sense. For every dollar of MEP investment, we can generate nearly $20 million in new sales growth and $20 in new client investment. That is a $100 million return on my amendment.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment because that investment could end up in one of our communities.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the congresswoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment to increase funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the MEP program. This amendment would restore $5 million to MEP, which has helped U.S. manufacturers create and retain good jobs in Connecticut and in every State in the country over nearly 30 years.

Connecticut's MEP, the Connecticut State Technical Extension Program, or CONNSTEP, works with facilities in Connecticut advising them on ways to grow their businesses. And thanks to partnerships with CONNSTEP, in my district alone, Metallon in Thomaston has increased new sales by nearly a half a million dollars, Metallurgical Processing in New Britain increased production by 20 percent, and RTR Technologies in Canaan increased sales by $6 million.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to restore funding to MEP by $5 million, because passing a budget that grows the economy and retains and brings good jobs to our communities is exactly what we were sent to Washington, D.C., to do.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support Representative TORRES' amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I have no particular objection to the amendment other than I am concerned about the offset. We need to make sure the Department of Justice has all the resources they need in order to protect this country. I am concerned about taking it out of General Administration. However, I am prepared to let the amendment go.

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the ranking member of the subcommittee.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment, and I commend the authors for offering it.

This effective program funds a series of centers that help small- and medium-sized manufacturers to develop new products, attract new customers, and reduce protection costs.

Because this bill received an inadequate allocation, the chairman was forced to partially agree with the President's efforts to undermine our manufacturing sector, and the bill currently contains a cut of $30 million from the MEP program. This amendment provides an important downpayment in restoring funding for this important program. We will have to do better down the line, but this is a good start.

Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to support the amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Chairman, this is a $5 million investment for manufacturers in the U.S., and I strongly ask for the support of my colleagues in passing this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. TORRES. 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 California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 91 OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 91 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. MCKINLEY. 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 260, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000) (reduced by $10,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, 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, the Environmental Security Computing Center within NOAA—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—utilizes high-performance computing technology to quickly process information from weather satellites and to predict the path of a hurricane or the extent of damage a wildfire can create. As recent events have shown, weather events can have a devastating impact on the lives of our fellow Americans.

In late July, northern West Virginia experienced unexpected flooding that placed eight counties under a state of emergency. Nearly 1,000 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed, and, tragically, two individuals lost their lives. This was an unexpected flow of water.

Recently, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have destroyed thousands of homes and communities, which will require a massive influx of Federal resources to rebuild. This Congress has the responsibility to ensure the accuracy and viability of the weather and climate monitoring work performed by the security center.

One of the most important systems NOAA uses to process this data is its high-performance computing assets, such as NOAA's Environmental Security Computer Center. My amendment provides funding to complete the build-out for that facility that NOAA has initiated. Completing the build-out will support the supercomputer systems that NOAA uses to process and report this important and critical weather model data.

What we are witnessing during this hurricane season, Mr. Chairman, demonstrates just how important passage of this amendment is to our Nation, and we are going to have reliable information provided to us. So I urge my colleagues to support 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 West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 94 OFFERED BY MS. ROSEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 94 printed in House Report 115–297.

Ms. ROSEN. 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 264, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $18,000,000)''.

Page 314, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $18,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to increase funding to the National Science Foundation's Computer and Information Science and Engineering research directorate, commonly known as CISE.

CISE supports research in computing, communications, information science, and engineering. Through their NSF-supported work, our Nation's scientists have been able to develop innovative solutions to energy,

advanced manufacturing, national security, healthcare, and personal communications.

CISE also provides advanced cyber infrastructure for all areas of science and engineering, and it contributes to the education and training of computer engineers, ensuring our future generations are well equipped with the skills they need in an increasingly competitive global market.

In Nevada and across the country, we are continuing to see a huge demand for workers in the tech industry, including software developers, analysts, engineers, and computer programmers like myself. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the computing industry's rate of job creation in the U.S. is now three times the national average. In order for our workforce to continue to push the boundaries, we must invest in research and training programs at NSF.

CISE is particularly important because it provides funding for cutting-edge computing and information science research, which is critical to innovation in nearly all lines of work from business to government.

Simply put, the 21st century runs on computers and constantly evolving technologies. As one of the few women in Congress to build her career in STEM, I know all too well the demand for talent in STEM is real, and we must make smart investments now.

Current CISE projects across the country include developing unmanned aerial systems technology to help reduce wildfires, creating new clinical modeling techniques to use electronic health records for personalized patient care, and strengthening our cyber infrastructure.

In my district, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is using CISE funding for several groundbreaking initiatives. One of their projects focuses on increasing the participation of students with disabilities in computer science courses by creating accessible tools and curricula, preparing professors for diverse students.

UNLV is also partnering with the local Clark County School District to mentor high school teachers on computer science, cybersecurity, and big data.

Mr. Chairman, this current bill maintains fiscal year 2017 level funding for NSF research and related activities, which CISE is funded through. That is admirable, given the fact that President Trump's proposed budget slashed NSF research. Maintaining level funding shows shared, bipartisan support for scientific research right here in Congress.

I thank the majority and the subcommittee chairman for recognizing the importance of supporting computer and information science. However, even with this funding level, according to agency leadership, the NSF has had to deny over $2 billion worth of excellent proposals every year, indicating the fact that it is underfunded.

If we are going to be serious about competing in the economy of tomorrow and the economy of today, then we must continue funding programs that help our country to remain the global leader in innovation, productivity, economic growth, and provide good-paying jobs for the future.

My amendment would increase funding to CISE by 2 percent, allowing it to keep up with year-over-year inflation and fund the same number of grants as previous years. This level funding in real dollars is the least we can do to remain globally competitive in computer science and engineering.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting ''yes'' for this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, we have, as you know, an extremely difficult budget year. Our constituent's hard-earned tax dollars are being stretched farther and thinner than ever, particularly in light of the disasters that struck Texas and southwest Louisiana and now Florida.

We have, in our Commerce, Justice, Science bill, protected America's investment and basic research through the National Science Foundation and its main grant account, the Research and Related Activities account.

We have funded the Research and Related Activities account at $672 million this year. We recognize that America's leadership in the world is grounded, in large part, on the innovations and discoveries that are made by unrestrained scientific research.

I am a very strong supporter of the National Science Foundation's scientific research. And while we would like to see higher levels of funding for the National Science Foundation for NASA and for other science-related research in this bill, until the Congress comes to an overall budget agreement, Mr. Chairman, we simply do not have additional funds, and we must live within our means.

The proposed offset that is offered by this amendment would seriously hinder program and financial oversight over the Department of Commerce and could result in professionals being let go.

Further, with respect to the gentlewoman's statement, I believe it is important that we defer to the National Science Foundation to distribute any additional funds according to the highest priority needs identified by the scientific community and not designate them for a specific directorate.

□ 1445

Should the gentlewoman's amendment pass, the funds will be added to the research and related activities account, in general. It will then be up to NSF to determine how those additional funds are spent according to the needs of the scientific community, that the offset is very damaging to the Department of Commerce and the important work they do, in fact, the constitutionally mandated work that they do, to provide for the decennial census of the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to oppose 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 Nevada (Ms. ROSEN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 101 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 101 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. COHEN. 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 277, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Page 320, line 7, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak in support of our bipartisan amendment, which would increase Legal Services funding by $10 million. I am willing to withdraw this amendment after my colleagues and I take a brief moment to speak about Legal Services. I know that the chair and the ranking member support Legal Services and may be able to help, but at some time in the future.

Our justice system is the envy of the world. Whenever we travel, people say what they really respect about America is the rule of law and our justice system, but it takes professional help by an attorney to navigate it. When they are poor—which most people don't have legal training—they are not going to be able to successfully compete against a private attorney on the other side. They need help. If they don't have that help, the justice system is not fair.

Legal Services helps ensure equal justice under the law. It helps all kind of folks: military families, homeowners and renters, families with children, the disabled, and the elderly.

It is vital all over the country, but in places like Houston, residents struggle from Hurricane Harvey. Lone Star Legal Aid, which is partially funded by Legal Services, is helping people navigate the legal hurdles when people need them most so that they can get their lives back.

Mr. KENNEDY has been a strong supporter of this. He was supposed to be here today, but I think he has been detained.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, every year for 42 years, Congress has funded the Legal Services Corporation so that low-income Americans might realize our country's solemn pledge of justice for all. For military families, homeowners and renters, families with children, the disabled, the elderly, and nearly 112,000 veterans, investment in civil legal aid is one of the most effective ways to help Americans navigate the justice system.

The Legal Services Corporation allows millions of Americans to safeguard their basic legal rights at a minimal cost to the Federal Government. As the late Justice Antonin Scalia emphasized in 2014: '' . . . this organization pursues the most fundamental of American ideals, and it pursues equal justice in those areas of life most important to the lives of our citizens.''

This organization provides direct grants to legal aid providers across our Nation, including eight organizations in my home State of Pennsylvania. I am proud to support the Legal Services Corporation, which allows people access to justice even when they cannot afford representation. We must continue this program.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his help.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee. Mr. SERRANO has helped me on other amendments as well as this one.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I feel comfortable with Mr. COHEN withdrawing his amendment because I know the chairman, Mr. CULBERSON, is very supportive of this program.

It is interesting to note that this program was born in a bipartisan fashion, with President Nixon, at that time, being the main supporter of it.

The bill only provides $300 million for Legal Services, which is a cut of $85 million from fiscal year 2017. This amendment provides a downpayment towards restoring these cuts, and I commend the authors for offering it.

We should not be cutting LSC funding at a time when more people than ever qualify for these services. Legal aid providers always must turn away more than half of eligible applicants. They already do that, and these cuts would only create a bigger problem.

Very briefly, in closing, there are a lot of issues that we can discuss that make America great. One of them is the right to legal representation. If you can't afford it, then this is where programs like Legal Services come in and support.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), my good friend and colleague.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman from Tennessee's amendment.

As a democracy founded on the belief in the rule of law, I am a proud co-chair of the House Access to Civil Legal Services Caucus with my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

I believe we have an obligation to ensure that all Americans have access to legal representation in order to uphold the values upon which our Nation was founded: equality and justice under our laws. This amendment will ensure that Legal Services Corporation can continue supporting those values by providing legal support to the millions of Americans who would otherwise go without it whenever they might face serious legal challenges.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman withdrawing the amendment. I want to express my support for the work the Legal Services Corporation does.

When we reach a budget agreement throughout the Congress for Legal Services, we will work with you in conference to help make sure they have the funds that they need to do their vital work to defend abused women, veterans, and members of the military who need assistance. They do important work. As soon as we find some extra room, I will work with you in conference to find them some extra support.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. CULBERSON for his help, and Mrs. BROOKS for her leadership.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 104 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 105 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 105 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. GROTHMAN. 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 281, line 11, insert ''(reduced by $64,688,800)'' after the dollar amount.

Page 347, line 16, insert ''(increased by $64,688,800)'' after the dollar amount.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 3354.

Since we last met, we began spending, I guess, a new $15 billion on the tragedies in Florida and Texas. I haven't had a chance to see how all of my colleagues are doing, but I sure hope that we are getting nothing but amendments designed to reduce spending to make up for the difference. I hope that is so.

I am looking at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. I am on the Government Oversight Committee. We recently had another hearing on Fast and Furious. I don't think there has been enough contrition there at all. This was, I think, probably the biggest scandal in my lifetime, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has to consider themselves to be a big part of that scandal.

Being from Wisconsin, I am also familiar with a local scandal we had there. If you google ''ATF'' and ''Milwaukee,'' you will find a situation in which they were selling guns which they shouldn't have been selling and buying guns which they shouldn't have been buying. So there is another reason why we should look at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Despite these scandals, their funding has gone nothing but up over the last few years. We are, in this budget, looking to borrow between 13 to 14 percent of this budget, and that is before we begin to have to spend money on the Florida and Texas hurricanes.

I am introducing a bill with a mild 5 percent across-the-board cut to ATF. President Trump had wanted a smaller increase. The Appropriations Committee went $20 million over what President Trump wanted. I don't think that is right. I think they need a little bit of a slap-down here.

I am looking to reduce the amount of spending on this organization by $64 million. I think that is very appropriate given the scandals that they have been involved in. It is very appropriate given that we are borrowing 14 percent of our money. In the sane world, we would almost take every agency down 14 percent. We don't have time for that, but this agency, based on their behavior, seems in favor of that.

I know some people are going to probably not want to cut anything here. We just heard in the last amendment that it appears like some people want to go up. I think this is a modest decrease, and I think they should have no problem finding this small amount of money.

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, remembering that, first and foremost, the appropriations annual operating budget of the United States represents only 30 cents out of every dollar spent by the Federal Government.

I am keenly aware of how precious and hard-earned and scarce every dollar earned by our constituents is. We need to focus on the 70 percent: the automatic pilot programs, the looming insolvency of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. That is how we can really get our budget balanced.

We have done our part on the Appropriations Committee to bring down annual spending every year, and the ATF, in particular, plays an important role in protecting America's Second Amendment rights. You must remember that the ATF is now under the direction of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who shares with us a passion for protecting Americans' Second Amendment rights.

This amendment would cause serious damage to ATF's ability to end the backlogs. The ATF would not be able to speed up the processing of the National Firearms Act applications. The ATF would not be able to beef up the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, which is so vital to help police officers identify the source of the bullet used in a crime.

This amendment would injure an agency that is doing good work today under the leadership of Attorney General Jeff Sessions to protect our Second Amendment rights. Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to oppose it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), my colleague, the ranking member on the Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This reduction would have a significant impact on public safety. The ATF would be investigating fewer firearm traffickers and violent gangs. They would be unable to respond effectively to theft burglaries from Federal firearms licensees. These cuts would weaken the ATF's ability to do its primary responsibilities: combat violent crime and regulate the firearms and explosive industries.

Not surprisingly, a reduction of this magnitude would result in approximately 400 employees being laid off. According to the ATF, that means they would have to eliminate approximately 200 special agents, 65 industry operations investigators, and 135 professional technical positions. The elimination of these positions at ATF directly degrades the Department's capacity to combat violent firearm crimes and regulate the firearms and explosives industries.

I just think that this is not a proper amendment at this time or, for that matter, at any time, and I join the chairman in agreeing on this.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am going to disagree a little bit with one of those past statements.

We have heard the statement made, sometimes behind closed doors by a lot of people, and that is we have an increase of discretionary spending over the last 3 years. This is a mild cut this year, but over the last 3 years, collectively, it is an increase, 3 or 4 years.

There are some people who feel that we shouldn't scrutinize that spending because so much of our budget is mandatory spending. I do feel that we need a larger cut in mandatory spending than the rather modest cut that came out of the Budget Committee, and I hope everybody in our Conference will demand a more significant cut in mandatory spending.

But, nevertheless, discretionary spending is 30 percent of the budget. Common sense will tell you that, as things become more technology oriented, it should be easier for an agency that processes data, like the ATF, to do their business with a little bit less money.

And one more time I will emphasize that there haven't been cuts to reflect these scandals in the ATF, and I think that, if we are not going to kind of slap them on the wrist now, when will we?

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to oppose this amendment.

ATF is doing a good job of protecting our Second Amendment rights, and this amendment would injure them severely.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GROTHMAN. 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 Wisconsin will be postponed.

□ 1500

AMENDMENT NO. 106 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 106 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK), 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 281, line 17, strike ''none of the'' and insert ''such''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, as mentioned, this amendment was actually drafted by Representative BUCK from Colorado. I understand this amendment passed on a voice vote last time.

I do have a nice speech that Representative BUCK's office has prepared for me, but I am not going to read a speech that is not my speech. I am sure it is a wonderful speech.

I hope the chairman allows this amendment in.

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this very misguided amendment. This amendment would allow felons and other dangerous individuals to try to regain the ability to own guns by sending an application to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

I am not sure why the Member would offer an amendment that makes it easier for felons to get guns. Most Americans would be shocked by such a proposal. Each year since 1993, Congress has prohibited ATF from processing applications from felons seeking to have their gun rights restored, and with good reason.

Prior to 1993, there were numerous examples of felons who had their gun rights restored by ATF only to go on to commit further crimes later. For example, in 1977, Michael Paul Dahnert of Wisconsin was convicted of burglary. In 1986, he was granted relief and allowed to, once again, own firearms. Two months later, he was rearrested and charged with first degree sexual assault and four counts of second degree sexual assault, for which he received 5 years in prison.

In 1977, James Morgan was convicted of perjury to a grand jury. In 1988, he was granted relief and allowed to gain and own firearms. He was arrested that same year for first degree wanton endangerment and later sentenced to 6 months confinement and 2 years probation.

These are only a few examples. It is important to point out that the gentleman's amendment makes no distinction as far as the seriousness of the offense for which the individual was initially denied a firearm, and ATF would need to investigate all applications for gun rights restoration. Furthermore, simply processing these applications would require significant ATF agent resources and would divert ATF away from its core law enforcement mission of fighting firearm offenses.

Since 1998, when the National Instant Criminal Background Check System was put in use, well over 1 million firearm transfers have been denied after background checks established that the individuals attempting to purchase the firearms were prohibited from processing firearms.

Even if only 20 percent of the denied individuals file an application with ATF to have their gun rights restored, this would require the efforts of hundreds of full-time ATF agents to perform background checks of these individuals. The agents would be diverted

from their primary law enforcement investigation.

Even though ATF is legally required to ensure that the applicant ''will not be likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety,'' we know that this process is not perfect, as evidenced by the examples I just gave.

The bottom line is that this amendment would give guns back to felons and, at the same time, sharply reduce ATF's resources for pursuing violent crime investigations. Both of these outcomes would seriously harm public safety, and for these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to reject this amendment.

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Chair, I thank the Chairman for the opportunity to speak about my amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Division of H.R. 3354.

Mr. Chair, the right to bear arms is ingrained in our nation's founding. These rights are given to us by God and guaranteed by the Constitution.

But for many Americans, this right has been forfeited. And their only option for recourse has been taken away.

When I was District Attorney in Northern Colorado I met a man who told me that when he was in college he bounced a check to his landlord. He pleaded guilty to a felony.

Since that day, he has been a model citizen. He finished college. He worked hard and raised a family.

This man made a mistake that is still haunting him nearly 40 years later. He wants to take his grandchildren hunting. But he can't possess a firearm because he made a mistake in his youth.

The worst part of this situation is that the law allows the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to consider petitions to restore this man's right to possess a firearm.

However, for 25 years, the underlying bill has included a provision authored by then-Rep. SCHUMER prohibiting ATF from processing these applications.

America is a land of second chances. We restore civil rights for those who have made mistakes in their past, including the right to vote in many states. We help our neighbors find employment after incarceration.

Why should non-violent individuals who made a mistake in their past be prohibited from having their case heard?

This amendment simply seeks to remove a 25-year-old ban on the ATF's legal function to hear petitions from non-violent individuals like the man I mentioned earlier.

To be clear, my amendment would not act as a rubber stamp on every application. The ATF must weigh the merits of each individual case.

The burden is on the applicant to prove that he or she is nonviolent and does not pose a threat to the community.

Any American who can prove to ATF they do not pose a danger to society should be allowed to state their case. They should be allowed to advocate for their rights.

It is about time that we give these individuals that opportunity again.

Mr. Chair, my amendment is simple. It would give nonviolent individuals who made a mistake in their past the opportunity for a second chance.

It would allow a grandfather the opportunity to take his grandchildren hunting and provide a way for a mother to protect her home.

To be clear, this amendment does not guarantee that an applicant will have their rights restored. But it does give them hope, a chance to once again possess their Second Amendment rights.

After all, America is the land of second chances.

I thank the Chairman and urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 108 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 108 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), 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 282, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Page 283, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $20,000,000)''.

Page 296, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, this amendment would reprogram $10 million from the prison account and put it in the juvenile justice programs designed to reduce recidivism, gang violence, and gun crimes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE, a fellow member on the Judiciary Committee, has been a leader on this issue, and she is right in her approach, understanding that working with juveniles early will save money in the long run and see that they don't get into the prison pipeline that so often takes young people and ruins their lives and costs our communities and our taxpayers a great deal of money.

Our Federal prisons are presently funded $7 billion for administration, operation, and maintenance. Twenty million dollars of that is made up for contract confinement.

This amendment would reduce the account by $10 million and put it into juvenile justice programs that would reduce recidivism, gang violence, and gun crime.

These juvenile justice programs that would get the benefit of this money would protect our most vulnerable children through treatment and mentoring programs. According to the Justice Policy Institute, locking up juveniles costs an average of $407 a day and $148,000 per person per year.

There are a lot of conservative coalitions, like FreedomWorks, American Conservative Union Foundation, and Taxpayers Protection Alliance that agree that mass incarceration is extremely costly to taxpayers.

This amendment invests in our youth population at the front end with rewards on the back end, as these folks don't end up in the prison system; supports programs that have shown consistent success in curtailing gang violence and gun crimes.

Violence among our youth is a health epidemic that must be addressed; therefore, we must support professionals that possess practical experience in epidemic control for violence prevention, and that show success working with the most vulnerable and at-risk youth population when addressing this health epidemic.

Within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the following programs focus on violence prevention: Forum, Community Based Violence Prevention, and Defending Childhood. The CBVP explicitly calls for and supports the health approach; hence, this amendment provides funding for organizations such as community-based violence prevention programs that have shown great success.

Cure Violence, a health-based organization operating in several cities and States, including Chicago and New York and Philadelphia and others, has shown great success and also shown success in Puerto Rico. They have had 100 percent reduction in homicide retaliation in Chicago, a 41 to 73 percent drop in shootings in five of eight communities in Baltimore; they have had a 56 percent drop in killings, and 44 percent other places.

In essence, this is putting money in a place where we can save money, save youths, save lives.

Mr. Chair, I ask that we support this amendment that Ms. JACKSON LEE has brought forth. It makes a lot of common sense.

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chair, this amendment would cut the Bureau of Prisons' operations by $10 million. This is a serious cut. The Bureau of Prisons performs an essential function in keeping our streets safe and protecting the people of America.

We have already funded the youth mentoring programs in our bill today at $75 million. It is 25 percent above the request, because of the value of these programs.

I certainly agree with the gentleman that these programs are successful, they are effective, but the Department of Justice is not even finished awarding the grants from fiscal year 2017, and this program is very healthy.

This program would also, Mr. Chairman, eliminate a longstanding authority the Bureau of Prisons has had for

contract flexibility that enables the Bureau of Prisons to manage its contracts in a way that benefits both the agency and the taxpayer. This includes contracts for halfway houses, reentry facilities, and juvenile detention.

This burden would strap the Bureau of Prisons, putting pressure on them and putting inmates in more danger, putting officers and staff in greater danger. If we want prisoners to get healthcare and rehabilitation, Mr. Chairman, and prisoners and staff to be safe, we have to adequately fund the Bureau of Prisons.

Mr. Chair, I urge Members to vote ''no'' on this amendment.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, I understand Mr. CULBERSON's position and look forward to his help with legal services that will help juveniles, too.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, thank you for this opportunity to discuss Amendment 108 to the "CJS Appropriation Act of 2017".

This amendment will save thousands of lives within our youth population by decreasing our federal prison funding of $7,070,248,000, available for the administration, operation and maintenance of Federal penal and correctional institutions. Of this amount, up to $20,000,000 is made available for the use of contract confinement.

My amendment seeks to reduce this account by a mere $10,000,000 for juvenile justice programs designed to reduce recidivism, gang violence and gun crime.

These juvenile justice programs help protect our most vulnerable children through treatment, education, training, and mentoring, not incarceration.

According to the Justice Policy Institute, locking up juveniles costs an average of $407.58 per person per day and $148,767 per person per year.

Even conservative coalitions like Freedom Works, American Conservative Union Foundation, Generation Opportunity, and Taxpayers Protection Alliance agreed that mass incarceration is extremely costly to taxpayers.

This amendment invests in our youth population at the front end with a greater return before the damage becomes irreversible at the back end.

This amendment supports programs that have shown consistent success in curtailing gang violence and gun crimes.

Research shows that violence among our youths is a health epidemic that must be addressed with appropriate measures beyond incarceration.

Therefore, we must support professionals that possess practical experience in epidemic control for violence prevention, and that show success working with the most vulnerable and at-risk youth population when addressing this health epidemic.

Within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the following programs focus on violence prevention: Forum, Community Based Violence Prevention (CBVP), and Defending Childhood. The CBVP explicitly calls for and supports the health approach.

Hence, this amendment provides funding for organizations such as community-based violence prevention programs that statistically have shown much success.

For example, Cure Violence, a health-based organization that operates in, several cities and states, have shown great success in the intervention and prevention of violence in places like, Chicago, Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia and others. They have also shown great success in Puerto Rico.

Statistics show l00% reduction in homicide retaliation in Chicago, and a 41–73% drop in shootings in 5 of 8 communities; in Baltimore, up to 56% drop in killings; and 44% drop in shootings; in New York, 20% lower level of shootings; and in Philadelphia, reduction shooting rate was significantly larger than any reduction compared to non-program police districts.

Unlike incarceration cost of $407.58 per person per day and $148,767 per person per year, these alternative measures cost significantly less to serve a much larger population than what it cost to incarcerate one person, while reducing shootings and killings by 50%–70% in 15 of the most highly impacted large cities in the U.S. Hence, programs such as Cure Violence, Safe Streets and others show that alternative methods to incarceration are effective.

Both sides of the aisle agree that our juvenile justice system is in desperate need of repair. Incarceration at alarming numbers does not solve this problem.

Statistics show that incarceration does not serve as deterrence, nor does it keep our communities safe. Rather, it increases the likelihood for recidivism and thus, increases crime rates and mass incarceration.

For those who say juvenile justice is a state problem and not a federal problem because we don't have many youths in federal custody, I say even if there is but one juvenile in our prison system, we have one too many.

I saw many young faces during the horrific tragedy in Houston's vicious storm that claimed so many lives.

I do not ever want to see that look of despair and hopelessness again if we can do something to prevent that.

While some may say that juvenile justice is already funded, it is not enough. We need to address the epidemic taking place in our juvenile justice system and the crisis that follows thereafter—economic hardships, lack of education and inadequate job training.

For all the reasons stated above, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 109 OFFERED BY MR. PASCRELL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 109 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. PASCRELL. 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 291, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $100,000,000) (increased by $100,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today, once again, to highlight the hypocrisy reflected here of the party that claims to be the law-and-order party, because, once again, the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill before us has zeroed out funding for the COPS Hiring Program.

This critical program provides Federal grants to local police departments for the hiring and retention of police officers. Despite the fact that this vital program helps ensure that we have enough cops on the beat in our communities, the House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bills have cut or eliminated funding for the COPS Hiring Program since the Republicans took control of this House in 2011.

So every year, Representative DAVE REICHERT and I, co-chairs of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, come to the floor to offer an amendment to shift funding back to the COPS Hiring Program to show support for local police hiring programs. We do this dance every year, but no one seems to learn their lesson, because here we are again with a bill that zeros out funding for this program.

Our amendments pass with overwhelming support, often by voice vote. The Senate sees this strong support and ends up funding the program in the final appropriations package. In fact, both the Senate and President have proposed funding the COPS program at $207 million.

Typically, we have regular order in the House when considering appropriations bills. That means we would have an open rule to allow us to offer any amendment to shift funds in this bill. However, this is not the case this year, Mr. Chairman.

Our dance with the Appropriations Committee would have continued this year, but the Rules Committee prevented any substantive amendment to boost funding for the COPS Hiring Program from moving forward.

This amendment enjoyed the support of law enforcement organizations across America, including the Major County Sheriffs Association. They were dismayed at the decision to eliminate the COPS Hiring Program.

The amendment before us enjoys the support of law enforcement organizations, such as the National Association of Police Organizations, Fraternal Order of Police. In their letter of support, NAPO wrote that they are ''very concerned that H.R. 3354 does not provide funding for the COPS Hiring Program.''

The FOP writes: '' . . . we must continue to fund the COPS Hiring Program.''

Mr. Chairman, I include these letters in the RECORD.

MAJOR COUNTY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,
Pontiac, MI, September 6, 2017.

Hon. BILL PASCRELL,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PASCRELL: On behalf of the Major County Sheriffs of America

(MCSA), I write in support of your amendment to the FY18 House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill which will provide critical funding to the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program. The MCSA is an association of elected Sheriffs representing the Nation's largest counties with populations of 500,000 people or more. Collectively, we represent more than 100 million Americans.

The MCSA was again dismayed at the CJS Appropriations Committee's decision to eliminate the COPS Hiring program—a program helping to ensuring state and local law enforcement have the personnel and resources necessary to protect and serve their communities. At a time when agencies are being asked to do more yet are still struggling to recruit and retain law enforcement professionals, we are seeing a pullback of federal support.

The MCSA applauds your understanding of the many challenges facing local law enforcement today and we appreciate your commitment to our profession.

Very Respectfully,

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD,
Sheriff, Oakland County (MI).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.,
Alexandria, VA, September 7, 2017.

Re Support for Amendment #109 to H.R. 3354 to Provide $100 Million for COPS Hiring.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to advise you of our strong support for Amendment #109 to H.R. 3354, offered by Congressmen Pascrell and Reichert, that would provide $100 million in funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program.

NAPO is a coalition of police units and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

NAPO is very concerned that H.R. 3354 does not provide funding for the COPS Hiring Program. This vital program has assisted more than 13,000 jurisdictions with over $14 billion in funding to hire more than 127,000 community police officers across the United States. A big part of the success of the original program was its reliance on local police agencies in defining what their communities needed. In addition to the hiring and retention of much needed officers, this funding program has contributed to continued success in combating crime, drug use, and gangs; reducing and preventing the manufacture, distribution, and use of illegal drugs; promoting officer safety and wellness; and addressing emerging law enforcement needs. It is vital that this program continue to be funded.

The Pascrell/Reichert Amendment #109 rights this wrong by providing necessary funding to the COPS Hiring Program. As major cities across the country are facing an increase in violent crime for the first time in years and community-police relations are strained, now is not the time to put additional stresses on state and local police forces by leaving them short-handed. Further, this funding will be essential to police and sheriff departments affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma as they look to rebuild.

NAPO urges you to support this amendment and ensure that the COPS Hiring Program remains strong and robust.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, Esq.,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN O. MCCARTHY,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY P. PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. STENY H. HOYER,
Minority Whip, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND REPRESENTATIVES MCCARTHY, PELOSI AND HOYER: I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for an amendment, introduced by Representatives William J. Pascrell, Jr. (D–NJ) and David G. Reichert (R–WA), which would increase by $100 million the appropriations for the hiring program administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) at the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 1994, Congress established the COPS Office and, in the decade which followed, our nation experienced a significant drop in crime rates. A large part of this success was the nation's commitment to community oriented policing, particularly its hiring component which helped get more officers on the beat. Community oriented policing has been the cornerstone of our nation's policing strategy for nearly 25 years and the hiring program is the reason this strategy works.

However, today, we have less police on our streets and neighborhoods than we did even a decade ago, making the community policing strategy very difficult to pursue. It is no surprise to our profession that crime, particularly violent crime, is on the rise. There are less men and women policing our streets, keeping the peace and interacting positively with the communities they protect. If we are serious about stemming the rise in crime and if we remain committed to the community policing strategy, then we must continue to fund the COPS hiring program.

It is for these reasons we urge you and all Members of Congress to vote in support of the Reichert-Pascrell amendment providing resources to the COPS hiring program.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I appreciate you considering our views on this important issue. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Senior Advisor Jim Pasco in my Washington office

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,
National President.

Mr. PASCRELL. Hiding behind procedural shenanigans to dodge support for our Nation's law enforcement officers and then pontificating when you come to the floor, that doesn't settle right with me or a lot of other people.

□ 1515

You have done it year after year. You are not going to do it this year? I am sorry. You can't have your cake and eat it.

I want to say this in closing. I want all of my colleagues to reflect on how, on the one hand, you can claim support for law enforcement while, at the same time, cutting the resources you need to hire brave men and women who keep the neighborhood safe. I do not know the answer to that question, but I do know that, during this year's National Police Week, a week where we honor the brave men and women who lost their lives while serving in the line of duty, my friend and the chairman of the subcommittee—and I consider him a friend—stood on the House floor and said:

> As the chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee, it is and continues to be my top priority to ensure that our law enforcement officers have the resources that they need.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of Mr. PASCRELL's amendment to increase COPS grant funding. The COPS program works. These resources have saved the lives of police officers and the citizenry they are tasked with protecting.

These funds often bridge the gap between the policing services a community requires and the capabilities of its existing force. These funds are merit based, prioritizing hiring and equipment where they are most needed and for the best use of the taxpaying public. In these challenging times for law enforcement, it is critical that we keep this program operational for our Nation's crime challenges.

Earlier today, we discussed legislation critical to the health and safety of our Nation's firefighters, and now we consider this important priority for our Nation's police officers.

I commend Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. REICHERT for their leadership in the Law Enforcement Caucus. I am proud to be a member of the caucus, and I join in their efforts to provide continued support for COPS funding and for expanding the capabilities of law enforcement to do their jobs and protect the public and themselves, which is critical to every officer in the Nation.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I have no objection to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chair, I share my colleagues' support for law enforcement and have no objection to this amendment; and I will work with the gentlemen to ensure that the COPS program is funded when we get to conference, we have a budget agreement across the Congress, and additional funds are made available. The COPS program is an essential one that will be at the top of the list.

My support for law enforcement is reflected in the $100 million increase seen in the Byrne JAG Program, which is a

very flexible grant program for local law enforcement to use for a variety of reasons, including hiring police officers, including forensic work, lab work, and eliminating the backlog of rape kits, which is so important to getting dangerous criminals off the streets.

The Byrne JAG Grant Program is one that is increasingly popular and successful among the men and women of law enforcement, and that is why we have increased it by $100 million in this year's Commerce, Justice, Science bill to keep the men and women of America safe, to support our law enforcement officers of whom we could not be prouder.

We are immensely grateful for the work of our first responders and law enforcement. The people of Houston, the people of southwest Louisiana, the people of Florida have all relied on them in this time of crisis with these terrible floods in Houston, the hurricane in Florida. I don't know what we would do without our first responders and men and women in uniform in the law enforcement community protecting us every day.

Mr. Chair, I have no objection to the gentleman's amendment, and 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. PASCRELL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 112 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 112 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. SMITH 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 314, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $30,200,000) (increased by $30,200,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I support this bill and endorse division C, the CJS appropriations bill developed by Chairman CULBERSON. The appropriations included in division C implement the Science Committee's authorizations that have been enacted into law or passed by the House.

I offer an amendment today to simply increase physical and biological science research by one-half of 1 percent, or $30.2 million, over the current funding within the $6 billion National Science Foundation research account. Total spending is not increased, as NSF will adjust other areas of spending accordingly.

I ask the chairman and members to support the amendment and endorse this increase for the basic research that produces the scientific breakthroughs that fuel technological innovation, new industries, economic growth, and good jobs.

I yield to the chairman, Chairman CULBERSON, for his support of this amendment.

Mr. CULBERSON. Chairman SMITH, I support your amendment to increase the physical and biological sciences and will fight for it in conference.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman CULBERSON for his support and very much appreciate his help along the way.

On a separate matter, can the chairman assure me that the funding in the bill is fully consistent with the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act enacted into law earlier this year?

Mr. CULBERSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I can. It is fully consistent with the authorization.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Texas, the chairman of the subcommittee, for his support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 113 OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 113 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), and I have an amendment at the desk, No. 113.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 346, strike line 18 and all that follows through line 2 on page 347.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would strike language in the bill that would prohibit the EEOC from using its funds to implement pay data collection.

Mr. Chairman, we know that racial and gender pay gaps exist in America. The Obama administration, a few years ago, created the National Equal Pay Task Force, which recommended this new data collection, the EEO–1 form, which would, for the first time, require employers to provide not just data on who is hired by race, sex, and ethnicity, but also to include pay data.

The EEOC has collected employer data since 1966. There has been no problem with confidentiality. So for 50 years we have gotten information on the race, sex, and ethnicity of those employed, but we do not have the pay data, and the pay data would expose the pay disparities where all the women are paid less than men. You don't find that on the present EEO–1 form.

Recently, the OMB, without warning or transparency, rescinded the EEOC's plan to collect the data, which was to begin in March. This amendment would make it clear that Congress should honor the purpose and spirit of title VII and permit the EEOC to carry out its statutory obligation to collect necessary data needed to enforce civil rights laws.

Mr. Chair, I would hope that we would adopt this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, everyone here appreciates concerns about the ways of discrimination. The question is how to collect the data in an efficient way, and the new EEOC–1 form is certainly not the way to collect that data.

What do I mean by that, Mr. Chairman?

You have to compare apples to apples and oranges to oranges. It is not like we don't collect data already. We have 140 different data points on the EEOC–1 form. This would increase the number of data points to 3,306 that an employer potentially would have to report.

Mr. Chairman, if we had better data, that is all right, but let's take a specific example: a large hospital. The new form groups all professionals together. A hospital would have to report what it pays its professionals in the same category, what it pays its female professionals and its male professionals. But, Mr. Chairman, it includes nurses and surgeons in the same category. They are all professionals. In fact, in the United States, for instance, among registered nurses, we have about 3 million—89 percent—are females.

Now, in the United States, we have an estimated number of physicians and surgeons of about 900,000; 65 percent are males, only 35 percent females. They are all grouped in the same category for the EEOC–1 form.

So what would the result be? If you were in a hospital and you had nurses and you had employee surgeons, it would look like you were discriminating against women because the nurses get paid less, and your average salary is going to be less for your women because you have grouped surgeons in with nurses. Only a Federal Government bureaucrat could come up with an idea like that in order to gauge whether wage discrimination occurs.

The fact of the matter is it is even worse, Mr. Chairman, because, based on the reporting of these results, EEOC can go on a fishing expedition against

whatever institution it wants to that files this. And if we don't think that happens, Mr. Chairman, I am just going to say two words: Lois Lerner.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), the chairman of the subcommittee, and I want to thank the chairman for attaching this section to the bill. It is an important section for our employers.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I join the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) in opposing this amendment because the EEOC, under the previous administration, has created this monstrosity of a burden on small businesses, and they did such a poor job of it that the Office of Management and Budget actually put the requirement under review and suspended it.

Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose this amendment. I join the gentleman in seeking to protect small businesses from this unnecessary and burdensome requirement. EEOC already has a huge backlog of cases involving actual complaints of discrimination that need to be resolved, people who need to be protected, and EEOC should focus on doing their job, clearing up the backlog, protecting people from discrimination where they actually already have a real complaint, not looking for needles in haystacks.

Mr. Chair, I urge Members to join us in opposing this amendment, and I recommend a ''no'' vote.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chairman, my, my, my. Here we go again. Another bill to protect the derrieres of big business, allowing them to hide crucial data from public scrutiny, information that would disclose pay disparities in the workplace.

It is a law, Mr. Chairman, that businesses must pay equal pay for equal work. So why is it that women and minorities make much less money than their white male counterparts doing similar work?

Mr. Chairman, let's pass this amendment. Root out pay discrimination, because it is time that all Americans are paid for their hard work and not for their gender or the color of their skin.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, I just say that it is absolutely true if we were looking at similar work, but the bill does not look at similar work. It looks at huge categories like, for instance, professionals in a hospital that include neurosurgeons and nurses. It is not similar work.

This is the worst kind of data gathering you can have by the Federal Government because, again, they use this to go after employers that they want to go after.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, if you hear the opposition to this amendment, you would think that discrimination does not exist in this country any longer. Oh, how I wish that were the case.

Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment. This amendment would strike the harmful EEOC rider which blocks the EEOC from collecting data on the expanded EEO–1 form. This data collection would allow EEOC to better examine pay patterns by industry and/or geographic region and/or employer or establishment, conduct comprehensive statistical analysis, and evaluate the context of the discrimination allegations.

□ 1530

The EEOC will use the data primarily for early assessment of allegations of discrimination based on sex, ethnicity, or race. In short, the newly expanded form will be critical to closing gender and racial wage gaps. Preventing the collection of this information will result in less oversight and more wage discrimination.

Mr. Chair, I strongly support the amendment.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from New York for his remarks. No one is naive enough to think that discrimination doesn't exist.

The question is: What tools should the Federal Government use?

And this certainly is not the tool that is helpful.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, the form is not a complaint. We know that there are pay disparities. This would allow the EEOC to notice gruesome problems and disparities and address them where appropriate.

In that hospital situation, it is obvious the situation is not appropriate, but we do know that pay disparities exist, and this would be information that would allow the EEOC to address them.

I would hope that we would allow the EEOC to do its job.

Mr. Chair, I support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I agree with the gentleman. Pay disparities exist, but we need a precise tool. If we are going to give the Federal Government a tool with which to investigate and punish employers, it should be a surgical tool. This is not a surgical tool. This is an imprecise tool.

The EEOC, again, Mr. Chairman, has 3,360 data points. It groups high-wage professionals with low-wage professionals, and has nothing to do with discrimination. It is an imprecise tool. We should retain the language in the bill.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. 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.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 114 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 115 OFFERED BY MR. ZELDIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 115 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. ZELDIN. 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 C (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service to enforce Executive Order 13449 or section 697.7(b) of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, in the Block Island Transit Zone (as that term is defined in section 697.7(b)(3) of such title).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 3354 on behalf of the hardworking fishermen of Long Island and our entire region who are suffering more than ever under confusing and unfair regulations that are threatening to put them out of business.

This amendment is nearly identical to one I offered to the DHS division of this bill that unanimously passed by voice vote last week that related to the Coast Guard.

Today's amendment would bar the National Marine Fisheries Service from enforcing the ban on striped bass fishing in the Block Island Sound Transit Zone, a 15-mile stretch of water between Montauk Point, New York, and Block Island, Rhode Island.

No other species of fish are subject to an arbitrary ban in this section of Block Island Sound, famous for fishing and recreational boating.

The fact that the transit zone is considered a part of the EEZ means the ban on striped bass fishing extends into this local waterway. This means hardworking commercial fishermen, charter boat captains, and recreational anglers enjoying a day on the water with their family can suddenly go from fishing for striped bass legally to committing a Federal crime because they are drifted over the 3-mile line.

This ban was meant for the high seas, not a local waterway, arbitrarily declared to be part of the EEZ due to a boundary drawn on a map by a bureaucrat in Washington, D.C.

Every other species of fish popular in this area—scup; eel; squid; bluefish; even striped bass' cousin, black sea bass—are not subject to an unfair ban in this area. Just like they can legally with proper permits and allocations in adjacent State waters, local fishermen should be able to legally fish for striped bass in this area after State waters end and the transit zone begins.

Mr. Chairman, on the East End of Long Island, the coastal economy is our economy. So when unfair regulations impact fishermen, it also hurts the other local businesses like tackle shops, restaurants, gas stations, and hotels.

No one is more invested in protecting this important fishery to ensure it is there for the next season and the next generation than the hardworking men and women from my district who rely on fishing as a way of life.

This amendment does not create open season on stripers or lift the need for quota allocations or permits. In addition to a nearly identical amendment passing on a voice vote last week, last Congress, my standalone bill to address this issue, H.R. 3070, the EEZ Clarification Act, passed the House with another unanimous voice vote.

This amendment is supported by the Recreational Fishing Alliance, the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, and the Montauk Boatmen and Captains Association.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chair, if the gentleman had brought some cooked fish, I probably wouldn't read this.

Mr. Chair, this is not an appropriate amendment for inclusion in an annual spending bill. Congress should not be in the business of micromanaging fish conservation in this manner.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is an interstate compact that was established in 1942 as a mechanism to allow Atlantic coastal States to join forces in managing their shared fishery resources.

For over 75 years, this Commission has served as a body for the Atlantic coastal States, coordinating the conservation and management of 27 nearshore fish species. Each State is represented on the Commission by three commissioners who participate in deliberations and interstate fisheries management, fisheries science, habitat conservation, and law enforcement.

Through these activities, the States collectively ensure the sound conservation of management of their shared coastal fishery resources. We should allow the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to do its job in managing fish stocks. We must not allow the House to be in the business of second-guessing them and micromanaging fish regulations in particular locations.

There is a process currently in place for addressing these issues at the regional level, and we should allow that process to work. A stock assessment for striped bass is planned for next year. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission can make a determination as to whether it intends to ask the Federal Government to open up the Block Island Transit Zone to striped bass fishing.

Currently, the consensus position of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is that the fishing restrictions should remain in place. I believe that this is a bad precedent for Congress to interfere with this State-driven process.

For that reason, I oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment. I understand his concern. I appreciate him bringing it to our attention. I understand similar language has already passed the House. I have no objection to him, and I urge Members to support it.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chair, I wish to speak in favor of the amendment. How much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, my colleague on the other side speaking in opposition actually made a great argument for exactly why the amendment needs to be passed.

I completely agree, we should not be micromanaging the local fishery. And the best way to ensure that we are not micromanaging the local fishery is to pass this amendment.

The amendment is empowering the local regional council to be able to manage the striped bass fishery. If we don't pass the amendment, then we are micromanaging and we are taking away power from the local council managing the fishery.

So by passing this amendment, we are encouraging that regional council to manage the striped bass fishery in that area. Without passing the amendment, then we are micromanaging and we are not allowing any striped bass fishing at all.

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, the hardworking fishermen of Long Island's East End, our entire region, and our entire country are struggling. The special interest groups, knowing nothing about the East End, may incorrectly disagree. Fish do not adhere to arbitrary man-made boundaries drawn by bureaucrats.

This amendment, by no means, removes the management of this species, including the quotas or allocations meant to protect against overfishing. Now, more than ever, we should be taking commonsense steps to help our fishermen get back to work. This simply allows for local fishermen to not be treated like criminals when they drift across an arbitrary 3-mile line.

Mr. Chair, I encourage support from my colleagues for 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 New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands amendment No. 116 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 117 OFFERED BY MS. NORTON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 117 printed in House Report 115–297.

Ms. NORTON. 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 C (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out section 3622(c)(2) of title 18, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

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

My amendment prohibits the Federal Bureau of Prisons from using Federal funds to carry out a law that requires individuals in halfway houses or on home confinement to pay a subsistence fee.

Currently, the subsistence fee for residents of halfway houses is 25 percent of income. This criminal justice reform amendment would improve reentry and reduce recidivism among the Nation's returning citizens.

Out of prison and almost always without a job or ability to support themselves, returning citizens have no ability to pay counterproductive subsistence fees while in halfway houses or on home confinement any more than they could have paid for their subsistence while in prison.

For the limited time individuals spend in halfway houses—up to 12 months—or on home confinement—up to 6 months—the subsistence fee requirement is a substantial burden on them and de minimis on the BOP, witness that the Congressional Budget Office concluded that this amendment would have no budgetary effect.

If returning citizens are lucky enough to find work at all, it would almost certainly be in minimum wage jobs. So the loss of 25 percent of their paychecks to subsistence fees would be a significant hurdle to successful reentry—which is what we are after—

making it extremely difficult to pay rent, child support, or fines and fees associated with their conviction, such as restitution.

Far from promoting financial responsibility, subsistence fees, while in custody, actually prevent returning citizens from meeting their financial obligations. Congress surely did not mean to impose additional burdens on returning citizens, setting them up to fail. Jobs and affordable housing are crucial to reentry but rare for returning citizens. Charging subsistence fees is antithetical to these goals.

The Department of Justice itself has recommended eliminating this fee. A November 2016 DOJ memorandum recommended developing a plan to limit the use of ''counterproductive 'subsistence' fees imposed on indigent residents.''

It further stated:

The Bureau of Prisons' process for collecting these subsistence fees is costly and administratively burdensome on both halfway houses and the Bureau. And these fees make it difficult for residents who typically earn minimum wage, if anything, to meet their other financial obligations, including restitution fines and child support.

□ 1545

The BOP already eliminated subsistence fees for individuals on home confinement, but that is only by regulation. However it was a step in the right direction.

My amendment would continue this trend and eliminate the fees for those in halfway houses as well. My amendment provides a critical reform that would help improve reentry and reduce recidivism.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I think it is entirely appropriate to make inmates help pay for some of the cost of their time in a halfway house. This program helps make inmate reentry into the community as seamless as possible. It has been a successful one. We want to reduce obstacles to make that transition without unnecessary burdens. However, this proposal would cut the Bureau of Prisons' operations by about $20 million. It would be forced to be absorbed by the Bureau of Prisons, that money that they are now receiving in reimbursement from transitioning inmates.

The Bureau of Prisons' resources are already stretched very thin, Mr. Chairman, and this money would come out of other programs such as reentry services, antirecidivism, counseling, and inmate health and safety that are needed for inmate welfare and a successful transition into society.

While I appreciate the intent of the gentlewoman's amendment, if the Bureau of Prisons were to have a cut of $30 million, then prison safety and prison services would be severely compromised, and that won't help inmates or officers.

Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to join me in opposing this amendment. I urge a ''no'' vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, my friend suggests that the BOP actually collects this $20 million. I would submit to him and challenge him to show me that the burden of trying to collect these fees does not outweigh any actual reimbursement. These people have no jobs. If they had jobs, they would almost surely be minimum wage jobs.

I want to ask my friend if he would rather the BOP be paid the de minimis cost to the government—which they hardly ever collect, I am almost sure—or would they rather this money go to child support, or go to pay subsistence fees?

This is a cruel burden for people getting out of prison at a time when the crime rate is low. It sends inmates back to the streets, which is the only recourse they have for gaining money.

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. NORTON. 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 the District of Columbia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 118 OFFERED BY MR. LATTA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 118 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. LATTA. 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 C (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives may be used to reclassify M855 ammunition as armor-piercing ammunition. The limitation described in this section shall not apply in the case of the administration of a tax or tariff.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a commonsense amendment that prevents the Federal Government from infringing on the Second Amendment rights of sportsmen and sportswomen in Ohio and from around the country.

Under the Obama administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives—the ATFE—proposed a new framework for interpreting a Gun Control Act and for determining which projectiles should qualify for the sporting purpose exemption. This framework would have withdrawn the exemptions for certain 5.56-millimeter ammunition, including the M855, because the ATFE felt that they should be classified as armor-piercing ammunition. The M855 is one of the most commonly used ammunitions in the United States and is widely used by target shooters and hunters. Ultimately, due to overwhelming public opposition, the ATFE withdrew their proposal.

In order to guard against new attempts to ban this popular and commonly used ammunition, I am offering this amendment, which prohibits the ATFE from using funds to reclassify M855 ammunition. Again, this amendment is codifying the ATFE's own stance.

As a lifetime hunter and competitor at the National Rifle and Pistol Championship matches at Camp Perry in Ohio, I fully support our Second Amendment right to bear arms, and I oppose any efforts to intrude on these rights. I believe that is what the ATFE attempted to do in 2015.

I also thank the chairman from Texas for his work on this issue in the previous Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this amendment to protect the rights of sportsmen and sportswomen.

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

Mr. SERRANO. I rise in opposition to the amendment, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. This amendment is very inappropriate for this bill and sets a bad precedent. We should not be tying the hands of the ATF as it attempts to keep our law enforcement officers safe.

The Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act established a process to ensure that police officers do not face a threat of armor-piercing bullets capable of being fired from concealable semiautomatic handguns. This law passed the House of Representatives in 1985 by a vote of 400–21. Then it later passed the Senate by a vote of 97–1.

For far too long we have dealt with irresponsible riders on appropriations bills that put limits on our ability to keep our communities and our law enforcement officers safe. This is just one more example.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the defeat of this amendment.

I may say to my colleagues that this is one of the issues that baffles me the

most. I don't hunt, but I respect people who do. I don't target practice and target shoot, but I respect people who do. But it seems that more and more every day, as we have more and more violence, we want more and more stronger weapons because otherwise we are going to lose our rights if we don't do so.

Mr. Chairman, our rights are at the ballot box and many other places, not just in our holster. I think if we continue to do this, first of all, this is the wrong place to do it, and, secondly, it is the wrong thing to do.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment. Within 2 months of my becoming chairman of the subcommittee, the ATF did, indeed, attempt to ban this commonly used ammunition. Mr. LATTA is exactly right.

I met, at the time, with the Director of the ATF. I am grateful that the ATF withdrew the proposed ban. The Director of the ATF, Tom Brandon, is doing a good job of protecting America's Second Amendment rights. I want to ensure Mr. LATTA that I will continue to work to make sure that this rule is not put back into place.

As long as I am chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I will always zealously protect the unambiguous Second Amendment rights of every American to keep and bear arms.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the gentleman's amendment and I urge its adoption.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, just very briefly, I usually don't get up a second time, but to my friend—and he is my friend—it is a confusion in this country. This is not about protecting the Second Amendment. We all do. Everybody does.

It is about common sense and asking: Where does it stop? How do we keep it from growing? How violent can we get? How many people can we shoot?

That is what this is about. It is not about the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment is well protected. Trust me.

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chairman, again, the ATF received over 80,000 comments on their proposal. In their own words: ''The vast majority of the comments received were critical of the framework and include issues that deserve further study.''

Again, this amendment is only codifying the ATFE's own stance. Again, I ask my colleagues to protect the rights of our sportsmen and sportswomen, and to 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 Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 119 will not be offered.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 120 will not be offered.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 121 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 122 OFFERED BY MR. GAETZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 122 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), 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 C (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to relocate the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southeast Fisheries Science Center located in Virginia Key, Florida.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chairman, I offer this amendment on behalf of several of my colleagues from the Sunshine State who are still responding to the devastation from Hurricane Irma that made landfall earlier this week. The sponsor of this amendment, Congressman DEUTCH, and the cosponsors, Congressman CURBELO, Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN, Congressman HASTINGS, and Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, all represent districts that received significant damage from Hurricane Irma. Due to the damage in their districts, these Members—with strong interest in this amendment—were unable to return to D.C. in time to debate this issue on the House floor, so I am here pinch-hitting for them.

Recently there have been reports that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries headquarters, located on Virginia Key in south Florida, may move to another location. This amendment would prohibit that move. Such a move would be devastating to the longstanding research relationships that the NOAA facility on Virginia Key has with local universities, the local business community, and the marine industries of south Florida.

The NOAA research facility on Virginia Key has maintained a partnership with the University of Miami and the south Florida community since 1943. Over the years, the NOAA facility and their research teams have worked closely and collaborated on critical research projects and scientific breakthroughs with the University of Miami, Florida Atlantic University, NOVA Southeastern University, Florida International University, the Palm Beach County Business Development Board, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, the Beacon Council, the Marine Industries Association of South Florida, and other south Florida universities and business coalitions.

In fact, the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science is located across the street from the NOAA facility on Virginia Key. These south Florida universities and business councils recently signed a formal memorandum of understanding that encourages collaboration among research, education, business, and economic development organizations.

Some research projects that the NOAA facility on Virginia Key has worked on with south Florida universities and business councils include the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, creating a storm surge database for Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and something near and dear to my heart, Everglades restoration projects.

Moving the NOAA facility from Virginia Key would sever the bonds between the facility and the research universities in the south Florida community that create so much progress and so many jobs.

Again, I am grateful, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to introduce this amendment on behalf of my colleagues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 123 OFFERED BY MR. SERRANO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 123 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), 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 C (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the operation of a correctional facility by a private party or contractor.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

□ 1600

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is very straightforward. It would prohibit funds allocated in the bill from being used on the construction and operation of private, for-profit prisons.

The use of private prisons in our country is a crisis. More and more Americans are being locked up in facilities that don't respect basic human rights. One in four people behind bars worldwide is in a United States jail. That is right. A country with less than 5 percent of the world's population accounts for a quarter of all the world's prisoners. In fact, our prison population has continued to increase over the past few decades, even as statistics have shown a decrease in crime.

According to the FBI, violent and major property crimes are at historic lows. Nevertheless, more and more Americans are getting locked up. There are several reasons for this: from overly punitive mandatory minimum sentences to the cycle of poverty in the school-to-prison pipeline.

But one thing is for sure: so long as there is an incentive to build prison cells for profit, there will be more Americans unnecessarily behind bars. So long as we perpetuate the prison industrial complex, we will find it harder and harder to reduce our bloated prison population and make meaningful reforms to our criminal justice system.

Last year, an investigative reporter for The Nation uncovered horrible conditions at private correction facilities. Inmates were not receiving basic medical care, even items required by the Bureau of Prisons. In one case, they were kept in rows of bunk beds in unair-conditioned domes, baking in the heat and the sun. In another case, the poor conditions sparked riots by the inmates.

Now, don't get me wrong. I feel no sympathy for violent criminals who have no remorse for what they did and deserve to be locked away for their crimes. But our Founders knew that we have an obligation to maintain respect for human life, and they enshrined it in our Constitution by protecting against cruel and unusual punishment.

When this report came to light, President Obama's Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, chose to act. The President issued a memorandum saying that we would phase out the use of private prisons, partially by seeking to reduce our prison population.

But in February, in keeping with this administration's policy of simply reversing everything President Obama did, Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescinded the order. He has since indicated that we won't continue to use private prisons.

We will use more of them, and we will lock up more people to fill them. What a disgrace. It is a waste of taxpayer dollars and a waste of countless American lives that could be turned around and made into successful citizens.

I am proud that in my home city of New York we have decided to divest our pension system from the for-profit prison industry. But now it is time for the Federal Government to divest itself as well.

We must continue to work on comprehensive criminal justice reform that seeks to reform mandatory minimum sentences and curb the failed war on drugs and focus on reentry and reintegration so that those who serve time can become productive members of society, rather than lifelong inmates.

Tonight, we can start with this amendment and send a message to the Trump administration. Tonight, we can tell him not to reverse the progress made under President Obama and Attorney General Loretta Lynch. Tonight, we can say that making money off of incarcerating individuals is simply inconsistent with American values.

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GRIFFITH). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand my colleague is offering this on behalf of another Member who could not be here today, but I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

Let me make sure that we read it so the people understand what we are talking about. None of the funds made available by this act may be used for the operation of a correctional facility by a private party or contractor, period.

This would shut down every privately operated prison and halfway house in the United States. Where are those 34,000 criminals going to go? Well, you would have to just turn them loose on the streets or pack them in like sardines in existing prison cells or spend billions of dollars over the next few years to house them.

This amendment is dangerous, irresponsible, and risks the safety of the public. By cutting off immediately all funding to private prisons, these 34,000 inmates would have to be released onto the streets of America. I can't imagine what kind of disaster that would result in.

Furthermore, I have always believed in the Yellow Pages test. If you can find a government service in the Yellow Pages, you ought to try to privatize it. As a general rule, the private sector is going to find a way to do it more efficiently, less expensively, and in a way that is going to save taxpayer money.

My experience with the private prisons that have operated in the State of Texas quite successfully throughout the Bureau of Prisons is that they are providing better security, better food, better healthcare, better transportation, better housing, better facilities for both the inmate and the staff. They have been very successful across the country. These 34,000 inmates will have nowhere else to go.

This amendment is extremely dangerous, destructive, and irresponsible. I urge Members to join me in opposing this amendment not only for the risk to public safety, but for the damages it will do to the hardworking people of America.

Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to join me in voting ''no,'' and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer my strong support of this amendment to end the proliferation of private prisons in our Federal justice system.

Following this administration's reversing President Obama's ban on the use of private prisons for Federal prisoners, the for-profit prison industry has not only been rejuvenated, but it is expanding.

Our criminal justice system's only purpose should be to reeducate and rehabilitate individuals who have made mistakes and are serving their sentence. No one should profit from our prison system.

That is what I plan to reintroduce the End For-Profit Prisons Act—legislation that will require the Bureau of Prisons and U.S. Marshals Service to end its contracts with for-profit confinement facilities and make critical changes to the reentry process for individuals who have been released from Federal prisons.

Mr. Chairman, I call for the immediate passage of this amendment.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to join me in opposing this amendment to protect the public safety of the people of the United States, to ensure that our tax dollars are efficiently used, but, above all, to make sure these 34,000 inmates are not released onto the streets of America.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a ''no'' vote on 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 New York (Mr. SERRANO).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 124 OFFERED BY MR. FLORES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 124 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), 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 C (before the short title) insert the following;

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Executive Order No. 13547 (75 Fed. Reg. 43023, relating to the stewardship of oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes), including the National Ocean Policy developed under such Executive Order.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman

from Texas (Mr. FLORES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment with my good friend from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), to address an ongoing bureaucratic overreach of our country's ocean and inland economies.

Our amendment bans the use of Federal funds for the implementation of the previous administration's National Ocean Policy. Executive Order 13547, signed by then-President Obama in 2010, requires that 60-plus bureaucracies essentially zone the oceans and the sources thereof.

The National Ocean Policy's requirements are an encroachment into the powers of Congress as set forth in Article I of our Constitution. These activities have not been authorized by Congress, nor have any appropriations ever been made by Congress to fund those activities. Yet the bureaucracies continue to act as if those are irrelevant prohibitions against their activities.

Mr. Chair, since 2010, this body has voted eight times in support of this amendment in a bipartisan manner. This language also was included in the base text to the fiscal year 2018 Energy and Water, Interior, and Agriculture Appropriations bills. We are looking to get it in the CJS bill now.

We are offering this amendment again because concerns remain that the National Ocean Policy extends far beyond restricting ocean activities and that it significantly impacts inland activity as well.

This amendment simply stops the funding of unauthorized bureaucratic overreach. It does not have any impact on coordination, planning, or congressionally authorized activities to take care of our Nation's important oceans.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

This executive order was signed by President Obama in July 2010. The National Ocean Policy is designed to improve stewardship of our oceans, coasts, islands, and Great Lakes by directing government agencies with differing mandates to coordinate and work together. The National Ocean Policy creates no new authorities.

The result of increased coordination is better stewardship of our national heritage through improved government efficiency, better development and use of data and information, and a process of open and transparent stakeholder engagement that informs decision-making. This increased coordination between agencies needs to take place on a Federal level to reduce inefficiency, waste, and redundancy between agencies.

The National Ocean Council brings together State, local, and Tribal governments and all of the oceans uses, including recreational and commercial fishermen, boaters, industries, scientists, and the public, to better plan for, manage, harmonize, and sustain uses of ocean and coastal resources.

The bottom line is that the National Ocean Policy offers an avenue for thoughtful planning around issues affecting ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas. It is the best choice for stakeholders looking to be involved in the process.

For all of these reasons, I urge the defeat of this amendment.

Before I reserve the balance of my time, on a personal note, it is amazing how much work we have done in the south Bronx with what little bodies of water and green space we have, how much we cherish it, and how much we feel that it has been a gift that we continue to work on. We no longer have earmarks, but when we did, it did a great job in restoring a lot of areas.

I see how, in other parts of the country and at the Federal level, we want to undo years and years of progress. I keep thinking of Republican leaders who took a different view. Teddy Roosevelt would be so upset at so much of what we are doing today because he saw the world in a different way. Thank God that he was our President for that period of time when we needed him for that particular issue.

Just on a personal note, I understand that a lot of people see the world differently than I do. Where I come from, tonight people know they now have places where they can row a boat, where they can eventually swim, where they can fish, and where a beaver named Jose has returned.

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

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to the gentleman's amendment, and I support it. We have had it in previous bills. I hope the House will adopt it in this bill as well.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chair, in closing, the issue is not whether or not we want to take care of oceans. We all agree that we should take care of our oceans. We all believe in being good stewards of the environmental and economic interest in our oceans. But, Mr. Chair, we also believe in trying to make sure that we have a government that adheres to the Constitution.

□ 1615

Under Article I of the Constitution, all legislative powers are returned to Congress—not some, all. That is the issue at stake here. The Obama administration's National Ocean Policy has overstepped constitutional statutory bounds.

Congress did pass a bill in the 106th Congress to create an Ocean Commission to review and make recommendations. Since then, the 108th, 109th, 110th, and 111th Congresses each looked at those recommendations and decided to take no legislative action. This must have been what caused then-President Obama to move forward with his executive order and to try to go around Congress. There have been no appropriations for these activities.

Additionally, 81 groups have signed a letter asking the Appropriations Committee to include this language to address this unconstitutional bureaucratic overreach in their annual appropriations bills.

Again, this is a simple amendment that stands up for the constitutional rights of this body to create the statutes under which this activity can be conducted and to transparently appropriate the funds which authorize activities, should it so choose.

We are not against Ocean planning, as I said at the outset of this. What we are for, though, is the Constitution. Again, this amendment has been adopted with bipartisan support in this body eight times since 2010.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE), for his work on this amendment, as well as to thank Chairman CULBERSON for his consideration. I urge my colleagues to support this straightforward amendment.

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. 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. FLORES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CULBERSON. 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 Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 125 OFFERED BY MR. BUCK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 125 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. BUCK. 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 C (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program may be used in contravention of section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak about my amendment to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies division of H.R. 3354.

Mr. Chairman, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, or SCAAP, is intended to further local law enforcement's ability to adhere to Federal immigration law. SCAAP provides States and localities with Federal funds to help offset correctional costs related to incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions.

However, in recent years, the number of jurisdictions receiving SCAAP funding that have adopted sanctuary policies, allowing violent criminal aliens to go free, has skyrocketed. My amendment would cut off SCAAP money for cities that violate the intent of these funds. These sanctuary cities must not continue using taxpayer money to flagrantly violate Federal immigration law and put American citizens at risk.

Look no further than my home State of Colorado in the case of Mr. Ever Valles. Back in October, Mr. Valles was picked up on charges, including possession of a weapon, vehicle theft, and eluding. He also had a history of gang involvement.

ICE placed a detainer on Mr. Valles, but Denver officials failed to honor the Federal detainer, releasing him without providing the proper notice to ICE officials. Upon his release, Mr. Valles took part in robbing and shooting 32-year-old Tim Cruz at an RTD train station. He has been charged with first-degree murder.

Sanctuary policies just don't break the law. They place people's lives in danger. We cannot continue allowing these jurisdiction sanctuary cities to use taxpayer money to further these misguided policies. In fact, the Office of Justice Programs' own website states that applicants for SCAAP funds are required to certify compliance with all applicable Federal laws at the time of application. It goes on to say that, if the OJP receives information indicating that an applicant violated the statute related to sanctuary policies, that the applicant will be investigated by the inspector general and could be subject to criminal and civil penalties.

A recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency report identified the top 10 jurisdictions with the highest volume of detainers issued that restrict cooperation with ICE. Not surprisingly, every one of those sanctuary cities received SCAAP awards in fiscal year 2016.

Mr. Chairman, sanctuary cities stand against the rule of law. These jurisdictions support illegal immigration and allow individuals who violate the law to remain free. We cannot allow these jurisdictions to continue these harmful policies on the American people's dime. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this unnecessary amendment. All this amendment does is prohibit use of funding to violate current law.

As we all know, Federal grant recipients of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, or SCAAP, are not using Federal funds in contravention of Federal law.

The amendment is really about so-called sanctuary cities. This and other amendments like this seek to effectively overthrow community policing by diverting State and local police from their core mission of protecting public safety. Imposing this one-size-fits-all approach would degrade trust between immigrant communities and local police, thereby undermining public safety in all communities and for all residents.

We should not be attempting by word or deed to turn our local law enforcement into an arm of Federal immigration efforts. I live in a sanctuary city, and I can tell you with great certainty that amendments like this one will make my hometown less safe. People will be less likely to report crimes and cooperate with investigations simply because of the concern that they will be deported for interacting with local law enforcement.

What we need is broad and humane immigration reform which would place undocumented immigrants on a workable and earned path to citizenship, thereby allowing them to contribute even more to their families, communities, and our country.

Our immigration system is broken, but this amendment does nothing to fix it. I urge my colleagues to defeat this amendment.

And I must say, the sanctuary cities, as they are called, have a lot of support from law enforcement throughout the Nation because they know that they need to speak to people in the community and get information on who the bad guys are or who the bad gals are, number one.

Number two, this is going to be a boom for the legal profession because just about every city and every State is going to sue if this ever became law. And we actually started holding moneys back because they know how much help is brought to their community and how much they want to keep it in place.

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Chairman, may I ask how much time I have left.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the gentleman from Colorado's amendment.

When Kate Steinle was murdered, I was the new chairman of this subcommittee, and I swore that I would find a way to cut off Federal funding to these sanctuary cities. That young lady's murder could have been prevented had the city of San Francisco simply cooperated with Federal immigration authorities and handed that criminal over to be deported immediately. That is all we are talking about here.

With the previous administration, Attorney General Lynch, I met with her as the CFO, so to speak, of the DOJ. I used the power of the purse that the Congress was entrusted with by the Founders of our constituents to persuade the previous Attorney General to adopt precisely the policy that Mr. BUCK is attempting to make sure that we continue to follow.

I know, under Attorney General Sessions' leadership, sanctuary cities are not going to receive Federal money. That policy was first put in place last summer. At my insistence, current guidelines in the Department of Justice grant policies are that a local law enforcement agency has to certify that they are cooperating 100 percent of the time with Federal immigration authorities about individuals in local jails or State prisons. That is all this is.

If a State prison or local jail is housing someone who was in the country illegally when they committed the crime and were sentenced, before they are released, current Department of Justice policy adopted last summer, being enforced today by Attorney General Sessions, says you have to tell Federal authorities you are about to release this person so they can be immediately deported. That is common sense. It protects public safety, and it is a wise use of our tax dollars.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 20 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, the days of sanctuary cities accepting Federal money and ignoring Federal law are over. The policy under this administration, the policy I insisted be adopted last summer, is, if you want Federal money, follow Federal law, or don't ask.

I support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Chairman, I would just ask my colleagues to support my amendment, and I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for his support.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SERRANO. 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 Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 126 OFFERED BY MR. AMASH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 126 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. AMASH. 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 C (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for activities prohibited by the order issued by the Attorney General entitled ''Prohibition on Certain Federal Adoptions of Seizures by State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies'' (Order No. 3488-2015, dated January 16, 2015) or the order entitled ''Prohibition on Certain Federal Adoptions of Seizures by State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies'' (Order No. 3485-2015, dated January 12, 2015).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. AMASH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

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

Mr. Chairman, each year the Federal Government uses civil asset forfeiture to take billions of dollars' worth of property from people who have not been charged with any crime. It is an unconstitutional practice that is used to violate the due process rights of innocent people.

Fortunately, some States have passed laws to limit asset forfeiture; but the Federal Government helps State law enforcement evade these requirements by doing adoptive forfeitures where the Federal Government accepts property seized by the State law enforcement, forfeits it under Federal law, and gives the State agency a cut of the proceeds.

Mr. Chairman, this practice is outrageous. It supplants the authority of States to regulate their own law enforcement, and it further mires the Federal Government in unconstitutional asset forfeitures.

In 2015, the Department of Justice placed limits on adoptive forfeiture, prohibiting the Federal Government from accepting property seized by local police when there is no involvement by Federal law enforcement and the property does not relate to public safety. These are commonsense restrictions that prevent the most egregious seizures.

Unfortunately, these restrictions were revoked in June of this year. My amendment would restore them by prohibiting the use of funds to do adoptive forfeitures that were banned under the 2015 rules.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chairman, I stand in support of the amendment.

The amendment does a great deal to restore our constitutional right to due process and protects the institution of federalism. The equitable sharing program incentivizes local law enforcement agencies to ignore State laws regarding civil asset forfeiture in favor of Federal law.

After Ohio reformed civil asset forfeiture laws, local agencies have been able to bypass, just as the gentleman from Michigan described. DOJ allows this even when Federal officials play no role in the investigation or the arrest. Congressman AMASH's amendment would end this policy.

This program violates the independence of State's police powers and promotes an asset forfeiture scheme that undermines due process. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

□ 1630

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD).

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues strongly to adopt this amendment.

Attorney General Sessions' recent announcement to expand civil action forfeiture really allows local law enforcement to bypass State laws and seize property from people with the lowest possible burden of evidence and without concern whether the person is eventually charged or convicted.

While some will tell you this is necessary to go after big drug cartels, the reality is the median value of the adoptive forfeiture seizures has been around $9,000—not exactly the sign of any major drug trafficking operation.

These adoptive forfeiture efforts tend to target poor neighborhoods. Between 2012 and 2017, the median value of assets seized by Cook County police was just over $1,000. In Philadelphia, in 2015, the median value was $192.

This policy does not discriminate between the innocent and the guilty.

With the responsibility on private citizens to prove their innocence, rather than law enforcement to prove guilt, innocent people without legal representation often never see their money or property again, and even those who are proven innocent have no promise that their property will be returned.

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

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Chairman, the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution exists to protect the citizens of this country from being deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. In practice and principle, adoptive forfeiture is a violation of that Fourth Amendment. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment.

Asset forfeiture is a crime against the American people, committed by their own government. This is absolutely opposite of what our people who wrote the Constitution of the United States had in mind.

For the government to take away someone's property and then say, ''You have to prove you are innocent to get it back,'' that is totally in contrast to the limited government, individual responsibility, individual freedom, and property rights concepts that our Founding Fathers had in mind.

If we believe in freedom and if we believe in liberty, let's not open up the government to be able to steal our property and then we have to go to court. We have lost all of our due process. It is now our obligation to prove that we are innocent until proven guilty. That is ridiculous. Vote for this amendment and protect the freedom of our people.

Mr. Chair, I rise as a proud co-sponsor in strong support of the Amash-Sanford-Labrador-Rohrabacher Amendment.

Civil asset forfeiture is a widely abused law enforcement tactic in which federal, state and local law enforcement agencies seize property, often with little or no evidence that a crime has been committed. The person whose property has been seized then has to hire an attorney and prove their innocence in order to try to get their property back.

Police departments have a strong incentive to abuse civil asset forfeiture because they get to keep these ill-gotten gains for their own use. Even when state legislatures have enacted important safeguards against abuse, the Justice Department has helped local police departments to circumvent such restrictions by ''adopting'' seizures that would be illegal under state law, and then sharing the proceeds with local law enforcement.

In January 2015, under the Obama Administration, the Justice Department issued two crucial orders to stop this circumvention of state, raw. Unfortunately, the current Justice Department has reversed those orders, and Congress must now take action.

This amendment will prohibit the Justice Department from using any money in this bill to engage in activities not allowed by the 2015 orders. I ask my colleagues to stop the assaults against law-abiding citizens by the people who are supposed to protect them. Vote for the Amash-Sanford-Labrador-Rohrabacher Amendment.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I stand here also to express my strong support for the Amash amendment.

Civil asset forfeiture without limits presents one of the strongest threats to our civil, property, and constitutional rights. It creates a reverse incentive for law enforcement to seek profit over justice.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this great amendment.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan has 10 seconds remaining.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, I encourage everyone to support this amendment. We must defend the Fifth

Amendment and we must protect property rights.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. AMASH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 127 OFFERED BY MR. ROSKAM

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 127 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. ROSKAM. 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 C (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay a performance award to any officer or employee of the Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section of the Department of Justice under section 5384 or 4505a of title 5, United States Code, prior to the date on which the Department of Justice rules on all petitions for remission or mitigation in judicial forfeiture cases pursuant to section 9.4 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, for which the Internal Revenue Service has submitted a report of its investigation and its recommendation to the Department of Justice on or before June 26, 2017.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

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

Mr. Chairman, let me tell you a quick story. Andrew Clyde served three combat tours in Iraq, after which he returned home and opened a store in Georgia. Mr. Clyde had an insurance policy that only covered up to $10,000 in off-premised losses. So like any reasonable person, he never brought more than $10,000 in cash with him when he was making his nightly deposits.

Do you know what happened next?

The Internal Revenue Service noticed that he was depositing just under $10,000 in cash regularly, so they took all of his cash. That is $950,000.

If you are like most people, you are confused when you first hear about this. As it turns out, Mr. Clyde was in violation of a Federal law known as structuring, which is the intentional avoidance of Federal reporting requirements by staying below $10,000 in cash deposits. This law was intended to catch large-scale criminal enterprises, mobsters, terrorists, and human traffickers, not veterans like Mr. Clyde.

When structuring is believed to have occurred, the IRS can use its civil asset forfeiture authority to seize funds in question and force the owner to prove that the money was earned legally.

Well, in this instance, Andrew Clyde earned the money legally and had a legitimate reason for depositing less than $10,000. So you would assume that Mr. Clyde would have ended this with the IRS talking to him and then saying: Oh, we made a mistake. Clearly you are not a mobster or a terrorist. Thank you for your service. Here is your life savings back.

But, no, that is not what happened, Mr. Chairman. That is not how the story ended.

Instead, the IRS threatened him with criminal structuring charges until he agreed to settle with the agency and give them $50,000, after he had already spent $100,000 in legal fees. He lost $150,000 simply because he wanted to make sure that his cash deposits were low enough to be insured. If that sounds messed up to you, Mr. Chairman, that is because it is.

Now, here is the good news. The House recently passed, unanimously, H.R. 1843, the RESPECT Act. This bill prohibits the IRS from seizing funds from individuals, unless there is a probable cause that the money was earned illegally or connected to an illegal activity. But there is still the problem of those people who are already victims of this abuse by our government in civil asset forfeiture.

Now, since we began our bipartisan investigation of the IRS's civil asset forfeiture practices a couple of years ago, the IRS has apologized for past behavior, which is good; they worked quickly to reach out to possible victims, which is good; and they subsequently responded to the 454 petitions that they received. As of March 1, the IRS returned over $6 million in seized funds. Good news. So far so good.

But the plot continues, and here is where we are right now. It turns out that a majority of the petitions were actually referred to the Department of Justice. The IRS referred the DOJ 255 cases, and has recommended that the DOJ return $16 million to taxpayers whom they do not suspect of being conducted in any way to illegal activity. Unfortunately, the Department of Justice has not been nearly as interested in correcting these past wrongdoings.

As of July, the Department of Justice responded only to 73 of the outstanding 255 cases. This is completely unacceptable. The Federal Government took legally earned money from taxpayers, and the Department of Justice hasn't given the majority of these people a response, including Andrew Clyde.

The Roskam-Neal amendment, offered by myself and Mr. NEAL, the ranking member from Massachusetts on the Ways and Means Committee, is very simple. It simply says this: No one in the relevant section of the Department of Justice can get a performance bonus until they finish reviewing the backlog of cases that the IRS has sent them. We are not asking the Department of Justice to do anything extraordinary, Mr. Chairman. We are simply asking them to do their job. And until they do their job, the bare minimum that taxpayers can expect is that we at least don't reward these people with bonuses.

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the amendment. I will work with Mr. ROSKAM as the CFO of the DOJ and do whatever is necessary to help make sure they review these cases rapidly and return people's money to their rightful owners.

Once again, Mr. ROSKAM has brought a great amendment to the House floor. I look forward to working with him to ensure that his intent is implemented as quickly as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his support.

I thank the chairman for his assurance and his hard work on this. I am confident that this will be resolved.

Mr. Chairman, I have got to tell you that the discussions that this House has made on a bipartisan basis with the Department of Justice have been obtuse and they have been ridiculous. I have been embarrassed by the interactions that I have had with senior staff members at the Department of Justice on this issue.

The Ways and Means Subcommittee has been scandalized by this, and we are going to do something about it. So here, today, we are rising on both sides of the aisle to bring remedy, rescue, and restoration to our citizens.

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. ROSKAM).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 128 printed in House Report 115–297.

AMENDMENT NO. 129 OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 129 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. WALBERG. 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 C (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out Order Number 3946-2017 of the Attorney General, issued July 19, 2017.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, in recent years, we have seen a growing

number of instances where the government has confiscated private property from citizens and small businesses without any criminal conviction, or even criminal charges.

Under current civil forfeiture law, the system is ripe for abuse, and has undermined the constitutional rights of far too many Americans.

In response, 24 States and the District of Columbia have adopted reforms to their forfeiture laws.

However, through a practice known as adoptive seizures, Federal agencies, like the Department of Justice, can circumvent State and local laws to continue this practice.

In July, the Department of Justice announced a continuation and expansion of civil forfeiture, reversing a previous ban on adoptive seizures.

My bipartisan amendment, introduced with Representatives COHEN, MCCLINTOCK, and ELLISON, would prohibit funds for the DOJ to implement this expansion.

Our amendment is also supported by a broad and diverse coalition of organizations, including the American Conservative Union, the Institute for Justice, the NAACP, and the ACLU.

Today's vote takes an important step in halting the practice of adoptive seizures, protecting the rights of States and localities, and limiting some future abuses.

Ultimately, this amendment is a starting point, and we can't stop here. Congress must submit more comprehensive changes into law, changes like those included in the Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration Act, my bipartisan bill, that calls for sweeping reforms to curb civil asset forfeiture abuse.

America was founded on the principles of due process and property rights, and these principles must be vigorously defended.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. WALBERG for bringing this amendment and for the bills he has proposed; and I thank Senator PAUL as well.

I think criminal asset forfeiture is one of the worst, most heinous, most despicable, and most vile laws that we have ever put on the books. It is an assault on human beings and State governments on State sovereignty and on individuals having a right to their property and having a right to a hearing and being found guilty of something before their property is taken.

The way it is today, the government can come in, and they don't even have to charge you with a crime, and they can take your car or your money or whatever else they find. It is an un-American a thing as has ever existed.

Mr. WALBERG laid out some of the supporters: the ACLU, NAACP, and then it goes around to some conservative worlds. There are many times I have found that you get 360 degrees where the liberals and the conservatives come together and agree on libertarian principles that something needs to happen.

□ 1645

When you have got RAND PAUL, KEITH ELLISON, Mr. WALBERG, and myself all on the same thing, this needs to happen. So we need to pass it now.

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. COHEN for yielding. I think that what he said is absolutely true. When you do a complete circle, you have come to a point of understanding that something is amiss, in good will we work together in a bipartisan fashion to fix it.

There can be useful issues relative to civil assets, but it needs to follow due process. Our civil liberties must be protected. We want to support law enforcement; it is a tough job. But, nonetheless, in our great country, liberty is still the most important ideal that we have, and the freedom that makes us different from other nations.

Mr. Chair, I thank my good friend for his support, and I would ask my colleagues to support it.

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. WALBERG).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 130 OFFERED BY MR. RASKIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 130 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. RASKIN. 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 C (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement Order Number 3946-2017 of the Attorney General allowing Department of Justice components and agencies to forfeit assets seized by State or local law enforcement agencies.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Chairman, I also want to thank my colleagues, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. MOONEY, for cosponsoring and supporting this amendment.

It is a bipartisan amendment and, I think, a natural complement to the excellent amendments just added from Mr. WALBERG and also from Mr. AMASH. It would prohibit funding made available by this act from being used to implement the recent DOJ policy change, which dramatically expands the Federal Government's civil Asset Forfeiture Program.

The new policy revives a controversial and, I think, unconstitutional practice that has been decried by Americans and Members of Congress across the political spectrum who hold dear the idea of due process and the presumption of innocence as it applies not just to us as people but also to our private property as well.

The new policy allows State and local law enforcement to circumvent State laws limiting civil asset forfeiture by having Federal agencies adopt State and local cases. Under this dubious practice, law enforcement may seize a citizen's cash and property simply because someone suspects it of being connected to criminal activity without convicting, indicting, arresting, or even charging the property owner with having committed a crime and without proving or even alleging in court that the property is somehow connected to criminal activity.

Hundreds of millions of dollars worth of property have been seized in this way by law enforcement on an officer's mere suspicion. In order to get your property back, you have to go out and hire a lawyer, you have to go to court, and you have to prove that your property was obtained through innocent means, completely reversing the constitutional presumption of innocence that is at the heart of due process.

This practice is an outrageous violation of property rights, of civil liberties, and of the due process principle that we are all presumed to be innocent as American citizens, and it raises profound questions also under the Takings Clause, which forbids the taking of private property without just compensation by the government.

Although the resurrected policy contains a few new safeguards, they will not remotely prevent abusive seizures or eliminate the profit incentives that encourage rampant civil asset forfeiture. The policy will lead to the same abuses uncovered in 2014.

A Washington Post investigation found that, since 2001, State and local law enforcement had made more than 55,000 seizures of cash and property worth nearly $2.5 billion under the civil Asset Forfeiture Program.

One striking case discussed by The New York Times was of Carole Hinders, owner of a restaurant in Arnolds Park, Iowa, who deposited her cash earnings in the bank on a weekly basis, and it was always under $10,000. She was suspected of illegally structuring her deposits, although they were perfectly innocent, and the IRS simply seized $33,000 from her, causing huge problems for her business.

Another case that caught my eye was of a Chinese-American restaurateur who was traveling with a large sum of

money because he was about to buy a building for his new restaurant. He had been saving for decades to buy his own restaurant. He was stopped by the police and became understandably very anxious during the encounter. The police said that they found the large sum of cash money he had with him suspicious, and his nervous demeanor also telling, and they simply seized his money. They detained him for 2 hours. They let him go. They didn't charge him with anything, but they seized his money, his life savings that he had planned to use to purchase the building for his restaurant. He was a lucky one in that he was able, eventually years later, to get his money back, but he lost the business deal and his deposit in the process.

In 2014, the value of money and property seized under civil asset forfeitures by Federal law enforcement exceeded the total of losses in money and property from burglaries in our country. That means our people lost more money at the hands of the government through civil asset forfeiture than from being burglarized.

Because of the abuses revealed in 2015, the DOJ imposed restrictions to limit when the Federal Government could adopt forfeiture cases, and banned State and local police from using Federal law to seize cash and property without criminal charges or warrants, but the new policy lifts these restrictions and places the Federal Government back on the side of the trampling of people's constitutional rights.

With civil asset forfeiture, people cannot only lose their property without being charged with a crime, they can also lose their property when someone else allegedly uses their property in commission of a crime.

A Michigan woman lost a car she co-owned with her husband because he was caught soliciting prostitution while driving her car.

This policy runs roughshod over the property rights of the innocent and burdens our citizens with onerous costs to get their property back that they never should have lost in the first place.

Mr. Chair, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents all agree that civil asset forfeiture is a serious threat to constitutional values.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of us to vote for this important amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. COLE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 504, as the designee of Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, I offer amendments en bloc No. 4.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 4 consisting of amendment Nos. 132, 140, 143, 144, 146, 147, 148, 151, 153, 157, 159, 162, 163, 166, 177, 181, and 185, printed in House Report 115–297, offered by Mr. COLE of Oklahoma:

AMENDMENT NO. 132 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF CALIFORNIA

Page 697, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $16,000,000)''.

Page 698, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $16,000,000)''.

Page 718, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert the following: ''(decreased by $16,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 140 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI OF OREGON

Page 718, line 15, after the first dollar amount insert ''(increased by $906,000) (decreased by $906,000)''.

Page 719, line 14, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $906,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 143 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI OF OREGON

Page 734, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $18,270,000) (increased by $18,270,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 144 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE OF MICHIGAN

Page 735, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 740, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 740, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 146 OFFERED BY MR. NOLAN OF MINNESOTA

Page 738, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $300,000)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(decreased by $300,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 147 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 738, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 148 OFFERED BY MR. MAST OF FLORIDA

Page 740, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $400,000)''.

Page 741, line 16, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $400,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 151 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 744, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(decreased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 153 OFFERED BY MR. TONKO OF NEW YORK

Page 751, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $12,500,000) (increased by $12,500,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 157 OFFERED BY MR. DENHAM OF CALIFORNIA

Page 763, line 3, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 154 OFFERED BY MS. MCSALLY OF ARIZONA

Page 767, line 24, insert ''(increased by $14,232,847)'' after the dollar amount.

Page 805, line 25, insert ''(reduced by $14,232,847)'' after the dollar amount.

AMENDMENT NO. 162 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI OF OREGON

Page 794, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $8,900,000)''.

Page 794, line 15, after the second dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $8,900,000)''.

Page 794, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $8,900,000)''.

Page 805, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(decreased by $8,900,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 163 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI OF OREGON

Page 795, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,150,000,000) (reduced by $1,150,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 166 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 796, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 805, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(decreased by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 177 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of division F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. For ''Health Resources and Services Administration—Health Workforce'' for establishing and carrying out the training demonstration grant program, as authorized by section 760 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294k), there is hereby appropriated $10,000,000, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for ''Health Resources and Services Administration—Program Management'' is hereby reduced by $11,750,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 181 OFFERED BY MS. SEWELL OF ALABAMA

At the end of division F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act to carry out the Child Care Development Block Grant Act of 1990 may be distributed to any child care provider if a localized list of providers (as mentioned in part 98 of title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, applicable to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, and in the final rule published in the Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 190, on Sept. 30, 2016) indicates that a serious injury or death occurred at the provider due to a substantiated health or safety violation.

AMENDMENT NO. 185 OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH OF VIRGINIA

At the end of division F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. For ''Health Resources and Services Administration–Rural Health'' to carry out section 427(a) of the Federal Coal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1969, there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for ''Health Resources and Services Administration–Program Management'' is hereby reduced by, $2,734,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education approved this list of amendments last week, along with myself, and was looking forward to discussing them and others with all of us here today.

Unfortunately, the gentlewoman is not able to be here this week due to the death of her beloved mother, Luisa DeLauro, who passed away over the weekend at the age of 103.

The gentlewoman from Connecticut and I have something in common on this point: neither of us would likely be a Member of this body today were it not for the inspiration and role model of our mothers, both of whom were actively involved in local politics.

Like my own late mother, Helen Cole, who served in the Oklahoma House and Senate and as mayor of our home town of Moore, Oklahoma, Luisa DeLauro served 35 years as a member of the New Haven, Connecticut, Board of Aldermen, the longest tenure in the city's history. She served with six different mayors and dedicated her time to improving the lives of seniors and the working poor.

Her daughter has most certainly followed in her footsteps, bringing her passion, dedication, and tirelessness for these same causes to the Halls of Congress.

We are sorry the gentlewoman cannot be with us today. We know she is honoring her mother and her mother's legacy, and making her mother proud of her work here.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, first I would like to join my colleague in sending our thoughts and condolences to the DeLauro family.

Ranking Member DELAURO's mother, Luisa, passed away this weekend at the age of 103. The family is together this week in New Haven, Connecticut.

Luisa DeLauro was an inspiration to her daughter, ROSA, to the city of New Haven, and to us all. Luisa was the longest serving member of the New Haven Board of Aldermen in the city's history, serving 35 years.

She set an example for women everywhere as she fought to ensure that women's voices were heard in the male-dominated arena of politics.

As ROSA has said, her mother understood that politics was an avenue for change, a way to help people who were struggling, and she dedicated her service to issues involving seniors, the working poor, and her beloved neighborhood of Wooster Square, which she helped to designate as New Haven's first historic district.

Luisa was a beloved local leader with an open-door policy, who developed friendships that lasted a lifetime, but she was also well known as a strong-willed fighter for issues she believed in, and it is clear that her dedication and fierce passion will live on in her daughter, our friend, ROSA.

Even though Luisa DeLauro passed away at 103, for ROSA and her family, it still feels like she was taken too soon. My thoughts are with my good friend, ROSA DELAURO, and the entire DeLauro family.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the en bloc amendment, which includes my bipartisan amendment to highlight the need to fully fund Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants.

These grants are critical to the successful implementation of title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Schools across the country can use the Student Support grants to give all students access to a well-rounded education.

The grant program is also important because it was created to allocate funding by formula, which levels the playing field so small school districts can get their fair share of funding.

I am disappointed that this bill funds Student Support grants significantly lower than the original $1.65 billion authorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act, and I hope there will be an opportunity in the Senate to increase funding for these critical Student Support grants.

I thank the chairman and ranking member for including my amendments in an en bloc package and for their hard work on this bill.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM), my good friend.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bloc, which includes my amendment to prevent homeless youth and young mothers from seeing a lapse in service from their runaway youth programs and maternity group homes.

□ 1700

Specifically, this amendment allows HHS to offer transitional living programs and maternity group home grants for centers that would otherwise see a lapse in funding in fiscal year 2018.

This amendment does not increase funding for the program. This amendment simply prevents centers from facing a gap in grant eligibility due to a fiscal year which commenced off cycle. Failure to act will cause runaway and homeless youth and maternity group home centers across the county to downgrade, discontinue, or eventually close.

These important centers provide a temporary shelter to youth in crisis who are experiencing homelessness. These centers teach life skills and provide counseling and transitional services to homeless, pregnant, and parenting youth to promote long-term economic independence to ensure their well-being.

This issue was first brought to my attention by the Modesto Center for Human Services, which supports individuals and families in Stanislaus County, California. The Modesto center provides youth services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, family resource centers, shelter services, and community projects. The center relies on an existing Transitional Living Program grant. The TLP grants are critical to helping homeless youth find employment and transition back into the community.

Unfortunately, the Modesto center and more than 100 other centers and shelters across the country are in jeopardy of losing eligibility for funding due to circumstances outside of their control. These grants account for a significant portion of their annual budgets, and a gap of this length will drastically reduce the services or force programs to shut down completely.

My amendment implores the administration to authorize bridge funding to close this gap in grant eligibility, allowing services to continue until the grant is realigned with the appropriations process. For the area I represent, losing these grants would have much wider ramifications for the overall homeless population and collaborative efforts to improve homeless care and services.

TLP and MGH grants help break the crippling cycle of homelessness. I call on my colleagues to support this amendment and allow homeless youth and parenting young people access to life-changing services.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend, the ranking member, for yielding time to me and for her leadership and work on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, I support and appreciate my amendment being included in this en bloc amendment. My amendment increases funding for three very important and very successful programs that provide lead prevention resources in support for those already exposed to high levels of lead.

Lead is a dangerous neurotoxin. Its effects can be permanent, especially on very young people and those most vulnerable citizens among us. In fact, according to the medical community, there is no safe level for lead.

As you know, I come from Flint, Michigan, where we have experienced the most significant lead crisis. It is one that we are still working to overcome. Even though that crisis in Flynt is no longer in the headlines, Flint and many other communities are still dealing with issues caused by exposure to lead.

There is no cure to lead exposure. We have to work on prevention and do everything we can to support those like the people in Flint and others across the country who have been exposed so they can grow into healthy and successful adults. This amendment will do just that.

I appreciate the ranking member, Ms. DELAURO, and I share in my colleagues' expression of grief for her loss. I thank Ranking Member LOWEY and I thank Chairman COLE for working to include this in the en bloc amendment, and I urge its passing.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO), my friend.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to rise in support of this en bloc amendment, specifically the amendment I offered with Congresswoman BONAMICI.

Our amendment would help ensure adequate funding for a grant program available to States, including my home State of Pennsylvania, to tailor assessment systems to work for teachers, parents, and students. The amendment would provide $378 million in funding for State assessment grants, the amount authorized for these grants in the Every Student Succeeds Act but, notably, $8.9 million more than that which was included in the legislation we are currently debating.

Including full funding for State assessment grants is a critical way for Congress to fulfill our promise under ESSA that we would streamline testing so the high-stakes testing culture that has burdened schools and students for too long is rolled back.

I thank the chairman and ranking member for the opportunity to offer this amendment, and I urge the adoption of the en bloc amendment.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this bi-partisan amendment that would increase funding for the Black Lung Clinics Programs in the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) by $2.7 million. This increase, when added to the $7.2 million provided in the appropriations bill being considered, will provide $10 million in total funding for Fiscal Year 2018. I want to commend Representative GRIFFITH for his leadership on this issue.

The additional funding proposed by the amendment is fully offset by a reduction in program management, and the total amount of $10 million is equal to the permanently authorized amount. That level, I would note, has remained the same since the Black Lung Clinics Program was first authorized in the 92nd Congress as part of the Black Lung Benefits Act of 1972.

Today, there are 28 black lung clinics located in 15 coal mining states which, with small grants provided by HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, serve as a lifeline for disabled miners.

In many cases, these coal miners spent a lifetime working in our nation's mines, but now face black lung disease—a debilitating and frequently fatal lung disease that continues to erode lung function even after a miner leaves work in the mines. Since 1968, 76,000 miners have lost their lives to black lung disease.

The black lung clinics program is expected to serve 13,800 miners this year. The need for these clinics is rising due to an increase in the number of black lung cases, coupled with an increased number of miners who are now seeking assistance following the closure of mines.

The rate of black lung disease in coal miners fell steadily in the 30 years following the enactment of binding coal dust exposure limits in the 1969 Coal Mine Safety and Health Act. However, that favorable downward trend started to reverse beginning in 2000, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). NIOSH is also finding that miners are becoming totally disabled from black lung at much younger ages.

The increase in black lung disease has been due in part to longer mining shifts, more powerful mining machinery, and mine operators cutting into more rock because the easiest reach coal has been mined out. Much of that rock is quartz bearing sandstone which, which when mined, releases large amounts of silica containing mine dust that is far more toxic than coal dust.

The most severe form of black lung disease, known as progressive massive fibrosis or PMF, has spiked dramatically. Earlier this year, NIOSH reported that the Stone Mountain Resources clinic in southwest Virginia had identified the largest cluster of PMF ever found—over 400 cases. National Public Radio has reported on large clusters in Kentucky and other states.

PMF produces large masses of scar tissue in the lung, and often the only means for survival is undergoing a high-risk lung transplant.

While funding for the black lung clinics has been frozen at virtually the same level for the past 5 years, a number of clinics, including many of those in Appalachia, have faced substantial increase in demand from coal miners for screening, diagnosis and pulmonary rehabilitation.

Clinics provide benefits counseling, including assisting miners with federal black lung benefits and state compensation claims.

Some clinics are so underfunded that they are operating with obsolete and inefficient diagnostic equipment, which needs to be upgraded.

Mr. Chair, we owe it to coal miners to get them the care and benefits they need and deserve. I urge a yes vote.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. 102. An act to diret the Federal Communications Commission to commence proceedings related to the resiliency of critical communications networks during times of emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 327. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide a safe harbor related to certain investment fund research reports, and for other purposes.

S. 416. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation.

S. 444. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to expand the investor limitation for qualifying venture capital funds under an exemption from the definition of an investment company.

S. 462. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to refund or credit certain excess payments made to the Commission.

S. 484. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States.

S. 488. An act to increase the threshold for disclosures required by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to compensatory benefit plans, and for other purposes.

S 1311. An act to provide assistance in abolishing human trafficking in the United States.

S. 1312. An act to prioritize the fight against human trafficking in the United States.

S.J. Res 49. Joint Resolution condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured by the violence, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President's Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 131 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GRIFFITH). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 131 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. KILDEE. 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 693, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 693, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 694, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 718, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert the following: ''(decreased by $10,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, 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, I rise in support of my amendment that would increase funding for youth employment initiatives by $10 million.

Michigan's unemployment rate is 4.7 percent, but for youth aged 16 to 24, it is more than double that, over 11 percent. Young people face high unemployment, and the lack of opportunity to find meaning in the world of work has implications that go far beyond just those years that they might find meaningful employment.

Investing in those young Americans ensures that they all do better. Providing those important employment

opportunities builds a strong foundation around the concept of hard work, and I know many Members support this effort. We just need to make sure that we find every opportunity that we can to make sure that every young person looking for an opportunity to earn a few dollars learns and, especially, understands the connection between their focus on work and the benefits that they will realize from that not only in terms of their own well-being, but the contributions they can make to their community.

Just last month, I had an opportunity to visit a really great example about how youth employment can make a positive impact in my home community. I visited a community garden run by Greg Gaines, who employs Flint area youth in summer jobs. They learn to grow crops. They learn that hard work pays off. Over time, they see these crops come in that they sell at the local farmers market. Very few of them will work in agriculture, but they come to understand that some patience and some effort and the focus on showing up on time and doing a day's good work literally and figuratively will produce fruits that they can benefit from.

So for 14- to 20-year-old kids in this program, obviously, it will make a difference in terms of the way their lives and their life trajectory goes forward, but it also sets a great example for their peers.

This is just one of those things that we do in the Federal Government that is an investment in our future. It is an investment in the lives of these kids. It pays us back tenfold. We should support it with every dollar we can find, and I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by saying how much I, frankly, appreciate the gentleman's amendment.

Many programs in this bill, frankly, were eliminated or substantially reduced to stay within the allocation, which, as I know my good friend knows, was $5 billion below the FY 2017 enacted level. Some other programs, including job training programs for youth, were reduced by relatively modest amounts, again, to stay within the allocation. The total amount in the bill for youth job training grants is $832 million, a reduction over last year of just 4.5 percent.

While I support the job training grants and programs in question, I oppose the amendment out of concern that the offset to the Department of Labor's administration account will be too hard to absorb, including the administrative reductions already included in the bill.

I will commit to my friend that we will try to work with him through the process and see if there is some way that we can get these funds restored going forward.

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my friend's comments. I understand the position he holds, and I do hope that we can work together, eventually, to make sure that this program is more fully funded.

I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the full Committee on Appropriations.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I, too, appreciate the chairman's comments, and I do hope, during this process, we will respond to this important request.

I rise in support of this amendment.

The underlying bill cuts the Department of Labor's Youth Employment Program, which provides funding to all 50 States, by $42 million, a shortsighted proposal that ignores the needs of millions of young people.

In the United States, there are roughly 5.5 million teenagers and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 who are neither working nor in school. This translates to one in seven teens and young adults. The youth program helps prepare out-of-school and low-income youth in your communities for employment and postsecondary education. These youth represent extraordinary potential for our Nation's economy. Investing in them has a ripple effect on future generations of low-income children and families, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, a champion for this issue and many others.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment, which would increase funding for youth employment activities under the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act.

As has been stated, about 5 million of our Nation's youth are both out of school and out of work, so we have a choice: Do we invest to help our youth get on a good path towards a good job, or do we pay considerably more later?

We have to choose to invest now. This includes increased funding for youth employment activities that help out-of-school and out-of-work youth, and it helps fund summer jobs, on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, and others. The alternative is to pay much more later in incarceration, teen pregnancy, and public assistance. When we make these Federal investments now, we make investments in our communities, our Nation, and our shared future, and we save money in the future.

Mr. Chair, I support the amendment and urge its adoption.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I would simply urge my colleagues to join me in this. I think we all know of these individual cases where the life of a young person is changed permanently because of an experience that they had finding meaning in work.

Again, as I said at the outset, my view is we should try to find every way we can to support including as many young people in that experience as possible. This amendment would do that.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, 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 question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. KILDEE. 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 Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 133 OFFERED BY MR. MITCHELL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 133 printed in House Report 115–297.

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:

Page 706, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,646,100)''.

Page 706, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $17,560,000)''.

Page 708, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $21,750,000)''.

Page 708, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,112,900)''.

Page 708, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $9,450,000)''.

Page 708, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $11,437,700)''.

Page 713, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $53,147,000)''.

Page 715, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $35,997,500)''.

Page 717, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $54,400,000)''.

Page 718, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $27,253,900)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $29,288,100)''.

Page 805, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $43,100,000)''.

Page 812, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $8,173,700)''.

Page 817, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $24,900,000)''.

Page 856, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $351,216,900)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, 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, our Nation faces a dire fiscal situation. We have now reached our debt ceiling and are determining how to control spending while funding necessary programs.

The path we are on is not sustainable. It jeopardizes our future, our children's future, and our national security. We must get our fiscal house in order and take this problem seriously.

Paying lip service to the problem will not solve it. We must be responsible now before it is too late. The reality is that we can make cuts to the size and cost of our Federal Government without impacting essential programs. In fact, the right cuts will allow our economy to grow by stopping overeager bureaucrats who seem to believe everything should be regulated until it no longer functions.

We in Congress need to be focused on growing and protecting Main Street, not protecting an already bloated Federal Government and bureaucracy. The amendment I propose today is simple. It makes a cut to the bureaucracy of several offices of division F relating to Labor, Health and Human Services. My amendment cuts funds from the same Department of Labor that gave us the overtime rule and the persuader rule. This is an agency of bureaucrats that wishes to legislate through regulation.

My amendment puts forth a modest 10 percent reduction of administrative expenses, which would save taxpayers $351 million annually on Labor and HHS alone. Let me restate that: We can actually save $351 million annually by just cutting administrative costs.

We, in fact, may well find the money to put the additional $10 million into youth employment services if we cut our bureaucracy.

I come from a world of privacy business, so I understand that fiscal responsibility starts on a small scale and requires commitment to changing the trend. My amendment, when combined with similar measures across all appropriations, will yield big savings to taxpayers, and will do so without cutting projects or essential programs that we hold dear.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to seriously consider my amendment as we work to secure our fiscal future, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking my friend for the amendment, quite frankly. And while I understand and share many of the gentleman's concerns, most of the accounts that this amendment reduces have already been reduced in the bill. The allocations we are working on required us to find efficiencies and savings wherever possible.

I believe that cutting the administrative accounts in this amendment by another 10 percent would unnecessarily increase the risk of significant disruption of services, and oversight responsibility the agencies in this bill are charged with.

While I oppose the amendment for these reasons, I want to pledge to my friend that I will continue to work with him and others to identify specific areas where additional efficiencies and savings can be realized. And I know my friend also feels strongly about entitlement reform, where the real money is, and I look forward to working with him on that as well.

But in the meantime, Mr. Chairman, I must urge the rejection of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the efforts of the chairman, and, in fact, all of the appropriations efforts. In fact, this week we will pass a full set of appropriations bills out of the House to send to the Senate—something that has not happened here in a very long time, although I am new.

The reality is that many of the cuts we have talked about thus far are cuts to the increases many agencies requested. I worked in the private sector where a cut meant you really spent less real dollars.

Now, I believe there are a number of programs we need to be very careful of. Item by item would be the best way, but at some point in time, we need to draw a line. We can't continue spending what we are spending, and I hope that we are going to be fiscally responsible down the road.

So I appreciate the chairman's comments. I worked very carefully with him, and, yes, I agree that entitlement reform is a huge issue and we have got to take it on. We need to amend the Budget Control Act. There are so many things we need to accomplish.

I am going to support our appropriations package and continue to try and work to tweak those so we actually save money, and we are efficient, and we save programs that we hold dear that are productive.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), my good friend, the distinguished ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to this amendment. This amendment would truly decimate the ability of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education to meet the needs of Americans by indiscriminately transferring $351 million to the spending reduction account.

This does nothing to improve the bill, which is already underfunded. The majority has imposed more than a $5 billion cut to the Labor-HHS bill below the 2017 omnibus level. Further cuts are completely unnecessary, and that is not all. The committee's allocation was approximately $5 billion below the nondefense level allowed under the Budget Control Act.

We have the resources available, yet the majority refuses to allocate them to the essential programs funded through this bill.

This amendment would not encourage the agencies to do more with less. Simply put, it would force the agencies and our constituents to do less with less.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), my good friend.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would reduce funding by 10 percent for programs administered by all accounts in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. By making it across the board, it makes it more difficult for the agencies to actually administer their programs, making it harder, if not impossible, for the government to protect its citizens by enforcing wage and protection laws, ensuring safe workplaces, ensuring education for students with disabilities, support for those with drug addictions.

The bill, as the gentlewoman has already indicated, is already underfunded, and this would just make matters worse.

Mr. Chairman, I would hope we defeat this amendment.

Mr. COLE. 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. MITCHELL).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 134 OFFERED BY MR. POCAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 134 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), 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 706, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,400,000)''.

Page 708, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 708, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $9,976,000)''.

Page 708, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,051,000)''.

Page 713, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $21,317,000)''.

Page 715, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $13,841,000)''.

Page 718, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $59,625,000)'' ''(decreased by $7,865,000)''.

Page 740, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(decreased by $51,901,000)''.

Page 805, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(decreased by $112,060,000)''.

Page 817, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $25,224,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman

from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I am doing this on behalf of Ms. DELAURO. As we know, her mother passed this weekend, and she is in our thoughts.

Mr. Chairman, this also incorporates two other amendments that we would have otherwise taken up separately under my name, but they are all-inclusive in here. So let me talk about what the amendment does.

This amendment would restore funding to worker protection programs to keep to the fiscal year 2017 levels. The bill, as it stands, has a cut of $59 million to worker protection agencies, including a cut of $21 million to OSHA, the elimination of the Susan Harwood training grants, and a cut of $14 million to the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

This is the lowest budget OSHA has seen since 2009. We need OSHA. It saves lives. Since 1970, occupational deaths have been cut in half, saving over 80 million lives. But there is plenty of work left to do.

Last year alone, 4,800 workers were killed on the job, and over 3 million were seriously injured. An average of 15 workers die every day from job injuries, costing U.S. businesses over $170 billion.

The proposed budget would further reduce enforcement personnel by 140 investigators. That is 2,318 fewer workplace investigations. In addition, in the bill under consideration, safety training grants to reach workers in the highest risk jobs are eliminated, despite being a core OSHA program through every administration, Republican and Democrat, since 1978.

OSHA has only enough funding to inspect every workplace under its jurisdiction every 159 years. Why would this bill eliminate funding for Susan Harwood training grants that protect and educate workers in the most dangerous jobs?

This program costs less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the Department of Labor's budget. This cut is irresponsible and reckless. We cannot cut NIOSH occupational health research, the primary Federal agency that conducts research to prevent work-related illness and injury. This research is a critical defense against tragedy. We must fund MSHA to keep our Nation's mines safe. There is too much on the line to neglect this sector.

This amendment would restore funding to the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, which is tasked with enforcing labor provisions of free trade agreements that are intended to protect American workers.

Finally, this amendment would restore funding to the National Labor Relations Board, which protects the rights of workers under the National Labor Relations Act.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by saying how much I regret—I know my friend regrets that our good friend wasn't here to offer her amendment here this evening, and I appreciate my good friend from Wisconsin stepping up and doing that. He is a very valued member of this subcommittee, and one who contributes mightily to its deliberations.

I certainly understand the concern of some with the relatively modest reductions in this bill at labor enforcement agencies at the Department of Labor. It has been the subcommittee's policy for many years to protect workers' health and safety by increasing funding for compliance assistance, and reducing enforcement activities. That is exactly what this bill actually does.

I appreciate that the subcommittee has had to reduce funding for many programs in the bill to work within its allocation. My concern with this amendment is the substantial offset of the department management funds at the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

Mr. Chairman, for that reason, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I will close by saying that I have been an employer for nearly 30 years; and on behalf of the vast majority of employers who have very responsible workplaces and care for their workers and take care of their workers, it is the irresponsible businesses that hurt all of the other businesses.

When we don't inspect companies that could have workplace violations, when we can only get around every 159 years to every workplace that is under the jurisdiction, when we don't enforce wage laws, we hurt the responsible businesses in this country, and that is why it is important to do this.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. POCAN. 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 Wisconsin will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 135 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 136 OFFERED BY MR. SABLAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 136 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. SABLAN. 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 713, line 4, after the dollar amount insert: ''(increased by $500,000) (decreased by $500,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

Mr. Chairman, I will be brief. My amendment moves a small amount of money within the OSHA bureaucracy in order to put enforcement Federal boots on the ground in the Pacific region where my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, is.

□ 1730

Some of you may know that the Northern Mariana Islands are in a transition from overreliance on foreign workers to an economy that is predominantly U.S. workers. As part of that transition effort, last month the House passed and the President signed into law an increase in the fee that is used to train U.S. workers to replace foreign workers. At the end of this month, minimum wage goes up bringing us within 20 cents of the U.S. minimum wage, $7.05 an hour. These changes are all part of the strategy to make the workplace more accessible and attractive to U.S. workers who are still on the sidelines unemployed.

There is one more small but important move we can make: assure these potential U.S. workers that job sites are safe. We are fortunate to have lots of investment in the resort industry in the Northern Mariana Islands right now. Hotels are going up, and waterlines are being laid. I imagine some Members have had a first job working construction, so they know there are inherent dangers on a construction site. Frankly, we have already had accidents.

Now every State has an OSHA office. There is an OSHA office in Honolulu, but that is 4,000 miles away from my district, and we have no Federal safety officer on duty in the Northern Mariana Islands. We need a real Federal presence—boots on the ground—that will assure U.S. workers that if they get a job working construction, the workplace is safe. As I say, this is one more element in the strategy to put U.S. workers into jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's amendment, and I agree that worker safety is one of the

Department of Labor's most important functions. I think, however, we just disagree on the most effective ways the Federal Government can help with that effort. This bill actually increases compliance assistance programs at the OSHA to do just that, so I will oppose the gentleman's amendment which would offset the increases to OSHA enforcement by reducing critical compliance assistance efforts that many of our Members strongly support.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, this is moving money. We have enough money for compliance education. The problem is that it is like having driver education knowing that the next sheriff is 4,000 miles away—you are not going to get caught driving. We need Federal boots on the ground.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to rise in support of Mr. SABLAN's amendment which would improve enforcement of workplace safety standards in the territories. I would note that, adjusted for inflation, OSHA's enforcement budget has been cut by more than 20 percent since 2010, and OSHA's safety inspections declined by more than 20 percent during that time.

It is a sad commentary that we are placing less value on an American worker's safety at the workplace than we did a decade ago. We should be supporting workplace safety in the territories, and we should be supporting workplace safety in the 50 States as well.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support Mr. SABLAN's amendment.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers. I ask my friends and my colleagues to please support this lifesaving amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MITCHELL). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 137 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 138 OFFERED BY MS. MENG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 138 printed in House Report 115–297.

Ms. MENG. 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 717, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,064,000)''.

Page 718, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,064,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chair, this amendment seeks to increase funding for the Women's Bureau within the Department of Labor by slightly more than $1 million and would decrease funding for the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Prices and Cost of Living Division by the same amount.

This increase would restore the proposed cut the underlying bill would make to DOL's Women's Bureau while still allowing the BLS Prices and Cost of Living Division to be funded at almost $3.5 million above the current enacted funding level and more than half a million dollars over the President's request for the coming fiscal year.

For those who might be unaware, the Women's Bureau within the Department of Labor conducts research to help departmental agencies develop policies that advance the interests of working women. It plans and executes research and advises other agencies on the structure and implementation of a wide range of worker programs.

Unfortunately, the President's budget request for next fiscal year sought to cut more than three-quarters of the existing staff within the Bureau as well as almost $9 million. Thankfully, this bill does better than the request. My simple hope is that we can go one small step further and fund this program next year at the level it is currently funded at. That is all my amendment seeks to do.

I urge my colleagues to support funding for the Women's Bureau within the Department of Labor at existing funding levels while offsetting this change with funds in a manner that still permits the BLS Prices and Cost of Living Division to be funded almost $3.5 million above the current enacted level and almost half a million above the President's request.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman's amendment, and I certainty support the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor.

Many programs in this bill were eliminated or substantially reduced to stay within our allocation. In contrast, the Women's Bureau was reduced by a relatively modest $1 million. The administration budget request proposed reducing the Women's Bureau by $8.5 million, clearly a reduction the committee did not agree with in the bill.

I understand the importance of many of these programs, and these are some of the difficult decisions that have to be made to fund bipartisan priorities in this bill like increases in funding to the NIH and to TRIO and yet still stay within our allocation. I expect and hope that as the process moves forward and we negotiate a bipartisan funding agreement, we will have further discussions regarding the funding of the Women's Bureau.

Mr. Chairman, I regret having to oppose the gentlewoman's amendment at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chairman, I want to reiterate the importance of the Department of Labor Women's Bureau. I believe that our government, especially, should have whatever advice, suggestions, and research that is needed to help all departmental agencies develop policies that further advance the interests of working women. Women currently in our country make, on average, 77 cents to every dollar that a man makes, and that amount is even lower for women of color. This Bureau would work on issues surrounding equal pay, employment rights of pregnant women and women who are breastfeeding in the workplace, paid family leave, and apprenticeships for women and women of color.

These are important issues, and our government needs to do better, and I believe Members of both parties should care about this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of my friend Ms. MENG's amendment which would restore the Women's Bureau to its FY 2017 funding level. Women now comprise almost half of the Nation's workforce, and their contributions are vital to the country's economic prosperity. But there continue to be barriers to women's full and equal participation in many careers and industries. Women continue to earn less than men in the same positions, which means the research and policy advocacy supported by the Women's Bureau continues to be as important as ever.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support Ms. MENG's amendment.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chairman, again, I urge support for this amendment. My amendment simply seeks to fund this program next year at the level it is currently funded at.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. MENG. 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 New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 139 OFFERED BY MR. FOSTER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 139 printed in House Report 115–297.

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 717, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1)(decreased by $1)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, my amendment highlights the need to think about our future workforce and how it will change because of technology and to encourage the Bureau of Labor Statistics to accept a wider and more forward-looking range of inputs into its range of projections for its workforce of the future.

I co-chair the New Democrat Coalition Future of Work Task Force with my colleagues, Congressman SETH MOULTON and Congressman JARED POLIS. Congressman JIM HIMES, the chair of the New Dem Coalition, has been active in the task force work and joins me in cosponsoring this amendment today.

Over the course of several months, the task force has held a series of forums to hear from experts on various areas that will require this body's attention in the coming years and decades. We have heard from historians, economists, and policy experts about how technological revolutions of the past have impacted social and political institutions and how lessons from those experiences and from current conditions can help us prepare for the future.

We have also heard from labor and business leaders who are pioneering the way they attract talent, retain their services, and develop skills for the increasingly rapidly change economy. It is nearly unanimous among our experts that the economy will change significantly and change faster, but it is less clear just how quickly the workforce will need to adapt.

For decades, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has been doing excellent and invaluable work to track our labor trends, and its projections have been proven very reliable and useful—to business and to our educators—in times of slower and relatively predictable technological development.

However, they are based on historical data and historical trends, and some of the anticipated changes in technology—such as robotics, self-driving vehicles, and artificial intelligence—could fundamentally change our economy in ways that haven't been seen before. So, in its current form, the way the Bureau calculates and estimates future development of the workforce may not be able to capture the dramatic changes that our future holds.

One panel convened by the task force suggested that it would be impossible to do projections in any single way to predict the workforce, but that, with additional resources, the Bureau of Labor Statistics could model for a variety of scenarios of different rates of technological change in different areas.

My amendment increases the BLS account by a dollar and decreases it by a dollar, and I intend it to mean that the BLS should submit to Congress an estimate of the resources it would need to make a range of forward-looking estimates, including consultation with those industries that are driving this rapid technological change and those that will be affected by that change to account for the increasing rate of technological job displacement.

It is hard to estimate by backward-looking extrapolations how the changes from self-driving cars and vehicles or artificial intelligence will affect the real jobs of the future.

Technological changes in the workforce are not new. The industrial revolution and the automation of agriculture transformed the way work was performed in our country and significantly improved, on the whole, our standard of living over time.

□ 1745

The results have not been uniform for all communities and all populations. Those transformations typically played out over generations, so our social and political institutions had ample time to respond. But today, development and deployment of technology is far more rapid, and Congress, business, and our educational system need the best possible data to evaluate policy proposals and to produce the workforce training needed for future employees and to develop educational curricula to ensure that our economy works for everyone.

Like in the industrial revolution, technological development presents the opportunity for a greatly improved standard of living, but it will also bring challenges to our workforce. Businesses, communities, and the government must work together.

Additional considerations in the projections made by the BLS will help Congress to anticipate these changes and to weigh proposed solutions. Objective projections based on empirical evidence are crucial to a debate that will be based on our different views of the role of government and its relationship with market forces. Those are the differences that should shape our ideas for helping Americans enjoy prosperous and full lives in the future.

I urge my colleagues to join me and vote ''yes'' on my amendment to begin to establish a range of scenarios for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the future world that we will inhabit.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not object to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment has no net impact on the funding of the bill, so I do not oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSTER. 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. 141 OFFERED BY MS. MENG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 141 printed in House Report 115–297.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM), and 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 734, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chairman, I rise to encourage my colleagues to support my amendment, which simply increases funding for the Behavioral Health Workforce and Training program by $5 million. This is a reasonable show of support for this important program, which saw its funding cut in half in this bill.

The Behavioral Health Workforce and Training program supports education and training for careers in behavioral health at institutions of higher education and through professional and paraprofessional training programs, with a focus on rural and medically underserved communities. This program was created as part of the 21st Century Cures Act in response to the significant nationwide shortage of behavioral health providers.

According to SAMHSA, 55 percent of U.S. counties do not have a practicing behavioral health provider, and 77 percent of counties reported unmet behavioral health needs. These statistics would be alarming at any time, but they are particularly concerning in the midst of a national opioid epidemic.

A 2016 Surgeon General's Report found that only 10 percent of people with a substance abuse disorder receive any type of specialty treatment. Additionally, 60 percent of adults with a mental illness didn't receive mental health services in the previous year.

This lack of access to services has severe consequences for the individuals seeking treatment, their families, and

our communities. When they don't have access to treatment, individuals with behavioral health needs receive a whole different set of services. Jails and sometimes emergency rooms become the de facto behavioral health system.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to make this important investment in the behavioral health workforce, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, the gentlewoman from New York, representing the gentlewoman from New Mexico, raises a very important point.

The amendment offered is for an increase to a workforce training program. Our committee understands the value of this program, which is why we did not accept the administration's budget request which actually terminated the program. We were able to fund it, though, below last year's level.

Our committee received an allocation that was lower than fiscal year 2017, and as I have explained several times before and doubtless will again, we had to make some very tough decisions. I do pledge to work with the gentlewoman as we work toward the fiscal year 2018 final bill. At this time, though, I must oppose the amendment and urge its rejection.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 142 OFFERED BY MS. MENG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 142 printed in House Report 115–297.

Ms. MENG. 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 734, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,000,000)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chair, this amendment seeks to increase funding for HRSA's Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program by $4 million, restoring program funding to the current enacted level.

I am thankful to the chairman for the funding amount already provided for in this bill, but I am hopeful that we can go one step further and fully fund this program again in the coming fiscal year.

The Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program improves healthcare for older Americans by providing clinical training opportunities to students, medical faculty and providers, direct service workers, patients, families, and caregivers that integrate geriatric and primary care delivery systems.

In the 2015–2016 academic year, grantees provided training to 18,451 students and fellows participating in a variety of geriatrics-focused degree programs, field placements, and fellowships. Of these trainees, 11,824 graduated or completed their training during the most recent academic year, and grantees partnered with 365 hospitals, long-term care facilities, and academic institutions to provide clinical training experiences to trainees.

America's population is aging, and it is imperative that new generations of healthcare professionals and providers have the skills needed to care for older Americans. Every person in this Chamber at some point in their life will wish their healthcare provider had this training. I hope we will all recognize that fact today and do what is prudent.

I hope we will unanimously support this amendment, plan for the future healthcare of our Nation, and restore funding to the HRSA Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program account.

Mr. Chair, I urge support for this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, frankly, there is considerable merit to the amendment the gentlewoman is suggesting.

The amendment offered is for an increase to the workforce training program. Our committee understands the value of this program, which is why we did not accept the administration's budget request, which terminated the program. We were able to fund it, though, below last year's level. However, I will certainly commit to my friend that we will work with her as we go through the process toward the final bill, and hopefully we can find a way to increase this at a later time.

At this time, however, Mr. Chairman, I must oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chair, again, this amendment requires that the program be fully funded. I do look forward to working with the chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 145 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 145 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. KILDEE. 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 735, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $24,800,000)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $24,800,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, 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, I rise to support the amendment that I have offered to increase funding for the very successful Healthy Start program, adding $24.8 million to match the President's funding request.

The Healthy Start program helps infants start out life with the support they need to grow into successful adults. It provides prenatal care, basic health needs, and promotes positive parenting practices for thousands of children.

It is especially important to the people of my hometown, as I mentioned before, and many other communities trying to work through exposure to high levels of lead, which is a neurotoxin. Of course, we know there is no cure, but the way we treat and the support we provide these youngsters often gives them a chance to overcome these sorts of developmental hurdles. Healthy Start is a critical way to do that by helping infants and their families mitigate the effects of that lead exposure.

Flint's ongoing process brought to light the nationwide issues that we face in drinking water. People are more aware of these issues and the impacts they can have on families. So it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can not just to repair the damage, but to actually help those who are struggling to get through these sorts of developmental challenges.

Healthy Start is a proven program. It does that. It is one of the reasons that I essentially take the same position that President Trump is taking: we should have a greater investment in Healthy Start. I don't often find myself in that position, but in this case, I am willing to assert that on this floor.

Early childhood education gives kids, regardless of their socioeconomic background, a chance. I think it is our duty to give every child a fair chance to succeed. That is what this amendment is intended to do.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my friend for his amendment. I wish I could support it, quite frankly, because I very much support Healthy Start and very much appreciate his support for that program.

As the gentleman knows, again, our subcommittee received an allocation below last year's level. As a result, we did not have the ability to increase funding for some programs, this one included.

The gentleman's amendment offsets the increase with a reduction in the resources for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out his responsibilities. A reduction of this size would hinder the Secretary's ability to administer the program effectively. For this reason, I oppose the amendment.

I want to assure my friend, as we work our way through this process, I am going to try and work with him to see if we can find a way to actually increase those funds, but at this point, we simply don't have them available.

For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, again, I would just encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

I do appreciate very much my friend from Oklahoma's sincere support for the effort. Let's hope that the amendment passes. If it does not, I do look forward to working with him in order to ensure that every child who could potentially benefit from this program does, in fact, have that opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, I again urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, 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 question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. KILDEE. 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 Michigan will be postponed.

□ 1800

AMENDMENT NO. 149 OFFERED BY MR. FLORES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 149 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. FLORES. 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 740, line 7, insert ''(increased by $40,000,000)'' after the dollar amount.

Page 740, line 8, insert ''(increased by $40,000,000)'' after the dollar amount.

Page 744, line 7, insert ''(increased by $40,000,000)'' after the dollar amount.

Page 746, line 12, insert ''(increased by $40,000,000)'' after the dollar amount.

Page 756, line 21, insert ''(decreased by $120,000,000)'' after the dollar amount.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that redirects $120 million from CMS overhead spending, which is a 3½ percent reduction, towards increasing funding in three specific areas: $40 million for pediatric research, $40 million for Alzheimer's research, and $40 million to address our country's opioid crisis.

The approval of this amendment will motivate CMS to modify its current punitive bureaucratic culture. Today, hardworking American families are demanding that their government find competent solutions for a struggling healthcare system, and CMS' failure to properly implement the Taking Essential Steps for Testing Act of 2012—or the TEST Act, as it is more commonly known—is a notable example of bureaucratic incompetence.

American families expect the Federal Government to work with healthcare providers, not against them, to ensure the efficient delivery of healthcare.

In 2012, the TEST Act was passed and signed into law due to the mandatory and harsh sanctions that CMS was then imposing on hospitals and labs that violated the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendments Act—or CLIA, for short.

While CLIA regulations are necessary, in some instances, the sanctions that CMS imposed against hospitals and laboratories at the time that inadvertently violated the statute were found to be draconian and at odds with the efficient delivery of healthcare.

At the time the TEST Act was considered in 2012, Congress determined that there were instances where a hospital or laboratory's violations were accidental, unintentional, and resulted in no patient harm.

At the time, CMS lacked the flexibility to align the severity of the sanctions for minor and inadvertent actions at the lab, resulting in needless punitive penalties, such as revoking lab certificates and banning principals from owning or operating certified laboratories.

The TEST Act was passed in 2012 to provide CMS with needed discretion to substitute reasonable alternative sanctions in the event of minor or inadvertent violations. In lieu of the previously mandatory sanctions, the TEST Act allowed more appropriate remedies like directed plans of action, onsite monitoring, and/or modest monetary penalties.

Yet, despite being given this mandate and this flexibility, CMS has written its regulations and interpreted the underlying statute in a way that are clearly at odds with Congress' intent in the TEST Act. There are serious impacts when CMS fails to use their congressionally mandated discretionary authority to issue appropriate sanctions.

Healthcare providers are forced to divert scarce resources to severe penalties, to oppressive settlements, and/or to a costly appeals process. These would not be needed if CMS had properly implemented the TEST Act. This diverts scarce resources from patient care to dealing with an out-of-control CMS, and negatively impacts healthcare in our communities.

I have seen this firsthand in my district where a nonprofit faith-based community hospital committed an unintentional CLIA violation that resulted in no patient harm. The hospital then self-reported that violation, as we would expect any healthcare provider to do.

This hospital is my community's only level II trauma center and provides a significant amount of uncompensated care to the lower income population, including minority families. Yet, rather than working collaboratively with the hospital, CMS ignored the TEST Act and, instead, imposed crippling sanctions and forced the hospital to engage in a burdensome appeals process.

This action will cost this important community resource over $100 million per year. This arbitrary unwarranted action by CMS forces the hospital to divert finite resources toward an unnecessary bureaucratic process instead of taking care of patients.

CMS needs to change its implementation of the TEST Act to follow the law. In the meantime, my amendment sends a message that this is not how we expect our Federal Government to act in a time when we are articulating a new vision for building a better American healthcare system.

This amendment does this by reducing CMS spending on bureaucracy by $120 million and directing those funds toward true solutions for better healthcare by finding cures for pediatric cancer, Alzheimer's, and opioid abuse.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I have considerable sympathy with my friend's concerns. Frankly, I think he has certainly every right to be concerned about a hospital in his district. I certainly agree with an effort to put additional funding for the opioid epidemic, for pediatric cancer, and for Alzheimer's disease. These are all critical issues facing our country.

Nevertheless, I must oppose the amendment. The bill actually includes $126 million within the CDC for surveillance and prevention of opioid misuse, which continues the large increase provided in fiscal year 2017. The bill also provides a $1.1 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health, which includes a targeted increase of $400 million for research on Alzheimer's disease, as well as increases for each institute center, including the National

Cancer Institute, to support vital research on disease such as pediatric cancer.

Furthermore, the bill also continues to provide funds authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act, including $300 million for the Cancer Moonshot, and $500 million for opioid abuse.

Finally, the reduction of funding at CMS proposed by my friend would weaken the agency's ability to properly manage and administer Medicare and Medicaid. So for that reason, I must oppose my friend's amendment.

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

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Chair, the bottom line is that hardworking American families are tired of having unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats ignore congressional intent when implementing legislation such as the important TEST Act.

We must send a message to CMS today. Now is the time to right this wrong. In the meantime, I ask my colleagues to support my amendment to cut CMS by 3½ percent, $120 million, and to increase research funding for pediatric cancer, for Alzheimer's, and for opioid treatment. This amendment is a win-win amendment for American healthcare.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to this amendment. I strongly support additional funding for the CDC, the National Cancer Institute, and the National Institute on Aging. I have spent my time in Congress fighting for those agencies.

In fact, over the past 2 years, Democrats on the Labor-HHS Subcommittee have worked closely with Chairman TOM COLE to increase the NIH budgets by $2 billion annually, and I hope we are able to do it again this year.

But this amendment is fundamentally flawed because it slashes $120 million from the CMS Program Management. Keep in mind that the CMS Program Management account is already cut by a $524 million in the underlying bill. That is a 13 percent cut. This amendment would increase that cut to more than 16 percent.

According to HHS, over 143 million Americans will rely on programs administered by CMS, including Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and the Federal health insurance exchanges.

Why would my colleagues in the majority support more than $600 million in cuts to the Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs?

Slashing their administrative budgets by 16 percent is certain to harm services that impact Americans on a daily basis. These cuts will directly harm America's seniors, the blind, low- and middle-income families, children with disabilities, and Americans with chronic conditions like end-stage renal disease, as well as pregnant mothers and newborns.

CMS programs face historic growth in the years to come. A cut of $644 million to its administrative budget would open up the program to mismanagement, fraud, and abuse.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

Mr. COLE. 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. FLORES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLORES. 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 Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 150 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 150 printed in House Report 115–297.

Ms. TENNEY. 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 741, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $14,000,000)''.

Page 763, line 3, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

Page 764, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to increase funding to the Community Services Block Grant program. I am proud to represent the 22nd District of New York, a once thriving hub of innovation and manufacturing. My district has suffered the fate of too many Rust Belt communities.

Against the backdrop of crushing taxes and soaring costs, it is harder than ever for my constituents to find good-paying jobs that match their skills. A tragic result of this lack of opportunity has been increasing poverty, especially among our most vulnerable populations.

In addition to supporting commonsense pro-growth policies in Congress to reduce regulations and encourage innovation, programs like the Community Services Block Grant play a vitally important role in fulfilling the unmet needs of our neighbors.

CSBG funding directly supports programs aimed at reducing poverty and assisting low-income individuals, the homeless, and the elderly. It allows States and community action agencies in each of our districts the flexibility to improve living conditions, increase self-sufficiency, and foster strong family support systems.

In my district, the Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency in Utica has received more than $640,000 from the CSBG program, which they have used to support Head Start programming that promotes early childhood development, and the Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps seniors meet ever-rising energy costs in the very cold Northeast.

All told, the CSBG program accounts for more than $55 million in financial assistance to New York State funding, which touches the lives of more than 705,000 New Yorkers. This number includes more than 46,000 individuals with disabilities and more than 317,000 children in my district. Cuts to this program will have a disproportionate impact on some of the most at-risk and forgotten constituents in our district.

I am grateful that this committee has recognized the importance of this program, and I am especially thankful for Chairman COLE's leadership on this issue. The committee has expressed a willingness to work with me to ensure that the final appropriations bill worked out in conference includes robust funding for this CSBG program.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman for working with us on this, and I want to assure that we will work with her. I appreciate her concern for the Community Services Block Grant program. As my good friend from New York knows, that program was actually zeroed out in the administration's budget. We replaced $600 million of $715 million, but it clearly is an important program to many Members on both sides of the aisle, has a superb reputation, and we are going to do everything that we possibly can to build upon that and get back to at least the fiscal year 2017 level.

The gentlewoman's leadership in this is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to working with her as we go forward.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chairman, because of Chairman COLE's great willingness to work with and help the truly needy people in our communities, I am going to be withdrawing my amendment this evening. I look forward to working with Chairman COLE as we move forward in this process, and I just want to say thank you.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 152 OFFERED BY MR. NOLAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 152 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. NOLAN. 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 744, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,819,000)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,819,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

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

Mr. Chairman, as co-chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Lung Cancer Caucus, I want to first express my appreciation for allowing my amendment to be made here in order and for the work of the committee.

Make no mistake, these extra funds that are in my measure, the $3.8 million for cancer research at the National Cancer Institute, are urging that it be spent on lung cancer, in particular. Those extra funds will make an enormous difference in battling lung cancer, which is, as you all know, the most deadly of all the cancers.

□ 1815

As many of you know, my daughter, Katherine, was diagnosed with stage IV nonsmoking small cell lung cancer almost 2 years ago. Thanks to medical research and the daily prayers of so many of my colleagues here in the House, Katherine is still with us.

But like so many thousands of others, she is still courageously and desperately fighting for her future. We can provide those people with some real hope and support for their determination through additional research dollars that are so desperately needed.

As you know—or may not know—we have made little or no progress in the last 20 years in combating lung cancer. There is still a survival rate of something less than 1 or 2 percent.

But make no mistake, the money that this committee and this Congress and this House has provided for research not just in cancer, but many of the other fields, has played a critically important role in increasing our life expectancies—played the lead role in increasing our life expectancies in this country. In my grandfather's time it was 47, and now it is almost 80.

But one of the areas where we just haven't been able to make any progress at all is in lung cancer research. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this modest request for a modest amount of money to be added to helping us make some progress in lung cancer research in the way that we have done for so many other forms of the disease.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I wish to advise my friend we certainly intend to accept his amendment, and I look forward to working with him as we go forward on the bill. I think there are some other areas where we can increase funding, as well, that would fit with my friend's objective.

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Chairman, I express my thanks and gratitude, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 154 OFFERED BY MS. CLARK OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 154 printed in House Report 115–297.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), I offer amendment No. 154.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 751, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $231,330,000)''.

Page 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $219,620,000)''.

Page 805, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $11,710,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would restore funding for the mental health programs cut in this bill. Specifically, it would reverse the $142 million in cuts to SAMHSA's mental health block grant and restore funding for Project AWARE State grants and Healthy Transitions, which were both eliminated in the underlying bill.

For so long, mental health issues were relegated to the shadows, approached with the shame and misunderstanding that only exacerbates pain for people and their families; but today, we know how widespread these issues are, and we need to approach them without stigma and treat them the same way we would treat other illnesses.

According to Mental Health America, one in five adults has a mental health condition, yet more than half of Americans with a mental illness receive no treatment. Many families without health coverage or whose coverage will not cover mental health or recovery programs rely on services funded by SAMHSA's mental health block grant. This amendment would restore those funds.

This amendment also restores funding for Project AWARE and the Healthy Transitions grant program, which were created in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook school shooting, which took the lives of 6 adults and 20 beautiful children. In response to this tragedy, the administration and Congress came together to support several new programs to help communities identify and treat behavioral disorders.

The Project AWARE program, often referred to as a mental health first aid, seeks to increase awareness of mental health issues among our children, train teachers and other school staff to identify and respond to mental health issues, and connect children to the appropriate behavioral health services.

The Healthy Transitions program improves access to treatment and support services for young adults with serious mental health conditions.

Together, we can make our communities more welcoming, compassionate, and safe for everyone, and restoring this funding is an essential part of that effort.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman's concern. She is a very valuable member of the subcommittee. This is an area in which she not only has considerable passion, but considerable expertise. However, as the gentlewoman also knows, we have an allocation well below last year's level, and we had to make, again, a difficult decision.

Reduction of this magnitude of the Health and Human Services' administrative functions would eliminate the core funding for the Secretary's office completely, and for that reason I would oppose the amendment.

However, I want the gentlewoman and, certainly, our good mutual friend from Connecticut whom she is representing tonight to know that, as we work with our colleagues in the Senate on a bill to reach the President's desk, I intend to work on these issues with her and with my friends on both sides of the aisle to address the concerns that she raised in her remarks.

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. 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 Massachusetts will be postponed.

Mr. COLE. 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. OLSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, 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. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2611) to modify the boundary of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 390, nays 0, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 485]

YEAS—390

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barragán
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Correa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes (KS)
Esty (CT)
Evans
Farenthold
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gottheimer
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Thomas J.
Rosen
Roskam
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce (CA)
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Sánchez
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—43

Bilirakis
Bridenstine
Buchanan
Butterfield
Carter (GA)
Castor (FL)
Clarke (NY)
Cook
Costa
Crist
Crowley
Curbelo (FL)
DeLauro
Demings
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Garrett
Graves (MO)
Grijalva
Labrador
Lawson (FL)
Loudermilk
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Marino
Mast
Messer
Poe (TX)
Posey
Rooney, Francis
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)
Scalise
Schrader
Scott, Austin
Soto
Tiberi
Titus
Tsongas
Wasserman Schultz
Webster (FL)

□ 1852

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to work in my Congressional District regarding hurricane relief. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 485.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 23, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 23

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on October 25, 2017 for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the Filipino Veterans of World War II in recognition of their dedicated military service.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING THE VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC TERRORIST ATTACK THAT TOOK PLACE DURING EVENTS BETWEEN AUGUST 11 AND AUGUST 12, 2017, IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 49) condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the

first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured by the violence, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President's Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 49

Whereas, on the night of Friday, August 11, 2017, a day before a White nationalist demonstration was scheduled to occur in Charlottesville, Virginia, hundreds of torch-bearing White nationalists, White supremacists, Klansmen, and neo-Nazis chanted racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant slogans and violently engaged with counter-demonstrators on and around the grounds of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville;

Whereas, on Saturday, August 12, 2017, ahead of the scheduled start time of the planned march, protestors and counter-demonstrators gathered at Emancipation Park in Charlottesville;

Whereas the extremist demonstration turned violent, culminating in the death of peaceful counter-demonstrator Heather Heyer and injuries to 19 other individuals after a neo-Nazi sympathizer allegedly drove a vehicle into a crowd, an act that resulted in a charge of second degree murder, 3 counts of malicious wounding, and 1 count of hit and run;

Whereas 2 Virginia State Police officers, Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Trooper Pilot Berke M.M. Bates, died in a helicopter crash as they patrolled the events occurring below them;

Whereas the Charlottesville community is engaged in a healing process following this horrific and violent display of bigotry; and

Whereas White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups reportedly are organizing similar events in other cities in the United States and communities everywhere are concerned about the growing and open display of hate and violence being perpetrated by those groups: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—

(1) condemns the racist violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia;

(2) recognizes—

(A) Heather Heyer, who was killed, and 19 other individuals who were injured in the reported domestic terrorist attack; and

(B) several other individuals who were injured in separate attacks while standing up to hate and intolerance;

(3) recognizes the public service and heroism of Virginia State Police officers Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen and Trooper Pilot Berke M.M. Bates, who lost their lives while responding to the events from the air;

(4) offers—

(A) condolences to the families and friends of Heather Heyer, Lieutenant H. Jay Cullen, and Trooper Pilot Berke M.M. Bates; and

(B) sympathy and support to those individuals who are recovering from injuries sustained during the attacks;

(5) expresses support for the Charlottesville community as the community heals following this demonstration of violent bigotry;

(6) rejects White nationalism, White supremacy, and neo-Nazism as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the United States; and

(7) urges—

(A) the President and his administration to—

(i) speak out against hate groups that espouse racism, extremism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and White supremacy; and

(ii) use all resources available to the President and the President's Cabinet to address the growing prevalence of those hate groups in the United States; and

(B) the Attorney General to work with—

(i) the Secretary of Homeland Security to investigate thoroughly all acts of violence, intimidation, and domestic terrorism by White supremacists, White nationalists, neo-Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, and associated groups in order to determine if any criminal laws have been violated and to prevent those groups from fomenting and facilitating additional violence; and

(ii) the heads of other Federal agencies to improve the reporting of hate crimes and to emphasize the importance of the collection, and the reporting to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, of hate crime data by State and local agencies.

The joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). Pursuant to House Resolution 504 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. 3354.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1856

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. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, with Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 154 printed in House Report 115–297 offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 155 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 155 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. 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 752, line 19, strike ''$15,000,000'' and insert ''$20,000,000''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I want to speak on this amendment, which provides some additional funding for assisted outpatient treatment.

The underlying bill has in it $15 million, and we are asking for it to be raised to $20 million. First of all, I want to say where the money is coming from. This is within the budget of SAMHSA. This is not new spending. It is not additional spending. But over my years of investigating mental health in the United States and the conditions, and then led to my introduction of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, which, by the way, this House passed 442–2, this level of funding was authorized in the bill. It is already authorized there. It is to come from the SAMHSA account, not new spending.

Let me describe what assisted outpatient treatment is. Understanding that there are about 60 million Americans with mental illness, and 10 million have severe mental illness, it is important to note that our prisons are filled with people who have mental illness. On some level, 60 to 80 percent of people in jail have a mental illness. That is no place to be treating someone. But, unfortunately, they may have a crime they committed, and in many cases it could simply be vagrancy, it could be other issues, too, where they may have become violent, they may have had other problems associated with that, but a person with mental illness is 10 times more likely to be in prison than to be in a hospital bed.

We don't have enough hospital beds. Ninety percent of the psychiatric hospital beds in this country have been closed down since the 1950s. Now we need 100,000 more, but instead what we do as a society, we throw them in prison.

A few years ago, when New York passed Kendra's Law, when a young woman was killed by a mentally ill person, they realized that had he been in treatment, it likely never would have happened.

□ 1900

So rather than having someone, if we can't put them in a hospital, can't get

them treatment, the idea of assisted outpatient treatment is, when a patient can be stabilized by remaining on their medication, by having their counseling, perhaps supportive housing, supportive education, supportive employment, their life can turn around.

So what happens is, a court, a judge, protecting this person's own rights, civil rights on every level, will say to this person: I am not going to involuntarily commit you to a hospital. Your crime doesn't rise to the level—it is not a felony or something like that—it doesn't rise to the level of prison, but what they say is: We are going to require, however, that you stay in treatment, require that you take your medication, that you stay in counseling, and you do other things as prescribed by the court.

Now, most States allow this, but here is the problem: in many counties in America, they don't have the ability to pay the administrative costs to handle this. So this amendment provides a mechanism whereby people can do this.

So understand, the assisted outpatient treatment is a civil-legal procedure whereby a judge can order an individual with a serious mental illness to follow a court ordered treatment plan in the community.

Here is another thing about this: Does it work? And the answer is yes. In a Duke University study of the New York AOT program, it said 90 percent of the people said that AOT made them more likely to keep appointments or to take medication; 88 percent said they and their case manager agreed on what is important for them to work on; 87 percent of them said they were competent in their case manager's ability to help them; 87 percent had fewer incarcerations; 83 percent had fewer experienced arrests—and the point is, they had an increased number of arrests prior to being in AOT, and then afterwards it declined precipitously.

Eighty-one percent said AOT helped them get and to stay well; 77 percent fewer experienced psychiatric hospitalizations; 75 percent reported that AOT helped them gain control of their life; 74 percent fewer experienced homelessness; 55 percent fewer experienced suicide attempts or physical harm to themselves; 49 percent fewer abused alcohol; 48 percent fewer abused drugs; 47 percent fewer physically harmed others; 46 percent fewer damaged and destroyed property; and costs were cut in half.

This small amount of money—and believe me, it would cost perhaps 10 or 20 times more to really do this thoroughly—is there to help people in mental health crisis. We could either continue to throw people in jail, continue to see crimes happen—and by the way, when a mentally ill person is in prison, 80 percent of them get no treatment. We put them back on the streets and the problems occur again.

The House passed this. It came out of committee unanimously. We need to do this for America. We don't want to read more statistics on a mentally ill person who harmed someone, primarily because they were not in treatment.

This is our opportunity to save lives. This is our opportunity to do something about this. And I do ask that the House pass this small amendment out of an existing budget, no new spending, to provide an additional $5 million for assisted outpatient treatment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOXX). The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman and want to begin by acknowledging that my very good friend is the recognized expert in this House on all matters related to mental health and has probably done more on behalf of this cause than anybody in this Chamber in very many years. So it is with great reluctance that I opposed this particular amendment, earlier, when we actually accepted.

But the amendment increases funding for programs currently funded at $15 million, the same as last year. As my friend knows, our committee actually received an allocation that was lower than last year, and we had limited resources to provide increases.

But in recognition of the importance of the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program, my committee maintained funding for the program at its current levels.

I want to assure my friend, I intend to work with him during the process as we negotiate with the Senate. I would expect we probably will have a different allocation. We may be able to revisit this issue, and I would hope that we can, and certainly will, work with my friend.

But at this time, I simply must oppose the amendment so we can stay within our current allocation.

Madam Chair, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Madam Chair, before I discuss this amendment, I would just like to take a minute to offer my and all of our condolences to honor the memory of Congresswoman DELAURO's dear mother, Luisa DeLauro, who passed away at the age of 103 this weekend. As Congresswoman DELAURO always said, her mother was a fearless champion for women's equality, and I hope that tonight we can really think about Congresswoman DELAURO, her family, and her mother, and offer our sincere condolences to her.

Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment which would shift an additional $5 million away from SAMHSA's existing mental health programs. In the bill under consideration today, SAMHSA's mental health programs, they are already cut by $231 million. That is a 20 percent cut.

Unfortunately, this amendment would further reduce funding for critical SAMHSA programs such as Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention, and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. We need to be increasing support for mental health services, not robbing Peter to pay Paul by shifting funds from one program to another.

Now, by profession, I am a psychiatric social worker, and I founded a community mental health center. Believe me, I personally know the impact and the need, the unmet need, for additional funding for mental health services.

As my colleagues and I have noted, the allocations approved by the committee are approximately $5 billion below the nondefense level allowed under the Budget Control Act. That is $5 billion down.

We have the resources available, yet the majority refuses to allocate them to support critical programs such as mental health and substance abuse services. This bill is $5 billion below the fiscal 2017 funding level.

That is why Members are being forced to rob critical programs to transfer funding to other programs. We need to negotiate a bipartisan budget deal that lifts the sequestration caps and provides significant funding for mental health and substance abuse programs for individuals who need them.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chair, as the designee of Ranking Member LOWEY, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of amendment 155, the assisted outpatient treatment, $5 million increase; $20 million total.

As the original cosponsor of H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016, I recognize the importance of funding for outpatient treatment.

As a former chief psychiatric nurse at the VA hospital in Dallas, Texas, I have witnessed the unintended consequences of the deinstitutionalization process. Many of my own patients, diagnosed with severe mental illnesses, were discharged with 30 days of prescription medicines and did not have stable housing.

Once they ran out of their prescriptions, their condition worsened, they suffered psychotic breaks, and they became homeless or incarcerated. Individuals with untreated psychiatric illness now make up one-third of the Nation's estimated homeless population. That totals 600,000.

In Texas, there are 35,000 incarcerated individuals with a severe mental illness, but only 4,500 psychiatric beds are available in all of the Texas hospitals combined.

This amendment increases court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment by

$5 million to meet the fully authorized amount of $20 million in support of the severely mentally ill, thereby allowing them to get treatment in the community without incarceration or hospitalization.

This outpatient treatment reduces incarceration, homelessness, and emergency room visits by upwards of 70 percent.

I urge support of this amendment. This country has neglected the mentally ill, and this country is suffering because of it. We have got to recognize the need, and I urge everyone to support this amendment.

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I just want to say, investing in the AOT program, Congress says it is worth it to ensure the most vulnerable among us have the treatment they need, instead of being in ERs, or jails.

This pilot is extremely important. It saves money. It saves lives. And for Members to reflect back on this, I hope they would rather say: I helped fund a program known to save lives. SAMHSA has been reported many times by the GAO to waste a lot of money. This saves lives, and I urge people to vote for this amendment.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 156 OFFERED BY MR. KELLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 156 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 763, line 3, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I rise in support of my amendment No. 156.

Over the past 25 years, infant adoptions have decreased, and only about 1 percent of pregnant women choose adoption. While there are approximately 2 million couples waiting to adopt in the United States, there were only 18,329 domestic infant adoptions in 2014.

Unfortunately, too many women who have encountered unplanned pregnancies report not receiving adequate information about adoption. Everyone facing an unplanned pregnancy should have access to timely, accurate, and noncoercive information about adoption that helps them make their own fully informed decision.

In 2000, Congress authorized the Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program. This program awards grants to adoption organizations to train healthcare workers who offer health services to expectant mothers and are trained to provide adoption information and referral.

In the year 2000, the program annually delivered training to an estimated 10,000 healthcare workers nationwide. This program was phased out in 2010.

This bill funds adoption awareness programs at $39.1 million. My amendment designates $5 million of that funding to restart the Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program with the goal of ensuring that expectant mothers have access to timely, accurate information about adoptions.

I also support the administration's effort to fund activities to improve hospital-based adoption support services for our expectant mothers. I urge them to continue this hospital-based program to ensure that mothers who wish to make an adoption have access to comprehensive support throughout the entire adoption process.

Adoption is a bipartisan issue, and it is vital that individuals who are providing health services to expectant mothers are trained to properly provide adoption information and referral.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. COLE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. COLE. Madam Chair, I don't rise to oppose. I just wanted to commend my friend for bringing this issue and highlighting it. We think it is very important.

We wanted to note that we support what he is trying to do. We certainly accept the amendment, and we look forward to working with him through the process to help achieve the objectives that he stated.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1915

Ms. LEE. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Madam Chair, this amendment cuts $5 million from the account that funds, mind you, Head Start, Runaway and Homeless Youth grants, and the Community Services Block Grant, among other critical programs, and uses it to provide $5 million in new funding for the Infant Adoption Awareness Training program. Now, this program did not receive funding in fiscal year '17.

Women should have access to all options when considering the impacts of an unintended pregnancy, of which one is adoption. But we should not ignore the irreplaceable role of preventing unintended pregnancy by providing education and health services.

The underlying bill limits women's access to care by prohibiting funding to the Title X Family Planning program, a program specifically created to ensure women have access to high-quality family planning services to prevent unintended pregnancies and access reproductive care services. By denying women access to comprehensive family planning and preventative health services, the bill would have a devastating impact on women and families, especially low-income women and women in rural communities.

In 2014, Title X Family Planning centers helped women avert 904,000—that is 904,000—unintended pregnancies. Without the services provided by these Title X clinics, the rates of unintended pregnancy in the United States, unplanned birth and abortion, each would have been 33 percent higher, and the teen pregnancy rate would have been 30 percent higher.

In addition, Title X providers are required to offer pregnant women the opportunity to provide information and counseling regarding all of their options—all of their options—in a neutral, nondirective, and factual manner, including adoption. For some women, adoption services and counseling may be the best option. But we must ensure that every woman has access to all options and is allowed to make the choice that is best for her and her family.

Unfortunately, this bill represents yet another missed opportunity to get serious about reproductive health and preventing unintended pregnancy in this country. This amendment uses funding from other programs in the Children and Families Services account that are critical to the well-being of children, women, and families as an offset for this new program. Funding for Head Start, the Domestic Violence Hotline, programs that help serve and protect runaway and homeless youth, among others, are at risk.

Madam Chair, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman. I do share her concern. That is why we are asking for $5 million of the $39.1 million be used to give expectant mothers the opportunity to learn fully and make a decision based on what they want to do. It is about education. It is about making them fully aware.

But this is about adoption. This is not about anything else. This is not about taking anything away from anybody. This is about giving them the opportunity to understand the options that they do have in an unplanned pregnancy.

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chair, as I close, while this amendment focuses on adoption services, we cannot ignore what is missing from this bill and from this process, and that is an opportunity to vote on the amendment to fund Title X Family Planning. We must restore funding for family planning services; invest in a comprehensive approach that prioritizes health promotion, education, services, and care; and an approach that includes sex education programs, better access to birth control, and reproductive health services.

I am extremely concerned about the cut that this amendment imposes on the Children and Families account at HHS. I oppose this amendment. This is cutting funds from Head Start, Runaway and Homeless Youth grants, and the Community Services Block Grant, among other critical programs.

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman's comments. What this is really about is 2 million couples willing to adopt children in the United States. It is hard for me to stand here today and say that it would be a much different world if people were really given the opportunity to understand what their options are and be able to fulfill the wishes of over 2 million couples in the United States who are looking to adopt a child. I think that is incredibly important, and I don't understand why we couldn't look at something like that and say this is about adoption. That is all it is about.

Now, this is fully endorsed, by the way, by the National Council for Adoption.

At this time, I would also offer my condolences to Ms. DELAURO for the loss of her mother. She is a fine lady, and I am sure that, no matter what, she will look back on the years she spent with her mother and cherish every one of those.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MITCHELL). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. COLE. 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. SIMPSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. MITCHELL, 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. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3697, CRIMINAL ALIEN GANG MEMBER REMOVAL ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2017, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115–307) on the resolution (H. Res. 513) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3697) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens associated with criminal gangs, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from September 15, 2017, through September 22, 2017, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 504 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. 3354.

Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1922

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. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, with Mr. MITCHELL (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 156 printed in House Report 155–297, offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 158 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 158 printed in House Report 115–297.

Ms. BONAMICI. 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 767, line 24, insert ''(increased by $51,000,000'') after the dollar amount.

Page 770, line 18, insert ''(reduced by $64,000,000'') after the 1st dollar amount.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to increase funding for senior nutrition programs under title III of the Older Americans Act. My amendment funds these programs at levels authorized by the House just last year.

We are in the middle of an unprecedented demographic shift as this country ages. The population of older adults is growing faster than at any point in history. As we grow older, we all want people across the country to be able to age with dignity, health, and independence in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

For more than 50 years, the Older Americans Act has supported community-based providers that reach more than 11 million seniors and caregivers annually in each and every one of our districts providing person-centered assistance to help people age in place. These critical OAA services include home-delivered and congregate meals to make sure that older adults are getting the nutrition needed to keep them healthy and engaged, which reduces the risk of falls, depression, and other negative outcomes.

Just a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of joining dedicated volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels to seniors in northwest Oregon. I highly recommend this to my colleagues. You can see firsthand the value of these programs and how important these meals and visits are to our constituents who rely on them.

The Older Americans Act also covers transportation to get older adults to the doctor, the grocery store, or even to a local senior center to engage with friends and avoid isolation. The OAA funds critical disaster assistance response efforts for seniors and communities like those just devastated by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Unfortunately, funding for the Older Americans Act has drastically lagged behind the growth in the older adult population, the increasing need for services, and the rising cost of delivering these supports. This stagnant and, in some areas, eroding Federal investment in OAA programs costs us more in the long term. When seniors can't stay healthy at home, they end up in hospitals paid for by Medicare or in institutional long-term care, often funded by Medicaid. Both are far more expensive than adequate investments in the Older Americans Act to keep seniors healthy at home for as long as possible.

Support for the Older American Act is strongly bipartisan. Last year, Congress voted without opposition to reauthorize the Older Americans Act, a bill that included modest increases in authorized funding levels.

Unfortunately, annual appropriations still fall woefully short of these

amounts we clearly and firmly approved. This amendment will increase funding for core OAA programs delivered through title III—which include critical nutrition, home- and community-based support, and caregiver services—to the amounts that were just so broadly supported last year.

These investments in OAA are necessary if we are to provide the person-centered, cost-effective in-home services and supports needed to keep our expanding older population healthy and independent in their homes and communities. This amendment is an essential first step toward rectifying the recent depletion of these important funds for these vital programs.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman's concern for programs that support vulnerable seniors. Frankly, my committee has provided increases for these programs in prior years because, like her, we understand how valuable and important they are to keeping seniors independent in their homes.

As the gentlewoman knows, our subcommittee received an allocation below last year's level, and we were not in a position to provide another year of increases to these programs. The amendment reduces the administration funds available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. A reduction of this magnitude would significantly hinder the Secretary's ability to administer the agency.

For this reason, Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), who is the ranking member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, and is someone who understands the importance of these investments.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Ms. BONAMICI, the vice ranking member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, for offering the amendment and for her leadership on issues affecting older Americans.

The Older Americans Act was first passed 50 years ago as part of Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. It helps older Americans live with dignity and stay connected with their communities. I am proud that last year we were able to pass a 3-year bipartisan reauthorization that increased funding for the programs. But had our investments in these programs actually kept up with inflation and growing populations, the authorization levels would have been even much more. But, thankfully, the reauthorization moved us in the right direction.

This amendment would bring funding for supportive services, nutrition programs, and caregiver supports in line with the authorized level. Even though these are not fully adequate to address the total need, it is another step in the right direction. So I support the amendment and our commitment to older Americans. We can maintain that commitment by adopting this amendment, so I thank the gentlewoman for offering it.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, may I please inquire as to the remaining time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Oregon has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), who serves on the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, first, I thank the gentlewoman from Oregon for introducing this amendment. I rise in support of it.

We have to really let our seniors know that we care about them. My mother passed away a couple of years ago. She was 90 years old. I recognized personally the importance of comprehensive services to ensure that our seniors have a quality of life that they so deserve in their senior years. This also helps taxpayers and families avoid paying for more expensive healthcare and long-term care services.

So I thank the gentlewoman again on behalf of our constituents. This will strengthen our communities, and I ask for an ''aye'' vote.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important amendment that is a good investment to save in the long term and take care of our seniors.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1930

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 160 OFFERED BY MR. BEN RAY LUJÁN OF NEW MEXICO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 160 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. 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 770, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000) (increased by $2,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, my amendment provides $2 million in dedicated funding for peer support and paraprofessionals as part of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program.

Ensuring all Americans have access to affordable and high-quality mental health services should not be a partisan issue. It is simply the right thing to do.

The purpose of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program, which this amendment funds, is to add additional training to serve populations especially in rural and medically underserved areas.

The BHWET program helps close the gap in access to behavioral healthcare by establishing partnerships with a broad range of organizations and community partners to ensure a wide recruitment of students, opportunities for field placements, career development, and to provide job placement services.

These efforts will increase the number of able behavorial health providers serving populations across their lifespan, including persons in rural, medically underserved, and vulnerable communities.

Peer support has improved health outcomes while lowering healthcare costs. In fact, there is growing evidence that peer support-related strategies can be used as more engaging and successful solutions than current hospital and emergency room care-related options. Peer support programs provide individualized, managed care to those who need it the most.

Many studies have shown the vast benefits to patients who utilize peer support. For example, a 3-year pilot project called the Peer Health Navigation Intervention, or ''The Bridge,'' showed that peer support, in addition to a variety of other positive outcomes, shifted the focus of healthcare from urgent care and emergency room visits to outpatient primary care.

Furthermore, many studies have shown the potential cost savings that the increased implementation of peer support can deliver. A 2006 study demonstrated that, for patients using day treatment, the use of certified peer specialists led to a $5,497 cost reduction per person per year.

Another successful program based out of Denver, Colorado, showed a return on investment of $2.28 for every dollar spent. As evidenced by these and other studies, a small investment in peer support services will greatly reduce healthcare costs in the long run.

The current system for treating behavioral health issues is not sufficient to serve those who need help. It is unacceptable that more than 50 percent of primary care patients with depression go undiagnosed and two-thirds of primary care providers have no ability to prescribe outpatient behavioral health for their patients.

Additionally, dedicated funding for peer support paraprofessionals will be essential in helping address the current lack of access to behavioral health services in our healthcare system.

This modest amount of funding for a community-based partnership program will make an enormous difference for millions of Americans who deserve access to behavioral health services, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's concern. He raises, I think, a genuinely important issue.

Our committee understands the value of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program, which is why we did not accept the administration's budget request which actually canceled the program.

Our committee, as my friend knows, received an allocation that was lower than fiscal year 2017, so we had to make some tough decisions. I want my friend to know we will work with him going forward and see if we can arrive at a solution that he finds more satisfactory in the final bill.

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

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of Mr. LUJÁN's amendment, and I want to thank him for this.

I shared earlier that I, by profession, am a psychiatric social worker. I actually founded a community mental health center. It was called Change, Incorporated.

As part of this community mental health center, we had a program. That program was to train individuals in peer support. This was in the day. I can tell you what Mr. LUJÁN has said about the goals and the successes of peer support services. It can't be overstated. This amendment would close this shortage in services for individuals who need them.

As chair of the Social Work Caucus, again, psychologists, psychiatric social workers, and clinical social workers agree that peer support for individuals who may or may not have earned an advanced degree is extremely important because they can understand and they know what the needs of their clients are. Studies have shown that peer support services help to reduce emergency room visits by individuals suffering from depression.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. I know from personal experience that it works. It is a cost-saving measure, and it really helps people suffering from mental illness. We should really recognize the need out there. It is still great, even as I reflect upon my community mental health center, Change, Incorporated.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. 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 New Mexico will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 161 OFFERED BY MRS. LOWEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 161 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), and 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 794, line 15, after the first dollar amount insert ''(increased by $100,000,000)''.

Page 794, line 15, after the second dollar amount insert ''(increased by $100,000,000)''.

Page 794, line 19, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $100,000,000)''.

Page 805, line 25, after the dollar amount insert ''(decreased by $100,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, nearly 1.7 million children, including more than 87,000 in my home State of New York, rely on afterschool programs supported through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers to provide a safe, enriching environment to learn. Yet this bill would cut funding for afterschool programs, leaving tens of thousands of students without educational programs as well as drug and violence prevention counseling, arts, music, recreation, and more.

We should invest more, not less, in our children. This amendment would restore funding to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program so our students can have access to the safe afterschool enrichment they deserve.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for the amendment and for working with our good friend who couldn't be here tonight to make sure that this issue that I know she cares deeply about and I know my friend cares deeply about is raised.

I tell the gentlewoman that I will continue work with her as we move forward in the appropriations process this year. I hope we can reach an agreement, particularly in this area.

I understand the gentlelady's frustration with finding a large enough offset to accommodate the increase she proposes. However, her amendment would actually reduce resources for the Department of Education by nearly a quarter. I think this would jeopardize the Department's ability to administer the very program she seeks to increase.

So I will reluctantly oppose the amendment at this time. I believe the offset within the Department of Education administrative account is just simply too much.

Again, I want to reiterate to my friend that I look forward to working with her as we go forward and perhaps receiving a different allocation under a House-Senate agreement in the future.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's kind and thoughtful words about afterschool programs.

There are over 18 million children whose parents want to take advantage of afterschool programs, but they lack access in the area where they live. That is why we work to fund our national network of afterschool programs through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I just want to say to the distinguished chair that I appreciate his positive comments about this program. I look forward to a better allocation as the process moves forward, and I look forward to having him and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join me in supporting this very important program.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to point something out. I am glad I have a chance to speak on this amendment.

When I was growing up, I spent a lot of time before school, a lot of time after school, and a lot of time in summer school being supervised by my parents. They did a great job.

I think before we fall all over ourselves to make sure the government is the one supervising people all the time, we ought to remember it is good to educate the public that parents are responsible for a little of this as well, and nobody loves their kids like their parents.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman from Oklahoma yield?

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding to me. Again, I look forward to working with him and the other members of our committee as we expand the budget.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say to the distinguished gentleman who spoke before, I grew up in the Bronx, New York. I was fortunate to have my mother not working at the time. She was able to supervise me. I had many wonderful play dates.

I would like to say to the distinguished gentleman, in my community where this program is so essential, many of these people are working two, three jobs. The mother is working two or three jobs; the father is working two or three jobs. For some of these families, there is only one parent.

Perhaps you can come visit my district. I would like you to come to Port Chester, New York. This was one of the first afterschool programs I was fortunate to be able to support with this account. I would love you to come and visit and see what these programs do, which is provide important support for their parents who want to help and want to be supportive of their children, but sometimes these jobs do stand in the way.

These programs are so very important, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in providing more funding.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, having yielded to people on both sides of the debate, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. LOWEY. 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 New York will be postponed.

□ 1945

AMENDMENT NO. 164 OFFERED BY MR. COURTNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 164 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. COURTNEY. 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 796, line 5, insert after the dollar amount ''''(reduced by $1,184,000) (increased by $1,184,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, this, I think, is a very modest amendment, which just simply seeks to restore a cut to the existing 2017 level of support for the Magnet Schools Assistance Program, which is a program which has been around for quite a while. It actually was reauthorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015, which was a great bipartisan success for K–12 education.

And again, this program provides support for magnet schools all across the country. There are 4,340 magnet schools in the U.S. 3.5 million students benefit from magnet programs, which again, are administered by local school districts and utilize a variety of academic themes such as STEM, Language Immersion, Career and Technical Education, Visual and Performing Arts, just to name a few.

Again, it is a strategy which also provides a regional structure to the student population and promotes diversity. It has done great things in terms of Connecticut in terms of ending racial isolation. Again, unfortunately, the magnet schools have sort of seen a steady sort of decline from 10 years ago in terms of Federal support for it, and this amendment really is just basically saying enough. I mean, we should, again, restore an amount, which I indicated is very modest, of $1.1 million to this account, and offset and paid for.

And again, I think it just will allow a lot of school districts and communities to continue the great work that they are doing with magnet programs.

I want to conclude my initial remarks by, again, thanking the chairman and also Congresswoman LEE for their kind remarks about my colleague and neighbor from Connecticut, ROSA DELAURO, who lost her mother, Luisa DeLauro, a 103-year-old amazing woman.

We all marvel at ROSA's energy and passion, but if you have ever met Luisa, you would understand where it came from because she was an amazing woman, just a great inspiration for her daughter who, I think, made her so proud in terms of the great work that she has done in the Congress.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman, quite sincerely, for his amendment. And again, as I will oft repeat tonight, as the gentleman knows, we had to cut $5 billion from this bill, and we had to make some genuinely tough choices.

In this case, we accepted the President's recommended funding level for magnet schools, and we were also able to increase charter schools, though not by as much as the President requested. Charter schools have demonstrated effectiveness in providing a real choice in quality education for millions of students around the country.

If we have a change in our allocation in conference, I will gladly take another look at the magnet school program to evaluate additional funding there. I think my friend makes a very good case on their behalf; however, at this time, simply because of reasons of allocation, I will oppose the amendment because the offset reduces charter school grants, which I strongly support.

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, and I rise in strong support of it. It restores funding to the Magnet Schools Assistance Program.

Now, 60 years after Brown v. Board of Education, the data shows that many schools and communities continue to suffer from the vestiges of segregation and that many of our Nation's largest school districts remain starkly segregated along racial and economic lines.

Now, I just have to say, when I started elementary school, schools were segregated in El Paso, Texas. Sixty years later, now, it is really something. We have come a long way, but we have a long way to go. This amendment, the Magnet Schools Assistance Program—the amendment helps assist school districts in promoting desegregation long overdue.

I am glad that we increased this program in fiscal 2017 omnibus by $1 million. That additional funding was intended to allow the program to increase the total number of grantees. I was disappointed to see that the majority took a step back from the progress that we had made and imposed a cut to this program in the underlying bill.

Why in the world would the majority not want to see school segregation ended? This amendment certainly leads us in that direction, and I strongly support it, and I hope you would reconsider your opposition because many of us remember those days.

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

Mr. Chairman, I disagree with my friend about charter schools. Actually, charter schools have provided enormous opportunity for children of every race, every ethnic background. They have been particularly effective, I think, in minority areas, so I reject any suggestion that the decisions we made had anything to do with race or racism or that the charter school movement is involved in that. I just don't think that is the case.

But I do agree in the importance of magnet schools, and if we get a different allocation, we are going to sit down and work with our friends to see

if we can also make some progress in that area. But at this time, I am going to continue to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, may I ask how much time I have left.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania). The gentleman from Connecticut has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, again, briefly, I appreciate the gentleman's comments. I would just note, though, if you go back 10 years ago, the disparity between charter school funding at the Federal level versus magnet schools was two to one in favor of charters.

We are at a point today where, with this budget, it will be four to one in terms of disparity between the two. I would acknowledge the gentleman's comments that there are some areas where charter schools have provided great benefits, but there is no question that, in terms of breaking down racial isolation, magnet schools have a much better batting average, and that has been studied and reported over the years.

My daughter attended a magnet school in the Hartford area, and again, with a totally diverse population, and again, it is probably the most highly rated high school, secondary school, in the State of Connecticut, according to U.S. News and World Report.

So again, the quality of magnet schools, I think, are high in the record in terms of their goal, which is to break down racial isolation. I think it surpasses charter schools.

This amendment would leave a 7.7 percent increase in funding for charter schools. It is not an attack on charter school funding. It just simply restores last year's level of spending for magnet schools, a very modest measure.

And again, I look forward, hopefully, to working with the gentleman, but I really believe strongly that this is not asking too much to protect magnet school funding, and that is why I would ask the Chamber to support this amendment.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I want to assure my friend I certainly don't take the amendment as an attack on charter schools any more than I accept the idea that, by funding charter schools, we are involved in promoting racial segregation. That is not what we are trying to do here. We have a genuine debate over the best vehicles to go forward.

I happen to think both these vehicles are good vehicles. I have seen what the charter school movement, frankly, has meant in New Orleans, what it has meant in this city, the opportunities that it has opened to thousands and thousands of students of all racial backgrounds.

And the administration, as my friend knows, has put a particular emphasis here. And while we increase funding, we are not anywhere close to what the administration wanted to do. So I want to reiterate to my friend from Connecticut that we intend to work with him if we have an allocation change where we can find some additional resources, because I think he makes a very good point, and I very much value the contributions that magnet schools also have made to try to improve educational outcomes across the spectrum for our students.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. COURTNEY. 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 Connecticut will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 165 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 167 OFFERED BY MR. LEWIS OF MINNESOTA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 167 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. 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 801, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $70,246,000)''.

Page 802, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $70,246,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LEWIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, our Nation is facing a skills gap, a student completion crisis at both the high school and college levels, and record levels of student debt. The status quo is unacceptable. We must do better for our students by truly supporting career and technical education as a pathway to success.

CTE has been shown to dramatically increase high school graduation rates, increase postsecondary access, and, most importantly, get students to a degree and a well paying career. More than 75 percent of CTE concentrators pursued postsecondary education shortly after high school, and four out of five students earned a credential or were enrolled 2 years later.

Dual enrollment allows high school CTE students to earn college credit and significantly increase their likelihood of pursuing and completing college, all the while saving their families money.

The key is that CTE students often don't need an extensive 4-year education, as many attend a great 2-year technical college and then head right into the workplace with little debt and skills to excel.

We must fight this narrative—one some of my colleagues are still pushing—that a 2-year technical degree is a lesser educational option. This way of thinking is simply harmful to our Nation's students and our Nation.

My amendment increases funding for CTE State grants by $70 million, transferring the funding from an increase to TRIO and GEAR UP. It does not cut funding to TRIO and GEAR UP but continues funding these programs at fiscal year 2017 levels, the highest funding levels in program history.

The TRIO and GEAR UP programs received significant funding increases over the past decade, including a $50 million increase in 2017, leaving the programs with proposed funding $230 million above their 2007 level.

Instead of an increase for TRIO and GEAR UP this next fiscal year, my amendment makes an overdue investment in career and technical education and in our Nation's students.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking my friend from Minnesota for the amendment. I am a big fan of career and technical education, and, frankly, along with the State of Ohio, Oklahoma probably has the most robust and strongest career technical education program of any State in the country. It is actually something we fund ourselves, for the most part. I would recommend other people do the same.

I am also, you know, frankly, as my friend knows, dealing with a cut of $5 billion from the bill. In this case, the gentleman seeks to cut TRIO funding to pay for his amendment. In my opinion, it is totally misguided.

Since the TRIO program began, it has produced over 5 million college graduates, and those college graduates were almost exclusively from families where no one had ever had the opportunity to go.

This is a proven successful program. It has helped literally millions of first generations of college students, so I strongly support TRIO and will not support cuts in this program; so I, therefore, oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment to increase funding for current technical education programs. For some people, pursuing their desired career means securing a college degree.

In my 30-year career in workforce education, I have seen firsthand this

isn't the right path for everyone. Unfortunately, too often, success has been defined by the 4-year-or-bust model, leaving students who would be better served by current technical education behind, out in the cold, and leaving job creators unable to find qualified workers for in-demand jobs.

□ 2000

Democrats and Republicans agree that the skills gap is a serious problem challenging our workforce. More importantly, my constituents, schools, and employers throughout my district recognize this is a crisis that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Chairman, I urge passage of the amendment.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), a member of the subcommittee.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding me time.

While this amendment increases career and technical education funding, a worthy goal that I support, it comes at the expense of funding for critical higher education programs that support low-income and minority students.

Career and technical education funds help ensure students are well prepared for further education employment in high-skilled, high-demand jobs in the 21st century economy.

In days before the election, President Trump, in reference to CTE, said: ''We're going to start it up big league.''

Secretary DeVos, a few months ago, said: '' . . . this administration is committed to supporting and highlighting career and technical education.''

Despite these promises, the Trump-DeVos budget cuts CTE by $168 million, or 15 percent.

I am glad to see my colleagues on the other side of the aisle proposing to increase our investment in this critical area, but I am deeply concerned that the amendment proposes to slash $70 million in funding.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I have 30 seconds, so I will give any listeners a suggestion.

I suggest you spend some time at your local tech school or your local trade school and ask the people who teach there how many of their students are former 4-year students who cannot find a job in the field in which they thought.

These people can have a family-supporting job 8 or 9 years earlier if they are directed to a technical education or a trade school. They will be supporting their families and be able to do that when they are 21 or 22 rather than 31 or 32.

You will learn a lot if you talk to your local tech school or trade school.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would take money from important college access programs, GEAR UP and TRIO, and use it to increase important funding for career and technical education. Because of the way the amendment is drafted, it would also jeopardize funding for minority-serving institutions to be used to increase that funding. This amendment reduces funding for programs meant to improve college access for low-income students.

First of all, whether it is CTE or TRIO, all of these programs don't have enough money. One should not be stripped for the sake of another. By lifting one program that leads to one opportunity over neglecting another that leads to another opportunity, you limit the choice of future life outcomes at a time when members of the next generation should be able to choose the best opportunity for them.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment and try to fund both more robustly.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Ranking Member LOWEY, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MITCHELL). The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, as the co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional TRIO Caucus, I find this amendment, which would cut $60 million in funding from TRIO educational services that assist veterans and low-income and first-generation college students, deeply disturbing and misaligned with our national economic interests.

It sends the misguided message that only university education is unnecessary for low-income students. You know, just get a little job training and go straight to work.

I might make the observation that I don't see anybody over there who has less than a bachelor's degree, and I know my good friend has a law degree.

While career and technical education is very, very important, low-income students and our country's economic viability deserve the option of educating some of our students at a 4-year-degree level.

For us to maintain hegemony in the world, we need people like Steve Jobs, who was not a trust fund baby, who was not a legacy kid, but someone who had the talent and ability. We need to provide opportunity to the larger pool of talent in our country in order to be able to create the next iPhone.

I will give you a really good example, Mr. Chairman. There is a student who happens to live in southeastern Minnesota. As a matter of fact, he lives in the Second Congressional District. He was once a homeless student living in poverty, but he participated in a TRIO program at a university in Minnesota's Second District. Now, as a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, he is the founder of a biomedical start-up company with the mission of launching technology to innovate a disease diagnostic tool that has been found to be cost effective and will be utilized worldwide.

Hunter Lin could not have benefited from just a 2-year degree. TRIO has given him the chance to get not only out of homelessness, but the ability to really create economic prosperity in our country.

In Minnesota's Second Congressional District, there are 1,521 TRIO students being served at four institutions, including two community colleges.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this harmful amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from the Education and the Workforce Committee, Mr. LEWIS, for offering this amendment.

At a time when U.S. job openings are at a record 6.2 million, America faces a skills shortage. Employers all over the country tell us they need more employees who are skilled.

I have said this before, and I will say it again for so long as I am here: All education is career education.

I am a former TRIO director. I am not opposed to TRIO.

This is not an effort to diminish access to baccalaureate degrees, but to give priority to programs that are helping Americans learn the skills they need for good, high-paying jobs.

Research has shown that graduates with a technical or applied sciences associate's degree outearn baccalaureate degree holders by between $2,000 and $11,000.

Earlier this year, the House passed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. That bill and this amendment are important steps to make sure all Americans have access to an education that helps them develop the skills they need to have a successful life.

I am proud to support this amendment.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate to see some of my colleagues claim that career and technical education is somehow the separate or lesser pathway to a 4-year college degree. These claims are neither factual nor are they very genuine. CTE promotes college access, with 91 percent of high school graduates who earn a 2- to 3-year CTE credit going on to enroll in college.

When partisan politics gets injected into workforce development policy, it is students across the Nation who lose. I can tell you that, throughout the Second District, I have employers and students dying for these opportunities from all backgrounds.

The current bill leaves CTE State grants with funding $60 million below

what they received 10 years ago, while TRIO receives funding $110 million above both its authorized level and what the program received just 2 years ago.

My amendment supports all of our students and their diverse ambitions and affirms career and technical education as a viable pathway to success.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. Our students are waiting for it, our employers are waiting for it, and our country is waiting for it.

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

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

It has been a good and robust debate, but I don't think it has been a particularly partisan debate. As a matter of fact, I see people on both sides of the aisle that actually have both solutions. My friend, Mr. SCOTT, may have the best solution of all: let's plus-up both of these programs because they both do a lot of good.

But, in this case, I don't think you make one the enemy of the other. I have seen TRIO programs work, and I have seen how many jobs they produce. We are not serving anywhere close to the population eligible for TRIO. Somewhere less than 10 percent of the eligible students actually take advantage of the program.

Again, my State invests very heavily, probably more heavily than most other States that I would suggest do the same thing Ohio and Oklahoma have done. And these programs which my friend rightly champions, I have seen people actually raise their own taxes so they could have a career or technical institute.

So I think there is merit to both of these approaches. But I do also think 5 million college graduates from people who did not have the chance to go is something this country ought to think about. The statistics tell us each of those graduates in a lifetime earn $1 million more than they would have. I promise you, the Federal Government will get its share of that million dollars.

This is a program that has paid for itself over and over again. Perhaps as we go forward, we can find other ways to help both of these programs capitalize on their potential.

So while I agree with the objective my friend is trying to achieve, I don't agree in achieving it at the expense of TRIO or GEAR UP.

Mr. Chairman, I 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 Minnesota (Mr. LEWIS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. 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 Minnesota will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 168 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 168 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. GROTHMAN. 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 802, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(decreased by $33,954,220)''.

Page 805, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(decreased by $8,620,000)''.

Page 806, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert ''(decreased by $1,185,120)''.

Page 856, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $43,759,340)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

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

I rise in support of an amendment to reduce funding by 2 percent for the Department of Education's Office of Program Administration, Inspector General, and Student Aid Administration.

I say this because, even a month ago, it was apparent that when we wind up doing the appropriations bill or an omnibus bill or wherever we are, we are probably going to be borrowing about 14 percent of that budget. Then in the last month, we have had two hurricanes hit America, and we have already set aside another $15 billion.

I want to remind people here that we are approaching $20 trillion in debt—$60,000 for every man, woman, and child in this country. If you have a family of four, they are $240,000 in debt.

I think given those numbers, every Congressman, when they look at this appropriation document, ought to make as their primary goal spending less money. And again, we are borrowing like 14 percent.

When I was a State legislator, I dealt several times with people from the Department of Education; and, honestly, the few times I dealt with them, I never felt that their positions or what they were doing helped anybody at all. It looked like they almost had too many people there.

So I think a small reduction of 2 percent is something that we should all be supportive of, make a little bit of a dent on that deficit and a little bit of a dent on that huge sea of money we voted for—including myself—working its way towards Florida and Texas.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin is a good friend. We serve on the Budget Committee together, and, frankly, I know how sincere his concern about the issues that he lays out is. I know how hard he fought on that committee, and oftentimes we were unlikely allies in a number of places.

□ 2015

So I know this is a passion and a sincere commitment. I remind my friend, he knows I know he would have preferred more, but this bill is $5 billion less than it was last year. He certainly had some success, and success that I agree with, but in this particular case, if I understand the gentleman's amendment correctly, it would basically cut education administration by $43 million, a roughly 10 percent cut across the board in the administrative areas.

Or is it just a 2 percent cut in everything?

Mr. GROTHMAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLE. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. No. It is a 2 percent cut in administration, inspector general, and student aid.

Mr. COLE. Okay. But substantial reductions, and in programs that have already been cut. So for that reason, I would oppose my friend's additional cuts, but I would hope to work with him going forward in something that I know he knows is a far greater driver of our debt, and that is entitlement reform. That is where the money is.

We end up fighting every year over discretionary accounts that are relatively minor compared to the behemoths of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the other so-called mandatory programs. They are only mandatory because Congress doesn't have the courage to pick up the law and actually deal with them. So I am going to work with my friend in that area because I know he is sincere.

In this case, I feel compelled to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I think we have had enough debate, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, one of the agencies affected by this amendment is the Department of Education's Office of Inspector General that is responsible for conducting independent and objective audits and investigations. It is through this agency that we can review offices like the Federal Student Aid office, and Congress can learn about policies and practices that need to be improved. It was just last March that the OIG investigated that department and found that Congress needs to do more to

monitor colleges with unstable finances in order to protect students and taxpayers from abrupt school closures.

Any cuts to this agency will reduce the chances that such findings will be made, and reduce consumer protections. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), a member of the subcommittee.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would decimate the ability of the Department of Education to meet the needs of Americans by indiscriminately transferring $44 million to the spending reduction account. This does nothing to improve the bill, which is already underfunded. The majority has imposed a $5 billion cut to the Labor-HHS bill below the 2017 omnibus level. Further cuts are completely unnecessary.

That is not all. This $5 billion is also below the nondefense levels allowed under the Budget Control Act. We have the resources available, but the majority refuses to allocate them to essential programs funded through this bill. The Department will simply have to do less with less. That is not good for the American people, and it is not good for our constituents.

A Department with fewer resources to oversee the Student Aid portfolio, and as Mr. SCOTT pointed out, the Office of Inspector General's ability to promote efficiencies within the Department and investigate fraud, will be hampered.

Mr. Chair, for these reasons, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GROTHMAN. 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 Wisconsin will be postponed.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 169 printed in House Report 115–297.

AMENDMENT NO. 170 OFFERED BY MR. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 170 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. GROTHMAN. 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 817, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $99,000,000)''.

Page 856, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $99,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which will reduce funding for the National Labor Relations Board by $99 million in fiscal year 2018. Since its inception, the NLRB has served as a partisan board that flips in ideology from one administration to the next, often cutting businesses off at the knees and stifling economic growth.

In just the last 8 years of the Obama administration, the NLRB managed to overturn a total of 4,105 collective years of precedent in 90 cases. In cases such as the ambush election rule and the joint employer rule, the board significantly overstepped their bounds and dipped their hands into the day-to-day business operations of hardworking Americans.

Now, let me be clear: I am not here to attack the unions. I wish more people would join unions under the amendment that we just dealt with. I believe that employees should have the right to join a union if they think that joining a union is best for them and their family. But the fact remains, since 1990, the NLRB has received 65 percent fewer election petitions and 40 percent fewer unfair labor practice charges. Meanwhile, while private sector labor representation has decreased in the last 25 years, the NLRB's budget has increased in inflation-adjusted dollars by close to $50 million.

My amendment would implement a necessary reduction to the NLRB, which will bring their funding in line with their expected workload for the upcoming fiscal year. Specifically, my amendment saves taxpayers close to $100 million in the upcoming fiscal year and provides private industry with relief that the NLRB will have to focus on the most pressing cases that arise rather than engaging in partisan witch hunts.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment, which would cut the NLRB's budget by nearly $100 million below the House bill, which is already $25 million below the fiscal year 2017 level.

Under this amendment, the NLRB would be required to furlough 1,500 employees for at least 140 days. That means 1,500 employees across 26 States would be unpaid for nearly 5 months. As a result, the NLRB would develop a backlog of 10,000 to 12,000 cases, which would indefinitely delay the resolution of pending cases of unfair labor practices.

Perhaps my colleagues don't realize that most of the NLRB's work is not controversial. At the regional level, about 21,000 charges are filed every year, and 95 percent of those charges are dismissed or resolved within 60 to 70 days after an investigation of facts. In other words, 19 out of 20 charges filed are resolved without litigation.

For charges at the regional level, 90 percent of the cases with probable merit are settled, which means they are resolved without needing to be heard before the NLRB's five-member board.

For cases taken to the board, about 70 percent of the decisions are unanimous, meaning they are bipartisan. That is how the process is supposed to work.

Why would we cripple an agency that is tasked with enforcing Federal labor laws? Does the majority believe that labor laws should not be enforced? Should a worker who is unlawfully fired for exercising their rights be met with a sign on the door that says, ''Closed. Will reopen in 5 months''?

Closing the NLRB for 5 months would exacerbate disputes between employers and employees, and create a harmful disruption to our economy.

Mr. Chair, I urge that we reject this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the distinguished ranking member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, as my colleagues have made clear, this amendment would impose a 45 percent cut on the NLRB budget. The NLRB would expect that these cuts could lead to the closure of regional offices in 17 States, but it is really the American workforce and our economy that would suffer.

We benefit from a worker's right to exercise freedom of association. These cuts will delay NLRB-conducted representation or decertification elections and delay democracy for workers who deserve a timely vote.

In the past 3 years, the NLRB has reinstated 7,000 workers who were unlawfully fired by their employers, and the NLRB has awarded over $191 million to workers in backpay or fees.

Mr. Chairman, justice delayed is justice denied. Delayed justice is what this amendment would inflict.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a ''no'' vote on this amendment.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, my only other comment is assuming that figure of employees is right, and this is not the total number of employees, just the employees that she envisions being cut, 1,500. I always kind of look at my State, which is about typical in size. That would be 30 employees on a board that I wouldn't think our forefathers would have thought of. So people have to consider for themselves, I guess, whether the average State would even need 30 employees. Here we are just

cutting 30. We are still leaving the bulk of the agency in existence.

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is an insult to the millions of American workers who deserve to be treated fairly and in a timely manner under the law.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject 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 Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GROTHMAN. 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 Wisconsin will be postponed.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 171 printed in House Report 115–297.

AMENDMENT NO. 172 OFFERED BY MR. MEADOWS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 172 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. MEADOWS. 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 F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. The Coal Mine Safety and Health program area of the Mine Safety and Health Administration, comprising 964 employees, with annual salaries aggregating $78,970,000, is hereby reduced by 10 percent (comprising 96 employees, with annual salaries aggregating $7,897,000).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, I want to start out this evening by recognizing the fine work of Chairman COLE. I can tell you that there are many times in this Chamber that they want to pit members of my conference against appropriators. This is not one of those times. I just want to rise and acknowledge the great work of Chairman COLE and Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, and, truly, of the entire Appropriations Committee.

Regardless of whether my amendment passes or not, I plan to vote for the underlying bill. Yet, with this commonsense amendment that we put forth, Mr. Chairman, we are really looking to try to make sure that we rightsize a group that has been under attack, and this is all about the coal industry.

What we have found is that under the previous administration, there was an unbelievable attack on all fossil fuels, but specifically the coal industry.

□ 2030

This actually goes about rightsizing MSHA, which is the mine safety and health group that will inspect the mines. What we found is we have fewer mines to actually inspect. My amendment is real straightforward. It is saying: let's rightsize that particular group. Let's cut the number of employees that we have there by 10 percent. They have less mines to inspect. I can tell you, coming from a State that has mining in every one of the counties that I have the privilege of serving, what we need to understand is that it is not about safety of mine workers, because I am for the safety of mine workers; we really need to look at being responsible with the hardworking American taxpayer dollars. That is what this amendment is about.

Mr. Chairman, the hour is late, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Knowing, Mr. Chairman, of the gentleman's commitment to families, and I know that the gentleman's family is committed to their children, I am totally shocked that this amendment will be addressed tonight on the floor of the House.

This amendment, my friend, would cut personnel. Mothers and fathers will be directly affected by this. This amendment will cut the personnel whose responsibility it is to ensure the safety and health of our Nation's coal miners.

The proposed amendment, my friend, would cut the Mine Safety Health Administration coal enforcement personnel by 10 percent, would result in the Mine Safety Health Administration being forced to violate Federal law because it would be unable to fulfill its statutorily mandated duty to inspect underground coal mines every 3 months. We have seen what happens, my friends, when mandatory inspections are cut back and the number of experienced mine inspectors are reduced to coal miners that cut corners on safety.

Following the massive explosion in 2010, at Upper Big Branch, which killed 29 coal miners in the worst coal mine disaster in the country in four decades, investigators found that mine management had consistently violated basic safety standards such as ventilation and rock dusting intended to prevent coal dust explosions. The number of violations at this mine were among the highest in the Nation.

The ultimate responsibility, my friends, for that disaster lays squarely at the feet of mine management, including its CEO Don Blankenship, who was criminally convicted of a misdemeanor and served the maximum of 1 year for conspiring to violate mine safety standards.

It is also clear from the internal review that due to budget cuts during the Bush administration, MSHA, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, became severely short staffed. There were too few inspectors to meet the requirement for mandatory inspections. You cannot underfund mine safety and health and expect to adequately protect the lives of miners. We know what happens when safety takes a back seat to profits. People die.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment irresponsibly cuts funding for coal mine safety and health by 10 percent, cuts 96 positions in the Mine Safety and Health Administration, or MSHA. The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 established MSHA and requires MSHA to conduct four wall-to-wall inspections every year on underground mines and two wall-to-wall inspections for every surface mine. These are mandatory and required for safety in the mines.

MSHA is required to conduct spot inspections every 5 days at those coal mines that release large amounts of combustible methane since those mines have the highest risk of fires and explosions.

In addition to the mandatory and spot inspections, MSHA responds to hazard complaints from miners, investigates discrimination complaints, and provides compliance assistance with standards such as the new rule to prevent the scourge of black lung disease.

If this amendment is enacted, 96 positions will be cut and MSHA will have to choose between the mandatory inspections or meeting its obligation to implement these other essential functions. It can't do both, yet all of these functions are necessary to protect the health and safety of miners.

Mr. Chairman, the preamble of the Mine Act of 1977 states: ''The first . . . concern of all in the coal''—or other—''mining industry must be the health and safety of its most precious resource—the miner.'' This amendment abandons Congress' commitment to America's miners and should be rejected.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD a letter from Cecil E. Roberts, the International President of the United Mine Workers of America, in opposition to this amendment.

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA,
Triangle, VA, September 7, 2017.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
U.S. Congress, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the United Mine Workers of America, I strongly urge you to reject the Amendment offered by Representative Mark Meadows of North Carolina that would reduce the Coal Mine Safety and Health program and workforce at the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

At a time when mining fatalities are on the rise, we should be looking for ways to increase enforcement and oversight of mining

operations, not make it harder to ensure that our miners are safe.

America's miners put their lives and limbs on the line every single day for us. Our government has a responsibility to do all it can do to ensure they come home to their loved ones at the end of their shift. This amendment is a step backward in safety, putting miners at greater risk. I strongly urge that it be rejected.

Sincerely,

CECIL E. ROBERTS,.

Mrs. LOWEY. In closing, this amendment would irresponsibly cut staffing by 10 percent at an agency responsible for the safety and health of our Nation's coal miners. Mr. Chairman, lives are at stake.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly oppose this amendment, I urge my colleagues to reject it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to acknowledge my dear friend from New York and her impassioned plea, but we have made news here tonight. All of a sudden, the people on the aisle opposite are all about the coal miners. Where has that debate been for the last 8 years?

We start talking about kids and family. What about the coal miners' kids and families? We have got 35 percent less coal mines that are being actually operated right now, 35 percent. We have 43 percent less coal miners. We are talking about kids and all the things that we need to be doing, and we have cut back on the coal mining. Why don't we cut back on the inspectors who, according to our numbers, have 35 percent less mines to actually inspect?

It is time that we rightsize the government. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support it. I thank the work of the chairman.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to address a closing remark to my good friend from North Carolina, and I know that my good friend and I have worked together, Mr. Chairman, on many important issues.

I would just like to say again that whether there are 1,000 miners or 50 miners, and I understand the gentleman's concern about the closing of mines, but we have a responsibility to those who are still working in those mines to make sure that they are safe.

I would ask my colleagues to vote against this amendment because it is absolutely vital that we protect those outstanding workers who are supporting their families and make sure they are safe.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. LOWEY. 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 North Carolina will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 173 OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 173 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. WALBERG. 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 F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule on ''Representation—Case Procedures'' published in the Federal Register by the National Labor Relations Board on December 15, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 74308 et seq.) or any rule of the same substance.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I, too, want to thank Chairman COLE for the good effort on this piece of legislation.

I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 3354 that would block the NLRB from enforcing the extreme and partisan ambush election rule. Under the ambush election rule, workers are being rushed into union elections before they have the opportunity to consider all the consequences.

According to one report, since the ambush election rule took effect, union elections have been organized 38 percent faster. Before this rule took effect, the union election process typically took 38 days. Now, workers may have as few as 11 days to consider whether joining a union is the best decision for themselves. Eleven days is simply not enough time for workers to make an important decision that impacts their job and their paycheck.

In addition to speeding up the process, the NLRB's rule greatly limits an employer's ability to communicate with its employees through the preelection hearing process.

To make matters worse, employers have as little as 7 days to find legal counsel and appear before an NLRB election officer—7 days. This is a taxing time constraint, especially on small businesses with limited resources and a lawyer team that is nonexistent.

But workers are the ones who are really hurt the most. As a former union worker myself, I respect the right of workers to join a union, but they deserve a real choice in the matter and the opportunity to hear from both sides of the debate. At the very least, they deserve privacy as they come to their decision, but this rule forces employers to hand over their employees' personal information, including phone numbers, work schedules, home addresses, e-mail addresses, and work locations.

The NLRB should ensure fair and transparent elections. Instead, the board implemented a rule chilling employer free speech and restricting the rights of workers.

By adopting this amendment to block the ambush election rule, we can restore the rights of workers and employers in union elections.

I would note that there is still more to be done beyond blocking funding of this extreme rule. The Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act, which I introduced earlier this year, would amend Federal law to ensure union elections are fair and prevent similar NLRB overreach in the future.

This commonsense bill was approved by the Education and the Workforce Committee, and it is my hope that it will come up for a vote in the House, but today we have an opportunity to take a first step toward putting an end to this radical scheme once and for all.

Mr. Chair, I urge all Members to support this amendment, as well as the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment which would block the NLRB's election rule, an attempt to undermine collective bargaining rights. The NLRB enacted this rule to modernize and streamline the process for voting on union representation.

To be clear, the NLRB undertook a very deliberative rulemaking process. It was transparent, and it included input from stakeholders and the public.

□ 2045

The majority's claim that this rule enables ambush elections is false. These are commonsense adjustments that eliminate unnecessary delays that have hindered the union election process for decades.

The election rule provides for the timely exchange of information so that issues can be resolved quickly. It improves workers' ability to hear from all sides prior to making a decision, and it reduces frivolous litigation.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the distinguished ranking member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by Mr. WALBERG that

would block the National Labor Relations Board election streamlining rule because this amendment would result in reverting to a previous rule that would result in needless delays in the process for conducting union representation elections.

The election streamlining rule was adopted in 2015, and it has increased transparency, reduced frivolous litigation, and decreased the opportunity for bad actors to improperly delay union elections.

The preelection process previously had been open to manipulation, delay, and drawn-out preelection maneuvering. I point out that the so-called 11-day election that has been referred to can only occur if both sides agree to a consent election.

Another part of the rule requires the employer to provide more modern forms of employee contact information to the union prior to the elections, such as email addresses and phone numbers, as opposed to the previous requirement that the employer only provide home addresses. Under the new rule, employers must provide this electronically within 2 days of ordering an election.

By ensuring that there is a timely transfer of more complete voter contact information, the rule removed another obstacle that had denied workers the opportunity to be more fully informed prior to voting on whether or not to form a union. The employer, of course, already has unfettered and unlimited access to communicate with employees, even on work time.

I also want to point out that the NLRB's election procedures are now settled law. Every court where this rule has been challenged has upheld the rule. The fifth circuit, for example, said that the Board ''acted rationally and in furtherance of its congressional mandate in adopting the rule.''

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia held that ''the Board engaged in comprehensive analysis of a multitude of issues relating to the need for and the propriety of the final rule.''

Mr. Chairman, history has shown when workers' rights are respected, the economy benefits. Protecting workers' rights to make their voices heard helped build a strong middle class. Research shows that the erosion of union density has weakened the middle class and exacerbated wage stagnation by breaking the essential link between increasing worker productivity and rising wages.

This amendment undermines workers in their ability to exercise their right to collectively bargain. Plain and simple, the workers have a right to join a union, and if they ask for an election, they should get an election—not a delay, not interference, and not retaliation.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments of my colleagues from the Education and the Workforce Committee. We have debated that very clearly. We have discussed the fact that individuals ought to be able to make a decision and have a full understanding of what is available for them.

But when we talk about a streamlining rule, it only works for the union organizer. It doesn't work for the employee, and certainly not for the small-business person who isn't blessed with having a large lawyer team, attorney team, who can go into all of the background information to find out how, indeed, they even represent themselves and communicate with their employees in relationship to a union that is well-versed in what they will do with their challenge in the lawyered-up situation that they have.

It discourages any comprehensive study by the employee—let me state that again—by the employee of what they are looking at with union representation or without.

Seven days for a businessperson to get their act together is not a streamlining that works for them. It works for the union organizer alone, not the employee or the employer.

Mr. Chairman, I continue to state that, if we truly want our employees to make informed decisions with all of the information that can be available to them and the assistance needed so that both sides are served when they look for a final decision, we must do away with this rule.

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman.

This is about giving both sides—the workers seeking to organize and the employer—the opportunity to make their case to workers fairly and expeditiously.

Prior to this case, in every case, employers would have access with ways to pester and bug employees at home, through their personal email, through their phone numbers. There was simply no way that there was any equality given to the case for union organizers to make. In fact, union organizers often had to try to find ways that they could reach to simply make the case to workers so that they can make a fair choice.

In addition, I find it ridiculous that this is called, by those on the other side, an ambush when, in fact, the only ambush is when they ambush the right of workers to organize by drawing out the election process to months and years, often beyond when many of the employees involved are even at the same employer because of the adverse working conditions that could have led them to organize in the first place.

This rule was done through a multi-stakeholder process. There was a lot input from all sides, and it was a very thoughtful rule that gave a level playing field to ensure that workers, should they desire to organize, had a reasonable calendar for doing so and a reasonable way of reaching other workers to tell them the benefits of organizing, just as the company was telling them the downside.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to reject this amendment which throws out a very thoughtful rule that levels the playing field in labor relations.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ARRINGTON). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. 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 Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 174 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 174 printed in House Report 115–297.

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:

At the end of division F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. Each amount made available by this Act (other than an amount required to be made available by a provision of law) is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, 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, I appreciate the recognition, and I want to begin by commending Chairman COLE, his staff, and the Appropriations Committee for the fine work that they have done.

As we are looking at the Labor, HHS, and Education appropriations bill, we are looking at $156 billion for fiscal year 2018. My amendment would cut an additional 1 percent out of that number.

I think it is important to commend the work that they have done over the past couple of years. If you go back and look at the appropriations numbers in 2016, they were at $163.65 billion; 2017, down to $162.985 billion; and this year, at $156 billion.

I think that that work is to be commended. The leadership in this House, the chairman, Chairman COLE, and the work that they are doing is getting us on the right path. It is important that as we as Members of Congress do our job, it is important that we engage the

rank-and-file employees that are there in these various agencies—over at the Department of Education and at Labor and HHS—and make certain that they are saving that one penny out of a dollar, because we hit a pretty dubious marker this week.

Our national debt now is at $20 trillion, and because of this, because of the responsibility that we have to our children, to our grandchildren, to future generations, because we realize, as Admiral Mullen said on July 6, 2010, the greatest threat to our Nation's security is our Nation's debt, we need to do a little bit more. And, of course, there are always good programs that we can stand here and talk about, and talk about what will not be funded if we do a penny on a dollar.

But the important thing to realize is future generations, my grandchildren that are now 8 and 9 years old, are paying for programs that we are refusing to address the growth in these programs. We are committing money they have not earned, taxes they have not paid, because we are $20 trillion in debt.

It is time to make these changes, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I want to begin by thanking my friend. We are classmates, we are friends, and we have served on the Budget Committee together. So I know the commitment to fiscal responsibility is serious and continuing and real. I particularly want to thank her for her kind words about the work of the committee in recent years because we genuinely have tried to continuously lower the amounts of money.

My friend makes a very good point about the dangers we face in terms of a skyrocketing national debt, but as my friend suggests, we have already cut this more than 1 percent. I am not suggesting there aren't areas that can be cut additionally. There probably are. But as an appropriator, we prefer to look at things individually, one at a time, because there are always areas that could be plussed-up as well.

I don't think anybody here really wants to cut money, even 1 percent, from cancer funding or Alzheimer's research or Pell grants or programs that we think actually help folks have an educational choice, like charter schools, and yet that is always the impact of an across-the-board cut. You cut things that need to be cut, for sure, but you also cut some things that probably shouldn't be.

So we would prefer to continue the approach that my friend has singled out and said that seems to work well, and we will do that, and I know she will be helpful in that.

I also know my friend knows that the real drivers of our debt, frankly, are Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, all entitlement programs, our mandatory spending programs. And that is where folks on both sides of the aisle, I think, need to get very, very serious, and the administration. Because we are never going to get to a balanced budget that I know my friend wants to achieve and I want to achieve until we put 70 percent of all spending, which is the entitlement spending, on the table for serious examination to be dealt with.

I don't oppose the goals of my friend. I just have a different method of trying to achieve them. So far, in the last 3 years, we have been able to do that. We are going to continue to try and do that going forward.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, we do always hear, well, you would take from this or that if you were doing across-the-board cuts. But just to my colleagues who are in the Chamber tonight and those who are watching, across-the-board cuts work at the local level and the State level because you look at that number that you need to hit and you get inside some programs more than others, and you find that penny on the dollar, and you find a way to yield a savings, and you examine what the priorities of a budget ought to be.

That is the heavy lift. And while we are doing it with the work we do here in this Chamber and that the appropriators do, it is important that, just as Governors in our States—both Democratic and Republican Governors, by the way—just as mayors in towns and cities across this country do on a regular basis, and many are doing right now because fiscal years are beginning October 1, just as they do that work, we need to do it.

□ 2100

Do we need to look at entitlements?

Yes, absolutely. I am for putting those issues on the table. I encourage our colleagues and our administration to do that. It is imperative because we are staring $20 trillion in debt. We are staring that in the face.

How do you look at your children and grandchildren and say, ''That is okay. That is okay. Paying for $20 trillion worth of debt is easy''?

The answer is you don't, because it is not.

What it takes to address it is will. It takes resolve. It takes cutting back more than you have cut back before and examining programs that are essential. It is time to get serious about this. I encourage support of my amendment.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), who is my good friend.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. The underlying bill is already underfunded. The majority has imposed a $5 billion cut to the Labor-HHS bill below the 2017 omnibus level.

This cut is as unnecessary as it is indiscriminate because it indiscriminately cuts programs in this bill without thought to the relative merit. For instance, this amendment would result in fewer infants and toddlers receiving Head Start's services, fewer students receiving financial aid to help afford college, fewer biomedical research grants, and cuts to public health emergency response. The list goes on and on.

Investment is what we need to help build and strengthen our middle class, and this amendment threatens that.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge Members to oppose this amendment.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, 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 ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. 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. 175 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 175 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. 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 F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. For ''Health Resources and Services Administration—Maternal and Child Health'' for establishing and carrying out grants to eligible entities to develop, maintain, or enhance infant and early childhood mental health promotion, intervention, and treatment programs for children up to 12 years of age, as authorized by section 399Z–2 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280h–6) there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for ''Health Resources and Services Administration—Program Management'' is hereby reduced by, $5,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is for infant and early childhood mental health promotion, intervention, and treatment. It provides $5 million in grants to develop, maintain, or enhance infant and early childhood mental health promotion, intervention, and treatment

programs, including programs for infants and children at significant risk of developing or showing early signs of or having been diagnosed with mental illness, including serious emotional disturbance. This was passed and authorized in the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act last year in Congress in which it was passed 422–2—near unanimous.

The importance of this is that, across the United States, up to one in five children suffers from a mental disorder in a given year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This equates to more than 17 million young people who meet criteria for disorders that affect their ability to learn, behave, and express emotions. This small $5 million amount is about 29 cents per child, hardly enough to do much when distributed over that many, but it can do a great deal when distributed for a few.

If you follow the course of children with mental illness, untreated mental illness, of course, leads to very troubled adults and other problems. I might add that this is National Suicide Prevention Week, and among children, suicide rates are climbing. In fact, over the last 20 years, suicide rates have climbed overall in this country. But, tragically and alarmingly, they have grown a great deal among children.

How do we tell families of children who have completed a suicide or attempted a suicide that we couldn't come up with the money for this, and, instead, we thought other programs were more important?

This money comes from the existing programming budget. It does not take away from vital programs. But I want you to know that there has been a 54 percent increase of suicides among children under age 12. Thirty-seven percent of those child suicides are Black children. The rate among African-American children ages 5 to 11 has doubled over the last decade.

This provides critically important services for children. It appears that schools are the most important place where treatment can take place. Only 23 percent of prekindergarten programs have onsite or scheduled visits from psychiatrists and psychologists, according to the Child Mind Institute.

The current workforce consists of approximately 7,500 child and adolescent psychiatrists. We need 32,000. Eighty-five percent of all psychotropic medications for children are written by primary care practitioners, not psychiatrists, so we end up with serious problems here as suicides grow and as mental health problems grow. This small amount of money is taken from existing funds, not from any other programs, to make sure we are providing services for these children.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I want to, again, thank my good friend for, as he always does, raising important issues, and I appreciate his bringing attention to the mental health of children.

The amendment offered—and this is an important point I think many Members in this body don't think about—is actually for a newly authorized program that has not received funding in the past, and our committee actually has a smaller allocation than it had last year. I think most of the public doesn't realize it, and it is sort of helpful, frankly, for my friend to advance this amendment. Just because something moves through an authorizing committee doesn't mean any money comes with it.

Now, in some cases—my friend worked on the Cures bill—they sent money with portions of that on the opioid initiatives, some additional money at NIH, and, of course, every penny of that has moved in. They found a way to fund it. But we can end up in a situation where you just simply pile on authorizations and send us less money and think we will somehow work it out. Sometimes we do. That is why we have been able to steadily increase funding at NIH, steadily increase funding for programs like TRIO and GEAR UP, and steadily increase money for charter schools. There are some areas we have been able to do that, but we can't do it everyplace.

I want to tell my friend that, while I oppose the amendment, I am certainly going to work with him. Actually, I asked him not too long ago to give me the one thing that is the most important thing, and he mentioned the lack of trained and qualified personnel, that we could have a lot of programs, but until we had a bigger pool of people capable of rendering the services, then we simply are going to be moving from program to program. I think that was a very good point, and it is why I accepted my friend's amendment for $10 million to begin to do that. That is another area. I think we have to pick a few pressure points here.

I agree with what my friend is offering here in terms of the need for emphasis. We just simply have to work harder either getting the funds or finding other places to take the funds from.

So while I oppose the amendment, I want to be very clear that I intend to work with my friend going forward.

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, let me add to this. Yes, there was money in the Cures bill for opioid abuse for 59,000 people who had died from drug overdoses, but 350,000 people will die this year related to mental health problems.

I want to make sure that Congress is not, once again, in a situation where we are having another moment of silence for some suicide, for some child or young adult that got violent and shot someone or ran their car into a crowd, or something else. We have got to start putting money into these programs. Five million dollars barely scratches the surface, but it is like that old adage of the man who came across a child throwing a starfish back in the ocean. The person said: ''You can never take care of all of them.'' But the child said: ''It will make a difference for this one.''

This will make a difference to a few children.

How do we explain this to a parent whose child is suffering, who can't get services, that what we have is we couldn't transfer money within an existing account, it doesn't add any more, and it doesn't eradicate any programs, but it is something there especially at a time when this is so life threatening?

You can't explain that to a mom or a dad.

During all the time in the course of working this bill, we heard from thousands of people telling their horrific and sad stories. I spent the last 42 years of my life working as a psychologist. I have seen the faces of those who have gone to the funerals and seen those wasting away in prisons. I do ask that this amendment be adopted.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), who is my good friend.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I do not oppose this amendment. In fact, I support my colleague's effort to improve access to early childhood mental health promotion, intervention, and treatment. But I think it is important that we come back to why we are here tonight and why this $5 million for mental health programs is not included in this Labor-HHS bill under consideration.

The reason is because this bill is being cut by $5 billion from FY17 levels. This is the end result that we get when the majority's efforts to slash nondefense spending come to fruition. We are forced to choose between life-saving programs, such as mental health and substance abuse programs, and programs that invest in our future, like early childhood education or job training.

We ought to be negotiating a bipartisan budget deal to lift the sequestration caps on both defense and nondefense programs. Then we could begin working on a bipartisan base that will allow us to adequately fund mental health and substance abuse prevention.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COLE. 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 NO. 176 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 176 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. 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 F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. For ''Health Resources and Services Administration—Maternal and Child Health'' for carrying out the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access grant program, as authorized by section 330M of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–19), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for ''Health Resources and Services Administration—Program Management'' is hereby reduced by, $9,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, this amendment increases access to pediatric mental healthcare by providing $9 million in grants to improve access to behavioral integration and pediatric primary care.

I thank the chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee for his agreement to our other amendment to boost the workforce. We have a massive workforce shortage in the field of mental health.

What good is it to have good wishes among Members of Congress for treatment, yet people can't get it?

There is a shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists for the 17 million children with a mental health condition. We have 9,000. We need over 30,000. There is a shortage of psychologists, and 36 States have a shortage of psychiatric nurses. As a matter of fact, half of the counties in America have no psychiatrists, no psychologists, and no clinical social worker. So for children with primary mental health problems, it is a desert for treatment.

□ 2115

They sit on long waiting lists. Their symptoms worsen.

A study called the RAISE Program—Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode—found that if we provided treatment initially for those who show their initial psychotic episode, it improves their prognosis over their lifetime. But delaying treatment actually causes them harm.

When you have no care, you have that harm. For those few psychiatrists and psychologists out there, what are they told to do in rural areas?

Travel from one office to another to try and give them access, with valuable hours of time taken up. They can't provide that care.

This $9 million helps provide mechanisms by which pediatricians and family practices can have telemental health. We know that when a warm handoff occurs in the office—and that is when the family or the child at that point meets a psychiatrist or that psychologist—the actual follow-up rate is over 99 percent. A large number—over 80 percent—continue follow-up right through treatment.

However, when they are given a referral, that actual follow-up is around 50 percent, and only 11 percent of people complete treatment. That is why you need to have some level of face to face.

This issue of at least providing telemental health gives people that face-to-face approach.

Since 50 percent of serious mental illness cases emerge by age 14, and 75 percent by age 24, this is the critical period in the life of someone who is developing serious mental illness to have care. We can no longer just say that we are going to let pediatricians be the primary providers for mental illness treatment when that is something that they do not have the specialty and training.

The number of psychiatrists there to treat children is declining relative to the needs. The problems among children, as I mentioned previously, continue to go up.

I might also add here that this does not reduce any spending among the critical funded and authorized programs within SAMHSA.

But let me say where some of the money goes in these SAMHSA programs. The GAO did a study and found that 80 percent of the grants are not using it for evidence-based care. SAMHSA, instead, spends their money on ridiculous, embarrassing programs: making fruit smoothies if you are stressed, $400,000 on a website for toddler sing-along songs, getting in touch with your inner animal workshops, making masks, making collages, a website and crisis hotline for people in the Boston area who had snow anxiety during a snowstorm, teaching people interpretative dancing, $25,000 for a painting of people sitting on a rock at SAMHSA headquarters, an alternative conference funded by SAMHSA at the luxurious Boston Park Plaza Hotel.

And we can't fund something that will save children's lives?

It makes no sense to me.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, once again, I agree with my friend on the basic point, but this, too, is a program that was authorized with no funding.

The things we got funding for in the 21st Century Cures Act, we funded to the penny. Frankly, things we didn't get funding for, we still authorized.

This is one of those cases where, again, the cause is worthy, and we are willing to work with the gentleman—and we will certainly continue to do that—but a lot of these things that my friend just mentioned are from programs that were authorized by non-appropriations committees. We don't create the programs.

That is where my friends, frankly, on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Ways and Means Committee need to spend some time. They need to spend some time deauthorizing certain programs that continue.

Again, I will work with my friend if our allocation changes or we can find additional savings. But I can't willy-nilly, particularly when we have already cut these administrative programs, partly in the en bloc amendment, to fund some of the very things, including my friend's amendment, that we felt were very worthy. We will look at this.

The other thing that I would hope we could do is work with our friends on the other side of the aisle. I will just tell you, from a conference standpoint, when you go to a conference with a program that has been authorized but not funded, it is extremely difficult to get the other body to join in with you. That is just the reality.

Every decision involves taking something away. It is always easy to call something administration or nonvital. That is what it looks like in the phrase. That may or may not be what it is in the program. So it is just a more difficult exercise than I think most folks understand.

My friend's point is still the right one. One of the reasons I look very carefully at this one is because I see it as a multiplier, in terms of the professional shortage of people that we have that my friend has pointed to.

Mr. Chairman, again, I reluctantly oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, again, I rise not in opposition to this amendment, but I support this effort by my colleague as well.

Let's increase behavioral health integration into pediatric primary care, for I, too, have seen the shortages of mental health providers in my home State

and the very real and devastating impact that that has on families.

This is a false crisis. There is $5 billion that we have cut from the FY17 levels, but this false crisis has very real impacts on the lives of children and their families.

Let's get to the work of negotiating a bipartisan budget to lift sequestration caps on both defense and nondefense, and draft a reasonable Labor-HHS bill that adequately funds mental health and substance abuse prevention programs. We have the opportunity and we need to seize it.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, let me say this: I have got to tell you that this is distressing to me. I know what my colleague meant by false crisis, but this is a crisis for children.

The children in America with mental health problems cannot get care. Members of Congress have an opportunity to put a small amount of money to make a big difference for children who cannot get that care.

What we can do and what my colleague from Oklahoma said is we need to cut some things. One of them is stop the ridiculous wasteful spending at SAMHSA. If they can fund $400,000 websites and going to luxurious hotels, they can certainly do something that actually puts providers there so children can change the trajectory of their lives.

I have just known too many families who suffer through this. I hope that as Members vote on this, they remember those families in their districts and decide this is a way to send a signal that we can make a big difference in the lives of many.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COLE. 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 NO. 178 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 178 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. 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 F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. For ''Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Mental Health'' for establishing and operating the National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory, as authorized by section 501A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa–0), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for ''Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support'' is hereby reduced by, $5,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I want to restate the problems that exist at SAMHSA.

The General Accounting Office, during the multiyear investigation of the subcommittee which I chair, the Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, came back and said that 80 percent of the grants for SAMHSA are not evidence-based. There is a serious problem in that agency.

Instead, they funded absurd programs, such as making fruit smoothies; and a $400,000 website for toddlers to sing-along songs, which they told us was about prevention.

We asked: What are you preventing?

They said: We will get back to you on that.

They also had workshops on getting in touch with your inner animal, making masks and collages; interpretive dancing; a website and crisis line for people in the New England area when they had heavy a snowfall so they could call in.

They have workshops on how to tell people to get off their medications. They had a $25,000 oil painting for their office, which graces their hall, of people sitting on a rock, which gives them mental health awareness. I might add, the only thing I am aware of is a total waste of money. And, of course, an alternative conference, which continues this year as well, spending, I think, $150,000 or so to hold their conference at the luxurious Boston Park Plaza Hotel.

I don't want to hear from that agency that they don't have money. This particular program redirects them so they get reset in terms of evidence-based care. It forms a panel of people with expertise in medical psychiatric areas, including consumers.

It is there to provide direction and guidance for an agency that has been without direction and guidance. It is there to make sure that we redirect the way SAMHSA is going so that it gets in the area of really treating mental illness.

Let me say this—let me use the words of Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, the current Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and, therefore, the de facto head of SAMHSA.

She said: ''. . . SAMHSA does not address the treatment needs of the most vulnerable in our society. Rather, the unit within SAMHSA charged with addressing these disorders, the Center for Mental Health Services, chooses to focus on its own definition of 'recovery,' which generally ignores the treatment of mental disorders, and, as a major initiative under 'recovery' services, focuses on the development of a 'peer workforce.'

''There is a perceptible hostility toward psychiatric medicine: a resistance to addressing the treatment needs of those with serious mental illness and a questioning by some at SAMHSA as to whether mental disorders even exist.''

For example, they state that psychosis is just a different way of thinking for some experiencing stress. They also focus on activities that don't directly assist those who have serious mental illness.

She adds that: ''Significant dollars are spent on hotlines for callers who may be experiencing suicidal thinking. . . .''

But I might add that during this whole time, while death rates decline for heart disease, lung disease, AIDS, and accidental deaths, et cetera, they went way up for suicide. They increased steadily for substance abuse.

It is a failed agency, along those lines.

She says that there are pressing needs, but nowhere in SAMHSA's strategic initiatives do they even address psychiatric treatment of mental illness as a priority.

I know we have to change this. I would like to ask of my dear friend, the chairman of the subcommittee, is there a way we can talk more about this and address this in the future to see that this is addressed adequately?

Mr. COLE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I yield to the Oklahoma.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend for yielding and for his excellent work in this area.

Yes, we would look forward to that. Frankly, we have pretty regular exchanges with a lot of the committees under our jurisdiction where they have done the hard work of authorizing an investigation. That can be used to guide appropriations.

So I look forward to working with my friend to make sure we can eliminate the type of abuses that he is talking about and redirect funds where they need to go for the care of patients.

I thank my friend for his work and his kind words, and I certainly pledge that I will work with him going forward, as I have in the past.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Reclaiming my time, knowing that when my friend says something, I consider that a bond.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time, and I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 179 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 179 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. 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 F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. For ''Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Mental Health'' for carrying out the Strengthening Community Crisis Response Systems grant program, as authorized by section 520F of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–37), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for ''Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support'' is hereby reduced by, $10,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, this is the last of my amendments on this. Although this House overwhelmingly passed the authorization for these, as did the Senate, money was not allocated towards it.

While I understand there is a priority to treat substance abuse, but even with that, many times there is nowhere for someone to go.

Back in the 1950s, we had over half a million psychiatric hospital beds in this country. I think at the time the population of the United State was 150 million. Now, with a population close to 317 million to 318 million, we have about 40,000 hospital beds and a shortage of 100,000. The only State that actually has an adequate number of beds is Mississippi. All the rest are at a critical shortage.

So what happens when a person has a drug overdose and needs to get into treatment? What happens when a person has a psychiatric breakdown?

Well, generally what happens is the police arrive, not the paramedics. They arrest the person. Many States actually say: Let's put these people in a jail cell, because there is no bed.

Or, if they take them to the hospital, the hospital says: Let's just give them some medication to stabilize them and let them back out because we can't hold them. We have no place for them to go.

□ 2130

What happens, many times these people are boarded, that is, they remain in an emergency room bed, which is no place for someone with a psychiatric crisis. Sometimes they will be tied to their gurney; sometimes they are in the hallways; sometimes they are, for days or weeks or several weeks, waiting for a psychiatric bed and nothing opens up.

I thought when Dorothea Dix said let's close down the jail concept, that was prevalent in our country back then, let's have nice hospitals for them. Historically, they said that was a good move, but what happened is these psych beds closed down starting widely in the 1980s and continuing until now. There simply is no place for them to go.

Let's remember that President Kennedy's last bill he signed before his assassination was to begin this process of closing the beds but having community-based treatment, but America and Congress have not kept that promise.

There is a story of a Senator from Virginia by the name of Creigh Deeds. Some may remember in the news when his son Gus had a crisis and Senator Deeds took his son to a hospital. There they waited hour after hour after hour while the hospital tried to find a hospital bed available for him. Finally, he said they couldn't find any beds: Take young Gus home, and let's see what happens in the future.

When Senator Deeds took his son home, his son stabbed Senator Deeds, trying to kill him; and when Senator Deeds ran to get help, he survived, but his son did not because he shot himself with a bullet—because there were no beds.

Now, this particular amendment doesn't create beds, but what happens is sometimes there are beds available in other communities; but short of a hospital calling hospital after hospital after hospital to find a bed for someone, which may be an hour or two drive away, there is no place for them.

Surely, we understand the idea: Do we continue to put these folks in hospitals and jail cells? Do we dump them back in the street and let them be the forgotten homeless whom we walk over? Do we send them back home and risk further harm to them? Do we have them tied to a gurney and given a chemical sedation, a chemical straightjacket to wait until something opens up?

What this amendment does is it is $10 million in grants to develop and maintain or enhance the database of inpatient psychiatric facilities and crisis stabilization units so we can begin to address this bed shortage. Rather than lead people away from care, this is a way of helping hospitals get that care and instill States to put together programs to speed this up.

We still have to work with CMS to create more beds and stop some of the ridiculous rules that they have in there, but what do we continue to tell the mentally ill? ''We will get around to it''? ''We couldn't do it this time''? ''Good luck''? ''I am sorry your son died''?

When does this end? Will we hear more excuses that we can't do anything about it because we had a $5 billion cut? What do we do with Americans who are dying from this over and over?

Thomas Jefferson once said: ''I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.'' We have a chance to make a difference in the justice for the mentally ill, or will we once again turn a blind eye and say we can do nothing?

Mr. Chairman, I ask that Members vote for this amendment to try and save some lives.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in the order to consider amendment No. 180 printed in House Report 115–297.

AMENDMENT NO. 182 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 182 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. BURGESS. 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 F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. For ''Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration–Substance Abuse Treatment'' for the Controlled Substance Monitoring Program, as authorized by section 399O of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g–3), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for ''Office of the Secretary—General Departmental Management'' is hereby reduced by, $10,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, 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. Chair, tonight I am proud to introduce an amendment that will fully fund the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting program, colloquially known as NASPER. NASPER has long provided us with an opportunity to help prevent the spread of opioids across the country; however, until now, we have not funded it.

NASPER funding supports the development and maintenance of a State-run prescription drug monitoring program. These prescription drug monitoring programs allow for doctors and pharmacists to electronically interconnect with one when prescribing opioids, allowing for the providers to confer and ensure that the patient is not receiving a duplicate opioid prescription that the patient may then divert or sell.

Prescription drug monitoring programs work because they engage providers and they successfully prevent individuals from exploiting weaknesses in the healthcare system.

During any epidemic, it is important to first help those in need and provide support to individuals and first responders who were impacted by the epidemic. Last year, the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Subcommittee on Health did exactly this.

We worked to put forth the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act to provide support for those impacted by the opioid epidemic by increasing access to those in need.

No epidemic response, however, is complete without preventative measures, and that is why NASPER is so important to this fight. We must prioritize programs like NASPER that are preventative and can ensure that errant prescribers and bad actors do not fall through the cracks. If we want to end this epidemic, we must commit resources to programs that will promote prevention and encourage safer prescribing of prescription drugs.

As the subcommittee chairman for the authorizing committee that has been tasked with the public health response to a crisis that claimed more than 60,000 American lives last year, I am committed to further working to oversee the implementation of our initial response efforts and to develop any supplemental responses that may be needed to prevent future unnecessary deaths.

I encourage my colleagues to take this opportunity to support the work of the Subcommittee on Health on the Energy and Commerce Committee in authorizing this and allow Congress to approve funding for NASPER.

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. BURGESS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 183 printed in House report 115–297.

AMENDMENT NO. 184 OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 184 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk made in order under the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. No funds made available by this Act may be used to undertake any activities to prepare for or facilitate the transfer of responsibilities or functions from the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs of the Department of Labor to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, this amendment would prohibit the use of funds in this act to prepare for or facilitate the transfer of the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs into the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The amendment would ensure that these two important agencies charged with distinct missions to enforce workplace discrimination laws are not unduly burdened by the administration's plan to transfer responsibilities of Contract Compliance into the EEOC.

Although both agencies enforce discrimination laws, they differ in their authorities, their scope, and their responsibilities. For example, Contract Compliance only addresses discrimination by Federal contractors, unlike the EEOC, which enforces the laws as they relate to virtually all employees.

Contract Compliance is responsible for ensuring that the Federal contractors and subcontractors take affirmative action to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunity for employment. EEOC was created by title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and its support for affirmative action is voluntary.

Contract Compliance, the focus is on contract compliance, and the ultimate sanction is disbarment of a Federal contractor. It gets its authority through an executive order and accomplishes much of its enforcement through the administrative process. By contrast, EEOC is established by statute and makes and enforces Federal statutes through lawsuits in Federal courts. Other distinctions:

The ultimate client for Contract Compliance is the Federal Government, while EEOC's clients are private employees;

EEOC is complaint driven, unlike the Office of Federal Contract Compliance;

Contract Compliance can audit contractors, EEOC cannot;

EEOC has subpoena power, Contract Compliance does not;

Contract Compliance does not have the authority to file lawsuits and get punitive damages, EEOC can seek punitive damages and lawsuits;

Contract Compliance enforces the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Act, the EEOC does not;

EEOC protects employees from genetic discrimination, Contract Compliance does not.

The proposal to transfer the Office of Federal Contract Compliance into the EEOC came about by some ideological groups that want to shrink the Federal Government, but it is unwise because it is opposed by civil rights groups and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

To underscore the collective voice and opposition to this transfer, the Senate Committee on Appropriations adopted language last Thursday that says that the committee rejects the budget's proposal to begin plans to merge the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs with the EEOC.

Mr. Chair, the realignment of responsibilities would ask the EEOC to do considerably more with a lot less in terms of expertise, personnel, and funding. Further, this combination would derail the EEOC's efforts to reduce its backlog of charges while simultaneously trying to collect vital data relevant to the enforcement of civil rights laws.

The enforcement of civil rights laws would be best served if we in Congress would fully fund both the EEOC and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance so that they both can do the vital work of securing the right to work in a place free of harassment, retaliation, and other forms of discrimination.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on 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 Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 186 OFFERED BY MR. ELLISON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 186 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. ELLISON. 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 F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term ''Fair Labor Standards Act'' and such disposition is listed as ''willful'' or ''repeated''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

□ 2145

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is very simple. If you have a contract doing business with the Federal Government, if in your disclosures you have been found designated to have violations of the Federal Labor Relations Act, and those violations are considered to be willful, intentional, and repeated, then you will not be able to take advantage of this particular appropriation.

This kind of amendment is designed to say that the Federal Government believes that a penny earned and a penny worked should be received by the worker. It is as simple as that.

People who do not support this amendment are saying that Federal contractors can engage in wage theft and it is okay with us. And we are simply saying that the hardworking people in the United States expect that the Federal penny that workers earn will be given to them, and that is not too much to ask.

Hardworking people living in America should never worry that an employer will steal their wages, especially if that employer is paid by a government contract. Right now, Federal contractors who repeatedly and intentionally pay subminimum wage, force

their workers to work off the clock, refuse to pay overtime, or make illegal deductions on their employees' pay are still allowed to apply for Federal contracts. They should not be. We should reward workers who treat their workers fairly and not allow firms who willfully and repeatedly profiteer off of their employees by letting them keep their government contracts.

If passed, my amendment will ensure that a business that willfully and repeatedly violates the Fair Labor Standards Act cannot apply for a Federal Government contract until they clean up their act. To be clear, my amendment would not punish a single accidental violation.

If my colleagues across the aisle won't make corporations pay their fair share of their taxes, I hope that they will at least join me in going after employers who refuse to pay taxpayer money to line their pockets by cheating employees repeatedly, and on purpose. This is not a small thing. This is real money out of real people's pockets.

The Economic Policy Institute found that low-wage workers in just the ten most popular States—California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, and others—lose $8 billion in wages due to wage theft each year.

For example, the corporation General Dynamics Information Technology owns a number of call centers that serve Federal contracts. In the last 10 years, they have agreed to pay $412,000 in back wages to 921 employees for Fair Labor Standards Act violations. Immigrants and residents of low-income communities are often at the greatest risk for abuse at the hands of employers who do wage theft.

The government should be doing everything it can to protect workers from intimidation and stolen wages. If this amendment passes, companies like General Dynamics Information Technology won't be able to continue to do what they have been doing. They will have to be fair to people, at least after they clean up their act.

We have to demand higher standards, Mr. Chairman. Respecting a fair day's pay for a fair day's work is an American value.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's amendment, and I know the sincerity of his view on the issue.

This amendment, in my view, mirrors, to some degree, the last administration's regulation on so-called Fair Play and Safe Workplaces, also known as a blacklisting rule, which has recently been withdrawn.

There are existing requirements for reporting and addressing violations of labor laws by Federal contractors. Indeed, hundreds of companies every year are barred from doing business with the Federal Government.

While bad actors certainly should face consequences, I believe blanket prohibitions circumvent proper administrative review under the existing procedures. Agencies already have many requirements related to the award of Federal contracts, and imposing a new across-the-board requirement, in my view, is not the right approach to address this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment, and I urge its rejection.

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, we know that there are a lot of contractors who have significant wage violations. It should be a privilege to contract with the Federal Government. Taxpayers should not be asked to subsidize companies that engage in willful and repeated wage theft.

This amendment only applies to contractors with repeated willful violations, not technical violations that could result from good faith difference in interpretation of rules and regulations—willful and repeated.

Awarding contracts to those kind of contractors is not only unfair to workers, it is unfair to law-abiding contractors who play by the rules but are forced to compete on an unlevel playing field with those who cut corners.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2017.

VOTE YES ON AMENDMENTS NO. 113, NO. 184, AND NO. 186 TO H.R. 3354, THE MAKE AMERICA SECURE AND PROSPEROUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union and our more than two million members and supporters, we urge you to support the following amendments that may be offered during floor consideration of H.R. 3354, the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018:

1. AMENDMENT NO. 113 (PRESERVING FUNDING FOR THE EEOC/EEO–1 EQUAL PAY DATA COLLECTION)

In July, the House Appropriations Committee adopted the Harris Amendment to defund implementation of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) revised Employer Information Report (EEO–1). Amendment No. 113, offered by Representatives DeLauro, Frankel, and Scott to the FY18 CJS appropriations bill, would preserve funding for that critical equal pay initiative.

The data collection at issue, through the EEO–1 that employers already must use to document the demographics of their workforces, is a critical tool to lift the cloak of secrecy that shrouds pay decisions in this country. Without such transparency, the pernicious gender and race wage gaps, and the discrimination that causes them, will continue to flourish. The new EEO–1 revision was adopted after extensive public comment and would have deterred intentional pay disparities, facilitated employers' good faith efforts to comply with equal pay laws, and identified appropriate targets for federal enforcement of nondiscrimination law.

Instead of supporting this measured approach to eliminate the pay gap, the EEO–1 has been undermined by members of Congress and the Trump Administration's Office of Management and Budget, which recently halted implementation of the EEO-1 equal pay data collection. Because OMB has ordered a review and requested that the EEOC undertake a new effort, the Harris amendment could unnecessarily tie the agency's hands. Members should vote in favor of the DeLauro-Frankel-Scott amendment in order to preserve the ability of the EEOC to continue to make meaningful progress on equal pay. A vote against this amendment is a vote against equal pay.

2. AMENDMENT NO. 184 (NO FUNDING TO ELIMINATE OFCCP AND TRANSFER DUTIES TO EEOC)

The Trump administration's FY2018 budget submission to Congress recommended the elimination of the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) and the transfer of its functions to the EEOC. This amendment, offered by Representatives Conyers and Scott to the FY18 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, would withhold federal funding in order to prevent implementation of this ill-advised proposal.

These vital and distinct agencies have different missions and different areas of expertise. The EEOC seeks to remedy complaints of discrimination in employment. The OFCCP more broadly oversees the employment practices of federal contractors who are required to proactively monitor workplace diversity and pay equity, make meaningful efforts to recruit qualified applicants from under-represented groups, and eliminate barriers to equal opportunity for various disadvantaged groups, including veterans and individuals with disabilities. The administration's proposal would jeopardize the uniquely important missions of each agency and weakens our government's ability to effectively enforce our nation's civil rights laws. It would also place an extraordinary burden on the EEOC which already has an excessive workload and a well-known backlog. Finally, numerous organizations that work with these agencies—from civil rights, women's rights, and workers' rights groups along with business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—oppose the administration's proposal.

For these reasons, we urge members of the House to support Amendment No. 184 that would prevent the elimination of OFCCP.

3. AMENDMENT NO. 186 (NO FUNDING TO FEDERAL CONTRACTORS WHO REPEATEDLY AND WILLFULLY VIOLATE FLSA)

This amendment, offered by Representatives Ellison, Grijalva and Pocan to the FY18 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, would ensure that no federal contracts are entered into with entities that willfully and repeatedly violate the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Employers that have the privilege of doing business with the federal government also have a responsibility to comply with our laws. This amendment would provide a strong protection against our government doing business with employers that commit labor violations.

Should you have any questions, please contact Vania Leveille.

Sincerely,

FAIZ SHAKIR,
Director, Washington Legislative Office.
VANIA LEVEILLE,
Senior Legislative Counsel.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ELLISON. 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 Minnesota will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 187 OFFERED BY MR. GIBBS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 187 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. GIBBS. 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 F (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final regulations on ''Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses'' published by the Department of Labor in the Federal Register on May 12, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 29624 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment prohibits the Department of Labor and OSHA from implementing a burdensome rule dealing with reporting workplace injuries and illness.

The OSHA rule requires all businesses with more than 250 employees to file all illness and injury reports in a publicly available database. It would also be a requirement for any business with more than 20 employees in certain industries such as manufacturing or agriculture.

This online filing requirement raises serious privacy concerns. While employers were previously required to collect this information, it was never open and available to the public.

The rule risks the confidentiality of personally identifiable information for those injured on the job.

Additionally, a provision in the final rule declaring automatic postaccident drug testing is now considered an unreasonable procedure, a provision that conflicts with multiple States' workers' compensation laws.

While the Trump administration has wisely delayed the implementation of the regulation, it is important to prevent any future development of this rule.

I encourage my colleagues to adopt this amendment, which rolls back another one-size-fits-all regulation from Washington, D.C., that potentially interferes with the privacy of employers and employees for the entirety of fiscal year 2018.

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment, which would remove protections for workers who report workplace injuries and prevent OSHA from collecting data necessary to identify and target the most hazardous workplaces and serious safety and health problems.

Let's look at 2015. There were nearly 5,000 workers killed on the job by traumatic injuries and an estimated 50,000 deaths from occupational diseases. Each day, 150 workers in this country died because of exposure to workplace hazards.

In 2015, there were 3.7 million workplace injuries reported, with more than half of them serious, but these numbers don't show the whole problem. Studies have shown that up to half of all workplace injuries are not reported on the OSHA injury log. One of the reasons is that some workers fear that they will be retaliated against or fired if they report an injury.

The new OSHA rule strengthens protections for workers who report injuries, which will allow workers to report them more freely and result in more complete reporting.

OSHA's injury tracking rule is an important worker protection measure that does three things. First, it prohibits employers from retaliating against workers who report workplace injuries. Second, it continues longstanding requirements that certain employers in high-risk industries submit summary injury and illness data to OSHA, which now must be done electronically. And, third, it requires large employers in high-risk injuries to submit more detailed injury and illness data to OSHA.

These are critical protections for workers. They should not be overturned.

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chairman, employers will still be required to keep this information on record. Any OSHA inspector can come in and inspect those records. So the idea that there is no documentation of any workplace injuries or illnesses is still there.

The problem here is that it is put on a website, that could have issues with FOIA requests, also publicly available. Businesses will be forced to sensitive information and confidential information that will be public information that risks the identity of many employees out there.

OSHA has historically recognized the sensitive nature of this data and sought to protect this information being released on, as I said, the Freedom of Information Act request.

Furthermore, OSHA has failed to demonstrate any evidence that this rule will effectively reduce workplace injuries and illnesses. I think the point to remember here is that employers are required to keep the records of that, and OSHA inspectors can see that. So when OSHA comes in and inspects a business entity, they can look at those records and see what the workplace injuries are and red flag them, and they have that ability. But personal information should not be at risk to the public and risk people's identities and their personal health issues for illness and work injuries.

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), my friend, the distinguished ranking member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment, which blocks OSHA's ability to improve tracking of injuries and illnesses in workplaces across the country.

One of the problems we have is that Federal OSHA and State OSHA plans have less than 2,000 inspectors to cover 8 million workplaces nationally. If you do the arithmetic, each Federal OSHA inspector can inspect a workplace about once every 159 years. State OSHA might be able to do it once a century. So the fact that you have something on site that is there for them to see if they ever get there, the problem is they never get there.

We need to make sure they have the information to know which ones to go to, which ones are the dangerous sites. The scarce resources that OSHA needs to precisely target those resources is a result of these reports. For large employers, and each illness with summary information from smaller employers, that is how they figure out where to visit.

This rule also protects workers against discrimination if they report injuries. GAO has found that workers fear reporting injuries, especially where employers impose sanctions or reduce bonuses for work-related injuries.

This amendment would upend this important rule which allows OSHA to target their resources to inspect those that really need inspecting. This amendment would upend the rule and compromise its transparency and worker protections.

The information is not individually identifiable. People are protected. But

the courts have said that this information is not confidential.

This amendment would rig the system against worker safety by depriving OSHA of the information they need to target the workplaces, so I request a ''no'' vote on this amendment.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chairman, I ask support of my amendment to make sure that we protect the private health records of our employees at the work site and any illnesses that they might have. I don't think we should risk that.

As I said earlier, I think OSHA inspectors have the ability to come in and inspect those records on the workplace site. Putting it out on the internet doesn't make a lot of sense.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2200

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, Congress should support OSHA's efforts to protect workers and use their data to target safety and health efforts to the most dangerous workplaces.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this rider and to move forward with the underlying bill.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. 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 Ohio will be postponed.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 188 printed in House Report 115–297.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 189 printed in House Report 115–297.

Mr. COLE. 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. GIBBS) having assumed the chair, Mr. ARRINGTON, 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. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PROGRAM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to highlight the importance of the Secure Rural Schools program. It was created to fill a void in the economics left by restrictive forest management practices and regulations that have basically cut off our Federal forests and left many rural communities without the forests that once drove their economy: timber harvest.

The program was established in 2000 as only a temporary program to help rural America until we could restore active forest management, which would allow communities to then be self-sufficient, create jobs, work the land, and keep their schools running.

Indeed, the temporary program has not seen the practices towards forest management, towards timber harvest that is needed, as we see the West up in smoke once again.

We need, in Congress, to put policies in place that allow for timber harvest, for better air quality, for the safety of the habitat, for the economy, and for secure rural schools so they will see funding they need, and for counties as well that rely on that for road money.

In Modoc County, they are afraid they may have to close one of their high schools, which means another 50-mile drive through bad weather over a ridge for some of the students there.

Congress must implement commonsense forest management for a myriad of reasons: again, forest health, school funding, jobs, all the things that make sense for the West. We need to pass Secure Rural Schools funding.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CURBELO of Florida (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of assisting his family and constituents in recovery efforts from Hurricane Irma.

Mr. MARINO (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of personal reasons.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1311. An act to provide assistance in abolishing human trafficking in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary; in addition, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and to the Committee on Homeland Security for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1312. An act to prioritize the fight against human trafficking in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary; in addition, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and to the Committee on Foreign Affairs for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3732. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2017 and 2018 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 11, 2017, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 3732. To amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2017 and 2018 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

2461. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service; Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules of Practice Governing Formal Adjudicatory Proceedings Instituted by the Secretary Under Various Statutes [Docket No.: AMS-LPS-16-0051] (RIN: 0581-AD58) received August 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.

2462. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Hass Avocados From Colombia [Docket No.: APHIS-2016-0022] (RIN: 0579-AE29) received August 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.

2463. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department of Defense Chemical Demilitarization Program Semi-Annual Report to Congress for September 2017, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1521(j); Public Law 99-145, Sec. 1412 (as amended by Public Law 112-239, Sec. 1421(a)); (126 Stat. 204); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2464. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Teacher Preparation Issues [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0057] (RIN: 1840-

AD07) received August 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 Education and the Workforce.

2465. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Progress Report to Congress on the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and National Cord Blood Inventory Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 274k(a)(6); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 379 (as amended by Public Law 109-129, Sec. 3(a)); (119 Stat. 2554); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2466. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2016 Report on the Preventive Medicine and Public Health Training Grant Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 295c(d); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title VII, Sec. 768(d) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 10501(m)); (124 Stat. 1002); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2467. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship Programs Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2016, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 297n(h); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title VIII, Sec. 846(h) (as amended by Public Law 107-205, Sec. 103(d)); (116 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2468. 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 2016'', pursuant to Sec. 302 of the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of September 27, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2469. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a mandate from the Accountability Review Board concerning the May 31, 2017 attack in Kabul, Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2470. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 17-45, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2471. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting five (5) notifications of a federal vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination, or action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2472. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting three notifications of an action on a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2473. A letter from the Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Waiver of Passport and Visa Requirements Due to an Unforseen Emergency [USCBP-2016-0006] (RIN: 1651-AA97) received August 29, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2474. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report to Congress entitled, ''Assistance Provided to Foreign Aviation Authorities for FY 2016'', pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 40113(e)(4); Public Law 103-272, Sec. 1(e) (as amended by Public Law 112-95, Sec. 207); (126 Stat. 39); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2475. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0417; Directorate Identifier 2017-CE-008-AD; Amendment 39-18975; AD 2017-15-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2476. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9307; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-076-AD; Amendment 39-18970; AD 2017-15-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2477. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0330; Directorate Identifier 2017-NM-016-AD; Amendment 39-18972; AD 2017-15-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2478. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (Embraer) [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0250; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-158-AD; Amendment 39-18976; AD 2017-15-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2479. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0640; Directorate Identifier 2017-CE-020-AD; Amendment 39-18969; AD 2017-15-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2480. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0331; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-213-AD; Amendment 39-18971; AD 2017-15-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2481. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., (Type Certificate Previously Held by Canadair Limited) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0333; Directorate Identifier 2017-NM-005-AD; Amendment 39-18974; AD 2017-15-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2482. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9055; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-071-AD; Amendment 39-18977; AD 2017-15-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2483. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Augusta S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0142; Product Identifier 2016-SW-013-AD; Amendment 39-18979; AD 2017-16-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2484. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0664; Directorate Identifier 2016-SW-073-AD; Amendment 39-18947; AD 2017-14-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2485. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0395; Directorate Identifier 2017-CE-011-AD; Amendment 39-18966; AD 2017-15-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2486. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9304; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-028-AD; Amendment 39-18959; AD 2017-14-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2487. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lycoming Engines Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0788; Product Identifier 2017-NE-27-AD; Amendment 39-18988; AD 2017-16-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2488. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0759; Product Identifier 2017-CE-023-AD; Amendment 39-18980; AD 2017-16-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 25, 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.

2489. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31143; Amdt. No.: 3755] received August 25, 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.

2490. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31144; Amdt. No.: 3756] received August 25, 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.

2491. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Mosinee, WI [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0355; Airspace Docket No.: 17-AGL-12] received August 25, 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.

2492. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace for the following Texas Towns; Pampa, TX and Seminole, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0185; Airspace Doc. No.: 17-ASW-6] received August 25, 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.

2493. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace, and Amendment of Class E Airspace; St. George, UT [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8162; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANM-12] received August 25, 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.

2494. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0699; Directorate Identifier 2017-NM-004-AD; Amendment 39-18968; AD 2017-15-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 31, 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.

2495. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9052; Product Identifier 2016-NM-080-AD; Amendment 39-18983; AD 2017-16-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 31, 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.

2496. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0335; Product Identifier 2017-NM-025-AD; Amendment 39-18994; AD 2017-17-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 31, 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.

2497. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Examination of returns and claims for refund, credit, or abatement; determination of correct liability (Rev. Proc. 2017-44) received August 30, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2498. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — General Arbitrage Rebate Rules (Rev. Proc. 2017-50) received August 30, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2499. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — National Average Bronze Plan Premium (Rev. Proc. 2017-48) (RP 128677-16) received August 30, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2500. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Section 305 Treatments of Elective Dividends by Publicly Offered REITs and RICs (Rev. Proc. 2017-45), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2501. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Implementing the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015'' for Fiscal Year 2016, pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 1506(a)(1); Public Law 114-113, Sec. 107(a)(1); (29 Stat. 2951); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

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. 2582. A bill to authorize the State of Utah to select certain lands that are available for disposal under the Pony Express Resource Management Plan to be used for the support and benefit of State institutions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115–305). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1624. A bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 115–306). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 513. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3697) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens associated with criminal gangs, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from September 15, 2017, through September 22, 2017 (Rept. 115–307). Referred to the House Calendar.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

[Omitted from the Record of September 11, 2017]

H.R. 3017. Referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure extended for a period ending not later than October 13, 2017.

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. DESANTIS (for himself and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 3737. A bill to provide for a study on the use of social media in security clearance investigations; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3738. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to remove certain limitations with respect to commodity assistance for school breakfast programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 3739. A bill to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the ''Former Presidents Act of 1958'', with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 3740. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless children and youths and foster care children and youth; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. CLAY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 3741. A bill to codify the Minority Bank Deposit Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 3742. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 3743. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to ensure airfare fairness in the wake of a disaster or emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 3744. A bill to provide that an Indian group may receive Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe only by an Act of Congress; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 3745. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to establish that certain conduct, in or around a dwelling, shall be considered to be severe or pervasive for purposes of determining whether a certain type of sexual harassment has occurred under that Act, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 3746. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with respect to persons regulated by a State insurance regulator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. REED):

H.R. 3747. A bill to require financial institutions to freeze the assets of individuals arrested under suspicion of participating in domestic terrorism or providing material support to terrorists, to establish a national clearinghouse for information on incidents of homegrown ''lone wolf'' terrorism, domestic terrorism, and persons providing material support to terrorists, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KIHUEN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. HECK):

H.R. 3748. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an option for individuals who are ages 50 to 64 to buy into Medicare, to provide for health insurance market stabilization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LEE, Ms. MOORE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. VELA, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 3749. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide for a standard medical expense deduction under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 3750. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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

H.R. 3751. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to direct the Election Assistance Commission to develop best practices for States to use to protect the integrity of elections for Federal office, to make election technology improvement grants to States for adopting and applying such best practices in the administration of elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 3752. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement plans to improve the safety of medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3753. A bill to establish the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. LEE, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. EVANS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VELA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SIRES, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. MOULTON):

H. Con. Res. 78. Concurrent resolution denouncing and opposing the violence, xenophobia, and bigotry that are promoted by White nationalists and neo-Nazis; 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. DESANTIS:

H.R. 3737.

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

Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 (The President . . . ''shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, who Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.''), Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposes, and Excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States. . . .''), and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.'').

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 3738.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 3739.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I: The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in this Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 3740.

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

Article 1, Section 8, United States Constitution

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 3741.

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

The necessary and proper clause of the Constitution and the interstate commerce clause

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 3742.

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

Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 3743.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

''The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .''

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 3744.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 3745.

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. DUFFY:

H.R. 3746.

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

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 3747.

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

section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 3748.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws ''which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution'' any ''other'' powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 3749.

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

Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 3750.

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

Article One of the United States Constitution, located at section 8, clause 18.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 3751.

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

Article 1, Section 4

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H.R. 3752.

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

Article I, Clause 8

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3753.

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

section 1 of article I, and clause 18, section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 36: Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.

H.R. 38: Mr. DAVIDSON and Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 233: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 284: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 299: Mr. ESTES of Kansas.

H.R. 365: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 463: Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 489: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 490: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 535: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 539: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 548: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 604: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 632: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 644: Mr. DAVIDSON and Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 662: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 681: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 696: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 721: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 741: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 747: Mr. MCEACHIN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 750: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 754: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 758: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 785: Mr. BERGMAN and Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 807: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 812: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 815: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 820: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 822: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 874: Mr. MOULTON and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 895: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 936: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LANCE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 986: Mr. GIANFORTE.

H.R. 1002: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 1017: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. MENG, Mr. COLE, Mr. BOST, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 1057: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. ESTES of Kansas.

H.R. 1098: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1136: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 1144: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 1148: Mr. REED and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 1155: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1164: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. JONES, and Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 1261: Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H.R. 1300: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1368: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1384: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 1406: Mr. ZELDIN and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1409: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1456: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 1468: Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 1477: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1539: Mr. POCAN, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1542: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 1589: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 1606: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 1661: Mr. KIND, Mr. COOK, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1676: Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. BASS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1730: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1802: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 1861: Ms. NORTON and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1864: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1898: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 1899: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1987: Ms. MOORE and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 2092: Mr. BACON, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 2130: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2142: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 2152: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 2198: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2285: Mr. TONKO and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2290: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 2306: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2309: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 2319: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 2327: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 2342: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 2344: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2358: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 2405: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 2408: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 2434: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 2450: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 2452: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2465: Mr. EMMER, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 2482: Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 2519: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. STEWART, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. YOHO, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 2545: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 2589: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 2591: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 2663: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 2666: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2687: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 2690: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 2701: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. DONOVAN, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 2713: Mr. BARR and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 2723: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. YOHO, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 2733: Mr. NOLAN and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 2740: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 2790: Mr. VISCLOSKY.

H.R. 2797: Mr. JEFFRIES and Mr. KIHUEN.

H.R. 2801: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2809: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2832: Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 2871: Mr. JONES, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 2890: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 2902: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2909: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. COLE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 2926: Mr. FASO, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 2942: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 2953: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MESSER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. EMMER, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 2955: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 3053: Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 3071: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3117: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 3127: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 3128: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 3134: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3148: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 3153: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 3170: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 3179: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 3263: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 3274: Mr. MITCHELL, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. HIMES, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 3275: Mr. DESAULNIER and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 3282: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 3304: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3311: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H.R. 3329: Mr. GARRETT and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 3361: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3380: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 3394: Ms. PINGREE and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 3395: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. ISSA, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 3403: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3409: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 3441: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. PALMER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 3497: Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. YOHO, Mr. JONES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 3513: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 3549: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3570: Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 3591: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3640: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 3666: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3673: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 3674: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 3688: Mr. BACON and Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 3697: Mr. ZELDIN and Mr. ARRINGTON.

H.R. 3699: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 3710: Mr. SERRANO and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3731: Mr. KING of New York.

H.J. Res. 48: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H. Con. Res. 51: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H. Res. 31: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H. Res. 161: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H. Res. 220: Mr. CAPUANO.

H. Res. 443: Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 466: Ms. TITUS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. LANCE.

H. Res. 467: Mr. CAPUANO.

H. Res. 495: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 505: Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. POE of Texas.

H. Res. 507: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Judiciary in H.R. 3697 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 No. 147

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Infinite Father, thank You for Your providential care. You lead us as a great shepherd beside still waters. You restore our souls.

Fill our lawmakers with optimism and hope as they remember that all things are possible to those who believe. With confidence in Your strength, may they face the future unafraid. Lord, help them to overcome every obstacle that would discourage them. May they cast their cares on You, remembering that You will keep them from stumbling or slipping.

Lord, lead us all to undergo all necessary discipline, diligence, and sacrifice, to do Your will on Earth even as it is done in Heaven.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2017.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SASSE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week we will work toward passing one of the most important bills we consider each year, the National Defense Authorization Act. This is the legislation that authorizes the resources, the capabilities, and the pay and benefits that our men and women in uniform need to perform their missions. This bill is always important, but it is especially important in light of the many security threats we face around the globe.

Consider Iran. We have seen the regime work aggressively to dominate its neighbors and to expand its sphere of influence across the Persian Gulf and the broader Middle East.

Consider North Korea. We have watched Pyongyang become ever more determined to develop its nuclear weapons capabilities, as well as a means to deliver them.

Consider Russia. We have witnessed the Kremlin continue its efforts to undermine NATO and the Western nations it views as threats to its own power.

Consider China. We have looked on as the nation has grown in regional and economic strength, making clear its intent to displace U.S. influence so that it can dominate the Asia Pacific on its own.

These are state actors, and the challenges they pose include the employment of asymmetric means like propaganda, coercion, cyber attacks, and espionage, but these are not the only threats to our Nation. Consider how groups like ISIL, Al Qaeda, and other affiliated terror organizations have continued to threaten the United States and other nations. Consider how they continue to plot to strike our homeland and those of our allies.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration too often failed to mitigate these kinds of threats, instead pushing a foreign policy marked by a drawdown of our conventional military posture, a heavy reliance on international organizations, and overreliance on special operations forces to train and equip partner units in other nations. This drawdown and the harmful consequences of sequestration have inflicted upon our forces a genuine readiness crisis. Our force structure simply is not sufficient to address the challenges I mentioned in either a comprehensive or responsible way.

We need to correct this. That means equipping our servicemembers with the resources and training necessary to sufficiently address these myriad threats. I was pleased that this spring's government funding bill made an important downpayment toward rebuilding our forces, but more work remains.

Fortunately, we can add to that progress with this year's Defense authorization legislation. The bill before us will allow our Nation to start rebuilding our military and restoring combat readiness. It will aid in rooting out waste and bringing reform to the Pentagon. It will help improve our missile defense and help us better prepare for cyber threats, and it will go a long way toward reviving troop morale, authorizing a well-deserved pay raise to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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our men and women in uniform, along with continuing the benefits that they and their families rely on.

As Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the committee put it, not only does this legislation ''[build] upon the sweeping reforms that Congress has passed in recent years'' but ''[b]y continuing important efforts to reorganize the Department of Defense, spur innovation in defense technology, and improve defense acquisitions and business operations, the NDAA seeks to strengthen accountability and streamline the process of getting our warfighters the equipment, training, and resources they need to succeed.''

Senator REED, the top Democrat on that committee, said that the NDAA ''invests in much needed readiness to allow our fighting men and women to be properly trained and equipped for a wide range of threats.''

''I salute Chairman MCCAIN's leadership,'' Senator REED added, ''in maintaining the Committee's tradition of bipartisan cooperation and support of our Armed Forces.''

Let me echo that sentiment. This good bill has already earned the bipartisan support of every single member of the Armed Services Committee—every single member, Democrat and Republican. They reported it out unanimously. I appreciate the committee's work on this year's Defense authorization bill, as well as the ceaseless efforts of Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member REED. With their continued leadership and a little hard work from both sides, we can pass the Defense authorization bill this week.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2810, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 175, H.R. 2810, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was 1 week ago when President Trump and Attorney General Sessions announced that they were going to rescind the DACA Program. This is a program created by President Obama by Executive order that allowed those who had come to the United States as children to have an opportunity to be given 2 years on a renewable basis where they would not be subject to deportation and could work.

These young people are known as the Dreamers, a term that came about when I introduced the bill 16 years ago called the DREAM Act. These are young people who, frankly, are just asking for a chance, an opportunity to be part of the only country they have ever known.

The laws of the United States are very tough and very strict, and they say that, if you are undocumented, in their situation, you have to leave America for 10 years and then petition to come back in. That is why I introduced the DREAM Act. So these young people who were brought to this country by their parents would have a chance.

President Obama used his authority in an Executive order to allow them to apply for DACA protection. They had to pay a substantial filing fee and submit themselves to a criminal background check before they would be allowed to stay. So 780,000 young people did just that, and they are protected currently, but only for a few more months, under this DACA provision.

What is going to happen to them, we don't know. The only thing that makes any sense at this point is for Congress to act, for us to do something to replace the DACA Program, which the President is going to rescind, with a law—a law that establishes clearly the requirements, as well as the rights, that will be given to these individuals under the law.

That is why I have introduced the Dream Act with my cosponsor LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Republican of South Carolina. There are three other Republican cosponsors at this point, and we hope to move this forward.

President Trump has said he is interested in working with us, and we are going to take him at his word. Despite rescinding DACA, I hope the President will be on our side to come up with a replacement that is fair.

Also, I want to address many of the myths that have come up about DACA, as well as the Dream Act. I am going to quote an unusual source for this Senator. The source is a man named David Bier. David is an immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute. Those of us who live in this Washington environment of politics know that the Cato Institute is not a liberal think tank. It is the opposite. It is a conservative, largely Republican think tank, and Mr. Bier has published an article that has been seen in the Washington Post, in the Chicago Tribune, and in other papers entitled the ''Five myths about DACA.''

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Washington Post article entitled ''Five myths about DACA.''

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 7, 2017]

FIVE MYTHS ABOUT DACA

(By David Bier)

The Trump administration's move to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, has created an uncertain future for the 800,000 young unauthorized immigrants who had been granted protection from deportation and permission to work legally. A six-month delay provides a chance for Congress to save the 2012 program. But if we're going to debate the merits of DACA, we should know what we're talking about. Here are some common myths.

MYTH NO. 1

DACA incentivized an increase in illegal immigration. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R–Va.) is among those who support ending DACA because it has ''encouraged more illegal immigration and contributed to the surge of unaccompanied minors and families seeking to enter the U.S. illegally.'' Statements like this betray a misunderstanding of who is eligible for deportation relief under the program. DACA applies only to immigrants who entered before their 16th birthdays and who have lived in the country continuously since at least June 15, 2007—more than a decade ago. No one entering now can apply.

Perhaps the chairman thinks that children coming to the border are confused on this point. But the facts don't support that view either. To begin with, the timing is wrong. According to data from the Border Patrol, the increase in migrant children in 2012—the year President Barack Obama announced DACA—occurred entirely in the months before the president announced the policy. The rate of increase also remained the same in 2013 as it was in 2012. Even then, the total number of juveniles attempting to cross the border—unaccompanied and otherwise—never returned to the pre-recession levels of the mid-2000s.

Another problem with the theory is that although the majority of DACA beneficiaries are of Mexican origin, the increase in children crossing the border stems from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. These countries share one common trait: much higher than average levels of violence than anywhere else in North America. A careful study of this phenomenon by economist Michael Clemens found that more than anything else, a rise in homicides between 2007 and 2009 set off a chain of events that led to the rise of child migration.

Regardless, overall illegal immigration is far below where it was before the United States' last legalization program, in 1986, when each border agent caught more than 40 border crossers per month. Last year, it was fewer than two per month. DACA had no effect on this trend.

MYTH NO. 2

DACA has taken jobs from Americans. In announcing the Trump administration's decision this past week, Attorney General Jeff

Sessions said that DACA ''denied jobs to hundreds of thousands of Americans by allowing those same jobs to go to illegal aliens.'' This myth even has a name in economics: the lump of labor fallacy. It supposes that the number of jobs in the economy is fixed, and that any increase in workers results in unemployment. Yet this notion is easily disproved. From 1970 to 2017, the U.S. labor force doubled. Rather than ending up with a 50 percent unemployment rate, U.S. employment doubled.

If adding workers made the economy poorer, we might expect that people would try to ''free'' themselves from competition by moving to a desolate mountain and making everything for themselves. That no one does so is an admission that competition is actually good. We depend on other workers, DACA recipients included, to buy the products and services we produce. That's one reason earlier efforts to restrict immigration did not produce any wage gains.

MYTH NO. 3

Repealing DACA would benefit taxpayers. Sessions also argued that ending DACA ''protects taxpayers.'' But the opposite is true. According to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), first-generation immigrants who enter the United States as children (including all DACA recipients) pay, on average, more in taxes over their lifetimes than they receive in benefits, regardless of their education level. DACA recipients end up contributing more than the average, because they are not eligible for any federal means-tested welfare: cash assistance, food stamps, Medicaid, health-care tax credits or anything else.

They also are better educated than the average immigrant. Applicants must have at least a high school degree to enter the program. An additional 36 percent of DACA recipients who are older than 25 have a bachelor's degree, and an additional 32 percent are pursuing a bachelor's degree. The NAS finds that among recent immigrants who entered as children, those with a high school degree are positive to the government, to the tune of $60,000 to $153,000 in net present value, meaning it's like each immigrant cutting a check for that amount at the door. For those with a bachelor's degree, it's a net positive of $160,000 to $316,000. Each DACA permit canceled is like burning tens of thousands of dollars in Washington.

MYTH NO. 4

DACA repeal protects communities from criminals. DACA repeal, the attorney general further claimed, ''saves lives'' and ''protects communities.'' He implied that DACA ''put our nation at risk of crime.'' But DACA participants are not criminals. Unauthorized immigrants—the applicant pool for DACA—are much less likely to end up in prison, indicating lower levels of criminality. More important, to participate in DACA, applicants must pass a background check. They have to live here without committing a serious offense. If they are arrested, DACA can be taken away even without a conviction.

Only 2,139 out of almost 800,000 DACA recipients have lost their permits because of criminal or public safety concerns—that's just a quarter of 1 percent. Four times as many U.S.-born Americans are in prison. About 35 times as many Americans have ended up behind bars at some point before age 34.

MYTH NO. 5

DACA repeal is just about politics. Obama criticized the DACA move this past week as ''a political decision'' that was ''not required legally.'' But legal issues certainly factored into the Trump administration's calculation. The timing coincided with a deadline that several states imposed on the administration, stating that if the president did not wind down DACA by Sept. 5, they would sue. If President Trump wanted to end DACA for political reasons, he could have done so on his first day in office.

Obama should know that defending DACA legally could be difficult. After all, when he attempted to implement a similar but much broader program in 2015 for undocumented parents of U.S. citizens, courts shut him down. Obama implemented DACA without going through Congress, and although some legal scholars dispute whether it faces the same legal issues as the 2015 program, the Trump administration would have confronted a real possibility of defeat had it chosen to defend DACA in court.

The correct response, however—for economic reasons and security reasons, but above all for moral reasons—would have been to actively push for Congress to enact the program, not to announce its demise and leave the chips to fall where they may.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in this article, he spells out in some detail why some of the myths that were perpetrated by Attorney General Sessions and others last week need to be explained. One of them is that DACA somehow incentivized an increase in illegal immigration. Mr. Bier makes it clear that, when it comes down to it, you cannot arrive in the United States today and expect to be protected by DACA tomorrow. In fact, you have to have arrived in the United States at least by June 15 of 2007, more than a decade ago. So to argue that DACA was an incentive for more immigration in this country is just plain wrong.

What about those kids who showed up on the borders years ago, thousands of them? Well, it turns out that they weren't eligible for DACA or the Dream Act, and it also turns out that most of them were not from Mexico but from parts of Central America, which has been devastated by crime waves and gang activity.

The second myth that Mr. Bier addresses is that these DACA recipients—780,000—are taking jobs away from Americans. What he points out is that, if you start with the premise that we have a static amount of jobs in this country—what he calls a ''lump of labor fallacy''—then, it is dog-eat-dog to fight for those jobs.

It turns out that we have an expanding economy, and he proves it by giving us a statistic. Between 1970 and 2017, the U.S. labor force doubled. So rather than ending up with a 50-percent unemployment rate, our U.S. employment doubled. It is an expanding and dynamic economy.

The case can be made effectively that the DACA recipients are people who can add to the economy. All of them have to have the equivalent or a high school education. Many of them—large percentages of them—have college degrees and even more. So they can bring a lot to the economy.

The other point or the other myth that Mr. Bier addresses is whether repealing DACA would benefit taxpayers. The point he makes is that these DACA recipients are paying taxes in the jobs they are working and, by and large, are ineligible for any Federal programs or any Federal assistance.

So they are a net gain in terms of our Treasury and in terms of what they can do. For example, if you are protected by DACA today on a 2-year renewable basis, you do not qualify for a Pell grant to go to college. You don't qualify for a Federal Government loan. You have to find out how you are going to do it some other way. So these young people who are working and paying taxes are not drawing from any of the government programs that other people their age draw from.

There is also this argument that DACA somehow is going to make America less safe and that there will be more criminals. Don't forget what I said earlier. To qualify for DACA, you have to submit yourself to a criminal background check. The likelihood of the next crime being committed by a DACA recipient is very narrow. The likelihood that it is committed by someone who is already an American citizen is much more likely.

Finally, there is the argument that DACA is just about politics. Well, it can be about politics, unless we do our job in Congress. We are supposed to pass the laws. The President has challenged us to pass a law that will help deal with DACA. We have, I think, an awesome responsibility to do just that.

I was at Loyola University's medical school on Friday and met several of the DACA students who are in medical school at Loyola. They are extraordinarily bright individuals who competed and were accepted at Loyola's medical school. Now they have a program. As they complete the 4 years of medical school at Loyola, they want to apply for residencies so they can specialize. If you are going to be a resident, you had better be prepared to work. If you don't have DACA protection, you can't legally work in the United States. Thirty-two aspiring, really bright, young medical students soon to be doctors will be stopped in their tracks if we don't replace DACA because they cannot apply for residency because they cannot legally work in America without DACA protection or something like it.

Would we be better off in America if those 32 individuals did not become doctors? Of course not. We want them to become doctors. In Illinois, the State is helping to pay for their education with the promise that they will practice medicine in an underserved area of our State. I am from downstate Illinois, small-town Illinois, and I will tell you that we desperately need more doctors, not just in individual towns but at the hospitals that serve those towns. If these 32 can help us reach those goals, we are going to have better medical care across our State, but that depends on Congress and Congress meeting its responsibility.

I have come to the floor of the Senate over 100 times now to tell the stories of individuals who are affected by

DACA and the Dream Act, and I want to do that again today. I found that speeches are great and statistics are fine, but when you hear the stories about these individuals—who they are, what they have done, and what they aspire to do—you can understand the context of this important national debate.

The person I want to introduce today in the Senate is this young lady, Cristina Velasquez. She was brought to the United States at the age of 6 from Caracas, Venezuela. She went to elementary school in Madison, WI. She wrote me a letter. Cristina wrote the following:

> I spent my formative childhood years in the Midwest where I learned to assimilate and learned the values this country was founded on. The salt-of-the-Earth quality of people around me and extraordinary kindness between strangers shaped my own values and attitude toward others. Growing up in Madison taught me a great deal about compassion, patience, and hard work.

Cristina was an outstanding student. In high school she was a member of the National Honor Society. She was elected vice president of her class, and she managed the track team. She found time to volunteer at a local summer camp for pre-K students. She graduated from the Honors College at Miami Dade College. She is currently a student at Georgetown University, majoring in international law, institutions, and ethics. She has received the President's Volunteer Service Award 2 years in a row and is a Walsh Scholar. As a graduate of Georgetown, I can tell you nobody ever named me a Walsh Scholar. This young lady obviously is very talented.

During her time at Georgetown, Cristina has interned in the House of Representatives and has piloted a college mentorship program at a local high school. In addition, she also has found time to have two part-time jobs. She has to. You see, as a person who is protected by DACA and undocumented, she doesn't qualify for government assistance to go to college—certainly not at the Federal level. So these students have to work extra hard to stay in school.

She has dedicated two of her undergraduate summers and a full school year volunteering to teach in Miami and in San Francisco. In both of these cities, she worked with high-achieving, low-income students trying to get them into college. You see, Cristina's dream ultimately is to be a teacher.

Last week in my office, Cristina joined 15 other students from Georgetown who came in as we were debating DACA and the Dream Act on the floor. I am sure they wanted to hear my speech on the floor but, just to make sure, we bought a dozen pizzas and the crew seemed to be pretty happy with that decision. It was an impressive group of students. Every one of them was a DACA recipient.

These young people have so much potential, but they are worried. They don't know what their future will be with the decision made last week by the Trump administration to repeal DACA. Congress hasn't acted to pass the Dream Act, and we should.

As for Cristina Velasquez, she will graduate from Georgetown in December. She has been accepted into Teach for America. Most of us know that organization well, but for the record, it is a national nonprofit organization that places the most talented recent college graduates in challenging school districts in urban and rural areas where they have a shortage of teachers. Teach for America has 190 teachers working in these challenging districts who are currently DACA Dreamers. They are teaching kids all across America.

What does it say about us? What does it say to their students if these Teach for America Dreamers are invited to leave the country? That is exactly what Mr. Steve Bannon said on 60 Minutes on Sunday when he came out against our efforts to pass the Dream Act. He wants Cristina Velasquez gone. He thinks America is a better place if she is gone. I think he is wrong, and I think most reasonable people would agree.

Cristina is going to start the program, Teach for America, next summer and teach next fall, but without DACA or the Dream Act, Cristina and 190 other Teach for America teachers will be forced to drop out and leave their students behind.

Instead, many would have them deported back to countries they have never known, saying they are not part of the United States and they don't have anything to offer us. Will America be a stronger country if we deport Cristina or if she stays here to teach children in challenging districts? I think the answer is clear to any reasonable person.

When we introduced the Dream Act, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and I—a Republican of South Carolina and a Democrat of Illinois—cosponsored the measure. We gave a press conference. Senator GRAHAM said: The moment of reckoning is coming. Well, that moment has arrived.

Republican leaders in Congress need to help us to pass the Dream Act once and for all and make it the law of the land. We need to bear responsibility for these hundreds of thousands who can make America a better country. They show with their lives that the promise of America is still very much alive.

As for this Senator, I have been at this for a long time. I am going to see it to the finish line. I still have that dream of the day when President Trump signs the Dream Act into law in the Oval Office. It will be a great day, particularly for this country to recognize that these young people offer special talents and a special commitment to the future of America, which we desperately need.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THANKING THE SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, once again I want to thank my colleague from Illinois for both his passion and his intelligence in terms of his approach to the Dream Act. We are getting closer to getting this done. It is hardly done yet, but without the Senator from Illinois, we would not be as close to ''as close,'' so to speak, as we are today.

HURRICANE IRMA

Now, Mr. President, I want to first start off by saying that I hope that everyone in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina is staying safe as Hurricane Irma continues up the coast. Reports indicate that as many as 9 million Floridians have gone without power during the storm. Large parts of Miami and Jacksonville are under water. The Florida Keys have taken a particular beating. I saw the pictures on TV this morning.

As with Hurricane Harvey, the road to recovery will be long. As I said yesterday, I am ready to work with the administration and my Republican colleagues, when the time comes, to pass an aid package for the States dealing with Hurricane Irma.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. President, as discussions continue on NDAA, I would highlight a few amendments that are important to the Democratic side. We will be offering two amendments as part of our Better Deal agenda, including a ''Buy American'' provision and an amendment that would drastically cut down on outsourcing.

For too long, loopholes in our ''Buy American'' rules have allowed Federal agencies to waive ''Buy American'' requirements and skirt the spirit of the law. A single loophole—the overseas exemption, which allows a Federal agency to waive ''Buy American'' rules if the product is intended for use overseas—accounts for 65 percent of the exemptions that the Department of Defense issues in a given year.

Senator BALDWIN has an amendment that would eliminate these loopholes and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent by Federal agencies to purchase products that are made here in the United States.

My friend Senator STABENOW has been a leading voice on this issue as well. She has an amendment that would also roll back the overseas exemption by requiring the DOD to identify and give consideration to domestically sourced items before soliciting any offers for anything that is not ''Buy American'' compliant.

Right now, there are also several American companies with records of outsourcing American jobs that are receiving defense contracts, and companies receive a tax credit for outsourcing expenses rather than incentives to

bring jobs back to the United States. We should put a stop to both, and Senator DONNELLY's amendment will do that. His amendment will give a tax credit of up to 20 percent for expenses that companies incur to bring jobs back to our shores.

Another critical amendment is a bipartisan amendment offered by Senators GRAHAM and KLOBUCHAR on the issue of election security. The consensus of 17 U.S. intelligence agencies was that Russia, a foreign adversary, interfered in our elections. Make no mistake—their success in 2016 will encourage them to try again. We have State elections in a couple of months, and the 2018 election is a little more than a year away. We must improve our defenses now to ensure that we are prepared. The Graham-Klobuchar amendment would greatly strengthen our defenses, helping to prepare States for the inevitable cyber attacks that threaten the integrity of our elections. We should pass it as part of the NDAA.

As Chairman MCCAIN and Ranking Member REED continue discussions on this bill—and I know their relationship is a good and strong one—I hope they strongly consider the inclusion of these three critical amendments.

ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Mr. President, speaking of elections, a word on President Trump's Election Integrity Commission, which is meeting with the public for the first time today in New Hampshire. I have three points.

First, I would like to dispel the idea that this Commission has anything to do with election integrity. It was borne out of the President's baseless claim that 3 to 5 million people voted illegally in the 2016 elections. That is just not true. The Commission will never find evidence to support that claim.

Second, the public officials on this Commission must stop making similarly outrageous claims about voter fraud in elections. Recently, the Commission's Vice Chair, Kris Kobach, claimed that the New Hampshire Senate election could have been swung by illegal votes because they found a number of voters who had out-of-State licenses. Of course, there are several reasonable, legal, legitimate reasons as to why someone would vote in a State while having a license from a different State. Most likely, if you live at a college in New Hampshire but come from out of State, your car has an out-of-State license plate. By State law, if you are registered at a New Hampshire college, it is perfectly legal to vote there.

We all know that the States set these laws. In fact, when the Washington Post tried to identify some of these voters, the first four they randomly called were all college students who lived in New Hampshire but who went to school elsewhere.

Yet this Commission and, I would say, particularly its Vice Chair, Mr. Kobach, are so eager to prove their point—which is virtually unprovable—that there is a huge amount of voter fraud that they come up with these baseless claims and then have to back off. Throwing these kinds of deeply misleading, bogus claims around about stolen elections and massive voter fraud without there being any actual evidence is extremely irresponsible and damaging to our democracy. They are so eager to prove their point about voter fraud, which is demonstrably false, that they are resorting to these crazy claims, discrediting their Commission and discrediting themselves.

Lastly, a broader point. The Election Integrity Commission is a punishment in search of a transgression that never happened, which shows that it likely has an ulterior motive.

Voter fraud is extremely rare. A comprehensive study by the Washington Post in 2014 concluded that out of over 1 billion ballots cast between 2000 and 2014, there were only 31 credible instances of voter fraud, and even some of those were debatable, according to the study. The Brennan Center for Justice concluded that an American has a better chance of being struck by lightening than impersonating another voter at the polls.

So why the need for a Presidential advisory commission? Because the real target of the Election Integrity Commission is not voter fraud but voter suppression, especially the suppression of African-American voters, poor voters, elderly voters, and Latino voters. Just like the campaigns for outrageous voter ID laws in State after State—many have been thrown out by the courts for being blatantly discriminatory—the Election Integrity Commission seems focused on throwing up barriers to voting through intimidation, misleading claims, and controversial tactics, like the widespread collection of sensitive, personal voter information.

I think what this Commission is trying to do flies in the face of what the country is all about. We want everyone to vote. We do not want to scare people, intimidate people, or make it harder for people to vote. If there were overwhelming evidence of fraud, obviously we would need to do something, but there is not. As I said, it is a solution—a nasty solution—in search of a problem. The Election Integrity Commission ought to be disbanded, and we will be looking for ways to do that legislatively.

The real threat to election integrity comes not from voter fraud but from foreign meddling and cyber attacks. We should pass the Graham-Klobuchar amendment rather than continue with the nonsense of this Commission.

Moreover, with voter participation rates being so low, we should be spending our time and energy encouraging more Americans to exercise their fundamental right to vote rather than wasting taxpayer dollars for a commission to solve a problem that does not exist.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION

Mr. President, before I yield the floor, today is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, which does great work in my State in combating a very debilitating type of disease. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of the foundation and encouraging more research, better access to care, and improved treatments for patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

The New York-based Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, along with its partnering chapters across the country, is the largest national voluntary health group seeking the cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. It also works to improve the quality of life of children and adults affected by these diseases.

One in every 200 Americans struggles with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, collectively known as inflammatory bowel diseases, IBD. Although no cause has been identified for Crohn's disease, recent research suggests hereditary, genetics, and/or environmental factors contribute to the development of the disease. Further complicating matters, ulcerative colitis is the result of an abnormal response by the body's immune system.

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation sponsors basic and clinical research of the highest quality and offers a wide range of educational programs and supportive services for patients and healthcare professionals. In 2015, IBD Plexus was launched. IBD Plexus is a groundbreaking initiative that provides the infrastructure and capacities to facilitate and accelerate research into the causes and treatments of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Federal agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health through the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense each support meaningful research and public health activities on Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Furthermore, the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services both play a significant role in approving new treatments and facilitating health care financing policies that impact patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

I deeply appreciate the work of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation and its longstanding dedication to the patients it represents. They have endeavored to improve the quality of life of so many Americans, and the U.S. Senate recognizes the foundation's 50th anniversary.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HURRICANES HARVEY AND IRMA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, let me say that my heart goes out to the people of America who are, right now, dealing with Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and their aftermaths.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE GLEASON AND DONNA BRITT

Mr. President, ALS, which I think most of us refer to as Lou Gehrig's disease, has hit us hard in Louisiana. It has hit our world hard, but it has hit especially hard in my State.

A number of my colleagues and a number of Americans, I hope, were watching the night the New Orleans Saints returned to the field after our State was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. That night in the Superdome, a young man named Steve Gleason became a legend. I know it was just a football game, but he blocked a punt deep in the territory of the Saints' opponent, the Atlanta Falcons, for a touchdown. It was more than just a touchdown; it was a declaration that Louisiana was going to come back, that our spirit was not broken.

Today, Steve Gleason is battling ALS. The medical term for ALS is ''amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.'' We call it, as I said, Lou Gehrig's disease. It is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that destroys nerve cells in the brain and in the spinal cord. Regrettably, there is no cure. Steve, however, is determined to thrive and help others who have ALS.

Within the past few weeks, we have also learned that another Louisianan has ALS—well-known Baton Rouge television news anchor Donna Britt. I will tell you, like Steve, Donna is showing true grit in the face of this horrible disease. Most of us would probably curl into a fetal position and cry if we were told we had a progressive neurodegenerative disease that is almost always fatal—but not Steve and certainly not Ms. Donna Britt. Their valor and their courage is inspirational to me and, I think, to all Louisianans. As Donna herself put it, she is going to continue living as a living person and not as a dying person.

There is a famous line in a famous movie in which the main character says: I have a choice here—it is time to get busy living or get busy dying. Donna has chosen to get busy living. She is going to keep going to work, and she is going to keep caring for her family. Donna is educating herself about ALS. She has ordered a state-of-the-art wheelchair with Bluetooth technology, and she is adding words to a voice bank for when she can no longer speak because of this horrible disease. Donna Britt—I am not surprised—is determined to meet every challenge.

Let me say it again. This is pure valor. It is the type of courage in the face of adversity that inspires us all. It is also Donna. I do not know how to put that any other way. That is Donna Britt. Donna is a person who plays the oboe and who has survived breast cancer. She donates books to school libraries, and for charity she sings outside the Walmart during the holidays. She travels the world, and she delivers the news. She is a voice of comfort to all of those in her television media market, and she loves her family. She and her husband Mark Ballard have a son and a daughter. Her daughter Annie is a scientist working in DNA research, and their son Louie is a bright, young student in high school.

Donna has delivered the news in the Baton Rouge metropolitan area for 36 years. She spent her entire career, which is very unusual, at one television station—WAFB in Baton Rouge, which Donna has helped to make a powerhouse in Louisiana media. Donna has done her job so extraordinarily well that she has become a role model for young journalists—all journalists but particularly female journalists. I can tell my colleagues that folks in Baton Rouge feel Donna Britt is a part of their family. They trust her. That is because she is impartial, she is objective, and she is insightful. Since 1981, she has been on the air with the people of the Baton Rouge metropolitan area through storms, through inaugurations, through just about every major news event, good times and bad, that one can imagine. Donna also takes our people into the community and introduces them to interesting people.

A few months ago, Donna realized her health wasn't what it should be. There is no definitive test for ALS, as perhaps my colleagues know. Basically, the doctors have to rule everything else out before determining that one has ALS. As she struggled to figure out why she was losing the use of her fingers and her legs, Donna didn't keep her viewers in the dark. She brought them along for the journey in frank, candid Facebook videos. Along the way, she educated them—ever the journalist—on what it is like to have a degenerative disease.

At a family reunion this summer, Donna all of a sudden could not stand any longer. Now, that is a problem when you stand behind a desk to deliver the news—not for Donna. It was just another challenge to conquer. She promptly ordered a wheelchair that would adapt to her new reality.

Now Donna Britt is working with Louisiana State University to prepare for the day when her respiratory and diaphragm muscles are too weak for her to vocalize what she is thinking. With LSU's help, she is putting words into a voice bank for the future. Once again, it is just another challenge for Donna Britt to conquer.

I am very proud of Steve Gleason, and I am also very proud of Donna Britt. As angry as I am that anyone has to live with this dreadful disease ALS, I am proud they are inspiring an army of ALS sufferers by meeting every challenge and battling to thrive. I am proud that Steve and Donna are inspiring all of us with their valor and their courage.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:05 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kevin Allen Hassett, of Massachusetts, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 20 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, on the campaign trail, Donald Trump promised working families that he would subject every proposal he saw in the White House to a simple test: ''Does it create more jobs and better wages for Americans?'' He claimed he wasn't ''going to let Wall Street get away with murder,'' and he said he was going to ''drain the swamp.''

Such great talk—and then he got to Washington. His first order of business was to put together a team of people who had spent decades as executives at big banks and large corporations—people who are determined to tilt the playing field in favor of Wall Street and against working families. You don't need to look very far to see them. His most senior economic advisers—Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, and the senior counselor for economic initiatives, Dina Powell—together, those three have spent nearly a half a century combined working for Goldman Sachs. When it comes to our economy, this isn't the Trump administration; this is the Goldman Sachs administration.

Now President Trump has lined up another top economic adviser, Kevin Hassett, who has been nominated to serve as the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. Mr. Hassett hasn't worked at Goldman Sachs. No, his ''fresh perspective'' is that he has spent his career advocating for policies that favor the wealthiest Americans.

The Council of Economic Advisers plays a critical role in developing this country's economic policies. It was created by Congress to, as Dr. Hassett has put it himself, give the President ''unbiased, scientific, and objective advice'' about the economic impact of the President's policies on the American economy. They have their fingers in all sorts of policies from trade to healthcare, to taxes, to financial regulation.

So what kind of an economy does Dr. Hassett want? He hasn't been shy in telling us. Dr. Hassett wants an economy that keeps working great for those on top, and if it leaves working families further behind, that is just too bad.

Start with taxes: Dr. Hassett gets really excited about cutting taxes on giant corporations. In fact, when he was working for Mitt Romney's Presidential campaign, he wrote that the new President's top priority—the No. 1 act, the first thing he should do when he stepped into the Oval Office—was cut the corporate tax rate. His argument was that if we cut taxes for big businesses, they will give those savings to their workers and be more productive, improving the economy for everyone. That is just plain old trickle-down economics: Give more money to corporations and the wealthy, and they will surely pass it along to everyone else. It hasn't worked so far, and it isn't going to work in the future. Well, it isn't going to work for anyone who isn't already wealthy. For them, that works great.

On trade, Dr. Hassett also sings the corporate tune. Dr. Hassett wants to double down on the same kind of trade agreements that enrich giant corporations and leave the workers eating dirt. Dr. Hassett embraces trade deals that make it harder for small businesses to compete, trade deals that weaken public safety, and trade deals that undercut environmental rules. Dr. Hassett's approach really makes one wonder: Does Donald Trump not know who this guy is, or does he just not care? Either way, it is American workers who will take another punch to the gut delivered by Team Trump.

And how about on financial regulation? Nine years ago, Wall Street brought the economy to its knees and had to be bailed out to the tune of $700 billion. The crash cost millions of Americans their jobs and their homes. Congress then passed bipartisan financial reforms to stop another crisis. Dr. Hassett was not enthusiastic. In public, he called those new rules ''lamebrained'' and described the legislation as ''horrifying'' and ''the worst piece of legislation that I've seen in my entire life.'' He sounded the alarm that the financial reform ''needs to be repealed as soon as possible.''

He has since said that he regrets his tone. Tone isn't the problem here. The problem is what he said, not how he said it.

If Dr. Hassett has his way and Wall Street reform gets repealed, the same behavior that caused the 2008 financial crisis would be unleashed again. I cannot understand how, just 9 years after the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, Dr. Hassett would want to turn the banks loose so they have a clear shot at cheating consumers and building up risks that could blow up the financial system again.

There is no end to Dr. Hassett's bad judgment. He is wrong on the minimum wage, calling the proposal to raise the minimum wage to $9 an hour ''wrongheaded'' and saying that raising the minimum wage was a ''dishonest approach'' to alleviating poverty.

He is wrong on the environment. In a column, he advised President Obama to ''frack away.''

And, most of all, he is wrong about the fundamental problems in our economy, calling income inequality a myth and saying it was ''ludicrous'' to believe that our society is ''rigged or fundamentally unjust.'' He sounds as if he thinks that it is just great that this economy works for those at the top and pretty much for no one else.

Dr. Hassett has consistently advocated for the interests of corporations over working people. If he is confirmed, I am confident that he will be one more voice in the White House speaking up for the rich and the powerful. No doubt he will fit right into the Goldman Sachs administration.

But Congress has a say in this. The last thing we need is another economic adviser who wants to tilt the playing field even further in favor of corporate America.

I oppose this nomination, and I hope other Senators will too.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes on the Hassett nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the nomination of Kevin Hassett to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. Dr. Hassett came through the Banking Committee with a mixed vote, not so much because of him and his qualifications but because of some of his past statements and because of the economic philosophy of the person who nominated Dr. Hassett.

After meeting with him and being impressed with his integrity and openness, I hope he will not forget where he came from. I hope he will approach the job in a thoughtful way. I hope that he will stay grounded in sound research and that he will be transparent about his methods. I would caution him about embracing ideas about economic growth that are not supported by empirical evidence. I hope his new colleagues will listen to him.

For too long, our trade policy and tax policy have encouraged a corporate business model that shuts down production in Hamilton or Middletown or Mansfield or Toledo or Youngstown, gets a tax break, cashes in a tax break, then moves production overseas and then to China or Mexico, and then ships production back into the United States. Fundamentally, that has become the business plan of far too many companies—that sort of outsourcing.

I had a long discussion with Dr. Hassett about that. As I said, I hope he remembers where he came from. He saw that happen as he was growing up, if I recall, in western Massachusetts, where production was shut down in his communities, moved overseas for production, and then the goods were made overseas, and then sent back to the United States.

I am concerned about the White House in which he will work. I am concerned that at that White House, it often looks like a retreat for Goldman Sachs executives. The President's tax proposal benefits the wealthiest Americans and the largest corporations. Its budget is based on GDP predictions that are unrealistic. In fact, when it came to the issue of Social Security solvency years ago, Dr. Hassett found a sustained 3-percent growth rate too optimistic for planning purposes. That is the same rate—that same rate is what the Trump budget uses to gloss over its true costs.

I plan to support Dr. Hassett. I think he is an honorable man. I disagree fundamentally on a lot of these issues. I again implore him, as I cast my vote in support of him—because the President is entitled to an adviser and to choose within a band, of course, of support from whom he wants—but I am hopeful, especially, that Dr. Hassett remembers what it was like when he grew up in Greenfield, MA. Greenfield is a town not much different from my hometown of Mansfield, OH, where bad tax policy and bad trade policy have dashed the dreams of far, far too many people in those communities.

I count on Dr. Hassett to do the right thing. I am hopeful that he will help President Trump see what these communities look like, not from standing in a rally in front of thousands of people but by meeting people and individually talking with them and understanding what happens with the trade policy and the tax policy.

More trickle-down economics, more tax cuts for the rich are not the ways to build an economy. We build an economy by building from the middle class out. That means a tax system and a trade system that works for Greenfield, MA, and works for Mansfield, OH.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr President, I support the nomination of Mr. Kevin Allen Hassett to serve as Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. His nomination received wide bipartisan support, not only in the Banking Committee, but also from other esteemed members of his profession.

Mr. Hassett was voted out of our committee on a voice vote with widespread support. We received a letter in favor of his nomination signed by a bipartisan group of 44 economists, including 14 former Chairmen of the Council of Economic Advisers and two former Federal Reserve Chairmen. At Mr. Hassett's confirmation hearing, he expertly fielded questions on a wide range of economic issues and provided insights on progrowth policies that would support all members of the economy. In my office, we discussed at length his extensive experience in economic and tax policy modeling.

Mr. Hassett brings a wealth of relevant experience in academia, government, and policy. His counsel, insight, and expertise will be invaluable as the administration addresses initiatives like tax reform, which undoubtedly will have a large impact on the macro economy.

Thank you.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Kevin Hassett to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. Kevin is exceptionally qualified to be Chairman of the CEA, where he will play an integral role in tax reform and shaping this administration's progrowth economic policies.

I have known Kevin for quite some—beginning when he served as the chief economic adviser to my Presidential campaign in 2000. The only time I have doubted his intellect was when he agreed to return to advise for my 2008 Presidential campaign.

He has an extensive economic career spanning multiple administrations, including those of Presidents Clinton and George H.W. Bush. Currently, Kevin works at the American Enterprise Institute, AEI, as the State Farm James Q. Wilson Chair in American Politics and Culture and director of Research for Domestic Policy. Before joining AEI, Kevin served as a senior economist at the Federal Reserve and did a stint at Columbia Business School teaching economics and finance.

To understand fully how smart he is, Kevin's former colleague told me the story of how he printed out a 400-plus page technical paper at the request of Kevin, only to realize he had printed out the original German version rather than an English translation. Without batting an eye, Kevin said ''no problem'' and went about reading the scholarly report in German.

Kevin's nomination has received support from an ideologically diverse group of notable economists, including past CEA Chairmen. Additionally, the Senate Banking Committee approved his nomination by voice vote.

I am pleased to support Kevin's nomination today. I wish him, his lovely wife, Kristie, and their sons, John and Jamie, all of the best in this new chapter of their lives.

Mr. BROWN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hassett nomination?

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 194 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Alexander	Feinstein	Murkowski
Baldwin	Fischer	Murphy
Barrasso	Flake	Murray
Bennet	Franken	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Peters
Brown	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hassan	Reed
Cantwell	Hatch	Risch
Capito	Heitkamp	Roberts
Cardin	Heller	Rounds
Carper	Hoeven	Sasse
Casey	Inhofe	Scott
Cassidy	Isakson	Shaheen
Cochran	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Kaine	Stabenow
Coons	Kennedy	Strange
Corker	King	Sullivan
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Tester
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Leahy	Tillis
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Daines	Manchin	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McCain	Warner
Durbin	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young

NAYS—16

Blumenthal	Duckworth	Heinrich
Booker	Gillibrand	Hirono
Cortez Masto	Harris	Markey
Merkley	Schumer	Wyden
Sanders	Udall	
Schatz	Warren	

NOT VOTING—3

Menendez	Nelson	Rubio

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose unauthorized, undeclared, and unconstitutional war. What we have today is basically unlimited war, anywhere, anytime, anyplace upon the globe.

My amendment would sunset in 6 months the 2001 and 2002 authorizations for use of force. What does that mean? This was legislation passed many years ago to go after the people who attacked us on 9/11. I supported that battle, but I think the mission is long since over. I don't think anyone with an ounce of intellectual honesty believes these authorizations from 16 years ago and 14 years ago—I don't think anyone with intellectual honesty believes they authorized war in seven different countries.

Not only is it lives we are losing, the American soldiers, the brave young men and women who are sent to distant lands and asked to give their lives for their country without the Senate taking the time to authorize the war—I think that is terribly unjust and should end.

There are some who argue that we don't even need to vote at all. Some of the Presidents, Republican and Democratic, have said they have article II—this is the second article of the Constitution—they say that by the Constitution, they can do what they want, when they want, where they want, and that Congress never has to approve their authorization and never has to give authority to go to war. These advocates of perpetual war argue that these powers are implicit and that no one can stop a President who wants to go to war.

This is diametrically opposite of what our Founding Fathers thought. Madison in particular disagreed. Madison wrote that the executive branch is the branch most prone to go to war; therefore, the Constitution, with studied care, vested that power in the Congress. Our Founding Fathers saw the

history of Europe as the perpetual history of war—brothers fighting brothers, Kings of two different countries who were cousins, brothers, uncles, fathers, sons. The history of Europe was perpetual war.

When we broke away, we said: We are going to have some checks and balances in place. We are going to make it difficult to go to war. We are going to vest that power in the Congress.

But somewhere along the way, we lost our way, and we now commit ourselves to war or one man or one woman commits us to war without any vote by Congress. This is not what our Founding Fathers intended.

Former President Obama, when he was a candidate, wrote that no President should unilaterally go to war unless we were under imminent attack. That is the understanding of the Constitution that most originalists take. Yet, once Mr. Obama was in the White House, he bombed seven different countries. He expanded the use of Executive power. He expanded the war-making power of the Presidency, even while all along saying that he was for a narrower interpretation.

Candidate Trump said that the war in Afghanistan had lost its purpose, that it was a disaster, and that it should end. He said that on maybe 15 different occasions. Yet, now that he is in the White House, the generals have said: We must fight on. We must continue to fight. If we leave, the Taliban will take over.

My question is, When will the Afghans stand up and fight? We have spent $1 trillion helping them. We spent billions of dollars trying to convince them not to grow the poppy that becomes the opium that addicts the world. Yet last year Afghanistan had the biggest crop of poppy they have ever had in recent history. The people who run Afghanistan, whom we put in to govern, the Karzai family—full of drug dealers, crooks, and thieves. You wonder why they are not popular in their own country. But my question is, Where did the $1 trillion go? Why can't they defend themselves? Why do we have to fight their wars for them?

One thing is certain: The war was not authorized by you, the people, and the war was not authorized by us, the Congress, and therefore the war is unconstitutional. The war is unauthorized.

You say: Well, do we ever get it right? Have we ever voted to authorize war?

Yes, we have. When we went to war in Afghanistan the first time—and I would have voted yes—there was a vote, and overwhelmingly we voted to go in.

Some have argued: Well, is 6 months enough time for Congress to do anything? Can they get anything done in 6 months?

When we were attacked in Pearl Harbor, do you know how long it took us to declare war? Twenty-four hours. When we were attacked on 9/11, how long did it take us to authorize the military force to go in? Three days. People say Congress will never get it done. Maybe it is because we are divided.

We haven't been attacked, we have no clear purpose in Afghanistan, and there is no clear route to victory. Realize that in 2011 President Obama put 100,000 troops into Afghanistan. Sure, he pushed the Taliban back. Where did they go? To our ally Pakistan, which has gotten billions and billions of dollars of American welfare and as we sit here is destined to get another half a million of your money in American welfare over the next month. Billions and billions of dollars we send to Pakistan, but where does the Taliban live? In Pakistan. They run back and forth across the border.

So we have to ask the question, What is our purpose? Are we nation building? We spend hundreds of billions of dollars building their roads, building their bridges, building their schools. They bomb them, we bomb them—somebody bombs them, and then we rebuild them again.

We have $150 billion worth of damage in Texas. Do you know how we should pay for it? Let's quit sending welfare to foreign countries. Let's look at our country first, the problems we have here, rebuild our roads, our bridges, our schools, and not borrow it, not add to a $20 trillion debt. Take the money we are sending in welfare to foreign countries and let's rebuild our own.

We are at war in seven countries—none of them voted on by Congress. Is it expensive? Yes, to the tune of trillions of dollars.

Today we will debate the issue of war and whether Congress is constitutionally bound to declare war. We will debate whether one generation can bind another generation to perpetual war.

We are at the point where we have been in Afghanistan so long that within the next year, there will be people fighting who were not yet born on 9/11. This war no longer has anything to do with 9/11, no longer has anything to do with any vital interest in our country. It has to do with us believing we could reshape the world and make the world safe for democracy—everyone is going to love America, and everyone is going to become a western style democracy. Guess what? It is never going to happen.

Afghanistan is not even a real country; it is a collection of five or six tribal lands that were stuck together by Europeans who had no knowledge of the local people. They don't even like each other, much less us. Do you know what they call the President, who resides in Kabul? They call him the mayor of Kabul derisively because he has no sway over them. They are interested in who their chieftain is in their local area. They speak five different languages. They are never going to be a country.

If you want to be at war there, you want to send your sons and daughters to Afghanistan, you think somehow it will make our country safer, let's vote on it. So what I am advocating is a vote. For the first time in 16 years, I am advocating that we should vote on whether we should be at war. It should be a simple vote, but it is like pulling teeth. I have been trying very hard to get this vote for 5 years now. I am this close. I am hoping to get the vote today or tomorrow, but it isn't easy because we have been obstructing and obstructing, and no one wants to be on the line. Yet that is why we are elected—to put our names, our John Hancock, on the line. Are you for the war or against the war?

I am done. I am done. I am ready to come home. I remember my father saying, in 2008, in one of the Presidential debates, when they asked ''How will you get the people home?'' he said ''We just marched in, and we can just march out.''

There is no more meaning or purpose in Afghanistan. We had 100,000 troops there in 2011. All of the Taliban scurried into Pakistan, and as soon as the troops diminished, they went back. Some people take from that lesson—they say: We need 200,000 or we need half a million troops or we need to stay there forever and police every corner for them. I take it to mean that the governments themselves over there do not have the popular support of the people.

Stand up and fight for your country. Half of the people in Afghanistan who were helping us over there came to our country. They fled. It is the same with Iraq. All of the good people in Iraq—our translators, pro-Western people—came to our country. I understand wanting to come to a good place, but it would be like having the people who signed the Declaration of Independence, after they had fought the war and America had won, going back to England and saying: Oh, it is dangerous in the new country. Yet that is what we have been saying year after year, so the people who have pro-Western values from Afghanistan now live in the United States and the same in Iraq.

The thing is that we need to have some tough love. They need to practice some responsibility, and they need to take ownership of their country. But as long as you coddle people, as long as you give people stuff, and as long as you fight their wars for them, they are not going to step up and fight.

We are going to debate whether Afghanistan is a winnable war.

We will also debate whether war in Yemen is in our national interest. Most of America does not know that we are at war in Yemen. Most of America does not know where Yemen is. We need to know why we are there and whether it is of any value to the United States.

We will debate whether our support for Saudi Arabia is exacerbating starvation and the plague of cholera in Yemen.

We will debate whether it is in our national interest to topple the Government of Syria. There are 2 million

Christians who live in Syria. Guess what. We may not understand it, but most of those Christians support Assad. On the side of the war that we have been funding and arming with the radical Islamists from Saudi Arabia and with the radical Islamists from Qatar are the people who hate the Christians. We are fighting on the side of the people who hate the Christians in Syria. Does that make Assad a good guy? No, but the thing is that maybe sometimes there is no good person in a war, no good side to a war.

For 5 years, I have been fighting to have a vote on whether we should be at war and where. I think there is no greater responsibility for a legislator than to vote on when we go to war. I tell the young soldiers whom I meet that it is my responsibility to discuss, debate, and think seriously about whether we send them to war.

One of the things that is most mistaken by politicians—even by some who are well intended—is that they think every soldier in America is jumping up and down to go to his eighth tour in Afghanistan. Go out and meet the soldiers. They are not allowed to be politically active, and they are not a political force on Washington, but I guarantee that if you were to ask our soldiers ''Are you ready to go back for your eighth tour of Afghanistan? Do you see purpose in Afghanistan?'' that they have lost sight of what that purpose is.

I met a Navy SEAL about a year ago. He had been in for 19 years—a tough guy, as they all are—and he said to me: Do you know what? We can defeat any enemy. We can kill any enemy. We can succeed at almost any mission that you give us. But the mistake is when you—Congress or a President—tell us to go somewhere and plant the flag and create a country. We are just not very good at nation building.

We have the world's most elite military. We can defend our country. We can defend, without question, against all invaders. Yet we are not very good at making countries out of places that are not.

What we should think about is that we have a $20 trillion debt. We borrow $1 million a minute. Even if you thought it was a good idea to try to create a country in Iraq or create a country in Afghanistan or create some sort of paradise in Yemen or Somalia or Nigeria or Libya or any of the places we are—even if you thought some paradise was a great thing—we have no money with which to do it. We are destroying our country from within. We are eating out the substance of the very greatness of America by borrowing $1 million a minute. We are flat broke. We cannot afford to be everybody's Uncle Sam. We cannot afford to be everybody's Uncle Patsy. We cannot afford to keep exporting our money and our jobs to the rest of the world. We need to look at our country and say it is time that we did things for our country, for our people, and it is time that we quit borrowing $1 million a minute.

The question is, Will the Senators—will those who gather to vote—stand for the rule of law? Will the Senators stand for congressional authority for war? Will they stand for what the Constitution clearly says in article I, section 8, which is that Congress, not the President, shall declare war? Will the Senators sit idly by and let the wars continue unabated and unauthorized?

Some will argue that sunsetting the old authorizations is too soon, too dramatic. Really? So 6 months and 16 years later, we have not decided whether we should be at war or where we should be, and we cannot decide in 6 months? It took us 24 hours to decide with Pearl Harbor. It took us 3 days to decide with 9/11. I think 6 months is more than enough time.

Will Congress do its job unless it is forced to? All history says no. Why does Congress have an 11-percent approval rating from the people? Because it is not doing its job. How do we force Congress to do its job? Give it deadlines. How can we get a deadline? Let's pass this. Let's let the authorizations expire. Let's have a full-throated, deep, and heartfelt debate over whether we should be at war and where. Should we be at war in Afghanistan? Is there a winnable and foreseeable winnable future there? Should we be at war in Iraq? Syria? Yemen? Libya?

Today's vote can be seen as a proxy vote for the Constitution. Today's vote is not really a vote for or against any particular war. Today's vote is simply a vote on whether we will obey the Constitution. Today's vote is a vote on whether Congress will step up and do its job. Sixteen-and-a-half years is more than enough time to determine whether the war in Afghanistan or Yemen or Libya or Somalia has purpose or real meaning for our national security.

Often, it is said—very glibly—that, yes, it is in our national security interest. Realize when people tell you that they are giving you a conclusion. That is the beginning of the debate. We could debate for hours and hours. Hopefully, we will have some of that debate, but we have to debate what is in our vital national interest. Just to say it is so does not make it so.

Does anybody in America think the war in Yemen is in our vital interest? Most people do not know where Yemen is, much less think it is in our vital interest. Guess what. The war in Yemen may actually be opposed to our vital national interest. It may be making it worse. The war in Libya certainly did.

President Obama, when he chose to act illegally and intervene in Libya, made the world less safe. It was not his intention. I will grant him that his motives were to make it more safe, but he made the world less safe. Why? Because when Qadhafi was toppled, you got chaos. You have two competing governments in Libya, and you have chaos. If you want to set up a terrorist camp, if you are ready to go find a good place in the world, Libya is one of the prime places to go now because the government is gone and there is chaos. So I would argue that the intervention—one of the wars that we fought illegally, without the approval of the Senate, under the unilateral action of the President—made us less safe. That is why we are supposed to debate before we go to war. We are less safe because of the Libyan war.

How about the Syrian war? It is the Christians on one side and us on the other side. That is the first problem I have. The people on the side of the war that we supported are the radical Islamists. ISIS was on the side that we were supporting. In fact, one of the most famous, if not the most famous and important leaked email about Hillary Clinton from WikiLeaks was when Hillary Clinton sent an email to John Podesta, writing to him: Hmm, we need to exert some influence on Saudi Arabia and Qatar because they are giving financial and strategic assistance to ISIS.

Realize that. Of the people we are selling weapons to in Saudi Arabia and Qatar—they get all of their weapons from us—guess who they are giving them to. ISIS. They were on the same side as ISIS.

Let's say you do not believe that. You say: Oh, I don't believe that. Certainly we would not have done that because we would not have supported the bad people.

Let's say we just supported the so-called moderates. They are still fighting against the guys who are protecting the Christians.

What was the net effect of the Syrian civil war? Before we got involved, Assad was winning the war. Once again, like Qadhafi, he is not a great guy, but he does defend the Christians, and the Christians do support him. We turned the tide of the war by flowing in hundreds and hundreds of tons of weapons in 2013—us, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia—but these weapons went in indiscriminantly. What happened when we turned the tide of the war? Chaos in a vacuum. In that vacuum, guess who arose. ISIS.

When you created chaos in Libya by fighting an unconstitutional, unauthorized war, you got more terrorism, more chaos, and the world was a less safe place.

When we got involved in Syria without the authorization of Congress—unconstitutional, unauthorized—what did you get? Chaos and the rise of ISIS.

What do we have in Yemen right now? In Yemen, you have a Sunni-backed government in exile that is supported by the Saudis, and you have these Houthi rebels who are supported by Iran. But that is not all you have in Yemen. You also have al-Qaida of the Arab Peninsula—three different groups. It is said that al-Qaida of the Arab Peninsula is actually the strongest remaining presence of al-Qaida. Is it possible, in our supporting the Saudi

Arabian-backed government against the Houthis, that they fight and kill each other to such a degree of chaos that al-Qaida of the Arab Peninsula fills the vacuum? If you look at Libya, that is what happened. If you look at Syria, that is what happened. What if it happens in Yemen?

You have to ask, what is our vital interest in Yemen? Why are we in Yemen? Why are we supplying bombs to the Saudis? Is it somehow making us safer from terrorism? Are we killing them over there so they do not kill us over here? Guess what. We may be creating more terrorists than we can possibly kill.

The Saudis bombed a funeral procession of civilians. They killed 150 people, and they wounded 500. Do you think they are ever going to forget about it? That is going to be passed down through oral tradition for a thousand years, and they will talk about the day that the Saudis came and bombed civilians. They will also say in the next breath: Guess who gave them the bombs. The Americans. Guess who helped to guide the planes. Guess who refueled the planes in the air. The Americans refueled the Saudis the day that they came to bomb a funeral procession.

So, in the end, we killed 150 people. You might say: Well, they were all bad people. They were at the funeral of a bad person. Do you think that we killed 150 and that will be the end of it, or do you think that those who were wounded, who survived and went back to their villages, told every one of their neighbors and everyone in the village about the day the Saudis came with the American bombs?

We have to ask ourselves, are we making things better? Is Yemen in our vital national interest? Are we making things better or are we making things worse? Is there a possibility that it will lead to such chaos that al-Qaida of the Arab Peninsula will rise up and become a real threat to us?

What else is happening in Yemen? It is one of the poorest countries on the planet, as 17 million people, as we speak, live on the edge of starvation—17 million people. They are having the largest outbreak of cholera. Where is most of this happening? Where is most of the starvation, most of the killing, and most of the cholera? It is in the areas that are being bombed by the Saudis. They have bombed the infrastructure into ruins, and there is no clean water, so cholera is spreading.

War is probably the most common and most important precipitating factor in humanitarian disasters. If you look at humanitarian disasters around the world, you will find that the No. 1 cause is war, and Yemen was already a poor place to begin with.

You are fighting the war, and nobody asked your permission. You are fighting a war in Yemen through the proxy of Saudi Arabia, and no one has asked my permission. This is a grave insult to us. It is dangerous to the Treasury, but it is also your sons and daughters who are being asked to go to Yemen now.

We had a manned raid in Yemen and lost one of our Navy SEALs. I have asked what we got, and they just sort of push me off and say, oh, they might tell me on another occasion. No one will tell me what we got. They claim that it was great, that it was the best stuff you could ever find, that it is going to prevent loss of life. But the thing is, we have no business in Yemen. We have not voted to go to war in Yemen. We have been at war 16 years—the longest war now—in Afghanistan. There is no purpose left. There is no future for the war in Afghanistan.

Today's vote will be remembered as the first vote—if we have it—in 16 years on whether to continue fighting everywhere, all the time, without ever having to renew the authorization of Congress. I hope Senators will think long and hard about the seven ongoing wars and, at the very least, show regard for our young soldiers and go on the record to uphold their oath of office. Each Senator should uphold their oath of office and defend the Constitution and its requirements with regard to war.

I, for one, will stand with soldiers, young and brave, sent to fight in distant lands in a forgotten, forever war. I will stand for the Constitution. I will stand with our Founding Fathers, who did everything possible to make the initiation of war difficult.

I hope my colleagues will stand for something. I hope my colleagues will finally vote to do their constitutional duty and oversee and/or discontinue the many wars we are in. But even if my colleagues say: War, war—that is the answer—everywhere, all the time, by golly, come down and put your name on it. If you think we should be at war in Afghanistan, vote for it. If you think we should be at war in Yemen, come down to the floor and vote for it.

What does everybody do? Pass the buck. Let the President do it. Let the President take the blame if things don't go well. We should vote. So on my amendment, you will probably see that the majority will say: We don't want any responsibility; let the President take care of that.

My vote isn't actually directly on any of the wars, although I do oppose most of the wars we are involved in. My vote is on whether or not we should vote on whether we should be at war.

So for those who oppose my vote, they oppose the Constitution. They oppose obeying the Constitution, which says that we are supposed to vote. They are going to say: No, I refuse to vote on any of these wars.

All my amendment does is to sunset an authorization that really doesn't apply to anything we are doing at the moment, and it says that in 6 months' time, you have to come up with an authority to go to war. I hope my colleagues will stand for something. I hope they will finally vote to do their constitutional duty. It is the least we can do to honor the service of our brave young soldiers.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STRANGE). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I want to discuss an amendment, and I am not sure when it will be offered—I understand it will be offered—and I think it is very significant.

First of all, let's keep in mind what this is all about. The NDAA is the National Defense Authorization Act. It is one that we know is going to pass. It has passed for 55 consecutive years. If something happened and it didn't pass, the troops wouldn't get hazard pay or flight pay, and it would really be a traumatic thing that would happen. But it is not going to happen. It is going to pass. It is the most important bill that I believe we pass every year. As I said, we have passed it for 55 consecutive years, and it is important that we pass it right away. Sometimes it gets stalled until later in the year, but if it isn't done by the end of December, that is when everything falls apart. So we just don't need to do that, and I believe we have the momentum to go ahead and get it done.

Now, we are facing a threat. I have stood at this podium so many times now to talk about how I look back wistfully at the days of the Cold War when we had two superpowers. We knew what they had. They knew what we had. Mutually shared destruction meant something, but now it is totally different.

We hear that the two biggest threats facing us right now would be North Korea and Iran. I stand on the side that it is North Korea because North Korea is run by someone with a questionable mentality, and they are developing—I have watched them over the years—the capabilities that they now have. I certainly agree that Iran also is a serious threat. But the fact is that our Armed Forces are now in a condition that they have not been in for a long time.

I chair the Subcommittee on Readiness in the Senate, and we had the vice chairs testify before us not too long ago. They testified that we are in worse shape now than we were during the hollow force of the 1970s, right after the Carter administration. Many of us remember that, and I certainly do. Our Armed Forces are smaller than in the days of the hollow force in the 1970s, and readiness in the form of personnel, training, and equipment have been degraded, I think, to a breaking point. All the while, we have witnessed an uptake in the training and operational accidents across the Armed Forces. While the risks posed by the readiness crisis are significant, Congress is already taking steps to correct the shortfalls.

Every amendment considered for the NDAA should focus on increasing readiness across our services. We owe it to

our troops and our Nation to help ensure that levels are acceptable. That is why it is disappointing and dangerous that we are considering an amendment that would authorize a base realignment and closure round, better known to all of us as a BRAC round. We have had five BRAC rounds since 1989, and I am familiar with all of them. I, along with many of my colleagues in the Senate Armed Services Committee, successfully have a provision that would include a prohibition against a BRAC right now. I think it is pretty obvious. Everyone knows what the threat is out there. At least those on the Armed Services Committee do. But they also know that any BRAC round that you do is going to have the effect of costing a lot of money that should be spent on readiness. No matter what a base realignment and closure, or BRAC, is, the amount of money that is spent when you first start is going to be very expensive.

Unfortunately, an amendment is pending that would enable a new BRAC round in 2019, and, at the same time, remove—this is critical—the nonpartisan commission that allows the input of both local defense communities and Congress into the BRAC process.

I will tell my colleagues why that is important. I remember because it was shortly after I was first elected. Prior to 1989, the Defense Department was the agency that made the decisions as to what was going to happen to our various installations around America. It was very, very political. There were rumors or some stories that they would agree for certain considerations to allow someone to continue to operate when they really shouldn't be operating.

Well, the Pentagon claims that a BRAC round would save money and would allow the military to invest that money into critical readiness shortfalls. It is just not true. Before the most recent BRAC round in 2005, we heard these same arguments from the Pentagon, that the BRAC would somehow save money and would allow the military to increase efficiency. With 22 major base closings and 33 realignments—that is what happened in 2005—the round was depicted to save, over a 20-year period, $35 billion, with costs of $21 billion. The reality is far different. The 2005 BRAC round cost taxpayers roughly $35 billion, and it is only expected to save $9.9 billion over the next 20 years.

Now, the other day I went back and looked up just to see what the GAO said about that. Keep in mind that it was a 2005 BRAC round, but the GAO study was actually in 2011, saying: We know what we said at that time; let's see how they performed.

So let me read right out of their report: The ''one-time implementation costs''—that is the cost of putting together a BRAC round—''grew from $21 billion originally estimated by the BRAC Commission in 2005 to about $35 billion.'' In other words, they said it was going to cost $21 billion, and it ended up costing $35 billion. That is an increase of 67 percent. It has been that way with the other rounds too.

Looking at their analysis of the value, it is very important that we understand what they are saying here. The GAO said that ''the 20-year net present value DOD can expect by implementing the 2005 BRAC recommendations has decreased by 72 percent.''

In other words, they were 72 percent off as to what great savings we were going to have in the future by making these closures.

They went on to say that ''the 20-year net present value—that is, the present value of future savings minus the present value of up-front investment costs—of $35.6 billion estimated by the Commission in 2005 for this BRAC round has decreased by 72 percent.'' It cannot be more specific than that, and this is the consistent pattern that we have.

So, clearly, those base closure rounds cost the American taxpayers an exorbitant amount of money up front and take years to recoup their initial investment, if they ever do. In this case, they haven't, and they don't expect to. With the history of previous inconsistencies between expected and actual costs, there is no certainty that any proposed base closures or realignments would be economically viable now or at any time in the future.

Now, we are at a point of uncertainty that makes it irresponsible to expend billions of dollars in downsizing our Armed Forces when we are currently facing some of the most volatile, unpredictable, and dangerous military threats that America has ever seen. Readiness can't wait, and our enemies around the world will not.

We must also consider the possibility that we will soon require the capacity that is presently considered excess if the current military threats materialize in a manner that would encourage expansion of our armed services.

I think that just stands to reason. We know the threats are out there, and we know the problems are more severe than they have ever been in the history of this country. So maybe the current size of our forces would not be adequate. Well, it is a lot cheaper to go ahead and keep something that is already there than it is to tear down something and start all over again.

So, anyway, as to the early years, everybody knows that the certainty is there that it will cost money in the early years. The high cost of a BRAC round would divert resources away from addressing immediate, tangible threats.

Just last week, North Korea tested what is believed to be a hydrogen bomb, its most powerful nuclear weapon tested to date, estimated at nearly seven times as powerful as the bomb detonated over Hiroshima. This came on the heels of North Korea's first successfully tested and more powerful and far-ranging intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM. We are familiar with that test, which began over the summer. Now, if fired on a trajectory, experts believe the ICBMs that North Korea tested could have reached the United States of America.

I can remember talking about this with our intelligence department years ago. At that time, we were saying that they could finally develop a bomb and a delivery system that could reach the United States of America. Well, that may be here today. If not, it is imminent.

A BRAC round now would also shortchange a response to the immediate readiness needs. Over the last 90 days, we have witnessed a spike in accidents across the military services, especially in the Navy and in some of the aviation mishaps. While these accidents are still under investigation—under investigation to determine the cause—it is not hard to correlate them with the readiness decline.

Our forces are smaller than the days of the hollow force in the 1970s. Our equipment is aging. Our base infrastructure requires critical maintenance and upgrades. Our Air Force is short 1,500 pilots, and 1,300 of those are fighter pilots. Only 50 percent of the Air Force squadrons are trained and ready to conduct their assigned missions. The Navy is the smallest and the least ready it has been in years. It currently can only meet about 40 percent of the demand for regional combat commanders. We are talking about the commanders in the field who make that assessment. We can only carry out less than 40 percent of them. More than half of Navy aircraft are grounded because they are awaiting maintenance or lack necessary parts. The Marine Corps' F/A–18s, known as the Hornets, 62 percent are broken. We don't have that capacity. The Army has said about one-third of their brigade combat teams, one-fourth of their combat aviation brigades, and one-half of their division headquarters are currently ready.

Speaking in January about the Army readiness, then-Vice Chief of Staff of the Army General Allyn said:

> What it comes down to . . . we will be too late to need. . . . Our soldiers will arrive too late, our units will require too much time to close the manning, training, and equipment gap . . . the end result is excessive casualties to civilians and to our forces who are already forward-stationed.

We are talking about lives. We are talking about American lives. That is a sobering assessment, especially when considering the gravity of the threats we face around the world, including, of course, the Korean Peninsula.

The NDAA's first priority has to be to rebuild our force and improve its readiness, which is what we are in the process of doing right now, and we need to get it done. A BRAC round would divert vast resources away from this end for savings we would not see for decades to come, if we ever did—and we

are growing, not shrinking. Now is not the time for a BRAC round.

I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join me in rejecting this amendment. However well-intentioned, now is not the time for a shortsighted BRAC round.

There are still Members—I have talked to Senators who are saying they really believe, and they have been told, that somehow we are going to have more money for readiness if we have a BRAC round. It is exactly the opposite. Again, straight from the GAO, they made the analysis of the 2005 BRAC, and said the 20-year net present value DOD can expect by implementing the 2005 BRAC recommendations has decreased by 72 percent. It always costs a lot more on the front end and saves much less in the long run.

With that, I encourage my colleagues to reject this amendment, if this amendment is indeed offered.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING FRANK BROYLES

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the legendary University of Arkansas football coach, Frank Broyles, who passed away August 14 at the age of 92. He spent his life in service to the university, its student athletes, and our great State.

I was fortunate to have been recruited by and played for Coach Broyles as an offensive tackle in the early 1970s. For a kid from Arkansas, this was a dream come true. Outside of family, the people who have had the greatest influences on my life were my coaches, teachers, pastors, friends, and certainly Coach Broyles is right at the top. He was an icon in Arkansas and a legend in collegiate athletics.

As head coach of the Razorback football team from 1958 to 1976, he turned the school's program into a national powerhouse. During his tenure, Coach Broyles led the Razorbacks to seven Southwest Conference titles, and a Football Association of America national championship. Coach Broyles had tremendous charisma and had a remarkable ability to attract and develop talent—both players and coaches. He wasn't afraid to seek out talent to support him, and he had an innate ability to see the strengths in people. He would turn them loose to use those strengths to help the team and those individuals succeed. His recipe was to get great people around him to help the program win while helping those individuals get to where they wanted to be in their own professional careers.

The roster of assistants under Coach Broyles reads like a Who's Who in NFL and college football: great coaches such as Jimmy Johnson, Barry Switzer, Johnny Majors, Joe Gibbs, Raymond Berry, and Hayden Fry—and the list goes on and on. They were once Coach Broyles' assistants. His legacy of producing great assistant coaches is recognized in an award named in his honor to recognize college football assistant coaches for the work they do. Since 1996, the Broyles Award has been given annually to the top assistant coach in college football.

Frank Broyles' impact on the University of Arkansas went well beyond the football field. He implemented his vision for Arkansas athletics as the athletic director for more than three decades, helping the university's men's program win 43 national championships during his tenure. When he retired from the position in 2007, he continued his devotion to the University of Arkansas working as a fundraiser at the Razorback Foundation.

Coach Broyles used his notoriety for his most important mission, which he undertook in his later years. He became a passionate advocate for finding a cure for Alzheimer's and educating Americans on caring for loved ones suffering from this disease when his wife Barbara lost her battle with Alzheimer's in 2004. He shared the experience of his family as caregivers to his beloved Barbara across Arkansas and brought his story to Capitol Hill, where he encouraged lawmakers to be passionate about Alzheimer's so we can find a cure. He told Members they need to turn that compassion into passion to make a difference.

Coach Broyles spent his final years showing his passion for fighting Alzheimer's and helping other families touched by the disease. When his family was learning the best way to care for Barbara, they found there were limited resources available to caregivers looking for assistance. That is one of the reasons they created the Broyles Foundation and were inspired to share what they had learned in caring for Barbara to help other caregivers. The culmination of that effort was a book, ''Coach Broyles' Playbook for Alzheimer's Caregivers,'' which has been translated into 11 languages and distributed across the country.

After years of advocacy on behalf of those suffering from Alzheimer's and their families, the disease he fought so passionately to find a cure for ultimately took his life as well. One of the best ways we can honor Coach Broyles' legacy is by continuing to fund research in search of a cure for this devastating disease.

Coach Broyles brought the same energy to fighting Alzheimer's that he brought to college football and his work on behalf of the University of Arkansas on and off the field. He made a tremendous mark on the lives of so many student athletes during his years as a coach, athletic director, and all-around ambassador for the University of Arkansas and for our State.

I was one of the many who learned from the example Coach Broyles set. His leadership, faith, and ability to attract talent and utilize it to make our State a better place has been a tremendous influence on me through the years. I will be forever proud to be a Razorback and to have had the opportunity to play for Coach Broyles.

Coach Broyles was fond of saying there are two types of people in the world: givers and takers. Live your life as a giver, not a taker. We lost a giver, but we are so much better for what he gave us.

HONORING DEPUTY TIMOTHY BRADEN

Mr. President, I would also like to pay respect to a law enforcement officer in my home State of Arkansas who lost his life in the line of duty, Thursday, August 24, 2017.

Drew County Sheriff's Deputy Timothy Braden gave his life while serving and protecting the citizens of Arkansas. Deputy Braden was a selfless servant who made a career out of helping others. He joined the Drew County sheriff's office in February after serving 3 years at the McGehee Police Department.

He is remembered as a kind and hardworking officer who performed his job with a positive attitude. He had an appreciation for law enforcement and had aspirations of serving as an Arkansas State Police trooper. I am grateful for Deputy Braden's commitment to the community. He represents the selfless service of our men and women who turn toward danger to protect communities and bring criminals to justice.

He showed his dedication to the community in many ways, including being a former member of the Arkansas National Guard and a former Eagle Scout of the Year in his hometown, Star City. Deputy Braden's ultimate sacrifice reminds us all of the risks members of the law enforcement community face on a daily basis.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Deputy Braden's family, including his wife and four young children, his friends, and the law enforcement community. I pray they will find comfort during such a difficult time as this.

I join all Arkansans as we express our gratitude for Deputy Braden's service and sacrifice.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to question the plan for auditing the Department of Defense. The new Chief Financial Officer, Mr. David Norquist, presented a plan to the Armed Services Committee on May 9. It appears flawed, like a lot of other such plans. The Department

may be audit ready by the September 30 deadline, but the goal—and the goal ought to be a clean opinion—isn't in the mix. In its place, we get another lame excuse: ''I recognize it will take time to go from being audited to passing an audit.''

We have heard this story over and over for 26 years. When will it come to an end?

I don't think the Pentagon has a clue if the Department is truly audit ready. Then, why is the Chief Financial Officer predicting failure before the audit even starts?

Doubletalk is necessary to accomplish that goal. A monster is lurking in the weeds, and nobody wants to talk about it. It is the ''deal-breakers.'' That is a term that is often used in audit reports. They are red-flagged accounting issues listed in Department of Defense reports for years and years. They are prefaced by this warning: ''The deal-breakers prevent clean opinions.''

If Mr. Norquist wants to win this war, he had better get on top of the ''deal-breakers.'' But he ignored them in testimony, focusing instead on this apparent distraction: DOD has spent too much time ''preparing for full-scope audit without starting it.''

We need to pinpoint ''vulnerabilities''—those are his words, and he went on—''to drive change to a clean opinion.'' Suggesting that the Department of Defense lags behind on audit starts or needs more audits to spot weaknesses seems very wrongheaded. The Department has conducted nonstop audits since 1991—294 financial audits, to be exact—and 90 percent were failures, but a few were full-scope audits with clean opinions. Together, the Corps of Engineers and the Military Retirement Fund earned 28 clean opinions out of 43 starts. In the case of the Corps of Engineers, auditors relied on unorthodox procedures known as ''manual workarounds'' or ''audit trail reconstruction work.'' Highly paid auditors scramble around searching for missing records. These procedures work on small jobs, but the point is that they are an inefficient substitute for a modern accounting system.

Now, I have talked about small jobs. To the contrary, on big jobs this approach is a nonstarter. Yet, that is exactly where Mr. Norquist intends to go—the toughest, the unauditable: the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, and the rest of the Defense Department. This is where auditing hits the wall—over 200 starts without a successful finish.

If these audits begin before the accounting house is in order, the Norquist plan may be swallowed up by the swamp. The destructive power of the deal-breakers was hammered home by the most important audit so far—the Marine Corps audit. Their impact was exposed in a first-rate report issued by the Government Accountability Office. I spoke at length about that report on the Marines on August 4, 2015. Today, I will touch on it just briefly. This background is very, very important.

Back in September 2008, the Marine Corps, the smallest of the big ones, stepped up to the plate. The Marine Corps boldly declared that it was audit ready. As a pilot project, the Marine Corps would lead the way. High hopes for a breakthrough were not to be. Ten years and five audits later, the Marine Corps is still stuck on square one. The inspector general and the Government Accountability Office determined that it was never ready for audit. It failed for the same reasons as all the other audits failed, going back to the term ''deal breakers.''

To make matters worse, there was an attempt to cover up these shortcomings. Initially, a clean opinion was issued. The then-Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, gave the Marine Corps an award for being the first service to earn a clean opinion. The opinion did not stand up to scrutiny. The evidence did not meet ''professional auditing standards.'' So the inspector general had to withdraw, leaving Mr. Hagel with egg all over his face.

The deputy inspector general for audit was removed and reassigned, and the accounting firm involved lost the contract to Kearney & Company, where the now Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Norquist, was a partner.

Without strong leadership, the Marine Corps could be the Norquist template. This is where we have been before: audit ready but light years away from a clean opinion. So that takes you to nowheresville. Why go there when you know what you are going to find? Although lessons were learned, the end result was mostly waste—$32 million for five premature audits. DOD is big, big business for these auditing firms, and what do we get? No clean opinion.

The deal-breakers, which doomed the Marine Corps audit and all the others, are alive and well. They are still driving the freight train with no fix in sight. Yet, in spite of these formidable barriers, the Marine Corps is once again shooting for the moon. It jumped out in front of all the other military services by starting a full financial audit, which the press calls a ''mammoth task.'' Why would the outcome be any different this time around, when we just exposed within the last 2 years that what they thought was a clean audit was not such a clean audit.

The government's expert on accounting—and I call him the expert on government accounting because he is Comptroller General Gene Dodaro—understands the dilemma. The $10 billion spent annually on fixing the accounting system, he says, ''has not yielded positive results.'' Money is being spent in the wrong places. Mr. Dodaro wonders if the Department of Defense has the talent to get it right, and that is his word—''talent.''

With his plan resting on shaky ground, Mr. Norquist may need to shift gears. For starters, the cost of the full financial audits, which are touted as the largest ever undertaken, could top $200 million. Spending so much money on audits doomed to failure would be a gross waste of tax dollars.

Now, I am not suggesting that Mr. Norquist back off. Mr. Norquist just needs to get a handle on the root cause of the problem, and the feeder systems are that root cause. As a main source of unreliable transaction data, the feeder systems are the driver behind the deal-breakers. Fix them, and then the rest should be just a piece of cake.

Department of Defense reports have repeatedly called for ''testing the feeder systems.'' However, according to the Government Accountability Office, those tests were never, never performed.

So the aggressive testing and aggressive verification of transactions are the right places to start. Senators JOHNSON, ERNST, PAUL, and this Senator are sponsoring an amendment to make that happen.

Once all of the tricky technical issues are ironed out and testing provides confidence that the system is reliable, the plan will gel. Audit readiness will be self-evident, not contrived. Full financial accounting could begin. Clean opinions should follow, and those clean opinions should be our goal.

There has been 26 years of hard-core foot-dragging that shows that internal resistance to auditing the books runs very, very deep. It will take strong, confident leadership and strong determination to root out that internal resistance to auditing the books. I am counting on Secretary Mattis and Chief Financial Officer Norquist to get the job done in the shortest time possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the pending NDAA. In particular, I rise to speak about an amendment that has been previously discussed on the floor that is being offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. PAUL, that deals with the current authorizations for use of military force that are justifying American military action in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and numerous other countries.

The authorizations that currently support military actions were passed in 2001 and 2002. About a quarter of us were here and voted on those. Three-quarters of us have joined either the Senate or the House since those authorizations have been voted on. What that means is that we have American troops who are deployed in harm's way, that thousands have been killed, that thousands have their lives at risk right now, and that three-quarters of Congress has never voted to support the military operations that are currently underway. Many of us support them or support them with recommendations or reservations or qualifications, but three-quarters of us have never cast a vote.

These authorizations are, respectively, 15 and 16 years old. The authorizations have, essentially, been interpreted in a very broad way—first, by the Bush administration; second, by the Obama administration; and now by the current Trump administration. I would argue that the current interpretation of the authorizations would essentially allow, without any approval from Congress, an American President to wage war anywhere against any terrorist group for however long he wants to.

That was not the intention of the authorizations when they were originally drafted. If you were to go back and talk to those who had been here and cast their votes in 2001 and 2002, they would say that it was completely beyond their contemplation that what they were voting for then, which was going after those who had attacked the Pentagon—9/11 was yesterday—and the World Trade Center, would 16 years later still be used to support military action in a total of 14 countries in 35 separate instances having been declared by the last three administrations.

Senator PAUL has an amendment on the table, and the amendment is this: to sunset the 2001 and 2002 authorizations in 6 months as a mechanism for forcing Congress to finally do the job of having a debate and defining the legal authority of the military mission that we are currently engaged in and putting a senatorial and congressional thumbprint on the mission so that those who are risking their lives know that they are doing so with a political consensus by the American political leadership here in Congress. I am supporting Senator PAUL's amendment.

I think it is way past time for Congress to take this up and for everybody to be on the record. I think that our allies need to know whether Congress supports the American military missions that are currently underway. I think that our adversary needs to know that there is a congressional resolve, not just an Executive resolve. Most importantly, I think that the American troops who are deployed in harm's way every day deserve an answer to the question of whether Congress is behind them.

I came to Congress being very focused on this and to the Senate in January of 2013. I gave my first speech about it on the floor in the summer of 2013, when President Obama expanded the military action against al-Qaida to also incorporate military action against ISIS, which did not form until 2 years after the 9/11 attack. I filed my first military authorization, seeking to get Congress on board and to send to the troops the message that we supported them. That was now almost 3 years ago. I was once able to get a vote on an authorization in the Foreign Relations Committee. It passed out of committee but died for lack of any action on the floor.

Since 2015, out of a thought that we should try to be at least as bipartisan as we could in putting support behind the troops and carrying out our article I responsibilities, Senator JEFF FLAKE of Arizona and I have worked together, first, in introducing in 2015—and then in reintroducing this year—an authorization for use of military force. We have a pending authorization that we filed in June, which has been pending in the Foreign Relations Committee, to set forth a military authorization with certain conditions to undertake and legally justify military action against al-Qaida, ISIS, and the Taliban. That has been pending in the Foreign Relations Committee, but there has been no particular motive or forcing mechanism that has made the committee take this up, bat it around, hear from experts, debate it, amend it, and send it to the floor.

I think, of all of the powers that Congress has, the one that we should most jealously guard is the power to declare war. James Madison was the drafter of the Constitution, and he gathered great ideas from others. The 230th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution is this Sunday, September 17—Constitution Day in Philadelphia. The Constitution was a great collection of wonderful ideas, many that had been tried out in other nations, but the genius of it was the way in which we got the best of the best and tried to put them together in the document.

It has been said by many historians that there were only about two items in the Constitution circa 1787 that were truly unique and that we were doing for the first time. One was the protection of the ability of the people to worship as they pleased without preference or punishment, which had been drawn from a statute that had been passed in Virginia in 1780, the Statute for Religious Freedom. The second idea that was very unique to our country and was, really, an effort by the Framers of our Constitution to change the course of human history was the idea that war should only be initiated by Congress and not by the Executive.

The Framers of the Constitution knew in 1787 about Executives and Executive overreach, especially in matters of war. They knew Kings, Emperors, Monarchs, Sultans, and Popes, and they knew that that was how war started. Madison decided that we were going to do it differently, and the Framers and those who voted in Philadelphia agreed with him. The Constitutional Convention's minutes that were taken by Madison and others demonstrated what they were trying to do.

Madison explained it in a letter to President Jefferson about 10 years later, when Jefferson was grappling with questions of war. Madison wrote in the letter that our Constitution supposes what the history of all governments demonstrate—that it is the Executive that is most interested in war and, thus, is most prone to war. For this reason, we have, with studied care, placed the question of war in the legislature. Madison was trying to change it so that war could not be initiated without a vote of Congress.

In my view—and I was tough on a President of my own party about this—when President Obama decided to initiate offensive military action against ISIS in August of 2014, I said: You must come to Congress. When President Trump used military might—in this instance, weapons against Syria—to undertake the laudable step of punishing the use of chemical weapons against civilians, I said: I will support you with a vote, but you cannot do that without Congress. That is because there is nothing in the authorizations that are currently pending that allow the United States to take military action against the Government of Syria.

Yet we have gotten so sloppy about this. Frankly, we have been sloppy about it just about since 1787. If I can be blunt, throughout our history, regardless of party—Whig or Federalist, Democrat or Republican—Members of Congress have often concluded that a war vote is a very difficult vote and that, if we could allow the President to initiate it without a vote, we might be politically insulated from the consequences of the vote. That has been a uniform trend, and it has been a nonpartisan one. That is one of the reasons that we are where we are right now in Congress's being reluctant to take up war votes. These are difficult votes.

I have been on the Foreign Relations Committee since January 2013 and have cast two votes for military action—first, against Syria for using chemical weapons in the summer of 2013 and, second, in the matter that I mentioned earlier in voting for a war authorization against ISIS in December of 2014. I will say that there is no vote that you will ever cast that is harder.

I come from a State with a great military tradition. More people in Virginia are connected to the military—either as Active Duty, veteran, Guard, Reserve, DOD civilian or military contractor or military family—than in any other State. One of my children is a Marine infantry commander. Any war vote—if not immediately, then prospectively—affects him and the people whom he works with and cares deeply about.

These are very, very hard votes. They are supposed to be hard, but that is no reason to duck them. Congress is supposed to take this up, not hand any President of any party a carte blanche to go to war without a vote of Congress. Even against bad guys like ISIS or even against a Syrian dictator who is using chemical weapons against civilians, we are not supposed to be at war without a vote of Congress.

So I am here to support Senator PAUL's amendment, which would take these old and outdated authorizations and sunset them within 6 months. I view his amendment as being an attempt to force Congress to do what it should do, which is to have a debate anew after 16 years and come up with a crafted legal authority and appropriate

strategy for carrying out military actions against nonstate terrorist groups.

I applaud my colleague from Arizona, Senator FLAKE, because he and I have worked together very hard on this issue. We have a matter that is pending. If Senator PAUL's amendment passes, the result of his amendment will be that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and this body will have to grapple with what is an appropriate authorization circa 2017 to replace the authorizations from 2001 and 2002.

We shouldn't be afraid of that discussion. We should relish it and protect the power of Congress to decide when we will and will not be at war. I believe the version that Senator FLAKE and I have introduced, that was introduced in June, is a good-faith effort to listen to all and craft a compromise going forward.

I will close and say what I have said already. I think Congress should not only do this because we are constitutionally required to—and waging war without an authorization poses all kinds of legal challenges that I think are significant; that it is constitutionally required should be enough—but I actually really like the reason. I like the reason for the constitutional provision.

Madison and the Framers concluded that we should not order men and women into combat, where they are risking their lives and their health, if there is not a political consensus by the elected leadership of the country that the mission is so worth it that we can fairly ask them to risk their lives. If we are afraid to cast a vote because, oh, it is too unpopular or it could be too challenging, how can we stand up and say we are going to duck that responsibility when the consequence of war is that volunteers are being deployed and potentially injured and killed?

I will close and just say it seems to me that the sacrifice of the millions who serve Active, Guard, and Reserve—of the thousands who are deployed overseas in theaters of war right now—their sacrifice should call upon us to have a debate and do the job we are supposed to do.

If the Paul amendment passes, I look forward to working especially with my colleague from Arizona and my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee and colleagues on this floor to have a debate, have a vote, and send a strong message to terrorist groups, to our allies—but especially to our troops—that the article I branch of the U.S. Government has a resolve and supports them.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I wish to thank the Senator from Virginia for his leadership on this issue. He has been at it a long time. The two of us have been at it for quite a while. I think this is the year. This is the time. We are well past time for an AUMF.

I wish to thank the Senator from Kentucky for focusing the Senate's attention on the 16-year-old authorization for use of military force. As a freshman Member of the House of Representatives, I voted in favor of the 2001 authorization on September 14, 2001—almost 16 years ago to the day—September 14, 2001. I can attest that when I voted for that law, I had no idea it would still be in effect 16 years later.

Since its passage, more than 300 Members of the House who took that vote that day, on September 14, 2001—more than 300 Members of the House are no longer in office. Of the Senators who voted, only 23 remain in the Senate today—23 out of 100. That comes out to about 70 percent of the Congress who has not voted to authorize force against terrorist groups abroad.

It is long past time for Congress to calibrate the legal underpinning of the war against terrorism to today's realities. ISIS, for example, did not exist when the 2001 law was approved. We have learned a number of things since we voted to go to war with the perpetrators of the 9/11 attacks, and I think it is time to incorporate those lessons into a new AUMF.

For example, we have learned that no administration is ever going to want to have the powers granted to it under the 2001 law curtailed. The Obama administration fought efforts to put an ISIS-specific AUMF in place, and the Trump administration has signaled it believes the 2001 authorities are adequate, and it does not plan to seek a new AUMF.

We have also learned that crafting a new AUMF that garners bipartisan support is an especially difficult task. I know, because we have been trying for a while.

I think we can all agree, the only thing worse than having the 2001 statute in place is a partisan vote on a new AUMF.

Lastly, we have learned that America is strongest when we speak with one voice, which means Congress needs to have some buy-in. We have to have some skin in the game. Otherwise, we can simply blame the administration for any effort overseas.

We can't let wars against new terrorist groups like ISIS be waged only by the executive branch. We in Congress need to weigh in and we have to let our allies and our adversaries know we are serious and committed.

Taking these lessons into account, I think it is imperative for any future terrorism-related AUMF to include a sunset provision that requires Congress to put its skin in the game. That way, we can avoid being put in the position we are in today—having to vote on an amendment to repeal a law that authorizes force against groups that are actively planning attacks against American interests.

Ultimately, I cannot support my colleague's effort to repeal the 2001 AUMF in 6 months because of the very real risk associated with repealing such a vital law before we have something to replace it with. Fortunately, I know the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee remains committed to considering legislation to repeal the 2001 AUMF and to replace it.

As I mentioned, the Senator from Virginia and I have introduced legislation to do just that. That legislation, S.J. Res. 43, would repeal the 2001 law and authorize the use of force against al-Qaida, the Taliban, and ISIS. It would allow for greater congressional oversight of what groups can be deemed as ''associated forces'' of those organizations. It also contains a sunset provision.

So I look forward to working with my colleague from Kentucky and other members of the Foreign Relations Committee to move an AUMF that can garner bipartisan support. That is the right way to do it—under regular order, moving it through the Foreign Relations Committee, and then bringing it here to the floor, where we can debate and we can have buy-in, and the Senate can vote on an AUMF and then the House. Then, the U.S. Government—the Congress and the executive branch—can speak with one voice.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the National Defense Authorization Act.

The Defense bill has a long tradition of bipartisan cooperation, and I was glad to join in that tradition as part of the Armed Services Committee. As with any far-reaching legislation, there are a number of provisions in this I support and some I do not, but, on the whole, this bill is a win for national security and a win for Massachusetts.

Massachusetts has a lot to offer our national security. Each of our military bases is unique in making vital contributions to our defense. The Massachusetts National Guard has a proud history, dating back to 1636, and it contains the oldest units of the U.S. Army.

Today we are proud of our military tradition, and we have a unique ecosystem of universities, industries, startups, and military labs, all focused on the next-generation needs for our warfighters. Research and development is critically important to this effort. It will literally save lives. I have made research funding a major priority, and I am very pleased we have secured an additional $45 million in funding for the Army's Basic and Applied Research accounts, for places like Natick, where researchers are doing cutting-edge work to better protect our soldiers. Overall, the bill increases funding for science and technology $250 million above the President's budget.

The bill also recognizes the critical role that MIT Lincoln Lab plays in national security research, and supports the construction of a new advanced microelectronics integration facility that will begin in 2019. It also fully funds the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental, or DIUx, which is doing

great work connecting DOD with innovative startups in Cambridge and around the country.

Our military bases, which are the lifeblood of their communities in Massachusetts, are also receiving much needed facility upgrades. Hanscom Air Force Base will receive $11 million to build a new gate complex that will dramatically improve its security. Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee will receive more than $60 million to construct a new maintenance facility and build a new indoor small arms range to improve readiness. Natick Soldier Systems Center will receive $21 million to improve family housing facilities, bringing our families working at Natick closer to the base.

All three of my brothers served in the military, and I know the demands of the military can be hard on families and on servicemembers. I have spent a lot of time over the last 9 months working hard with both Republican and Democratic Senators to do everything I can to help improve the lives of our military personnel and their families. I partnered with Senator ERNST, a Republican from Iowa, to introduce the Leadership Recognition Act, which has been incorporated into this larger Defense bill. Our proposal ensures that our servicemembers get the pay raises they deserve.

Over the last 15 years, Congress directed the Pentagon to raise military pay so it was more comparable to civilian wages, but it also gave the President the authority to waive the requirement to raise military pay. Unfortunately, that keeps happening, and military families who are already sacrificing so much don't get the pay raises they are entitled to.

Our new provision restricts the use of this waiver. We promised our military their regular pay raises in line with inflation, and they ought to get those raises, period. This one is a no-brainer. I am sorry it is taking Congress so long to get it done, but we are there now.

The Defense bill also includes my Service Member Debt Collection Reform Act. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has identified how unscrupulous debt collectors often take advantage of military personnel, for example, by alleging that servicemembers owe disputed or imaginary debts and sometimes even by contacting a servicemember's commanding officer to intimidate a servicemember into paying a debt they don't owe. This is outrageous. My provision requires DOD to review and update its policies regarding harassment of servicemembers by debt collectors.

Our military personnel are also entitled to educational benefits that can help them earn a degree or transition to civilian life. However, too often military members don't actually use these benefits because they can't navigate a frustratingly complicated and bureaucratic application process. That is why I offered an amendment to the NDAA to make sure DOD works with the Departments of Education and Veterans Affairs to automate the application of student loan benefits available to military borrowers. These Departments can use this information that already exists in Federal databases to expedite student borrower benefits for servicemembers, and there is no reason we shouldn't just do that right away. This will make life a little easier for our vets, and it will help put many of them on the road to a better education and higher earnings for the rest of their lives.

There is another problem in our military that we need to address. I was appalled earlier this year at reports that some male servicemembers shared nude photos of their fellow female servicemembers without consent, and harassed them on a website called Marines United. The military is not immune to the rise of so-called revenge porn online. Make no mistake, revenge porn is sexual harassment. DOD concluded in a May 2017 report that such harassment can lead to sexual assault.

Just last week, I sat with women in Massachusetts who had been sexually harassed and sexually assaulted during their time in the military. They volunteered for the military out of a deep sense of patriotism, and now they are struggling hard to come to terms with what happened to them. Their sense of betrayal—betrayal by their fellow servicemembers—ran deep.

Acts like these are deeply wrong, and they undermine unit cohesion and readiness. The Marine Corps and other services have taken some positive steps in response to the website scandal, but military prosecutors need the tools to combat this specific behavior.

Commanders have always had the ability to prosecute disorderly conduct, but the Uniform Code of Military Justice does not explicitly prohibit nonconsensual photo-sharing in all cases. To solve this problem, I teamed up with Senator SULLIVAN, a Republican from Alaska, to introduce the Protecting Servicemembers Online Act. Our proposal closes the revenge porn loophole, making it unlawful under the UCMJ for military personnel to share private, intimate images without the consent of the individual depicted. It does this by balancing privacy protections and survivors' rights, and I am grateful this year's Defense bill takes similar steps to address this revenge porn problem. There is more to do to make sure each person who signs up to serve our country is treated with dignity and respect, but this is a positive step.

This year's Defense bill also addresses an issue which is very personal to me—how we care for victims of terrorist attacks. I had been a Senator for only 3 months when the twin explosions went off at the Boston Marathon finish line on April 15, 2013, killing three people and wounding hundreds more. I was on a flight from Boston to DC when the bombs went off. I didn't even leave the DC airport. I just caught the next flight back to Boston.

The next day, I met with Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes. They had been recently married. When the bombs went off, they were both seriously injured. Each had a leg amputated at the scene. They were rushed to separate hospitals, where they underwent more lifesaving treatments and where Jessica lost her other leg.

When I first saw Jessica, she still had gravel and glass embedded in her skin—injuries the doctors hadn't yet cleaned up. She was grateful to be alive, but worried about Patrick. When I first met Patrick, he had the same question: How is Jessica?

The Boston hospitals at which they received emergency care are among the world's best, and they saved many lives on that day, but those hospitals don't specialize in the long-term recovery from such complex and serious injuries like limb amputation. For that, you need military hospitals, like Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, but right now, access to Walter Reed requires a special exemption from the Secretary of Defense. Jess and Patrick say they owe their recoveries to the doctors, physical therapists, and prosthetic lab technicians who treated them at Walter Reed and who have treated thousands of troops since 2001.

Earlier this year, Senator COLLINS, a Republican from Maine, joined me in introducing the Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes Act, which would allow all victims of terror attacks to receive treatment at military medical facilities if there is space available. I hope we will never see another attack like the Boston Marathon bombing, but this bill will help us be ready if it happens.

I am glad the Defense bill includes language to implement the policy in our bipartisan bill, and I am particularly thankful to Senator COLLINS for working with me so other victims of terrorist attacks will be able to access our world-class military medical facilities if they need them the way Jessica and Patrick did.

The work on servicemember pay, GI student loan benefits, and help for civilian victims of terror made me proud to be in the U.S. Senate. At the same time, I worked hard this year to ensure the Defense bill contains a number of provisions that will strengthen our national security.

Like my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee, I am concerned about Russian aggression. Too often this year, this issue has been obscured by partisan sniping, and it shouldn't be that way. Russia's attempts to sow global instability are a major national security threat, and on the Armed Services Committee we have treated it that way.

Earlier this year, I introduced the Countering Foreign Interference with Our Armed Forces Act. This bill contains two provisions—one requiring annual reports on the new and disturbing trend of Russian efforts to target our military personnel with disinformation

campaigns and a second bill in response to the Michael Flynn scandal so DOD will be required to report to Congress when a retired general officer requests permission to accept payments from a foreign government. We need to protect our military and our country from outside influence, and these are two steps we can take right now.

Another area which concerns me is the money we spend to outfit our military. The DOD buys a lot of goods and equipment, which means it pays an extraordinary amount of money to government contractors. It shouldn't be too much to ask those contractors to provide high-quality products at a reasonable price, to treat their workers decently, and to knock off any efforts to extort extra profits out of the government. I am pleased the Defense bill also includes a number of my priorities to promote these kinds of reforms.

Step one in this process needs to be a full audit of the Department of Defense. DOD spending makes up half of the discretionary budget, and yet the DOD—unlike other government agencies—has never been audited. That makes no sense at all. Senator ERNST and I teamed up to fight for a provision to incentivize the Department to achieve audit readiness by mandating a pay reduction for the Secretary of each military service unit that does not achieve audit after 2020, and we got it passed.

Senator PERDUE, a Republican from Georgia, and I joined together to press the Defense Innovation Board to study how we can improve the way the Department acquires software.

Senator ROUNDS, a Republican from South Dakota, and I successfully fought for a provision requiring DOD to open source software methods and open source licenses whenever possible for unclassified, nondefense software, in accordance with best practices from the private sector. This one is particularly important so contractors can't shake down the Pentagon for new piles of cash every time DOD needs to upgrade and improve its software systems.

Finally, after stories about contractors with terrible safety records continuing to get DOD contracts, one after another, I successfully secured a provision that will require DOD contracting officers to consider workplace safety and health violations when they evaluate a potential DOD contractor. I introduced the Contractor Accountability and Workplace Safety Act to address this issue, and I am very glad it has been included in the NDAA.

This Defense bill isn't perfect. I don't agree with all of it. In a Republican-controlled Congress, I wouldn't expect to agree with all of it. For one thing, I vehemently disagree with the decision to authorize funding for research and development for a new generation of intermediate-range missiles. Everyone knows the Russians have violated the INF treaty already, but that is not a reason for the United States to violate this core anti-nuclear proliferation treaty as well. Our military doesn't want it. Our European allies don't want it. Even the White House doesn't want it. We obviously don't need it. In a world of limited resources, spending tons of taxpayer money to build an unnecessary weapon that will make all of us less safe is a terrible idea.

I also disagree with the committee's recommendation to zero out the funding for the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical, otherwise known as WIN-T. I have listened to the critiques of this system, but WIN-T Increment 2 is the only tactical communications system the Army currently has that permits communications on the move. GEN Mark Milley, the Army Chief of Staff, has noted the importance of remaining mobile on the battlefield. ''If you stay in one place longer than 2 or 3 hours, you will be dead,'' he said. We should improve WIN-T, not junk it, and we definitely shouldn't abruptly cancel this program without having any earthly idea of what will replace it. Fortunately, this program is not zeroed out in the House version so I will continue to fight for this during the House-Senate conference.

Finally, I am concerned about the overall increase in defense spending contemplated by this bill, particularly when there is no real plan in place to pay for it. The Defense Department is not the only agency that is critical to our national security, and most of those other agencies are under attack in this Congress. Moreover, it is important for us to make the investments we need here at home, to do things like address climate change and promote resilience after natural disasters, to invest in scientific research and discovery, to improve access to healthcare and education, to build new schools, and to repair aging roads and bridges. We cannot support a buildup in military spending that leaves our country weakened and unable to build a strong economy going forward.

Fortunately, the bill we are putting forward today merely authorizes new defense funding. Actual dollar amounts for Federal spending will be determined later this year for all of our agencies as part of the appropriations process. At that point, all spending—defense and nondefense—will be on the table at the same time. If that process is going to serve the American people well, it must provide for significant increases in spending on education, infrastructure, basic research, and the other building blocks of a strong country with a vibrant future.

I commend the leadership of Senators JOHN MCCAIN and JACK REED throughout this process. Our committee has a long history of bipartisanship, and Senators MCCAIN and REED have continued that proud tradition. This legislation supports our servicemembers and their families, promotes commonsense Pentagon spending reforms, advances cutting-edge defense research, and bolsters the Commonwealth's innovation economy. Most importantly, this NDAA will make a real, positive impact on the lives of Americans. For those reasons, I intend to support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I stand to support my friend Senator RAND PAUL and to encourage my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to support his proposed amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

In the Declaration of Independence, the Founding Fathers lodged the following grievance against King George III: ''He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to civil power.''

A decade later, the Founders included a safeguard in the Constitution so ''civil power''—in other words, the people and their duly elected representatives—would play an important role in matters of war and peace. The safeguard takes up all of seven words in the Constitution: ''The Congress shall have Power . . . to declare War.''

Today this safeguard—this crucial check on government—has been eroded in several ways and in ways many Americans would find downright alarming.

Congressional authorization for the use of military force is being used in a contorted way to justify wars with an ever-growing list of adversaries without any input from Congress or the American people about whether we should be fighting those wars in the first place.

Senator PAUL has submitted an amendment to sunset two such authorizations: the 2001 authorization of military force against the perpetrators of 9/11, and the 2002 authorization of military force against the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

I support my colleague's amendment because the world has changed and our adversaries have changed since those authorizations were passed into law by Congress. Osama bin Laden is dead. Saddam Hussein is dead. In fact, his statue in Firdos Square came down almost a decade and a half ago. Yet thousands of American troops are still serving in the Middle East based on the same authorizations Congress granted more than a decade and a half ago. Instead of changing these authorizations to reflect a changing world, politicians have used the old authorizations to start new wars in countries other than Iraq and Afghanistan against adversaries that had nothing to do with 9/11.

The 2001 AUMF has been used to justify a drone war across the Middle East without a debate or a vote in Congress. It has been used to justify air wars in Libya and Yemen without a debate or a vote in Congress. It has been used to justify military action against the Islamic State terrorist group without a debate or a vote in Congress. Some of these military actions may be justified, but the best way to determine

whether they are is to submit them to scrutiny, to debate and vote on the matter in Congress as the Constitution prescribes.

As many of you know, we are in the midst of sort of a populist challenge to Washington, DC. Senator PAUL and I have listened to countless Americans voice many of their grievances against Washington. The gist of their complaint in this area is this: They don't feel as though their interests are being taken into account in our Nation's Capital. Bit by bit, they have watched their representatives cede decision-making power to unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats in the executive branch. They have watched as a Washington consensus has emerged, a kind of faux consensus shared nowhere else other than in Washington, DC.

If you understand these concerns that Washington, DC, is deeply unrepresentative of how much of the country feels, then you understand a lot about the populist moment. It applies to foreign policy as well as domestic policy, to how our government conducts itself abroad as well as at home.

A decade and a half after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the American people want a place at the table in decisions about war and peace, about life and death. They want to be represented in decisions that concern them and their sons and their daughters so intimately. If we do not give the American people these things, if we don't listen to their concerns, advocate for them in the legislative branch and vote on them openly under the light of day in this Chamber, then we are failing them as representatives, and we are ignoring the Constitution. That is why I am supporting Senator PAUL's amendment. I hope my colleagues will join me so that this issue can get the vote it deserves.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I have listened intently to the discussions this afternoon with respect to the AUMF of 2001 and the AUMF of 2002, and all of the speakers have made a point that I think is obvious: We have to update our authorizations to account for the past 16 years, to account for the transformation of the threats in those 16 years and many other factors.

The Paul amendment does not give us that transformative language so that we can make a reasoned judgment. It simply gives us a 6-month period of time to work our way through all of the nuances, which are very complicated and difficult. I think it would unwittingly and unintentionally cause more difficulties than be an effective way to urge action and to seek complete action in this Senate and the House and a signature by the President.

Again, I do understand the concerns of all. I supported the 2001 authorization for the use of military force after the incredible and shattering attacks on New York City, Washington, and the crash of an aircraft in Shanksville, PA, and we responded.

Like so many of my colleagues who were here at the time, I did not expect that 16 years later we would still be engaged in the evolution of that fight that began on 9/11, but we cannot simply stop and threaten to pull back our legal framework with the expectation that in 6 months we will produce a new and more appropriate authorization for the use of military force.

I think we should be on the floor debating such an AUMF. I think it should have been debated seriously and thoroughly in the Foreign Relations committee, subject to amendment, and brought forward to this Senate so that we could debate it. Then we could present it to our colleagues in the House and ultimately to the President and also do so in the full view of the American public.

What we are simply doing, if the Paul amendment is adopted, is saying: If we can't get our job done in 6 months, then we have no legal authority or questionable legal authority to continue operations across the globe. It would be an arbitrary 6-month period. I think it would, unfortunately, send a very inappropriate signal to our troops and to our allies in the fight across the globe. Also, it would send an unfortunate signal to our adversaries because it would raise, quite literally, the possibility, since we have supported the option, of abandoning our legal basis for conducting many of these operations in 6 months. I think it would be read many places as a signal that the Senate has essentially declared that in 6 months we are going to de-authorize our military efforts. I think that signal would be very disturbing to our troops in the field, to our allies, and it would give a huge propaganda lever to our adversaries.

The 6-month period is not related to our operations on the ground, not related to the planning and the operational procedures that are in place already. It is unrealistic to believe that if we cannot come to some resolution in 6 months, we could suddenly withdraw our forces or find some other reason to prosecute these wars and these efforts.

Again, we have to think seriously about what the message would be if we adopted this resolution. I think the headline might say ''Senate moves to end involvement.'' I am more certain, after multiple trips to Iraq and Afghanistan and recently to Syria, that the headline in Baghdad and Kabul and Damascus would be ''U.S. moves to end engagement.'' That would cause great concern among our allies. It would cause great concern among our troops.

Operationally, our planning and staging is not something that is done in 6-month periods. It takes months and months for military forces to prepare to go in. Unless we could do something literally next week, we would be running into the reality of American military commanders wondering whether they should begin to plan for the extraction of our forces and the closing of our facilities on these bases. I don't think anyone here believes, with the workload we have, that we could tackle this issue in the next week or two.

As the days go by, that contingency becomes more pressing on our military forces. Those commanders would have to start making serious plans. Those serious plans would be easily communicated to our allies, to our adversaries, and to our troops on the ground. As a result, I think, again, this is not the responsible way to pursue what we all want, which is a more realistic AUMF, one more resonant in terms of being consistent with the reality today.

Some people have argued—in fact, this seems to be the most compelling argument—that this will force Congress to act. Well, I do think we have to act, but I think what the proponents are missing is that our action will not be immediate. As we look ahead, we have recesses that we will observe; we will have other requirements; we have to get appropriations done. We have a host of legislative items. If this effort takes a backseat and we approach the 6 months again, the difficulty of conducting military operations will be significantly complicated. What is intended to be a forward effort in Afghanistan will gradually begin planning for withdrawal, even if at the last moment we come forward with a new authorization.

We have to think about those things because it does affect the troops who are defending us today, it does affect how much our allies will be supportive of our efforts, and it will also, as I indicated, give our adversaries the argument that they have used repeatedly—that the United States is going. It was pointed out years ago on one of my first trips to Afghanistan—a saying has become commonplace where the Taliban would say: ''You all have the watches, we have the time.'' And what we are doing with this measure is once again giving them the time so they can predict or proselytize with more power that our presence will be diminished.

Secretary Mattis and Secretary Tillerson have written to the Senate leadership expressing their concerns with this approach, and I immensely respect both gentlemen. I particularly respect Secretary Mattis for his service. He has been on the ground. He knows what it takes to lead marines, soldiers, airmen, and sailors in action. They are quite concerned. They are concerned about issues, too, to which we have not devoted full attention.

As Secretary Mattis and Secretary Tillerson indicate, there is a strong argument that the legal basis for continuing to hold captured combatants at Guantanamo Bay would be taken away and that these individuals could, through our courts, apply for habeas corpus and could likely be released—

something that I don't think anyone would want to see. The presence of an AUMF provides a legal basis for holding these very dangerous combatants at Guantanamo Bay.

I think it could also affect our ongoing operations against terrorists throughout the globe, particularly our military operations, our special forces operations that are focused on terrorists connected to Al-Qaida, connected to ISIS, connected to those groups who have, over several administrations, been included within the scope of the AUMF.

To a point my colleagues have made, administrations going back to President George W. Bush, the Obama administration, and now the Trump administration—particularly in the case of the Obama and Bush administrations—have adjusted the AUMF to confront new circumstances, such as the rise of ISIS, et cetera. They have done so, though, in the context of a congressional statute, not because of the expansive power, under article II of the Constitution, of the President to defend the United States. One issue here is, again, do we want to put ourselves in the position where there is no governing law; rather it is simply that article II of the Constitution that provides the legal basis?

For many reasons, I hope we will think carefully about our role with respect to Senator PAUL's amendment. He has been tireless in his advocacy—''relentless,'' I think, is probably a better word. He is doing so with the utmost integrity and the utmost commitment to doing what he thinks is in the best interest of the United States.

I come here today to point out what I think our consequences would be, which would be very serious and very detrimental to ourselves, particularly our troops. I ask all of my colleagues to think clearly about what we are doing. We should and we must replace the AUMFs—both of them; however, until we have a replacement, we shouldn't create a 6-month period of uncertainty, doubt, and confusion. That is what it will be because it will affect our soldiers, our allies, and in some respects, give more leverage to our adversaries.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, in my absence today, I would like to note my support for the confirmation of Mr. Kevin Hassett to be Chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. Due to ongoing and urgent recovery efforts from Hurricane Irma, which finished its course through Florida only yesterday, and the lack of commercial air travel in the wake of this disaster, I am staying in my State to help coordinate and marshal the full capacity of recovery resources available to us.

Had I been able to attend today's vote, I would have voted in favor of Mr. Hassett's confirmation as Chairman.•

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for today's vote on Executive Calendar No. 110, Kevin Hassett to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for yesterday's vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to calendar No. 175, H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act. I would have voted yea.•

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 194 on the nomination of Kevin Allen Hassett, of Massachusetts, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.•

ABOLISH HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT AND TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate this body on its passage of two important antitrafficking bills: the Abolish Human Trafficking Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

I am proud to have worked with Senators GRASSLEY, CORNYN, and KLOBUCHAR on these comprehensive bills and commend them and their staffs for the thoughtful and bipartisan manner in which they were drafted.

I would also like to thank the numerous law enforcement and antitrafficking organizations and, most importantly, the survivors, who have provided feedback and support throughout this process. It is my hope that the legislation passed last night will assist the tremendous work these groups do in the fight against human trafficking.

Both bills reauthorize a number of important programs that help victims and strengthen efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to human trafficking crimes.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which I authored with Senator GRASSLEY, promotes victim-centered training for school resource officers, judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement. It ensures that trafficking victims are properly screened and that more comprehensive data about trafficking crimes are collected.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act also includes one of my top priorities, which is to prevent the proliferation of trafficking offenses over the internet. I want to take a moment to discuss why I believe this to be a deeply important step in curtailing the criminal enterprise of trafficking.

The commercial sex industry is evolving. The use of the internet to sell commercial sex has escalated dramatically over the past several years.

Online platforms have provided an easily accessible and seemingly low-risk forum for buyers. In 2014, one website advertised nearly 12,000 advertisements for commercial sex in a single day.

Some of these sites have become hubs of human trafficking. Backpage.com, in particular, has been used to facilitate sex trafficking of minors for years. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has determined that Backpage.com is linked to 73 percent of all suspected child sex trafficking reports that it receives through its ''CyberTipline.''

Indeed, just a few months ago in my home State, a 3-month investigation into Backpage.com led the Stockton Police Department to discover eight victims being trafficked for sex in the area. Some of these girls were as young as 14 years old. San Joaquin District Attorney's Human Trafficking Task Force said that advertisements on Backpage com offered sexual acts with the victims for as little as $20.

Under current law, it is a criminal offense to knowingly advertise commercial sex acts with a minor. Backpage.com has repeatedly asserted that it has no involvement with the advertisements posted on its website. However, after a thorough review of Backpage.com's screening methods and practices regarding their advertisements, the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded that Backpage.com knows that its website facilitates trafficking and knowingly concealed evidence of criminality by systematically editing its adult ads to help them avoid detection by law enforcement.

Shortly after these findings were publicly released, the Washington Post obtained documents that showed that contractors hired by Backpage.com were specifically instructed to solicit and create sex ads aggressively, including the posting of ads suggestive of sex with minors. In fact, these documents revealed that ''invoices and call sheets indicate Backpage.com was pushing [the contractor] to get as many new listings as possible.''

These revelations are deeply concerning, and I hope that they will be

thoroughly investigated. Those who knowingly advertise minors for commercial sex must be held accountable.

It is appalling that even as serious questions about Backpage.com's culpability are raised, law enforcement officers do not have all of the tools they need to prevent young children from being exploited on the site.

The language we have included in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act will prevent the continued victimization of children by providing law enforcement with a tool to prevent traffickers from using online tools to further their exploitation.

Specifically, the provision adds civil injunction authority to the criminal statute that prohibits the advertisement of commercial sex acts with a minor. This allows the Department of Justice to file civil enforcement cases to prevent traffickers from using the internet and other tech platforms to sell children for sex.

Civil injunction authority is not new. It exists for the Attorney General to obtain orders against criminal defendants to stop them from committing certain kinds of crimes. For example, such authority has been used by the Department to shut down websites from distributing software for spying on people.

Adding this authority to existing criminal trafficking provisions gives law enforcement a more readily accessible means to deny human traffickers access to platforms like Backpage.com and thereby restrict their ability to traffic children online.

I am similarly proud to have cosponsored the Abolish Human Trafficking Act, which was led by Senators CORNYN and KLOBUCHAR. The bill includes critical provisions to aid victims in restoring their lives. It extends the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund, which helps fund victim services and increase law enforcement efforts. It also expands mandatory restitution provisions for sex tourism and other trafficking-related crimes.

The bill further strengthens law enforcement's ability to prevent and prosecute trafficking offenses For example, the Abolish Human Trafficking Act expands the authority of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to use wiretaps in sexual exploitation cases. It also enhances statutory maximum penalties for several human trafficking offenses and establishes a human trafficking coordinator at every U.S. Attorney's Office.

As the sex trafficking industry continues to evolve, so must our laws. We must ensure that we are doing all we can to curtail this criminal enterprise and do right by those who have been victimized. The bills we have passed last night aim to do just that. Again, I congratulate my colleagues on the passage of this important, comprehensive legislation. I hope that ending the scourge of human trafficking will continue to be a top priority for this body.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, WY. On January 10, 1917, William F. ''Buffalo Bill'' Cody passed away, resulting in the creation of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association on March 1, 1917. This association became known as the Buffalo Bill Center of the West on February 8, 2013, and has since performed the task of preserving the great legacy and historical significance of Buffalo Bill Cody. He came to symbolize the American West and lived the tale like no other as an explorer, frontiersman, soldier, scout, actor, entrepreneur, and civic leader.

In 1867, Cody received his nickname of ''Buffalo Bill'' as he hunted buffalo for the Kansas Pacific Railroad, where he became known as an expert shot. He soon became a civilian scout for the U.S. Army, and in that capacity, he was awarded the U.S Congressional Medal of Honor. In 1883, Cody created Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, in which he gained fame and notoriety for the show's dramatic recreations of life on the frontier. The performances highlighted Cody's knowledge of the American West. Cody was an important source of information regarding the West for American Presidents from Ulysses S. Grant to Woodrow Wilson.

After his death, the Buffalo Bill museum opened on July 4, 1927, to tell the story of Col. William F. ''Buffalo Bill'' Cody. Since this opening, the Buffalo Bill Center has expanded and become known as one of America's finest Western museums. The center actually features four museums: the Whitney Gallery of Western Art, the Buffalo Bill Museum, the Plains Indian museum, and the Cody Firearms Museum.

Thanks to the overwhelming support and dedicated staff and board of trustees, there is always something new to see and explore from the days of the Wild West. It represents a story of a time when people who were larger than life dominated the national stage, and thanks to the historical center, they will never be forgotten. I encourage folks to come to Wyoming and explore the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. It will be an experience they will never forget. It is an opportunity to see firsthand what inspired Buffalo Bill to take the story of the West and tell it all over the world. I am pleased to be a part of this tradition and express my continuing support for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West and its inspiring education of the American West. Congratulations on 100 years and my best wishes for the next 100.

Thank you.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRIDGTON HOSPITAL

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of Bridgton Hospital. Over the past 100 years, Bridgton Hospital in Bridgton, ME, has consistently provided high quality, personal patient care for local communities in western Maine. Nationally recognized for its excellent performance, I am pleased to honor this hospital for its century of service and commitment to our State.

Bridgton Hospital was originally founded in 1917 after Bridgton resident Clara Fogg left a bequest for the creation of the facility. Since then, Bridgton Hospital has grown tremendously due to the diligent efforts and commitment by community leaders. In 1999, Bridgton Hospital became a subsidiary of Central Maine Medical Center, making it a crucial part of the integrated regional healthcare system. During this past decade, Bridgton Hospital has taken a number of steps to expand its services, facilities, and operations, giving patients access to high quality care close to home that they once had to travel miles to receive.

The exceptional team of physicians, professional clinicians, nurses, staff, and volunteers who work together to make Bridgton Hospital truly unique have garnered a number of awards for its care. In 2016 alone, it was one of 21 hospitals to be awarded ''Top Rural Hospital'' in the country. Bridgton Hospital was also selected as one of the top 20 hospitals in the categories of overall performance and quality outcomes out of 1,400 small and rural hospitals in the U.S. The hospital was the only hospital in Maine to achieve top performance in all categories, including overall, quality outcomes, services scores, and financial results, as awarded by Maine Health Access Foundation. In past years, Bridgton Hospital has also been named one of the Best Places to Work in Maine. Additionally in 2016, Bridgton Hospital CEO David Frum was recognized as a ''Top 50 Critical Access CEOs to Know'' by Becker's Hospital Review magazine. Frum was recognized for his leadership and commitment to excellence.

In January 2017, I had the privilege to personally visit Bridgton Hospital and speak with their healthcare experts and providers. This hospital stands as a shining example of how strong leadership and compassion for the community results in a successful organization. Bridgton Hospital has played an instrumental role in ensuring safe and quality healthcare in Maine. I wish to join the entire Bridgton community in congratulating Bridgton Hospital on their centennial achievement and thank them for their immeasurable service to the State of Maine.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL KELLEY KASH

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and thank Col. Kelley Kash for his exceptional service to our Nation while serving in the U.S. Air Force, as well as his leadership as the CEO of Maine Veterans' Homes, MVH, a post he has held since 2007.

Colonel Kash grew up in a military family. His father was a career Army officer and flew helicopters in Vietnam. While not a native of Maine, Colonel Kash first moved to the State of Maine to attend Colby College in Waterville, where he graduated in 1981 with a bachelor of arts in classics. He then went on to earn his master of science in hospital and health services administration from Ohio State University, before earning a commission in the U.S. Air Force in 1984. As deputy commander of an air transportable hospital, he provided medical support to deployed U.S. forces in support of Operation Provide Comfort, as well as medical care to over 5,000 indigent Haitian patients. In his final assignment, he served as commander of the 18th Medical Group, the largest U.S. Air Force medical unit in the Pacific.

Upon his retirement from Active Duty in 2007, the veterans community of Maine was fortunate to gain a profound leader when Colonel Kash was hired as the CEO of Maine Veterans' Home. During his tenure as CEO, he directed a successful national effort that inspired Federal legislation to correct serious underfunding problems with the new VA program for severely disabled veterans receiving care in State veterans homes.

While his efforts and achievements both in the Air Force and with MVH are notable, a few highlights that illustrate his leadership are MVH Scarborough became the first nursing home in Maine to achieve the rare Gold Excellence in Quality Award by the American Health Care Association and one of only 31 awarded nationally since 1997. Not only have all six facilities in Maine been recognized for providing quality customer services, but they have also achieved the elite Silver Achievement in Quality Award. Four MVH facilities are currently at the highest five-star overall rating by the Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services for survey results, staffing, and quality indicators.

Colonel Kash has prepared Maine Veterans' Home for long-term success by completing a strategic master plan for all MVH campuses with the goal of better delivering resident-directed care in ''home'' environments using small-house model design principles. His plan includes over $200 million worth of funding spanning over the next 15 years. His plan is already underway with modernizations projects occurring at various MVH locations in Maine, including a state-of-the-art therapy and rehab addition at Bangor, a multipurpose room addition at Machias, and decentralized dining projects at Scarborough, Bangor, and South Paris. Colonel Kash's leadership has led Maine Veterans' Homes to remarkable transformations and major success in providing better care for Maine's veterans. On behalf of veterans communities across the State of Maine, I want to thank Colonel Kash for his commitment to providing excellent care and access to services for our veterans.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT WILLIAM T. MAHONEY

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute and honor the distinguished service of one of my former Defense fellows, Marine Corps MGySgt William T. Mahoney. Will and his family have faithfully served our Nation for 30 years, and for that, we are forever grateful. Will's service has always been exemplary, and he will be sorely missed as he moves on to enjoy his well-deserved retirement.

Will enlisted in the Marine Corps on January 7, 1987, and attended basic training in Parris Island, SC. His occupational specialty training as a ground-to-air missile systems operator took place at Fort Bliss in El Paso, TX. Tours in Yuma, AZ, and Okinawa, Japan, followed, with deployments to San Clemente Island, CA, and South Korea.

Will was selected for Marine security guard duty while in Japan and, after graduating, went to school in Quantico, VA, and served at the U.S. Embassy security detachments in Vienna, Austria, and Lusaka, Zambia. Upon his return to the United States, he was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point, NC. Following this tour, Will was assigned to 8th Marine Corps District Recruiting Headquarters in New Orleans, LA.

Selected for Marine security guard duty for a second time while serving in New Orleans, Will returned to Quantico for training as a security detachment commander. After completing his training as the class honor graduate, Will assumed command of the Marine detachment at the American Embassy in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He later served as command of the security detachment in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia, where he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of gunnery sergeant and selected for instructor duty in Quantico.

Will served as an instructor-adviser and the operations chief for Marine Corps Embassy Security Guard School, where he was responsible for training the men and women who guard America's embassies and consulates around the world. Upon completion of that tour, Will was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station, New River, NC. He deployed to Anbar Province, Iraq, in late 2008.

While serving in Iraq, Will was selected for the prestigious congressional fellowship program, one of only four enlisted servicemembers to have been selected for this program at that time. After returning stateside in August 2009 and completing several months of familiarization training and education in Washington, DC, he was assigned to serve as a member of my legislative staff. Will provided invaluable insight on matters ranging from the New START Nuclear Disarmament Treaty to veterans' affairs issues to weapons procurement programs for the Department of Defense.

Following his fellowship in my office, Will was assigned as the senior enlisted adviser to the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. In this position, he advised senior Department of Defense officials on all matters pertaining to the enlisted members of the Armed Forces, their families, and retirees. Additionally, Will assumed the additional duty of senior enlisted adviser to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs for more than 2 years, providing senior military medical leadership with a line perspective on many initiatives and policies.

After completing his time in the Pentagon, Will was selected to serve as the senior enlisted adviser to the director of the White House Military Office, WHMO. In this position, he advised the director and other senior White House officials on all matters pertaining to the members of the Armed Forces assigned to support the office of the Presidency.

Will's humble character rarely does justice to his accomplishments and accolades. However, he does speak very proudly of his wife, Claire, and their three daughters, Katrina, Shannon, and Sophie. Military families are true testaments of both strength and pride. They are constantly challenged by deployments, changes in duty stations, and uncertainties. These hurdles create resiliency, which the Mahoney family patriotically embodies. Will's family is his pride and joy and will be equally missed by all they have served with.

While we will miss seeing Will in uniform, his future endeavors will continue to make us proud. I want to again thank Will and his family for their service to our great Nation and congratulate him on his retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CONNOR WESTLAKE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, Connor Westlake of Bozeman, MT, is a driven, determined and diligent 19-year-old who has proven to be a leader among his peers and in his community. As an athlete, Connor has had a distinguished career and was awarded the Christian Character Award by the Montana Christian Athletic Association These experiences have led him to apply his leadership in the service of our Nation's defense, continuing the legacy of military service of his grandfathers, U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy; and uncles, U.S. Navy.

Connor has spent the past year preparing to enter the U.S. Army, where he plans to serve his country in Special Forces with the Green Berets. He will war the uniform for the first time later this month upon arrival at Fort Benning, GA, where he will be among a group of highly qualified recruits who will proceed directly from initial entry training to Special Forces training. Upon completion of the rigorous and challenging 2-year training, Connor will become a member of one of the best and most highly skilled combat forces in the world.

I join the Westlake family in praying for his success and safety and thank Connor as he pursues this noble calling of service.●

TRIBUTE TO DON SLAZNIK

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the distinguished career of Marshal Don Slaznik of O'Fallon, IL. Don is retiring as U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois, a position that he has the distinction of having held under three Presidents, being first nominated by President Bush and confirmed in 2002 and retained by President Obama in 2009.

Don has served his country with dignity and honor as an Active-Duty member of the U.S. Marines and the U.S. Army in the 1960s and 1970s.

Since then, he has been the chief of police in Poplar Bluff, MO, Storm Lake, IA, and O'Fallon, IL, and served in leadership positions with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Southern Illinois Police Chief's Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

In 2015, under Don's leadership, the Southern District of Illinois received the highest award given by the U.S. Marshal's Service: the Distinguished District Award.

While he will be missed, we will remember this public citizen for his tireless, dedicated, and honorable commitment to service Many thanks to U.S. Marshal Slaznik and his family for their sacrifices and contributions to our community.

Thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH ATWOOD

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, this month, I have the distinct honor of recognizing Elizabeth Atwood, of Rochester, NH, as our Granite Stater of the Month for her contributions to her community as a capacity building specialist with SOS Recovery Community Organization, where she helps individuals who are struggling with substance misuse access recovery services and support networks.

As someone who struggled with substance misuse herself, Elizabeth has shown tremendous courage in telling her own story of accessing treatment and recovery services. At New Horizons homeless shelter, Elizabeth received help enrolling in Medicaid, allowing her to undergo treatment for substance use disorder, improve her physical health, and receive counseling. Through her perseverance and determination, Elizabeth regained custody of her son, gained employment, and now receives health insurance coverage through her employer.

Now working at SOS Recovery Community Organization, Elizabeth provides incredible value to her community, working tirelessly to help individuals struggling with substance use disorder. Elizabeth does everything from helping create policy and procedures and offering trainings to community members, to helping find detox beds for people who come into the Rochester facility.

As many Granite Staters like Elizabeth know, the heroin, fentanyl, and opioid crisis is the most pressing public health and safety challenge facing New Hampshire. Now more than ever, New Hampshire needs more people like Elizabeth who are dedicated to helping combat this crisis. I am deeply grateful for the courage she has shown in telling her inspirational story and her drive to help others who face the same challenges she did. Elizabeth represents the best of New Hampshire, and I am honored to recognize her as our Granite Stater of the month.●

TRIBUTE TO SARKIS TATIGIAN

● Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Sarkis Tatigian, who will achieve the extraordinary milestone of 75 years of combined military and civilian service to the United States on September 26, 2017. Eligible for retirement since 1973, Mr. Tatigian has continued to honor America through his faithful service. Currently the associate director of the Small Business Programs Office at Naval Sea Systems Command, NAVSEA, Mr. Tatigian is a champion for our Navy, our small business community, and our country.

Mr. Tatigian began his civilian career with the Navy in July 1942 as a junior radio inspector at the naval aircraft factory in the Philadelphia Navy Yard and the Navy Office of Inspector of Naval Aircraft in Linden, NJ. He left his position as an inspector in March 1943 and entered the uniformed Navy as an Active-Duty sailor in April 1943. In June 1944, as an aviation electronics technician's mate, he aided in the development of the Navy's first guided antiship munition, the ASM-N–2 ''BAT'' glide bomb, which later became an operational weapon in January 1945.

In 1943, Mr. Tatigian began his Federal civil service with NAVSEA, where he still works today. Throughout his long career, he has received numerous awards, including the Navy's Superior Civilian Service Award in 2007. In recognition of his exceptional accomplishments in service, the Navy has even named an award after him, the Sarkis Tatigian Small Business Award, which recognizes outstanding performance through organizational culture and command climate.

At 95 years young, Mr. Tatigian's dedication and resolve are inspirational. We can all learn a great deal about service to country and the American spirit from his great example. On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you, Mr. Sarkis Tatigian, for all you have done for our people, our government, and our Navy.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 11, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3732. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2017 and 2018 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bill was signed on September 11, 2017, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. DAINES).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2773. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Black Stem Rust; Additions of Rust-Resistant Species and Varieties'' (APHIS–2017–0049) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2774. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''U.S. Standards for Grades of Shelled Walnuts and Walnuts in the Shell'' (AMS–SC–16–0005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2775. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting a report relative to the overall effectiveness of the property disposal process from prior Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) rounds; to the Committees on Armed Services; and Appropriations.

EC–2776. A communication from the Principal Director (Force Resiliency), performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to aggregate amounts identified for Reserve Component equipment and construction in future-years defense programs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2777. A communication from the Director, Naval Reactors, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program's reports on environmental monitoring and radioactive waste disposal, radiation exposure, and occupational safety and health, as well as a report providing an overview of the Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2778. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General David E. Quantock, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2779. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2780. A communication from the Attorney Advisor and Federal Register Certifying Officer, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Government Participation in the Automated Clearing House'' (RIN1510–AA14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2781. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2782. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was originally declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2783. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–2784. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2785. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Automated Indicator Sharing: Fiscal Year 2016 Report to Congress Implementing the 'Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015' ''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2786. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report relative to Hurricane Harvey funding; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–2787. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Loan Programs Office, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturer Assistance Program'' (10 CFR Part 611) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 1, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2788. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safeguarding of Restricted Data by Access Permittees'' (RIN1992–AA46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 1, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–2789. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval and Air Quality Designation; TN; Redesignation of the Knoxville 1997 Annual PM2.5 Nonattainment Area to Attainment'' (FRL No. 9966–92–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2790. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL No. 9965–15–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2791. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Louisville Miscellaneous Rule Revisions'' (FRL No. 9967–05–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2792. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Revisions to Jefferson County Emissions Monitoring and Reporting'' (FRL No. 9966–94–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2793. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference; Correction'' (FRL No. 9967–14–Region 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2794. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances'' ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL No. 9959–81)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2795. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; Imperial County Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Sources Permits'' (FRL No. 9965–89–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2796. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Authorization of State-initiated Changes and Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program'' (FRL No. 9966–55–Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2797. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Attainment Date Extensions for the Logan, Utah-Idaho 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9967–22–Regions 8 and 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2798. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Nevada; Regional Haze Progress Report; Correction'' (FRL No. 9966–82–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2799. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Rhode Island; Reasonably Available Control Technology for US Watercraft, LLC; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule'' (FRL No. 9967–29–Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2800. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Volatile Organic Compound Control Rules'' (FRL No. 9967–40–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2801. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Rules for Open Burning and Incinerators'' (FRL No. 9967–27–Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2802. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Redesignation of the Indiana Portion of the Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH–IN-KY Area to Attainment of the 1997 Annual Standard for Fine Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 9967–17–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2803. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Maine; New Motor Vehicle Emission Standards'' (FRL No. 9967–28–Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2804. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; AK, Fairbanks North Star Borough; 2006 PM2.5 Moderate Area Plan'' (FRL No. 9967–21–Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in

the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–2805. A communication from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's 2017 Annual Report of the Supplemental Security Income Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2806. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (P.L. 107–243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (P.L. 102–1) for the April 9, 2017–June 8, 2017 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2807. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom for the manufacture and assembly of F135 engine parts and components in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–035); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2808. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Israel in the amount of $25,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–052); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2809. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, defense services, and manufacturing know-how to the Republic of Korea to support the design and manufacture of Controllable Pitch Propellers and Shafting Systems for the Korean KDX–III Batch II Destroyer program in the amount of $15,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 16–124); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2810. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the United States Munitions List of 9mm semi-automatic pistols to Canada in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–062); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–2811. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting proposed legislation entitled ''Electronic Visa Update System''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2812. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Visas: Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended'' (RIN1400–AD30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2813. A communication from the Chief of Regulations Special Projects, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program'' (RIN2900–AP61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2814. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Armed Forces Retirement Home for fiscal years 2014, 2015, and 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–2815. A communication from the Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Scope of NTIA's Authority Regarding FirstNet Fees'' (RIN0660–AA30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 5, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2816. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prohibition of Children's Toys and Child Care Articles Containing Specified Phthalates: Determinations Regarding Certain Plastics'' (RIN3041–AD59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1790. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve college savings under section 529 programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1791. A bill to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the ''Former Presidents Act of 1958'', with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 1792. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide formula grants to States to improve higher education opportunities for foster youth and homeless youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1793. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance taxpayer rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 1794. A bill to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from proposing, finalizing, or disseminating regulations or assessments based upon science that is not transparent or reproducible; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1795. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless children and youths and foster care children and youth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. LEE):

S. 1796. A bill to require a report on the military and security ramifications of the new ground-launched cruise missile of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1797. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1798. A bill to establish a Federal standard in order to improve the Nation's resilience to current and future flood risk; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 1799. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1800. A bill to require a report on significant security risks of the national electric grid and the potential effect of any such security risks on the readiness of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1801. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to have an independent advocate for campus sexual assault prevention and response; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 372

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to ensure that merchandise arriving through the mail shall be subject to review by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and to require the provision of advance electronic information on shipments of mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and for other purposes.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to

authorize States to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through enhanced pediatric health homes, and for other purposes.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 482

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 497

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 and title 38, United States Code, to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to expand access to such care and services, and for other purposes.

S. 701

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 701, a bill to improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities.

S. 783

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 783, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services.

S. 787

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 787, a bill to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the effect of including telehealth services in Medicare health care delivery reform models.

S. 870

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 870, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to implement Medicare payment policies designed to improve management of chronic disease, streamline care coordination, and improve quality outcomes without adding to the deficit.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1028

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 1050

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1050, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1057

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1057, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to support States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1266, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations to investigate medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to require States to automatically register eligible voters to vote in elections for Federal offices, and for other purposes.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1568, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of President John F. Kennedy.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1697, a bill to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens and United States Citizens.

S. 1742

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1742, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an option for any citizen or permanent resident of the United States age 55 to 64 to buy into Medicare.

S. 1766

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1766, a bill to reauthorize the SAFER Act of 2013, and for other purposes.

S. 1768

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1768, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1776

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1776, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize energy programs through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

S. 1783

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1783, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each State to implement a process under which individuals who are 16 years of age may apply to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, to direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to increase the involvement of minors in public election activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1784

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1784, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the determination of cohort default rates and provide for enhanced civil penalties, to ensure personal liability of owners, officers, and executives of institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 61

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 61, a resolution calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States.

S. RES. 168

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 168, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

S. RES. 220

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 220, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices and condemning the practice of non-consenting organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 250

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 250, a resolution condemning horrific acts of violence against Burma's Rohingya population and calling on Aung San Suu Kyi to play an active role in ending this humanitarian tragedy.

AMENDMENT NO. 329

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 329 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 393

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 393 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 394

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 394 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 464

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 464 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 556

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 556 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 563

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 563 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 592

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 592 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 663

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 663 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 674

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 674 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 701

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 701 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 730

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 730 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 730 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 735

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 735 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe

military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 775

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 775 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 789

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 789 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 796

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 796 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 801

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 801 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 811

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 811 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 812

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 812 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 814

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 814 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 819

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 819 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 826

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 826 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 828

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 828 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 843

At the request of Mr. STRANGE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 843 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 850

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 850 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 853

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 853 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 891

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 891 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 893

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 893 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 906

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 906 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 930

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 930 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1793. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance taxpayer rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the IRS has never been, and likely will never be, an agency anyone is glad to hear from.

However, American taxpayers should at least have confidence that they will receive a fair shake from the agency. Without this, our system of taxation that relies on voluntary reporting of income will fall apart.

In recent years, gross mismanagement and inappropriate actions by certain IRS employees have shaken what confidence taxpayers have had in the agency.

Today, Senator THUNE and I are reintroducing legislation we introduced last Congress aimed at ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect taxpayer rights by preventing IRS abuses.

Called the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Enhancement Act (TBORE), our bill updates and strengthens several provisions enacted in prior Taxpayer Bill of Rights legislation.

I am pleased that several of the provisions in last Congress' version of the bill were enacted into law, including codifying the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

However, more must be done if we are going to renew the taxpaying public's confidence in the IRS.

No legislation is likely to fix all of the IRS recent shortcomings on its own. There is a need for a change of culture within the IRS.

We hope our bill will serve as a catalyst for a cultural shift within the IRS. Our bill sends a clear message to the IRS—Congress is not going to tolerate poor service and the systematic abuse of taxpayer rights.

We look forward to working with our colleagues toward reforming the IRS and protecting taxpayer rights.

By Mr VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1798. A bill to establish a Federal standard in order to improve the Nation's resilience to current and future flood risk; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, today I would like to discuss the importance of ensuring that federally funded infrastructure projects are built to withstand flood damage.

As we work to provide Federal support to the people of Texas, Florida, and the Gulf Coast, Congress should consider how we can ensure that our roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure are better equipped to withstand future flooding.

In 2015, President Obama signed an executive order to reinforce and expand existing policy regarding Federal action in a floodplain, directing agencies to use a higher vertical flood elevation and horizontal floodplain for federally funded projects. This was a commonsense step to improve our resilience in the face of increased flood risk.

Then last month, President Trump signed an executive order to reverse his predecessor's action. Despite support from groups ranging from environmentalists to the insurance industry, the President has decided to undo what a former director of public affairs at FEMA called ''the most significant action taken in a generation to safeguard U.S. infrastructure.''

We must prepare our Nation's critical infrastructure to deal with flooding. That is why I am I, along with Senators SCHATZ and BOOKER, am introducing the Flood Risk Management Act of 2017. This bill will codify common-sense flood standards and ensure that federally funded infrastructure projects are built to withstand flood damage. The legislation is supported by the Smarter Safer Coalition, a diverse group of organizations ranging from insurance groups, environmental organizations to taxpayer advocates.

If we fail to invest when our roads and bridges are being built, we risk the lives of American families and ultimately spend more taxpayer dollars to repair them after floods occur. Now is the time to prepare for the next disaster—not after it occurs.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1801. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to have an independent advocate for campus sexual assault prevention and response, to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, sexual assault is a major issue on our Nation's college campuses. Too many young people are sexually assaulted while in school. Alarmingly, the majority of these crimes will go unreported. The consequences of these crimes are often destructive to a student's mental, physical, and emotional well-being. In addition, the trauma of the assault and its aftermath drives many survivors to drop out of school.

Sexual assault survivors deserve access to a safe and supportive educational environment. I have met with students in Virginia and across the Country who have expressed the need for someone on campus to turn to for unbiased advice and guidance following an assault. Given the prevalence of this issue, it is clear that our federal higher education policy must do more to prevent sexual assaults and ensure that survivors have access to and can navigate through a plethora of resources.

This is why I am pleased to introduce today the Survivor Outreach and Support Campus Act of 2017 or SOS Campus Act. The SOS Campus Act requires universities that receive Federal funding to establish an independent, on-campus advocate for survivors of sexual assault. The advocate will help students access all of the resources available to them, both on and off campus, in the wake of a sexual assault and will guide them through the process of reporting their assault if they choose to do so, acting always in the interests of the victim, not the university.

The SOS Campus Act requires that the confidential advocate is responsible for ensuring that survivors, regardless of whether they decide to report the crime, have access to emergency and follow-up medical care, guidance on reporting assaults to law enforcement, medical forensic or evidentiary exams, crisis intervention, and information on their legal rights. The advocate will also conduct a public information campaign on campus to inform students of their services, and train other university staff to provide information to students about the advocate.

I am proud to introduce this legislation that would ensure all college students across our Country have access to a supportive advocate following a sexual assault on campus. I strongly ertdourage my colleagues in the Senate to consider this legislation to help protect our students from sexual violence and its damaging impact.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 940. Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COTTON, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 941. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 942. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 943. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 944. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 945. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 946. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 947. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 948. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 949. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 950. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 951. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 952. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 953. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 954. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 955. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 956. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 957. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 958. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 959. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 960. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 961. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 962. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 963. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 964. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 965. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 966. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 967. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 968. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 969. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 970. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 971. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 972. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 973. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 974. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 975. Ms. STABENOW submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 976. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 977. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 770, to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to disseminate resources to help reduce small business cybersecurity risks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 978. Mr. MCCAIN (for Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. CRUZ)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 979. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 980. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 981. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 982. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 983. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 984. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 985. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 986. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 987. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 988. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 989. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 990. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 991. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 992. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 993. Mr. MCCAIN (for Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 994. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 995. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 996. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 997. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 998. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 999. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1000. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1001. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 940. Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COTTON, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____. INTERIM COMBAT SERVICE RIFLE.

(a) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Army is authorized to expedite acquiring a commercially available off-the-shelf item, non-developmental item, or Government-off-the-shelf materiel solution for an Interim Combat Service Rifle for purposes of defeating the evolving threat that has placed the United States Armed Forces at increased risk.

(b) ACCELERATION OF RELATED PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To ensure a complete capability is fielded simultaneously with the acquisition program authorized under subsection (a), the Secretary is also authorized to use funding under the program to accelerate by one year the Squad Designated Marksman Rifle program and by two years the Advanced Armor Piercing ammunition program.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The authority under this subsection does not supersede the requirement to develop a Next Generation Squad Weapon.

SA 941. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 85, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

''(7)(A) The installation commander of a military installation impacted by a proposed energy project shall submit to the Clearinghouse a statement of objection or non-objection regarding the impact of proposed project.

''(B) The statement shall include the following elements:

''(i) An analysis of the impact on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness.

''(ii) A detailed description of any potential negative impacts on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness.

''(iii) Any additional information the installation commander determines relevant for consideration in the evaluation process.

''(iv) A statement of objection or non-objection.

''(C) The installation commander's recommendation shall be incorporated into the Clearinghouse analysis and made a matter of permanent record.

''(D) Any decision by the Clearinghouse that contradicts the installation commander recommendation shall be accompanied by a report addressing all the points made in the installation commander's statement, and describe how any impacts on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness will be prevented.''.

SA 942. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT OF E–8 JSTARS AIRCRAFT.

(a) PROHIBITION ON AVAILABLE OF FUNDS FOR RETIREMENT.—No funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2018 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup aircraft inventory status any E–8 JSTARS aircraft.

(b) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON RETIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the limitation in subsection (a), during the period before December 31, 2018, the Secretary of the Air Force may not retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup flying status any E–8 JSTARS aircraft.

(2) MINIMUM INVENTORY REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall ensure the Air Force maintains the entire current fleet of E–8 aircraft as primary mission aircraft inventory.

(c) PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN MANNING LEVELS.—No funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act of otherwise made available for fiscal year 2018 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to make significant reductions to manning levels with respect to any E–8 JSTARS aircraft wing or squadron.

(d) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION ON SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN MANNING LEVELS.—In addition to the limitation in subsection (c), during the period before December 31, 2018, the Secretary of the Air Force may not make significant reductions to manning levels with respect to any E–8 JSTARS wing or squadron.

SEC. ____. REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUATION OF E–8 JSTARS RECAPITALIZATION PROGRAM.

The Secretary of the Air Force shall continue the current recapitalization plan for the E–8C JSTARS fleet until the Secretary of Defense certifies that a new approach would not result in increased capability gaps in Battlefield Management, Command and Control/Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (BMC2/ISR).

SA 943. Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. ____. JOINT USE OF DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, MARIETTA, GEORGIA, WITH CIVIL AVIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air Force may enter into an agreement that would provide or permit the joint use of Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Marietta, Georgia, by the Air Force and civil aircraft.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 312 of the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 (Public Law 100–456; 102 Stat. 1950) is hereby repealed.

SA 944. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. ____. ELEMENT IN NEXT QUADRENNIAL REVIEW OF MILITARY COMPENSATION ON VALUE ASSIGNED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MILITARY COMPENSATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ensure that the first quadrennial review of the principals and concepts of the compensation system for members of the uniformed services under section 1008(b) of title 37, United States Code, after the date of the enactment of this Act includes a review of the comparative value members of the Armed Forces assign to various aspects of military compensation, including immediate and deferred cash compensation and in-kind compensation.

(b) SURVEYS.—The review required by subsection (a) shall be based on an analysis of one or more surveys, conducted for purposes of the review, of representative populations of members of the Armed Forces, including regular members of the Armed Forces and members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

(c) INCLUSION IN REPORT.—The President shall include the results of the review required by subsection (a) in the first report submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1008(b) of title 37, after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 945. Mr. FLAKE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title X, add the following:

SEC. ____. INFORMATION ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDING IN DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASES AND RELATED PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(a) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 134 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2257 the following new section:

''§ 2258. Department of Defense press releases and related public statements on Department funded programs, projects, and activities

''Any press release, statement, or other document issued to the public by the Department of Defense that describes a program, project, or activity funded, whether in whole or in part, by amounts provided by the Department, including any project, project, or activity of a foreign, State, or local government, shall clearly state the following:

''(1) That the program, project, or activity is funded, in whole or in part (as applicable), by funds provided by the Department.

''(2) An estimate of the amount of funding from the Department that the program, project, or activity currently receives.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 134 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2257 the following new item:

''2258. Department of Defense press releases and related public statements on Department funded programs, projects, and activities.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the

date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to programs, projects, and activities funded by the Department of Defense with amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years after fiscal year 2018.

SA 946. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF THE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT OF THE ADVANCED TURBINE ENGINE ARMY MAINTENANCE OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

No action may be taken to reduce the capability of, or to eliminate or transfer the tools and equipment of, the Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance (ATEAM) of the Army National Guard until the Secretary of Defense certifies each of the following:

(1) That Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance capabilities relating to the capability do not result in any cost avoidance or savings to the Department of Defense.

(2) That there is no existing or anticipated requirement for Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance technical expertise and capabilities among any Armed Force or the militaries of United States allies (through the Foreign Military Sales program) that cannot be done by another capability in the Department of Defense.

(3) That there is no existing or anticipated requirement to support and maintain readiness of any unit of the Armed Forces, including Army National Guard units in the Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee, or any other unit of the Army National Guard under the control of a State, that may require the capabilities of the Advanced Turbine Engine Army Maintenance for on-site repair or field support during training events or otherwise that cannot be done by another capability in the Department.

SA 947. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. ARMY MILITARY VALUE ANALYSIS MODEL.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the Military Value Analysis model of the Army has been a key determinant for the force structure and strategic basing decisions of the Army in recent years.

(b) BRIEFING.—The Secretary of the Army shall, pending the submittal of the report required by subsection (c), provide the congressional defense committees a briefing on the preliminary findings of a force structure and basing decision for the Army not later than 60 days before making a formal or final decision on such force structure and basing.

(c) REPORT ON UPDATED MODEL.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an update of the Military Value Analysis model of the Army.

(2) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall update the Military Value Analysis model for purposes of the report required by paragraph (1) following a review undertaken by the Secretary for purposes of the update. The review and update shall address and appropriately incorporate the following:

(A) Qualitative and quantitative criteria and sub-criteria to be used for force structure and strategic basing decisions, including quantitative and qualitative measures on the average daily use of, and accessibility to, maneuver training acreage.

(B) Deployment criteria using a measure of the time required to deploy a unit of action from its home installation to its deployment site, including the transportation of unit personnel by military aircraft, and transportation of the commonly defined set of unit equipment to its designated out-port for deployment.

(d) SCORING DATA FOR FORCE STRUCTURE AND MAJOR BASING DECISIONS.—After making a force structure or major basing decision for the Army, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the scoring data developed pursuant to the Military Value Analysis model of the Army with respect to each military installation considered for purposes of the decision.

SA 948. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1630C. NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU PUBLIC-PRIVATE CYBER-SECURITY COALITION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Guard Bureau shall establish regionally focused coalitions, tasked with creating cross-functional partnerships and strategies to coordinate and share information among local, regional, and national entities, both public and private, in order to protect vital assets in the cyber realm.

(2) BLENDING SKILL SETS.—The coalitions established under paragraph (1) shall seek to create partnerships described in such paragraph that blend divergent skill sets to collaborate on joint defense of public and private systems that each face cyber assault.

(3) COORDINATION, COOPERATION, AND SHARED ANALYSIS.—Such partnerships shall address threats equally shared among the entities participating in the partnerships through local coordination, shared cooperation, and shared analysis across the overarching cyber defense network.

(b) GOAL.—The goal of the coalitions established under subsection (a) is to coordinate National Guard State cyber protection assets and to collaborate with locally based Federal agencies and private industry stakeholders in order to broaden the collective intellectual capital, to strengthen active participation and sharing of information, to integrate new threat mitigation strategies, and to grow the cyber network through shared experience.

(c) DUTIES.—The coalitions established under subsection (a) shall carry out the following:

(1) Development of a framework for the conduct by relevant public and private cyber-enabled entities, while coordinating with regional assets of the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Security Agency, and the Department of Defense, as appropriate.

(2) Dissemination of common operating paradigms across relevant organizations specified in paragraph (1) to promote active participation in a shared goal of national asset protection through a regionally focused coalitions.

(3) Collection across local entities for consolidating, packaging, and sharing data to the Department of Defense, intelligence agencies, or relevant organizations for analysis.

(4) Using already established State fusion center partnerships as a template, the National Guard shall assess individual State cyber assets and capabilities currently collaborating with local agencies and private industry for proper synchronization in the cyber and critical infrastructure realms as a bridge for cooperation with Federal defense agencies writ large.

(d) HEAD OF CROSS-FUNCTIONAL TASK.—The Director of the National Guard Bureau shall appoint as the head of each coalition established under subsection (a) such individual as the Director considers appropriate from among individuals serving in the region of interest a State adjutant general. In cases where regional priorities overlap, the adjutant generals for States involved will co-chair the coalition.

(e) PERIODIC STATUS REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once every 180 days thereafter until the date that is three years after the date of such submittal, the Director shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing the status of the efforts of the Director to carry out this section and the efforts of the coalitions to carry out subsection (c).

SA 949. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle H—Modernizing Government Technology

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2017'' or the ''MGT Act''.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) BOARD.—The term ''Board'' means the Technology Modernization Board established under section 1094(c)(1).

(3) CLOUD COMPUTING.—The term ''cloud computing'' has the meaning given the term by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in NIST Special Publication 800–145 and any amendatory or superseding document thereto.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the Technology Modernization Fund established under section 1094(b)(1).

(6) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''information technology'' has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(7) IT WORKING CAPITAL FUND.—The term ''IT working capital fund'' means an information technology system modernization and working capital fund established under section 1093(b)(1).

(8) LEGACY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM.—The term ''legacy information technology system'' means an outdated or obsolete system of information technology.

SEC. 1093. ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION AND WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered agency'' means each agency listed in section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM MODERNIZATION AND WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The head of a covered agency may establish within the covered agency an information technology system modernization and working capital fund for necessary expenses described in paragraph (3).

(2) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—The following amounts may be deposited into an IT working capital fund:

(A) Reprogramming and transfer of funds made available in appropriations Acts enacted after the date of enactment of this Act, including the transfer of any funds for the operation and maintenance of legacy information technology systems, in compliance with any applicable statutory transfer authority or reprogramming law or guidelines of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives or transfer authority specifically provided in appropriations law as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) Amounts made available to the IT working capital fund through discretionary appropriations made available after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An IT working capital fund established under paragraph (1) may only be used—

(A) to improve, retire, or replace existing information technology systems in the covered agency to enhance cybersecurity and to improve efficiency and effectiveness across the life of a given workload, procured using full and open competition among all commercial items to the greatest extent practicable;

(B) to transition legacy information technology systems at the covered agency to commercial cloud computing and other innovative commercial platforms and technologies, including those serving more than 1 covered agency with common requirements;

(C) to assist and support covered agency efforts to provide adequate, risk-based, and cost-effective information technology capabilities that address evolving threats to information security; and

(D) to reimburse funds transferred to the covered agency from the Fund with the approval of the Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, of the covered agency.

(4) EXISTING FUNDS.—An IT working capital fund may not be used to supplant funds provided for the operation and maintenance of any system within an appropriation for the covered agency at the time of establishment of the IT working capital fund.

(5) PRIORITIZATION OF FUNDS.—The head of each covered agency—

(A) shall prioritize funds within the IT working capital fund of the covered agency to be used initially for cost savings activities approved by the Chief Information Officer of the covered agency; and

(B) may reprogram and transfer any amounts saved as a direct result of the cost savings activities approved under clause (i) for deposit into the IT working capital fund of the covered agency, consistent with paragraph (2)(A).

(6) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any funds deposited into an IT working capital fund shall be available for obligation for the 3-year period beginning on the last day of the fiscal year in which the funds were deposited.

(B) TRANSFER OF UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts in an IT working capital fund that are unobligated at the end of the 3-year period described in subparagraph (A) shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury.

(7) AGENCY CIO RESPONSIBILITIES.—In evaluating projects to be funded by the IT working capital fund of a covered agency, the Chief Information Officer of the covered agency shall consider, to the extent applicable, guidance issued under section 1094(b)(1) to evaluate applications for funding from the Fund that include factors including a strong business case, technical design, consideration of commercial off-the-shelf products and services, procurement strategy (including adequate use of rapid, iterative software development practices), and program management.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 6 months thereafter, the head of each covered agency shall submit to the Director, with respect to the IT working capital fund of the covered agency—

(A) a list of each information technology investment funded, including the estimated cost and completion date for each investment; and

(B) a summary by fiscal year of obligations, expenditures, and unused balances.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall make the information submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on a website.

SEC. 1094. ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FUND AND BOARD.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a Technology Modernization Fund for technology-related activities, to improve information technology, to enhance cybersecurity across the Federal Government, and to be administered in accordance with guidance issued by the Director.

(2) ADMINISTRATION OF FUND.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Chief Information Officers Council and with the approval of the Director, shall administer the Fund in accordance with this subsection.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—The Administrator shall, in accordance with recommendations from the Board, use amounts in the Fund—

(A) to transfer such amounts, to remain available until expended, to the head of an agency for the acquisition of products and services, or the development of such products and services when more efficient and cost effective, to improve, retire, or replace existing Federal information technology systems to enhance cybersecurity and privacy and improve long-term efficiency and effectiveness;

(B) to transfer such amounts, to remain available until expended, to the head of an agency for the operation and procurement of information technology products and services, or the development of such products and services when more efficient and cost effective, and acquisition vehicles for use by agencies to improve Governmentwide efficiency and cybersecurity in accordance with the requirements of the agencies; and

(C) to provide services or work performed in support of—

(i) the activities described in subparagraph (A) or (B); and

(ii) the Board and the Director in carrying out the responsibilities described in subsection (c)(2).

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; CREDITS; AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund $250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

(B) CREDITS.—In addition to any funds otherwise appropriated, the Fund shall be credited with all reimbursements, advances, or refunds or recoveries relating to information technology or services provided for the purposes described in paragraph (3).

(C) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited, credited, or otherwise made available to the Fund shall be available until expended for the purposes described in paragraph (3).

(5) REIMBURSEMENT.—

(A) REIMBURSEMENT BY AGENCY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency shall reimburse the Fund for any transfer made under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3), including any services or work performed in support of the transfer under paragraph (3)(C), in accordance with the terms established in a written agreement described in paragraph (6).

(ii) REIMBURSEMENT FROM SUBSEQUENT APPROPRIATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an agency may make a reimbursement required under clause (i) from any appropriation made available after the date of enactment of this Act for information technology activities, consistent with any applicable reprogramming law or guidelines of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(iii) RECORDING OF OBLIGATION.—Notwithstanding section 1501 of title 31, United States Code, an obligation to make a payment under a written agreement described in paragraph (6) in a fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act shall be recorded in the fiscal year in which the payment is due.

(B) PRICES FIXED BY ADMINISTRATOR.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Director, shall establish amounts to be paid by an agency under this paragraph and the terms of repayment for activities funded under paragraph (3), including any services or work performed in support of that development under paragraph (3)(C), at levels sufficient to ensure the solvency of the Fund, including operating expenses.

(ii) REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—Before making any changes to the established amounts and terms of repayment, the Administrator shall conduct a review and obtain approval from the Director.

(C) FAILURE TO MAKE TIMELY REIMBURSEMENT.—The Administrator may obtain reimbursement from an agency under this paragraph by the issuance of transfer and counterwarrants, or other lawful transfer

documents, supported by itemized bills, if payment is not made by the agency during the 90-day period beginning after the expiration of a repayment period described in a written agreement described in paragraph (6).

(6) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before the transfer of funds to an agency under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3), the Administrator, in consultation with the Director, and the head of the agency shall enter into a written agreement—

(i) documenting the purpose for which the funds will be used and the terms of repayment, which may not exceed 5 years unless approved by the Director; and

(ii) which shall be recorded as an obligation as provided in paragraph (5)(A).

(B) REQUIREMENT FOR USE OF INCREMENTAL FUNDING, COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, AND RAPID, ITERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES.—The Administrator shall ensure—

(i) for any funds transferred to an agency under paragraph (3)(A), in the absence of compelling circumstances documented by the Administrator at the time of transfer, that such funds shall be transferred only on an incremental basis, tied to metric-based development milestones achieved by the agency through the use of rapid, iterative, development processes; and

(ii) that the use of commercial products and services are incorporated to the greatest extent practicable in activities funded under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3), and that the written agreement required under paragraph (6) documents this preference.

(7) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) LIST OF PROJECTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall maintain a list of each project funded by the Fund, to be updated not less than quarterly, that includes a description of the project, project status (including any schedule delay and cost overruns), financial expenditure data related to the project, and the extent to which the project is using commercial products and services, including if applicable, a justification of why commercial products and services were not used and the associated development and integration costs of custom development.

(ii) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The list required under clause (i) shall be published on a public website in a manner that is, to the greatest extent possible, consistent with applicable law on the protection of classified information, sources, and methods.

(B) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and make publically available a report assessing—

(i) the costs associated with establishing the Fund and maintaining the oversight structure associated with the Fund compared with the cost savings associated with the projects funded both annually and over the life of the acquired products and services by the Fund;

(ii) the reliability of the cost savings estimated by agencies associated with projects funded by the Fund;

(iii) whether agencies receiving transfers of funds from the Fund used full and open competition to acquire the custom development of information technology products or services; and

(iv) the number of IT procurement, development, and modernization programs, offices, and entities in the Federal Government, including 18F and the United States Digital Services, the roles, responsibilities, and goals of those programs and entities, and the extent to which they duplicate work.

(c) TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION BOARD.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Technology Modernization Board to evaluate proposals submitted by agencies for funding authorized under the Fund.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Board are—

(A) to provide input to the Director for the development of processes for agencies to submit modernization proposals to the Board and to establish the criteria by which those proposals are evaluated, which shall include—

(i) addressing the greatest security, privacy, and operational risks;

(ii) having the greatest Governmentwide impact; and

(iii) having a high probability of success based on factors including a strong business case, technical design, consideration of commercial off-the-shelf products and services, procurement strategy (including adequate use of rapid, agile iterative software development practices), and program management;

(B) to make recommendations to the Administrator to assist agencies in the further development and refinement of select submitted modernization proposals, based on an initial evaluation performed with the assistance of the Administrator;

(C) to review and prioritize, with the assistance of the Administrator and the Director, modernization proposals based on criteria established pursuant to subparagraph (A);

(D) to identify, with the assistance of the Administrator, opportunities to improve or replace multiple information technology systems with a smaller number of information technology services common to multiple agencies;

(E) to recommend the funding of modernization projects, in accordance with the uses described in subsection (b)(3), to the Administrator;

(F) to monitor, in consultation with the Administrator, progress and performance in executing approved projects and, if necessary, recommend the suspension or termination of funding for projects based on factors including the failure to meet the terms of a written agreement described in subsection (b)(6); and

(G) to monitor the operating costs of the Fund.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall consist of 7 voting members.

(4) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Board shall be the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government.

(5) PERMANENT MEMBERS.—The permanent members of the Board shall be—

(A) the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government; and

(B) a senior official from the General Services Administration having technical expertise in information technology development, appointed by the Administrator, with the approval of the Director.

(6) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—The other members of the Board shall be—

(i) 1 employee of the National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security, appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(ii) 4 employees of the Federal Government primarily having technical expertise in information technology development, financial management, cybersecurity and privacy, and acquisition, appointed by the Director.

(B) TERM.—Each member of the Board described in paragraph (A) shall serve a term of 1 year, which shall be renewable not more than 4 times at the discretion of the appointing Secretary or Director, as applicable.

(7) PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board may not receive additional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the Board.

(8) STAFF.—Upon request of the Chair of the Board, the Director and the Administrator may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any employee of the Federal Government to the Board to assist the Board in carrying out the functions of the Board.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the responsibilities described in subsection (b), the Administrator shall support the activities of the Board and provide technical support to, and, with the concurrence of the Director, oversight of, agencies that receive transfers from the Fund.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Administrator are—

(A) to provide direct technical support in the form of personnel services or otherwise to agencies transferred amounts under subsection (b)(3)(A) and for products, services, and acquisition vehicles funded under subsection (b)(3)(B);

(B) to assist the Board with the evaluation, prioritization, and development of agency modernization proposals.

(C) to perform regular project oversight and monitoring of approved agency modernization projects, in consultation with the Board and the Director, to increase the likelihood of successful implementation and reduce waste; and

(D) to provide the Director with information necessary to meet the requirements of subsection (b)(7).

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) SUNSET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that is 2 years after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States issues the third report required under subsection (b)(7)(B), the Administrator may not award or transfer funds from the Fund for any project that is not already in progress as of such date.

(2) TRANSFER OF UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which all projects that received an award from the Fund are completed, any amounts in the Fund shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury and shall be used for deficit reduction.

(3) TERMINATION OF TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION BOARD.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which all projects that received an award from the Fund are completed, the Technology Modernization Board and all the authorities of subsection (c) shall terminate.

SA 950. Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____. AUTHORITY TO INCREASE PRIMARY AIRCRAFT AUTHORIZATION OF AIR FORCE AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD A–10 AIRCRAFT UNITS FOR PURPOSES OF FACILITATING A–10 CONVERSION.

In the event that conversion of an A–10 aircraft unit is in the best interest of a long-term Air Force mission, the Secretary of the Air Force may increase the Primary Aircraft Authorization of Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard A–10 units to 24 aircraft to facilitate such conversion.

SA 951. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 99, line 21, insert after ''M–1 Garand,'' the following: ''M–1 Carbine,''.

SA 952. Mr. STRANGE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 564, line 11, insert after ''less'' the following: ''expenses for shipping, securing, inspecting, gunsmithing, cleaning, test-firing, marketing, and sales and other''.

SA 953. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. 338. REPORT ON OPTIMIZATION OF TRAINING IN AND MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bases, Ranges, and Airspace Directorate of the Air Force shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, submit to Congress a report on optimization of training in and management of special use airspace that includes the following:

(1) Best practices for the management of special use airspace including such practices that—

(A) result in cost savings relating to training;

(B) increase training opportunities for airmen;

(C) increase joint use of such airspace;

(D) improve coordination with respect to such airspace with—

(i) the Federal Aviation Administration;

(ii) Indian tribes; and

(iii) private landowners and other stakeholders; or

(E) improve the coordination of large force exercises, including the use of waivers or other exceptional measures.

(2) An assessment of whether the capacity of ranges, including limitations on flight operations, is adequate to meet current and future training needs.

(3) An assessment of whether the establishment of a dedicated squadron for the purpose of coordinating the use of a special use airspace at the installation located in that airspace would improve the achievement of the objectives described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1).

(4) Recommendations for improving the management and utilization of special use airspace to meet the objectives described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1) and to address any gaps in capacity identified under paragraph (2).

(b) SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''special use airspace'' means special use airspace designated under part 73 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SA 954. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. ENHANCEMENT OF ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF WORKING CAPITAL FUND ACTIVITIES.

Section 2208(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(e)'' ; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The accomplishment of the most economical and efficient organization and operation of working capital fund activities for the purposes of paragraph (1) shall include actions toward the following:

''(A) Implementation of a workload plan that optimizes the efficiency of the workforce operating within a working capital fund activity and reduces the rate structure.

''(B) Encouragement for a working capital fund activity to perform reimbursable work for other entities to sustain the efficient use of the workforce.

''(C) Unless otherwise impracticable, delegation of the approval process for the acceptance of work from other entities to the local command executive director of a working capital fund activity.''.

SA 955. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 504, add the following:

(c) DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE OF THE AIR FORCE.—Section 8037(e) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(e)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) If the Secretary of the Air Force elects to convene a selection board under section 611(a) of this title to consider eligible officers for selection to appointment as Deputy Judge Advocate General, the Secretary may, in connection with such consideration for selection—

''(A) treat any section in chapter 36 of this title referring to promotion to the next higher grade as if such section referred to promotion to a higher grade; and

''(B) waive section 619(a)(2) of this title if the Secretary determines that the needs of the Air Force require the waiver.''.

SA 956. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XXVI, insert the following:

SEC. ____. CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER AT JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Secretary of the Army may construct a National Guard readiness center at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.

SA 957. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 184, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

(4) To provide workforce training, in coordination with junior, community or technical colleges in the vicinity of the locations of the pilot program, private industry, and nonprofit organizations, for members of the Armed Forces participating in the pilot program to transition to jobs in the clean energy industry, including cyber and grid security, natural gas, solar, wind, and geothermal fields.

SA 958. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 184, line 2, strike ''satisfiable'' and insert ''fulfilled''.

On page 184, line 7, insert ''available pre-employment testing and'' after ''identify gaps in the''.

On page 184, line 13, insert ''testing or'' after ''receive''.

On page 187, line 14, insert ''public and private'' after ''using existing''.

On page 188, line 17, insert before the semicolon the following: '', and to determine the pre-employment testing that could be readily added to veterans workforce training programs to assist in that effort''.

On page 189, line 7, insert ''pre-employment testing,'' after ''credentials,''.

On page 191, line 2, insert ''or pre-employment testing'' after ''additional training''.

On page 191, line 5, insert before the semicolon the following: ''or testing''.

On page 191, line 8, insert before the period the following: '', including any cost borne by private entities''.

SA 959. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title IX, add the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of section 922 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2354) and the amendments made by that section (in this section collectively referred to as the ''covered authority'').

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A statement of the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict that is consistent with the covered authority, including an identification of any responsibilities to be divested by the Assistant Secretary pursuant to the covered authority.

(2) A resource-unconstrained analysis of manpower requirements necessary to satisfy the responsibilities akin to those of the Secretary of a military department that are specified by the covered authority.

(3) An accounting of civilian, military, and contractor personnel currently assigned to the fulfillment of the responsibilities akin to those of the Secretary of a military department that are specified by the covered authority, including responsibilities relating to budget, personnel, programs and requirements, acquisition, and special access programs.

(4) A description of actions taken to implement the covered authority as of the date of the report, including the assignment of any additional civilian, military, or contractor personnel to fulfill additional responsibilities akin to those of the Secretary of a military department that are specified by the covered authority.

(5) An explanation how the responsibilities akin to those of the Secretary of a military department that assigned to the Assistant Secretary by the covered authority will be fulfilled in the absence of additional personnel being assigned to the office of the Assistant Secretary.

(6) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

SA 960. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1088. RESEARCH ON CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIETNAM ERA EXPOSURES AND BILE DUCT CANCER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the National Academies conduct epidemiological research to determine whether there is a causal relationship between exposure described in subsection (b) and bile duct cancer.

(b) EXPOSURE DESCRIBED.—Exposure described in this subsection is exposure to—

(1) the range of phenoxy herbicides known to be present in Vietnam and the greater Southeast Asia region (Agent Blue, Orange, Pink, or White); or

(2) liver fluke.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If research conducted under subsection (a) indicates that there is at least suggestive evidence of causality between an exposure described in subsection (b) and bile duct cancer, the National Academies shall recommend to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, that a presumption of service-connection be established for bile duct cancer for purposes of health care and other benefits furnished to Vietnam era veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary.

(2) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving recommendations under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transmit those recommendations to Congress.

(d) VIETNAM ERA DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Vietnam era'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 961. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. ____. BRIEFING ON PLANS TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES.

Not later than December 1, 2017, the Secretary of Defense shall brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the Department's plans to develop and improve additive manufacturing, including the Department's plans to—

(1) develop military and quality assurance standards as quickly as possible;

(2) leverage current manufacturing institutes to conduct research in the validation of quality standards for additive manufactured parts; and

(3) further integrate additive manufacturing capabilities and capacity into the Department's organic depots, arsenals, and shipyards.

SA 962. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. ____. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States military is keenly aware of the need to support the families of those who serve our country.

(2) Military children face unique challenges in educational achievement due to frequent changes of station by, deployments by, and even injuries to their parents.

(3) Investing in quality education opportunities for all military children from cradle to career ensures parents are able to stay focused on the mission, and children are able to benefit from consistent relationships with caring teachers who support their early learning so they can be ready to excel in school.

(4) Investing in early learning for military children is an important element in a comprehensive strategy for ensuring a smart, skilled, and committed future national security workforce.

(5) To strengthen the global standing and military might of the United States, technology, and innovation, the Nation must continuously look for ways to strengthen early education of children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance to the Armed Forces in order to ensure the following:

(1) The placement of a priority on supporting early learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for children who are served in Military Child Development programs, at Department of Defense schools, and schools serving large military child populations.

(2) Support for efforts to ensure that teachers and other caregivers and staff serving military children have the training and skills necessary to implement instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that provides the necessary foundation for future learning and educational achievement in such areas.

(3) Training and curriculum specialists and other personnel who provide training and support to teachers of military children are sufficiently trained to support developmentally appropriate learning opportunities for such children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the progress made in improving educational opportunities and achievement for military children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(2) A description and assessment of efforts to implement the guidance issued under subsection (b).

(d) INDEPENDENT STUDY.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should, in partnership with the Secretaries of the military departments, conduct an independent evaluation of efforts to strengthen teaching of military children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including—

(1) assessments of the impact of curriculum and education programs in such areas on student achievement; and

(2) a comparison of the educational achievements of military children in such areas with the educational achievements of nonmilitary children in such areas.

SA 963. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. SENSE OF SENATE ON NAMING A DESTROYER OF THE NAVY AFTER THE LATE PATRICK GALLAGHER, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of the Navy should name an otherwise unnamed destroyer of the Navy on the Naval Vessel Register as of the date of the enactment of this Act, or an unnamed destroyer added to the Naval Vessel Register after that date, after the late Patrick Gallagher, United States Marine Corps, who was awarded the Navy Cross.

SA 964. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. _____. ADDITION OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE TO THE BERRY AMENDMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2533a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) Stainless steel flatware.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (3) of section 2533a(b) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to contracts entered into after the date occurring one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 965. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 322. REPORT ON RELEASE OF RADIUM OR RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL INTO THE GROUNDWATER NEAR THE INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT IN BETHPAGE, NEW YORK.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress an addendum to the report submitted to Congress in June 2017 entitled ''2017 Annual Report For Groundwater Impacts at Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant Bethpage, New York'' that would detail any releases by the Department of Defense of radium or radioactive material into the groundwater within a 75-mile radius of the industrial reserve plant in Bethpage, New York.

SA 966. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the funding table in section 4301, in the item relating to Environmental Restoration, Navy, strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert ''$323,000,000''.

In the funding table in section 4301, in the item relating to Total Miscellaneous Appropriations, strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert ''$1,494,291''.

In the funding table in section 4301, in the item relating to Total Operation & Maintenance, strike the amount in the Senate Authorized column and insert ''$194,945,230''.

SA 967. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the funds made available by this Act for Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization, Defense-wide, not less than $20,000,000 shall be used by the Air Force and not less than $15,000,000 shall be used by the Navy for mitigation efforts by impacted National Guard installations to take actions that mitigate identified sources of polyfluoroalkyl substances at sites as a result of surveys conducted by the Air Force or the Navy (as the case may be) so as to restore public confidence in potable water which may be affected in those sites.

(b) Not later than December 31, 2017, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing how the Secretary will allocate funds in accordance with subsection (a).

SA 968. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title V, add the following:

SEC. ____. BURDENS OF PROOF APPLICABLE TO INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEWS RELATED TO PROTECTED COMMUNICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND PROHIBITED RETALIATORY ACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as subsections (j) and (k), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection:

''(i) BURDENS OF PROOF.—The burdens of proof specified in section 1221(e) of title 5 shall apply in any investigation conducted by an Inspector General under subsection (c) or (d), any review performed by a board for the correction of military records under subsection (g), and any review conducted by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (h).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to allegations pending or submitted under section 1034 of title 10, United States Code, on or after that date.

SA 969. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANCE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense estimated that it would spend about $44,000,000 on the costs of implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. That includes maintaining and operating a fleet of two Open Skies OC-135 aircraft with accompanying facilities, services, and sensors, training and deploying Air Force flight crews, planning and conducting 18 flights, including training and observation, training and deploying United States observers during Open Skies flights conducted by the Russian Federation over United States territory, acquisition and fielding of two digital visual imaging systems digital electro-optical sensors, and more.

(2) Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated in a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on February 3, 2015, ''The Open Skies construct was designed for a different era. I am very concerned about how it's applied today.''. He stated in a hearing before the same committee on March 2, 2016, that the Open Skies Treaty gives the Russian Federation ''a significant advantage.''

(3) In a letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives in April 2015, Admiral Cecil Haney, then-commander of United States Strategic Command, stated that, ''The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States. . . . In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies

flights can overfly and collect on DoD and national security or national critical infrastructure.''.

(4) The report of the Department of State entitled ''2017 Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments'' expressed numerous concerns with the compliance of the Russian Federation with the Open Skies Treaty, including enforcing limits on flights over the Kaliningrad Oblast, denying flights near its border with the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia since 2010, and improperly applying the concept of ''force majeure'' to restrict flights over personnel movements of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation also improperly required Ukraine to pay in advance for its solo flights, which may provide grounds for Ukraine to make a determination of material breach.

(5) In response to a question about the participation of the Russian Federation in the Open Skies Treaty before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on June 13, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, ''There certainly appear to be violations of it.''.

(b) LIST OF LEGAL COUNTERMEASURES.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of legal countermeasures that—

(1) are available to the Department of Defense;

(2) are compliant with the Open Skies Treaty; and

(3) could be taken in response to the noncompliance of the Russian Federation with the Treaty.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 970. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANCE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense estimated that it would spend about $44,000,000 on the costs of implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. That includes maintaining and operating a fleet of two Open Skies OC-135 aircraft with accompanying facilities, services, and sensors, training and deploying Air Force flight crews, planning and conducting 18 flights, including training and observation, training and deploying United States observers during Open Skies flights conducted by the Russian Federation over United States territory, acquisition and fielding of two digital visual imaging systems digital electro-optical sensors, and more.

(2) Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated in a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on February 3, 2015, ''The Open Skies construct was designed for a different era. I am very concerned about how it's applied today.''. He stated in a hearing before the same committee on March 2, 2016, that the Open Skies Treaty gives the Russian Federation ''a significant advantage.''

(3) In a letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives in April 2015, Admiral Cecil Haney, then-commander of United States Strategic Command, stated that, ''The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States. . . . In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies flights can overfly and collect on DoD and national security or national critical infrastructure.''.

(4) The report of the Department of State entitled ''2017 Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments'' expressed numerous concerns with the compliance of the Russian Federation with the Open Skies Treaty, including enforcing limits on flights over the Kaliningrad Oblast, denying flights near its border with the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia since 2010, and improperly applying the concept of ''force majeure'' to restrict flights over personnel movements of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation also improperly required Ukraine to pay in advance for its solo flights, which may provide grounds for Ukraine to make a determination of material breach.

(5) In response to a question about the participation of the Russian Federation in the Open Skies Treaty before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on June 13, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, ''There certainly appear to be violations of it.''.

(b) LIST OF LEGAL COUNTERMEASURES.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of legal countermeasures that—

(1) are available to the Department of Defense;

(2) are compliant with the Open Skies Treaty; and

(3) could be taken in response to the noncompliance of the Russian Federation with the Treaty.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 971. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANCE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense estimated that it would spend about $44,000,000 on the costs of implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. That includes maintaining and operating a fleet of two Open Skies OC-135 aircraft with accompanying facilities, services, and sensors, training and deploying Air Force flight crews, planning and conducting 18 flights, including training and observation, training and deploying United States observers during Open Skies flights conducted by the Russian Federation over United States territory, acquisition and fielding of two digital visual imaging systems digital electro-optical sensors, and more.

(2) Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated in a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on February 3, 2015, ''The Open Skies construct was designed for a different era. I am very concerned about how it's applied today.''. He stated in a hearing before the same committee on March 2, 2016, that the Open Skies Treaty gives the Russian Federation ''a significant advantage.''

(3) In a letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives in April 2015, Admiral Cecil Haney, then-commander of United States Strategic Command, stated that, ''The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States. . . . In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies flights can overfly and collect on DoD and national security or national critical infrastructure.''.

(4) The report of the Department of State entitled ''2017 Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments'' expressed numerous concerns with the compliance of the Russian Federation with the Open Skies Treaty, including enforcing limits on flights over the Kaliningrad Oblast, denying flights near its border with the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia since 2010, and improperly applying the concept of ''force majeure'' to restrict flights over personnel movements of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation also improperly required Ukraine to pay in advance for its solo flights, which may provide grounds for Ukraine to make a determination of material breach.

(5) In response to a question about the participation of the Russian Federation in the Open Skies Treaty before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on June 13, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, ''There certainly appear to be violations of it.''.

(b) LIST OF LEGAL COUNTERMEASURES.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of legal countermeasures that—

(1) are available to the Department of Defense;

(2) are compliant with the Open Skies Treaty; and

(3) could be taken in response to the noncompliance of the Russian Federation with the Treaty.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 972. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANCE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense estimated that it would spend about $44,000,000 on the costs of implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. That includes maintaining and operating a fleet of two Open Skies OC-135 aircraft with accompanying facilities, services, and sensors, training and deploying Air Force flight crews, planning and conducting 18 flights, including training and observation, training and deploying United States observers during Open Skies flights conducted by the Russian Federation over United States territory, acquisition and fielding of two digital visual imaging systems digital electro-optical sensors, and more.

(2) Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated in a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on February 3, 2015, ''The Open Skies construct was designed for a different era. I am very concerned about how it's applied today.''. He stated in a hearing before the same committee on March 2, 2016, that the Open Skies Treaty gives the Russian Federation ''a significant advantage.''

(3) In a letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives in April 2015, Admiral Cecil Haney, then-commander of United States Strategic Command, stated that, ''The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States. . . . In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies flights can overfly and collect on DoD and national security or national critical infrastructure.''.

(4) The report of the Department of State entitled ''2017 Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments'' expressed numerous concerns with the compliance of the Russian Federation with the Open Skies Treaty, including enforcing limits on flights over the Kaliningrad Oblast, denying flights near its border with the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia since 2010, and improperly applying the concept of ''force majeure'' to restrict flights over personnel movements of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation also improperly required Ukraine to pay in advance for its solo flights, which may provide grounds for Ukraine to make a determination of material breach.

(5) In response to a question about the participation of the Russian Federation in the Open Skies Treaty before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on June 13, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, ''There certainly appear to be violations of it.''.

(b) LIST OF LEGAL COUNTERMEASURES.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of legal countermeasures that—

(1) are available to the Department of Defense;

(2) are compliant with the Open Skies Treaty; and

(3) could be taken in response to the noncompliance of the Russian Federation with the Treaty.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 973. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1641. MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NONCOMPLIANCE OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITH OPEN SKIES TREATY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In fiscal year 2017, the Department of Defense estimated that it would spend about $44,000,000 on the costs of implementation of the Open Skies Treaty. That includes maintaining and operating a fleet of two Open Skies OC-135 aircraft with accompanying facilities, services, and sensors, training and deploying Air Force flight crews, planning and conducting 18 flights, including training and observation, training and deploying United States observers during Open Skies flights conducted by the Russian Federation over United States territory, acquisition and fielding of two digital visual imaging systems digital electro-optical sensors, and more.

(2) Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated in a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on February 3, 2015, ''The Open Skies construct was designed for a different era. I am very concerned about how it's applied today.''. He stated in a hearing before the same committee on March 2, 2016, that the Open Skies Treaty gives the Russian Federation ''a significant advantage.''

(3) In a letter to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives in April 2015, Admiral Cecil Haney, then-commander of United States Strategic Command, stated that, ''The treaty has become a critical component of Russia's intelligence collection capability directed at the United States. . . . In addition to overflying military installations, Russian Open Skies flights can overfly and collect on DoD and national security or national critical infrastructure.''.

(4) The report of the Department of State entitled ''2017 Report on Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments'' expressed numerous concerns with the compliance of the Russian Federation with the Open Skies Treaty, including enforcing limits on flights over the Kaliningrad Oblast, denying flights near its border with the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia since 2010, and improperly applying the concept of ''force majeure'' to restrict flights over personnel movements of the Government of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation also improperly required Ukraine to pay in advance for its solo flights, which may provide grounds for Ukraine to make a determination of material breach.

(5) In response to a question about the participation of the Russian Federation in the Open Skies Treaty before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on June 13, 2017, Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, ''There certainly appear to be violations of it.''.

(b) LIST OF LEGAL COUNTERMEASURES.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of legal countermeasures that—

(1) are available to the Department of Defense;

(2) are compliant with the Open Skies Treaty; and

(3) could be taken in response to the noncompliance of the Russian Federation with the Treaty.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) OPEN SKIES TREATY.—The term ''Open Skies Treaty'' means the Treaty on Open Skies, done at Helsinki March 24, 1992, and entered into force January 1, 2002.

SA 974. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. ___. ENROLLMENT OF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

(a) ENROLLMENT AUTHORIZED.—Section 9314a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ''and homeland security industry employees'' after ''defense industry employees'';

(ii) by inserting ''or homeland security industry employee'' after ''defense industry employee''; and

(iii) by inserting ''or homeland security-focused'' after ''defense-focused'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''125 defense industry employees'' and inserting ''an aggregate of 125 defense industry employees and homeland security industry employees''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''or homeland security industry employee'' after ''defense industry employee'' each place it appears;

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting ''and homeland security industry employees'' after ''defense industry employees'' each place it appears;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ''and homeland security industry employees'' after ''defense industry employees''; and

(ii) by inserting ''or homeland security'' after ''and defense''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or the Department of Homeland Security, as applicable'' after ''the Department of Defense''; and

(4) in subsection (f), by inserting ''and homeland security industry employees'' after ''defense industry employees''.

(b) HOMELAND SECURITY INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentence: ''For purposes of this section, an eligible homeland security industry employee is an individual employed by a private firm in one of the critical infrastructure sectors identified in Presidential Policy Directive 21 (Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience).''; and

(2) in the last sentence, by inserting ''or homeland security industry employee'' after ''defense industry employee''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 9314a. United States Air Force Institute of Technology: admission of defense industry civilians; admission of homeland security industry civilians''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 901 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 9314a and inserting the following new item:

''9314a. United States Air Force Institute of Technology: admission of defense industry civilians; admission of homeland security industry civilians.''.

SA 975. Ms. STABENOW submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. BRINGING JOBS HOME.

(a) TAX CREDIT FOR INSOURCING EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 45S. CREDIT FOR INSOURCING EXPENSES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, the insourcing expenses credit for any taxable year is an amount equal to 20 percent of the eligible insourcing expenses of the taxpayer which are taken into account in such taxable year under subsection (d).

''(b) ELIGIBLE INSOURCING EXPENSES.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible insourcing expenses' means—

''(A) eligible expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the elimination of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located outside the United States, and

''(B) eligible expenses paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the establishment of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located within the United States,

if such establishment constitutes the relocation of the business unit so eliminated. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a relocation shall not be treated as failing to occur merely because such elimination occurs in a different taxable year than such establishment.

''(2) ELIGIBLE EXPENSES.—The term 'eligible expenses' means—

''(A) any amount for which a deduction is allowed to the taxpayer under section 162, and

''(B) permit and license fees, lease brokerage fees, equipment installation costs, and, to the extent provided by the Secretary, other similar expenses.

Such term does not include any compensation which is paid or incurred in connection with severance from employment and, to the extent provided by the Secretary, any similar amount.

''(3) BUSINESS UNIT.—The term 'business unit' means—

''(A) any trade or business, and

''(B) any line of business, or functional unit, which is part of any trade or business.

''(4) EXPANDED AFFILIATED GROUP.—The term 'expanded affiliated group' means an affiliated group as defined in section 1504(a), determined without regard to section 1504(b)(3) and by substituting 'more than 50 percent' for 'at least 80 percent' each place it appears in section 1504(a). A partnership or any other entity (other than a corporation) shall be treated as a member of an expanded affiliated group if such entity is controlled (within the meaning of section 954(d)(3)) by members of such group (including any entity treated as a member of such group by reason of this paragraph).

''(5) EXPENSES MUST BE PURSUANT TO INSOURCING PLAN.—Amounts shall be taken into account under paragraph (1) only to the extent that such amounts are paid or incurred pursuant to a written plan to carry out the relocation described in paragraph (1).

''(6) OPERATING EXPENSES NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—Any amount paid or incurred in connection with the on-going operation of a business unit shall not be treated as an amount paid or incurred in connection with the establishment or elimination of such business unit.

''(c) INCREASED DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT.—No credit shall be allowed under this section unless the number of full-time equivalent employees of the taxpayer for the taxable year for which the credit is claimed exceeds the number of full-time equivalent employees of the taxpayer for the last taxable year ending before the first taxable year in which such eligible insourcing expenses were paid or incurred. For purposes of this subsection, full-time equivalent employees has the meaning given such term under section 45R(d) (and the applicable rules of section 45R(e)). All employers treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 shall be treated as a single employer for purposes of this subsection.

''(d) CREDIT ALLOWED UPON COMPLETION OF INSOURCING PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), eligible insourcing expenses shall be taken into account under subsection (a) in the taxable year during which the plan described in subsection (b)(5) has been completed and all eligible insourcing expenses pursuant to such plan have been paid or incurred.

''(2) ELECTION TO APPLY EMPLOYMENT TEST AND CLAIM CREDIT IN FIRST FULL TAXABLE YEAR AFTER COMPLETION OF PLAN.—If the taxpayer elects the application of this paragraph, eligible insourcing expenses shall be taken into account under subsection (a) in the first taxable year after the taxable year described in paragraph (1).

''(e) POSSESSIONS TREATED AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this section, the term 'United States' shall be treated as including each possession of the United States (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

''(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section.''.

(2) CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Subsection (b) of section 38 of such Code is amended by striking ''plus'' at the end of paragraph (35), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (36) and inserting '', plus'', and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(37) the insourcing expenses credit determined under section 45S(a).''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 45S. Credit for insourcing expenses.''.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) APPLICATION TO UNITED STATES POSSESSIONS.—

(A) PAYMENTS TO POSSESSIONS.—

(i) MIRROR CODE POSSESSIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make periodic payments to each possession of the United States with a mirror code tax system in an amount equal to the loss to that possession by reason of section 45S of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Such amount shall be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury based on information provided by the government of the respective possession.

(ii) OTHER POSSESSIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make annual payments to

each possession of the United States which does not have a mirror code tax system in an amount estimated by the Secretary of the Treasury as being equal to the aggregate benefits that would have been provided to residents of such possession by reason of section 45S of such Code if a mirror code tax system had been in effect in such possession. The preceding sentence shall not apply with respect to any possession of the United States unless such possession has a plan, which has been approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, under which such possession will promptly distribute such payment to the residents of such possession.

(B) COORDINATION WITH CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST UNITED STATES INCOME TAXES.—No credit shall be allowed against United States income taxes under section 45S of such Code to any person—

(i) to whom a credit is allowed against taxes imposed by the possession by reason of such section, or

(ii) who is eligible for a payment under a plan described in subparagraph (A)(i).

(C) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—

(i) POSSESSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this section, the term ''possession of the United States'' includes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(ii) MIRROR CODE TAX SYSTEM.—For purposes of this section, the term ''mirror code tax system'' means, with respect to any possession of the United States, the income tax system of such possession if the income tax liability of the residents of such possession under such system is determined by reference to the income tax laws of the United States as if such possession were the United States.

(iii) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For purposes of section 1324(b)(2) of title 31, United States Code, the payments under this subsection shall be treated in the same manner as a refund due from sections referred to in such section 1324(b)(2).

(b) DENIAL OF DEDUCTION FOR OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part IX of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 280I. OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—No deduction otherwise allowable under this chapter shall be allowed for any specified outsourcing expense.

''(b) SPECIFIED OUTSOURCING EXPENSE.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'specified outsourcing expense' means—

''(A) any eligible expense paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the elimination of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located within the United States, and

''(B) any eligible expense paid or incurred by the taxpayer in connection with the establishment of any business unit of the taxpayer (or of any member of any expanded affiliated group in which the taxpayer is also a member) located outside the United States,

if such establishment constitutes the relocation of the business unit so eliminated. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a relocation shall not be treated as failing to occur merely because such elimination occurs in a different taxable year than such establishment.

''(2) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN DEFINITIONS AND RULES.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms 'eligible expenses', 'business unit', and 'expanded affiliated group' shall have the respective meanings given such terms by section 45S(b).

''(B) OPERATING EXPENSES NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—A rule similar to the rule of section 45S(b)(6) shall apply for purposes of this section.

''(c) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(1) APPLICATION TO DEDUCTIONS FOR DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION.—In the case of any portion of a specified outsourcing expense which is not deductible in the taxable year in which paid or incurred, such portion shall neither be chargeable to capital account nor amortizable.

''(2) POSSESSIONS TREATED AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of this section, the term 'United States' shall be treated as including each possession of the United States (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

''(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section, including regulations which provide (or create a rebuttable presumption) that certain establishments of business units outside the United States will be treated as relocations (based on timing or such other factors as the Secretary may provide) of business units eliminated within the United States.''.

(2) LIMITATION ON SUBPART F INCOME OF CONTROLLED FOREIGN CORPORATIONS DETERMINED WITHOUT REGARD TO SPECIFIED OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.—Subsection (c) of section 952 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) EARNINGS AND PROFITS DETERMINED WITHOUT REGARD TO SPECIFIED OUTSOURCING EXPENSES.—For purposes of this subsection, earnings and profits of any controlled foreign corporation shall be determined without regard to any specified outsourcing expense (as defined in section 280I(b)).''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part IX of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 280I. Outsourcing expenses.''.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 976. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON USE OF TEST SITES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON COUNTERING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the armed unmanned aircraft systems deployed by adversaries for military purposes pose a threat to military installations, critical infrastructure, and members of the Armed Forces in conflict areas like Iraq and Syria;

(2) the unmanned aircraft systems test sites designated by the Federal Aviation Administration offer unique capabilities, expertise, and airspace for research and development related to unmanned aircraft systems; and

(3) the Armed Forces should, as appropriate and to the extent practicable, seek to leverage the test sites described in paragraph (2), as well as existing Department of Defense facilities with appropriate expertise, for research and development on capabilities to counter the nefarious use of unmanned aircraft systems.

SA 977. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 770, to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to disseminate resources to help reduce small business cybersecurity risks, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7, beginning on line 16, strike ''Sixty'' and all that follows through line 19.

SA 978. Mr. MCCAIN (for Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. ____. REPORT ON HURRICANE DAMAGE TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ASSETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on damage to Department of Defense assets and installations from hurricanes during 2017.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) The results of a storm damage assessment.

(2) A description of affected military installations and assets.

(3) A request for funding to initiate the repair and replacement of damaged facilities and assets, including necessary upgrades to existing facilities to make them compliant with current hurricane standards, and to cover any unfunded requirements for military construction at affected military installations.

(4) An adaptation plan to ensure military installations funded with taxpayer dollars are constructed to better withstand flooding and extreme weather events.

SA 979. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following:

SEC. _____. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT BORDER SECURITY OPERATIONS OF CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Paragraph (3) of section 1226(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92; 129 Stat. 1056), as added by section 1294(b)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2562), is amended by striking ''for such fiscal year'' both places it appears.

SA 980. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 331, on page ____, between lines ____ and ____, insert the following:

''(7)(A) The installation commander of a military installation impacted by a proposed energy project shall submit to the Clearinghouse a statement of objection or non-objection regarding the impact of proposed project.

''(B) The statement shall include the following elements:

''(i) An analysis of the impact on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness.

''(ii) A detailed description of any potential negative impacts on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness.

''(iii) Any additional information the installation commander determines relevant for consideration in the evaluation process.

''(iv) A statement of objection or non-objection.

''(C) The installation commander's recommendation shall be incorporated into the Clearinghouse analysis and made a matter of permanent record.

''(D) Any decision by the Clearinghouse that contradicts the installation commander recommendation shall be accompanied by a report addressing all the points made in the installation commander's statement, and describe how any impacts on pilot safety, training, military operations, and readiness will be prevented.

SA 981. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title II, add the following:

SEC. ___. SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The ability of the Department of Defense to respond to national security challenges would benefit by increased workforce exposure to, and understanding of, modern problem-solving techniques and innovative methodologies.

(2) Presenting national security problems to universities and education centers will increase diverse stakeholder participation in the rapid development of solutions to national security challenges and improve Department of Defense recruitment of young technologists and engineers with critical skill sets, including cyber capabilities.

(3) National security innovation and entrepreneurial education would provide a unique pathway for veterans, Federal employees, and military personnel to leverage their training, experience, and expertise to solve emerging national security challenges while learning cutting-edge business innovation methodologies.

(4) The benefits to be derived from supporting national security innovation and entrepreneurial education programs include—

(A) enabling veterans and members of the Armed Forces to apply their battlefield knowledge in a team environment to develop innovative solutions to some of the United States' most challenging national security problems;

(B) encouraging students, university faculty, veterans, and other technologists and engineers to develop new and vital skill sets to solve real-world national security challenges while introducing them to public service opportunities; and

(C) providing an alternative pathway for the Department of Defense to achieve critical agency objectives, such as acquisition reform and the rapid deployment of new and essential capabilities to America's warfighters.

(b) SUPPORT AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, support national security innovation and entrepreneurial education programs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Support under paragraph (1) may include the following:

(A) Materials to recruit participants, including veterans, for programs described in paragraph (1).

(B) Model curriculum for such programs.

(C) Training materials for such programs.

(D) Best practices for the conduct of such programs.

(E) Experimental learning opportunities for program participants to interact with operational forces and better understand national security challenges.

(F) Exchanges and partnerships with Department of Defense science and technology activities.

(G) Activities consistent with the Proof of Concept Commercialization Pilot Program established under section 1603 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113–66; 10 U.S.C. 2359 note).

(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary may consult with the heads of such Federal agencies, universities, and public and private entities engaged in the development of advanced technologies as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(d) AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary may—

(1) develop and maintain metrics to assess national security innovation and entrepreneurial education activities to ensure standards for programs supported under subsection (b) are consistent and being met; and

(2) ensure that any recipient of an award under the Small Business Technology Transfer program, the Small Business Innovation Research program, and science and technology programs of the Department of Defense has the option to participate in training under a national security innovation and entrepreneurial education program supported under subsection (b).

(e) PARTICIPATION BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—The Secretary may encourage Federal employees and members of the Armed Forces to participate in a national security innovation and entrepreneurial education program supported under subsection (b) in order to gain exposure to modern innovation and entrepreneurial methodologies.

SA 982. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON USE BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF REVENUES DERIVED FROM EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FURNISHED UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ADVERTISING, MARKETING, OR RECRUITING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on the receipt of Department of Defense educational assistance funds, an institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, may not use revenues derived from Department of Defense educational assistance funds for advertising, recruiting, or marketing activities described in subsection (b).

(b) COVERED ACTIVITIES.—Except as provided in subsection (c), the advertising, recruiting, and marketing activities subject to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Advertising and promotion activities, including paid announcements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, electronic media, naming rights, or any other public medium of communication, including paying for displays or promotions at job fairs, military installations, or college recruiting events.

(2) Efforts to identify and attract prospective students, either directly or through a contractor or other third party, including contact concerning a prospective student's potential enrollment or application for grant, loan, or work assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or participation in preadmission or advising activities, including—

(A) paying employees responsible for overseeing enrollment and for contacting potential students in-person, by phone, by email, or by other internet communications regarding enrollment; and

(B) soliciting an individual to provide contact information to an institution of higher education, including Internet websites established for such purpose and funds paid to third parties for such purpose.

(3) Such other activities as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, including paying for promotion or sponsorship of education or military-related associations.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—Any activity that is required as a condition of receipt of funds by an institution under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), is specifically authorized under such title, or is otherwise specified by the Secretary of Education, shall not be considered to be a covered activity under subsection (b).

(d) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Department of Defense educational assistance funds'' means funds provided directly to an institution or to a student attending such institution under any of the following provisions of law:

(1) Chapter 101, 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, or 1608 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) Section 1784a, 2005, or 2007 of such title.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as a limitation on the use by an institution of revenues derived from sources other than Department of Defense educational assistance funds. As a condition on the receipt of Department of Defense educational assistance funds, each institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, that derives revenues from Department of Defense educational assistance funds shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and to Congress each year a report that includes the following:

(1) The institution's expenditures on advertising, marketing, and recruiting.

(2) A verification from an independent auditor that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.

(3) A certification from the institution that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this section.

SA 983. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. _____. RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Protecting Financial Aid for Students and Taxpayers Act''.

(b) RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.—Section 119 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (20 U.S.C. 1011m) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting ''**AND RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES**'' after ''**FUNDS**'';

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''subsections (a) through (c)'' and inserting ''subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e)'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR RECRUITING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, may not use revenues derived from Federal educational assistance funds for recruiting or marketing activities described in paragraph (2).

''(2) COVERED ACTIVITIES.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the recruiting and marketing activities subject to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) Advertising and promotion activities, including paid announcements in newspapers, magazines, radio, television, billboards, electronic media, naming rights, or any other public medium of communication, including paying for displays or promotions at job fairs, military installations, or college recruiting events.

''(B) Efforts to identify and attract prospective students, either directly or through a contractor or other third party, including contact concerning a prospective student's potential enrollment or application for grant, loan, or work assistance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) or participation in preadmission or advising activities, including—

''(i) paying employees responsible for overseeing enrollment and for contacting potential students in-person, by phone, by email, or by other Internet communications regarding enrollment; and

''(ii) soliciting an individual to provide contact information to an institution of higher education, including websites established for such purpose and funds paid to third parties for such purpose.

''(C) Such other activities as the Secretary of Education may prescribe, including paying for promotion or sponsorship of education or military-related associations.

''(3) EXCEPTIONS.—Any activity that is required as a condition of receipt of funds by an institution under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), is specifically authorized under such title, or is otherwise specified by the Secretary of Education, shall not be considered to be a covered activity under paragraph (2).

''(4) FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS.—In this subsection, the term 'Federal educational assistance funds' means funds provided directly to an institution or to a student attending such institution under any of the following provisions of law:

''(A) Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

''(B) Chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of title 38, United States Code.

''(C) Chapter 101, 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, or 1608 of title 10, United States Code.

''(D) Section 1784a, 2005, or 2007 of title 10, United States Code.

''(E) Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.).

''(F) The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.).

''(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as a limitation on the use by an institution of revenues derived from sources other than Federal educational assistance funds.

''(6) REPORTS.—Each institution of higher education, or other postsecondary educational institution, that derives 65 percent or more of revenues from Federal educational assistance funds shall report annually to the Secretary and to Congress and shall include in such report—

''(A) the institution's expenditures on advertising, marketing, and recruiting;

''(B) a verification from an independent auditor that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection; and

''(C) a certification from the institution that the institution is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection.''.

SA 984. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1635, strike subsection (c) and insert the following:

(c) REPORT ON MILITARY AND SECURITY RAMIFICATIONS OF RUSSIA'S GROUND-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report including the following elements:

(A) A description of the status of the Russian Federation's new ground-launched cruise missile (SSC–8), its capabilities, and the threat it poses to the allies and assets of the United States in Europe and Asia.

(B) An assessment of whether the United States faces significant military disadvantages with the introduction of the SSC–8 to the European continent.

(C) An assessment of capability gaps that a new United States ground-launched intermediate-range missile with a range between 500 and 5,500 kilometers would address in Europe and Asia and whether such a missile is the preferred military response to Russian Federation violations of the INF Treaty.

(D) The timeline for fielding such a ground-launched intermediate-range missile, including time for research, development, and deployment of the system, and the total cost for development and deployment of the system.

(E) An assessment of the willingness of countries in Europe or the Asia-Pacific region to complete the legal requirements to host a ground-launched intermediate-range missile with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers for counterforce or countervailing strike missions against the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

(F) An assessment of the North Atlantic Council's willingness to endorse development of a ground-launched intermediate-range missile as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's collective response to the failure of the Russian Federation to comply with the INF Treaty.

(G) A determination of whether the United States developing, producing, or flight-testing a ground-launched intermediate-range missile would be compliant with the INF Treaty.

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2018 for a research and development program for a dual-capable road-mobile ground-launched missile system with a maximum range of 5,500 kilometers may be obligated or expended until the reports required by subsections (b) and (c) are received by the congressional defense committees.

SA 985. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. _____. GARNISHMENT TO SATISFY JUDGMENT RENDERED FOR PHYSICALLY, SEXUALLY, OR EMOTIONALLY ABUSING A CHILD.

(a) GARNISHMENT AUTHORITY.—Section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) GARNISHMENT TO SATISFY A JUDGMENT RENDERED FOR PHYSICALLY, SEXUALLY, OR EMOTIONALLY ABUSING A CHILD.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), any payment of retired pay that would otherwise be made to a member

shall be paid (in whole or in part) by the Secretary concerned to another person if and to the extent expressly provided for in the terms of a child abuse garnishment order.

''(2) A court order providing for the payment of child support or alimony or, with respect to a division of property, specifically providing for the payment of an amount of the disposable retired pay from a member to the spouse or a former spouse of the member, shall be given priority over a child abuse garnishment order. The total amount of the disposable retired pay of a member payable under a child abuse garnishment order shall not exceed 25 percent of the member's disposable retired pay.

''(3) In this subsection, the term 'court order' includes a child abuse garnishment order.

''(4) In this subsection, the term 'child abuse garnishment order' means a final decree issued by a court that—

''(A) is issued in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction of that court; and

''(B) provides in the nature of garnishment for the enforcement of a judgment rendered against the member for physically, sexually, or emotionally abusing a child.

''(5) For purposes of this subsection, a judgment rendered for physically, sexually, or emotionally abusing a child is any legal claim perfected through a final enforceable judgment, which claim is based in whole or in part upon the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of an individual under 18 years of age, whether or not that abuse is accompanied by other actionable wrongdoing, such as sexual exploitation or gross negligence.

''(6) If the Secretary concerned is served with more than one court order with respect to the retired pay of a member, the disposable retired pay of the member shall be available to satisfy such court orders on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the order of precedence specified in paragraph (2), with any such process being satisfied out of such monies as remain after the satisfaction of all such processes which have been previously served.

''(7) The Secretary concerned shall not be required to vary normal pay and disbursement cycles for retired pay in order to comply with a child abuse garnishment order.''.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.—Subsection (l) of section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to a court order received by the Secretary concerned on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, regardless of the date of the court order.

SA 986. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. ____. OUTSOURCING PREVENTION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Defending American Jobs Act''.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTRACT AWARD.—The Secretary of Defense may not enter into or renew a contract for the procurement of property or services unless the contractor certifies that, during the previous 5 years, the contractor has not outsourced a domestic operation or, in the case of an operation so outsourced, the contractor certifies that the operation has moved back to the United States.

(b) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning on the date that is one year after a contractor enters into a contract described under subsection (a), and annually thereafter for the duration of the contract, the contractor shall certify whether it has outsourced a domestic operation since entering into the contract.

(c) OUTSOURCING DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''outsourcing'', with respect to a domestic operation, means a plant closing or mass layoff (as described in section 2(a) of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (29 U.S.C. 2101(a)) in which the employment loss (excluding any part-time employees) for positions which will be moved to a country outside of the United States exceeds 50 employees.

SA 987. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title III, add the following:

SEC. ____. ARSENAL SUPPORT PROGRAM INITIATIVE.

Section 343(a) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–77; 20 U.S.C. 7703a), as most recently amended by section 342 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, is further amended by striking ''through 2012'' and inserting ''through 2022''.

SA 988. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. ____. APPLICABILITY OF BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS TO ITEMS USED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

Section 8302(a)(2)(A) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''needed on an urgent basis or for national security reasons (as determined by the head of a Federal agency)'' after ''for use outside the United States''.

SA 989. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1630C. CYBERSECURITY OF INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS.

(a) DESIGNATION OF INTEGRATING OFFICIAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall designate one official to be responsible for all matters relating to integrating cybersecurity and industrial control systems within the Department of Defense. Such official shall be responsible for all such matters at all levels of command, from the Department to the facility using industrial control systems.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the official designated under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(A) Developing, implementing, and be accountable for plans, programs, and policies to improve the cybersecurity of industrial control systems. Such plans, programs, and policies shall be applicable at all levels of command and apply to both the Department and the facility using the industrial control system.

(B) Developing Department-wide certification standards for integration of industrial control systems and taking into consideration frameworks set forth by the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the cybersecurity of such systems.

(b) PILOT PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall consider carrying out one or more pilot programs to assess the feasibility and advisability of implementing various solutions for protecting industrial control systems against cyber attacks and discerning the specific criteria that a solution should demonstrate in order to be certified for military use.

(2) PRIORITY.—In carrying out a pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to the determination of certification criteria for military energy industrial control systems.

SA 990. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. _____. REPORT ON DELEGATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION WITH DOMICILE-TO-DUTY LIMITATIONS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than December 1, 2017, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth an assessment of the feasability and advisability of permitting the Secretaries of the military departments to delegate to commanding officers in general and flag officer positions authority to waive limitations on the use of passenger carriers as a means of transporting Government personnel between residence and place of employment under section 1344 of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to as ''Domicile-to-Duty''), for members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the military departments who have significant responsibility for missions executing or supporting round-the-clock performance of combat operations or intelligence, counterintelligence, protective service, or criminal law enforcement duties.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(1) assume that any delegation of waiver authority as described in that subsection

shall complement, and not replace, the waiver authority of the Secretaries of the military departments under section 1344 of title 31, United States Code; and

(2) take into account the extent to which delegation of such waiver authority would impact the safe and efficient conduct of missions described in that subsection.

SA 991. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 212 and insert the following:

SEC. 212. CODIFICATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR DEFENSE LABORATORIES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR MILITARY MISSIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 139 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2362 the following new section:

"§ 2363. Mechanisms to provide funds for defense laboratories for research and development of technologies for military missions

''(a) MECHANISMS TO PROVIDE FUNDS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall establish mechanisms under which the director of a defense laboratory may use an amount of funds equal to not less than two percent and not more than four percent of all funds available to the defense laboratory for the following purposes:

''(A) To fund innovative basic and applied research that is conducted at the defense laboratory and supports military missions.

''(B) To fund development programs that support the transition of technologies developed by the defense laboratory into operational use.

''(C) To fund workforce development activities that improve the capacity of the defense laboratory to recruit and retain personnel with necessary scientific and engineering expertise that support military missions.

''(D) To fund the repair or minor military construction of the laboratory infrastructure and equipment, in accordance with subsection (b).

''(2) The mechanisms established under paragraph (1) shall provide that funding shall be used under paragraph (1) at the discretion of the director of a defense laboratory in consultation with the science and technology executive of the military department concerned.

''(3) After consultation with the science and technology executive of the military department concerned, the director of a defense laboratory may charge customer activities a fixed percentage fee, in addition to normal costs of performance, in order to obtain funds to carry out activities authorized by this subsection. The fixed fee may not exceed four percent of costs.

''(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—Funds shall be available in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(D) only if—

''(1) the Secretary notifies the congressional defense committees of the total cost of the project before the date on which the Secretary uses the mechanism under such subsection for such project; and

''(2) the Secretary ensures that the project complies with the applicable cost limitations in—

''(A) section 2805(d) of this title, with respect to revitalization and recapitalization projects; and

''(B) section 2811 of this title, with respect to repair projects.

''(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF AUTHORITY.—Not later than March 1 of each year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the use of the authority under subsection (a) during the preceding year.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 139 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2362 the following new item:

''2363. Mechanisms to provide funds for defense laboratories for research and development of technologies for military missions.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 219 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note), is hereby repealed.

(2) Section 2805(d)(1)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''under section 219(a) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note)'' and inserting ''section 2363(a) of this title''.

SEC. 213. ANNUAL REPORT ON UNFUNDED REQUIREMENTS FOR LABORATORY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall submit to the congressional defense committees each year, at the time the budget of the President for the fiscal year beginning in such year is submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a reporting listing unfunded requirements on major and minor military construction projects for Department of Defense science and technology laboratories and facilities and test evaluation facilities.

SA 992. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Schumer to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. PRIVATE RELIEF FOR THE MCALLISTER FAMILY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister shall each be eligible for an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, or Sean Ryan McAllister enters the United States before the filing deadline described in subsection (d), he or she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully in the United States and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255), as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) WAIVER OF GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL OF, OR DENIAL OF ADMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 212(a) and 237(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a) and 1227(a)), Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister may not be removed from the United States, or denied admission to the United States, by reason of any act of any of such individuals that is a ground for removal or denial of admission and is reflected in the records of the Department of Homeland Security, or the Visa Office of the Department of State, on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RESCISSION OF OUTSTANDING ORDER OF REMOVAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall rescind any outstanding order of removal or deportation, or any finding of deportability, that has been entered against Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, or Sean Ryan McAllister by reason of any act described in paragraph (1).

(d) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply unless Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister each file an application for an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status, with appropriate fees, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent resident status to Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 3, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 202(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2)).

SA 993. Mr. MCCAIN (for Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. MCCAIN to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle H—Matters Relating to Hizballah

SEC. 1290. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017''.

PART I—PREVENTION OF ACCESS BY HIZBALLAH TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

SEC. 1291. MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FUNDRAISING AND RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES FOR HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 101. MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FUNDRAISING AND RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES FOR HIZBALLAH.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person that the

President determines knowingly assists, sponsors, or provides significant financial, material, or technological support for—

''(1) Bayt al-Mal, Jihad al-Bina, the Islamic Resistance Support Association, or any successor or affiliate thereof;

''(2) al-Manar TV, al Nour Radio, or the Lebanese Media Group, or any successor or affiliate thereof;

''(3) a foreign person determined by the President to be engaged in fundraising or recruitment activities for Hizballah; or

''(4) a foreign person owned or controlled by a foreign person described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

''(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

''(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a foreign person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

''(B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

''(i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien who the President determines is subject to subsection (a) is—

''(I) inadmissible to the United States;

''(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

''(III) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

''(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who the President determines is subject to subsection (a), regardless of when issued.

''(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

''(2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under paragraph (1)(A) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

''(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

''(d) PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a finding under this section, or a prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding, is based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)) and a court reviews the finding or the imposition of the prohibition, condition, or penalty, the President may submit such information to the court ex parte and in camera.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding under this section or any prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding.

''(e) WAIVER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, for periods not to exceed 180 days, waive the imposition of sanctions under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—

''(A) BEFORE WAIVER ISSUED.—Before a waiver under paragraph (1) takes effect with respect to a foreign person, the President shall notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the foreign person in activities described in subsection (a).

''(B) AFTER WAIVER ISSUED.—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1) with respect to a foreign person, and every 120 days thereafter while the waiver remains in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the foreign person in activities described in subsection (a).

''(f) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that lists the foreign persons that the President has credible evidence knowingly assists, sponsors, or provides significant financial, material, or technological support for the foreign persons described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (a).

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms 'admitted' and 'alien' have meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

''(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

''(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

''(3) ENTITY.—The term 'entity' means a partnership, association, corporation, or other organization, group, or subgroup.

''(4) HIZBALLAH.—The term 'Hizballah' has the meaning given such term in section 102(f).

''(5) PERSON.—The term 'person' means an individual or entity.

''(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term 'United States person' means a United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States (including foreign branches), or a person in the United States.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by striking the item relating to section 101 and inserting the following new item:

''Sec. 101. Mandatory sanctions with respect to fundraising and recruitment activities for Hizballah.''.

SEC. 1292. MODIFICATION OF REPORT WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.

Subsection (d) of section 102 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) REPORT ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

''(A) identifies each foreign financial institution described in paragraph (2) that the President determines engages in one or more activities described in subsection (a)(2);

''(B) provides a detailed description of each such activity; and

''(C) contains a determination with respect to each such foreign financial institution that is identified under subparagraph (A) as engaging in one or more activities described in subsection (a)(2) as to whether such foreign financial institution is in violation of Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism) by reason of engaging in one or more such activities.

''(2) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION DESCRIBED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A foreign financial institution described in this paragraph is a foreign financial institution—

''(i) that, wherever located, is—

''(I) organized under the laws of a state sponsor of terrorism or any jurisdiction within a state sponsor of terrorism;

''(II) owned or controlled by the government of a state sponsor of terrorism;

''(III) located in the territory of a state sponsor of terrorism; or

''(IV) owned or controlled by a foreign financial institution described in subclause (I), (II), or (III); and

''(ii) the capitalization of which exceeds $10,000,000.

''(B) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—In this paragraph, the term 'state sponsor of terrorism' means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined is a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

''(i) section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4605(j)) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.));

''(ii) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

''(iii) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

''(iv) any other provision of law.''.

SEC. 1293. SANCTIONS AGAINST AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF FOREIGN STATES THAT SUPPORT HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 103. SANCTIONS AGAINST AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF FOREIGN STATES THAT SUPPORT HIZBALLAH.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and as appropriate thereafter, the President shall block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in subsection (b) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

''(b) AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF A FOREIGN STATE DESCRIBED.—An agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in

this subsection is an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state that the President determines knowingly and materially assists, sponsors, or provides significant financial, material, or technological support for, goods or services to or in support of, or arms or related material to—

''(1) Hizballah;

''(2) an entity owned or controlled by Hizballah; or

''(3) an entity that the President determines has acted or purported to act for or on behalf of Hizballah.

''(c) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under subsection (a) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

''(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

''(e) PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a finding under this section, or a prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding, is based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)) and a court reviews the finding or the imposition of the prohibition, condition, or penalty, the President may submit such information to the court ex parte and in camera.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding under this section or any prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding.

''(f) WAIVER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, for periods not to exceed 180 days, waive the imposition of sanctions under this section with respect to an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—

''(A) BEFORE WAIVER ISSUED.—Before a waiver under paragraph (1) takes effect with respect to an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, the President shall notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the agency or instrumentality in activities described in subsection (b).

''(B) AFTER WAIVER ISSUED.—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1) with respect to an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, and every 120 days thereafter while the waiver remains in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the involvement of the agency or instrumentality in activities described in subsection (b).

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF A FOREIGN STATE; FOREIGN STATE.—The terms 'agency or instrumentality of a foreign state' and 'foreign state' have the meanings given those terms in section 1603 of title 28, United States Code.

''(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

''(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

''(3) ARMS OR RELATED MATERIAL.—The term 'arms or related material' means—

''(A) nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological weapons or materials or components of such weapons;

''(B) ballistic or cruise missile weapons or materials or components of such weapons;

''(C) destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons;

''(D) defense articles or defense services, as those terms are defined in paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively, of section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794);

''(E) defense information, as that term is defined in section 644 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403); or

''(F) items designated by the President for purposes of the United States Munitions List under section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)).

''(4) HIZBALLAH.—The term 'Hizballah' has the meaning given that term in section 102(f).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 102 the following new item:

''Sec. 103. Sanctions against agencies and instrumentalities of foreign states that support Hizballah.''.

PART II—NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH

SEC. 1294. BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 201. BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF HIZBALLAH.

''(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that Hizballah conducts narcotics trafficking and significant transnational criminal activities.

''(b) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and as appropriate thereafter, the President shall block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of Hizballah if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

''(c) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under subsection (b) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

''(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

''(e) PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If a finding under this section, or a prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding, is based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)) and a court reviews the finding or the imposition of the prohibition, condition, or penalty, the President may submit such information to the court ex parte and in camera.

''(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding under this section or any prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding.

''(f) WAIVER.—The President may, for periods not to exceed 180 days, waive the imposition of sanctions under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

''(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'Hizballah' has the meaning given that term in section 102(f).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to title II and inserting the following:

''TITLE II—IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HIZBALLAH AND REPORTS RELATING TO NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH.''; AND

(2) by striking the item relating to section 201 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 201. Blocking of property of Hizballah.''.

SEC. 1295. REPORT ON RACKETEERING ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN BY HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 202. REPORT ON RACKETEERING ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN BY HIZBALLAH.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the following:

''(1) Activities that Hizballah, and agents and affiliates of Hizballah, have engaged in that are racketeering activities.

''(2) The extent to which Hizballah, and agents and affiliates of Hizballah, engage in a pattern of such racketeering activities.

''(b) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(A) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

''(B) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

''(2) HIZBALLAH.—The term 'Hizballah' has the meaning given that term in section 102(f).

''(3) RACKETEERING ACTIVITY.—The term 'racketeering activity' has the meaning given that term in section 1961(1) of title 18, United States Code.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 is amended by striking the item relating to section 202 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 202. Report on racketeering activities engaged in by Hizballah.''.

SEC. 1296. MODIFICATION OF REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO DISRUPT GLOBAL LOGISTICS NETWORKS AND FUNDRAISING, FINANCING, AND MONEY LAUNDERING ACTIVITIES OF HIZBALLAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204 of the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017, and annually thereafter for the following 5 years'';

(B) in subparagraph (D)(ii)(II), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and free-trade zones.'' and inserting ''free-trade zones, business partnerships and joint ventures, and other investments in small and medium-sized enterprises;''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) a list of provinces, municipalities, and local governments outside of Lebanon that expressly consent to, or with knowledge allow, tolerate, or disregard the use of their territory by Hizballah to carry out terrorist activities, including training, financing, and recruitment;

''(G) a description of the total aggregate revenues and remittances that Hizballah receives from the global logistics networks of Hizballah, including—

''(i) a list of Hizballah's sources of revenue, including sources of revenue based on illicit activity, revenues from Iran, charities, and other business activities; and

''(ii) a list of Hizballah's expenditures, including expenditures for ongoing military operations, social networks, and external operations; and

''(H) a survey of national and transnational legal measures available to target Hizballah's financial networks.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) ENHANCED DUE DILIGENCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall prescribe, as necessary, enhanced due diligence policies, procedures, and controls for United States financial institutions, and foreign financial institutions maintaining correspondent accounts or payable-through accounts with United States financial institutions, that provide significant financial services for persons and entities operating in a jurisdiction included in the list required under subsection (a)(1)(F) if the President certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that it is in the national security interest of the United States to do so.

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms 'correspondent account' and 'payable-through account' have the meanings given those terms in section 5318A of title 31, United States Code.''; and

(4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (2) by adding before the period at the end the following: ''and on any requirements for enhanced due diligence prescribed under subsection (b)''.

(b) REPORT ON ESTIMATED NET WORTH OF SENIOR HIZBALLAH MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter for the following 2 years, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains—

(A) the estimated total net worth of each individual described in paragraph (2); and

(B) a description of how funds of each individual described in paragraph (2) were acquired, and how such funds have been used or employed.

(2) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—The individuals described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Secretary General of Hizballah.

(B) Members of the Hizballah Politburo.

(C) Any other individual that the President determines is a senior foreign political figure of Hizballah.

(3) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

(A) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of the report required under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public and posted on the website of the Department of the Treasury in precompressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats.

(4) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treasury may use any credible publication, database, or web-based resource, and any credible information compiled by any government agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity provided to or made available to the Secretary.

(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(i) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(B) FUNDS.—The term ''funds'' means—

(i) cash;

(ii) equity;

(iii) any other intangible asset the value of which is derived from a contractual claim, including bank deposits, bonds, stocks, a security (as defined in section 2(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a))), or a security or an equity security (as those terms are defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a))); and

(iv) anything else of value that the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be appropriate.

(C) SENIOR FOREIGN POLITICAL FIGURE.—The term ''senior foreign political figure'' has the meaning given that term in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

SEC. 1297. REPORT ON COMBATING THE ILLICIT TOBACCO TRAFFICKING NETWORKS USED BY HIZBALLAH AND OTHER FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on combating the illicit tobacco trafficking networks used by Hizballah and other foreign terrorist organizations to finance their operations, as described in the report submitted to Congress in December 2015 by the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Health and Human Services entitled, ''The Global Illicit Trade in Tobacco: A Threat to National Security.''.

(b) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the steps to be taken by Federal agencies to combat the illicit tobacco trafficking networks used by Hizballah, other foreign terrorist organizations, and other illicit actors.

(2) A description of the steps to be taken to engage State and local law enforcement authorities in efforts to combat illicit tobacco trafficking networks operating within the United States.

(3) A description of the steps to be taken to engage foreign government law enforcement and intelligence authorities in efforts to combat illicit tobacco trafficking networks operating outside the United States.

(4) Recommendations for legislative or administrative action needed to address the threat of illicit tobacco trafficking networks.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

PART III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 1298. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, prescribe regulations as necessary for the implementation of this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle.

(b) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 10 days before the prescription of regulations under subsection (a), the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees regarding the proposed regulations and the provisions of this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle that the regulations are implementing.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 1299. EXCEPTIONS.

This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall not apply to the following:

(1) Any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or national security activities of the United States.

(2) Any transaction necessary to comply with United States obligations under—

(A) the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947;

(B) the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967; or

(C) any other international treaty.

SEC. 1299A. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle or an amendment made by this subtitle shall be construed to limit the authority of the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or any other provision of law.

SA 994. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department

of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. ___. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

It is the sense of Congress that the International Military Education and Training program—

(1) improves the professionalism, capabilities, and interoperability of United States military partners for our mutual benefit;

(2) strengthens the personal relationships between members of the United States Armed Forces and their foreign counterparts;

(3) supports regional stability and democracy promotion; and

(4) plays a vital role in United States national security and foreign policy.

SA 995. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXXI, add the following:

SEC. 3116. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF ADVISORY BOARD ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND WORKER HEALTH.

Section 3687(i) of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7385s–16(i)) is amended by striking ''5 years'' and inserting ''10 years''.

SA 996. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. _____. MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO ENLIST UNDER AUTHORITY FOR ENLISTMENT VITAL TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

(a) RETENTION AND STATUS.—Each member of the Armed Forces who accesses into the Armed Forces under section 504(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code—

(1) shall, to the extent practicable, remain a member of the Armed Forces until the Secretary concerned is able to determine the suitability of such member for retention in the Armed Forces; and

(2) may not be separated from the Armed Forces before completion of the background checks and security screenings required to certify the member for retention in the Armed Forces, except as follows:

(A) Upon a sentence of court-martial pursuant to chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), providing for separation of the member.

(B) Upon the discovery of current or prior disqualifying actions not related to the member's status under the immigration laws that require the separation of the member.

(b) IMMIGRATION STATUS OF ALIEN MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The protections and conditions specified in paragraph (3) shall apply to an individual described in paragraph (2) during the period—

(A) that begins on the date on which the individual enlists in the Armed Forces under the Delayed Entry Program provided for in section 513 of title 10, United States Code; and

(B) that ends on either—

(i) the date on which the member is enlisted in a regular component of the Armed Forces; or

(ii) the date on which the member is determined by the Secretary concerned to be not suitable for retention in the Armed Forces.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—An individual described in this paragraph is an alien who enlists in the Armed Forces under section 513(a) of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to a determination provided for in section 504(b)(2) of such title.

(3) PROTECTIONS AND CONDITIONS.—The protections and conditions specified in this paragraph with respect to an individual are the following:

(A) That the individual may not be removed from the United States.

(B) That the individual shall be permitted to depart and reenter the United States.

(C) That the individual shall be deemed to be lawfully present and authorized for employment as of the date of accession into the Armed Forces.

(c) DELAYED ENTRY PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 513(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

''(2) A person enlisted under subsection (a) who accesses into the armed forces pursuant to section 504(b)(2) of this title shall not be subject to the provisions of paragraph (1), but shall be enlisted in a regular component of an armed force as soon as practicable after enlistment.''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or (2)'' after ''paragraph (1)''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply to persons described by paragraph (2) of section 513(b) of title 10, United States Code (as so amended), who are enlisted in the Armed Forces as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY.—If a person enlisted in the Armed Forces under section 513(a) of title 10, United States Code, pursuant to a determination provided for in section 504(b)(2) of such title and was separated from the Armed Forces pursuant to the operation of section 513(b) of such title before the date of the enactment of this Act, the person shall, at the election of the person, be permitted to reenlist in the Armed Forces under section 513(a) of such title after that date (and be subject to paragraph (2) of section 513(b) of such title (as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection) if the Secretary concerned determines that the individual remains eligible for enlistment in the Armed Force as of the date of reenlistment.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''Secretary concerned'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) The terms ''alien'' and ''immigration laws'' have the meaning given such terms in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

SA 997. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

SEC. ___. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States military is keenly aware of the need to support the families of those who serve our country.

(2) Military children face unique challenges in educational achievement due to frequent changes of station by, deployments by, and even injuries to their parents.

(3) Investing in quality education opportunities for all military children from cradle to career ensures parents are able to stay focused on the mission, and children are able to benefit from consistent relationships with caring teachers who support their early learning so they can be ready to excel in school.

(4) Research shows that early math is at least as predictive of later school success as early literacy.

(5) Investing in early learning for military children is an important element in a comprehensive strategy for ensuring a smart, skilled, and committed future national security workforce.

(6) To strengthen the global standing and military might of the United States, technology, and innovation, the Nation must continuously look for ways to strengthen early education of children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance to the Armed Forces in order to ensure the following:

(1) The placement of a priority on supporting early learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for children, including those at Department of Defense schools and schools serving large military child populations.

(2) Support for efforts to ensure that training and curriculum specialists, teachers and other caregivers, and staff serving military children have the training and skills necessary to implement instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that provides the necessary foundation for future learning and educational achievement in such areas.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the progress made in improving educational opportunities and achievement for military children in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

(2) A description and assessment of efforts to implement the guidance issued under subsection (b).

SA 998. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1088. LOCATION OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE AVIATION HALL OF FAME.

Section 23107 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Dayton,'' and all that follows through ''trustees.'' and inserting ''Ohio.''.

SA 999. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After subsection (a) of section 343, insert the following:

(b) EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and in consultation with the Department of Defense, shall conduct an exposure assessment of no less than 8 current or former domestic military installations known to have per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in drinking water, ground water, and any other sources of water and relevant exposure vectors.

(2) CONTENTS.—The exposure assessment required under this subsection shall—

(A) include—

(i) for each military installation covered under the exposure assessment, a statistical sample to be determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the relevant State health departments; and

(ii) bio-monitoring for assessing the contamination described in paragraph (1); and

(B) produce findings, which shall be—

(i) used to help design the study described in subsection (a)(1); and

(ii) released to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 1 year after the conclusion of such exposure assessment.

(3) TIMING.—The exposure assessment required under this subsection shall—

(A) begin not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) conclude not later than 2 years after such date of enactment.

SA 1000. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following:

SEC. ____. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO GARLIN M. CONNER FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING WORLD WAR II.

(a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Garlin M. Conner for the acts of valor during World War II described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Garlin M. Conner during combat on January 24, 1945, as a member of the United States Army in the grade of First Lieutenant in France while serving with Company K, 3d Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, for which he was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

SA 1001. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 1630C. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL FOR MATTERS RELATING TO INTEGRATING CYBERSECURITY AND INDUSTRIAL CONTROL SYSTEMS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) DESIGNATION OF INTEGRATING OFFICIAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall designate one official to be responsible for all matters relating to integrating cybersecurity and industrial control systems within the Department of Defense.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The official designated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be responsible for all matters described in such subsection at all levels of command, from the Department to the facility using industrial control systems, including developing Department-wide certification standards for integration of industrial control systems and taking into consideration frameworks set forth by the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the cybersecurity of such systems.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Examining the Fintech Landscape.''

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Health Care: Issues Impacting Cost and Coverage.''

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled ''Nominations.''

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled ''Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: State Flexibility'' on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 10:15 a.m., in order to conduct a hearing on the nominations of Daniel J. Kaniewski to be Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Jonathan H. Pittman to be an Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, from 2:30 p.m., in room SH–219 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold a Closed Member Roundtable.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY OVERSIGHT

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The Committee will hold Subcommittee Hearing on ''Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Oversight of Fisheries Management Successes and Challenges.''

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Energy is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to

hold a hearing on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at 3 p.m., in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jeffrey Buck, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, September 13; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, and notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2810 with no postcloture time remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:02 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 470 of the 113th Congress and the nomination was referred sequentially to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for 20 calendar days under authority of the order of the Senate of 01/07/2009:

ROBERT P. STORCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 12, 2017:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

KEVIN ALLEN HASSETT, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR WILLIAM CLARK, JR.

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Command Sergeant Major William Clark, Jr. for his forty years of service to the California National Guard. Sgt. Clark has long demonstrated a commitment to this country and the state of California. Upon entering basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. in 1974, Clark's sense of honor and duty was apparent as he voluntarily enlisted during a time when the armed forces draft was still well in place during the war in Vietnam. Recognizing the importance of developing specialized trade skills while simultaneously serving in the Army, Clark trained to be a contract construction engineer. He was subsequently stationed in Fort Ord on the central coast of California where he excelled as an engineer and met his wife Laurie, who also came from a military family. While by all accounts Sgt. Clark served his country selflessly, he maintains that his wife has sacrificed more throughout their marriage.

After serving in the Army for three years, Sgt. Clark went on to start a career as a facilities engineer and eventually entered the federal workforce as a journeyman. However, as Sgt. Clark was preparing to leave active duty, a military recruiter convinced him to take a position with the National Guard. He started his National Guard service for the state of California with the 149th Armor Company, a unit he served with honorably, eventually earning the position of Platoon Sergeant. Clark continued his service by taking on various responsibilities with the California National Guard, serving as Command Sergeant Major in 1997, and eventually became ''Senior Enlisted Advisor'' to the Adjutant General in 2008. One of Sgt. Clark's most notable achievements came during his deployment to Kosovo with Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Gidley, the Deputy Commander of the California Army National Guard. For his service in Kosovo, Clark was awarded both the NATO Medal and Kosovo Campaign Medal. In addition to these awards, Sgt. Clark's achievements also include the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

In honor of his retirement, I would like to commend Command Sergeant Major William Clark, Jr. for his service. His local roots and long career of service and sacrifice to our country make me especially proud to recognize Sgt. Clark. His career is an example of selfless sacrifice and honor. I wish him the best in his retirement and am especially grateful for his contribution to the armed forces of the United States and the State of California.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMITHONIAN'S ANACOSTIA COMMUNITY MUSEUM

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum.

The Anacostia Community Museum, which opened in 1976, has been a staple of the District of Columbia community. Not only has the museum served as a major cultural institution, including in highlighting the important contributions made by African Americans to D.C. and the nation, but it has also served as a pillar of educational enrichment and achievement through its Museum Academy Program. In addition, the museum's Citizen Scientist Program brings high school students and Smithsonian educators, as well as scientists, together to engage in environmental stewardship and learn more about science, technology, engineering and mathematics initiatives.

The museum also continues to be a dominant force in terms of community engagement, creating a hands-on children's room and a youth advisory council. Additionally, the museum works on a number of events and projects that focus on community restoration within Anacostia. For example, the museum recently hosted a community forum with the National Park Service to illustrate the importance of volunteering within one's community and also partnered with WTTG Fox 5 to allow visitors to participate in an urban gardening project.

Aside from its community engagement and restoration, the Anacostia Community Museum showcases various exhibits that focus on the different issues that impact urban communities, both in D.C. and nationwide. Specifically, the museum works with D.C. residents, artists, community activists, scholars, local officials and other outside organizations to cultivate carefully crafted exhibits that challenge museum visitors to think critically and enhance their museum experience.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Anacostia Community Museum, an institution that continues to remain at the forefront of addressing social and political issues that affect individuals in D.C. and the nation, as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 50 YEARS, SHERIFF CHARLES WAGNER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brazoria County Sheriff Charles Wagner in celebration of the 50th anniversary of his service as a law enforcement officer.

Sheriff Wagner joined the Freeport Police Department in 1967. He has worked as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, detective lieutenant and Chief of Detectives. He also served as the Chief Deputy from 1985 until taking office as Sheriff in 2005. As Sheriff of the oldest Sheriffs' Office in the State of Texas, he has been an integral part of keeping the Brazoria County community safe. Our law enforcement officers risk their lives each and every day to protect our communities. Sheriff Wagner exemplifies the leadership and service that makes Brazoria County a great place to live, work and raise a family. We thank him for his service and 50 years of exceptional leadership.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I wanted again to thank Sheriff Wagner for his dedicated public service. All of Brazoria County has benefitted from his commitment to safety and we thank him. Congratulations on 50 years, Sheriff.

HONORING THE LIVES OF TONY DEBRUM AND MATTLAN ZACHRAS

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the remarkable lives of the Honorable Anton ''Tony'' deBrum and the Honorable Mattlan Zachras, both of whom led exemplary careers of public service in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and both attained high posts of trust in their country.

They were known and respected far beyond their own nation, and are remembered with fondness throughout the Pacific Island nations. I am proud and privileged to have known them and called them friends, and remember with appreciation that they were longstanding friends of my home, American Samoa. In particular, my brothers and I have known Tony like he was family since childhood when we spent some time living in the Marshall Islands.

Tony deBrum was an effective political leader for decades and a historic advocate of the national independence of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and his memory will rightly be cherished in his country as a national hero. In his illustrious government career in the Marshall Islands, he served as Minister and finally as Climate Ambassador, and he also served at different times in both the Cabinet and Nitijela (Parliament).

Likewise, Mattlan Zachras left us recently and far too soon at the age of 47. He represented Namdrik Atoll in Nitijela since 2004, worked for grassroots community development, and through his role as Minister in Assistance to President Hilda Heine was an outspoken leader at international climate meetings.

I also include in the RECORD the stirring words of President Heine as expressed in the August 25 publication of the Marshall Islands Journal.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt condolences to President Heine and the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and I ask the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the lifelong dedication exemplified by Tony deBrum and Mattlan Zachras, and honor these dedicated men of public service and the many national values that our countries share.

It is with great sadness and a very heavy heart that I announce that the Marshall Islands lost a national hero Tuesday with the passing of our Climate Ambassador and former Minister Tony deBrum.

Tony passed away peacefully in Majuro, surrounded by his proud father, as well as his wife and partner in life, Rosalie, and their three children, ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren—including newly born Cei'Ena. My thoughts and prayers, as well as those of the government and the people of the Marshall Islands, are with them.

Tony's legacy goes beyond our islands, and will go beyond those of us that call the Marshall Islands home. He fought for our independence, he fought against the tyranny of nuclear weapons and for nuclear justice for our people, and he led the international fight against climate change. The very existence of the Paris Agreement owes a lot to Tony deBrum. He was a giant of history, a legend in every meaning of the word, and a custodian of our shared future.

Born on February 26, 1945 in Tuvalu, Tony grew up in the Marshall Islands during the twelve-year period of US nuclear testing and, as a young boy out fishing with his grandfather, witnessed the horrors of the Bravo Shot, the largest US nuclear test—more than 1,000 times more powerful than Hiroshima. After becoming one of the first Marshallese to attend university, he returned to our island home to play a leading role in the negotiations that secured the Compact of Free Association with the United States, and ultimately our membership in the United Nations. Tony remained consistently and deeply committed to the cause of nuclear justice and global disarmament, and in 2012 was awarded the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leader Award. In 2015 the Right Livelihood Foundation awarded him the Nuclear-Free Future Award and the 'Alternative Nobel'. In 2016 he was voted the Arms Control Person of the Year and nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Tony found himself fighting for our country once again in the global battle against climate change. Tony's vision was captured in the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership in 2013, and in 2015 he contributed to the formation of the High Ambition Coalition. His tireless efforts on the world stage were instrumental in securing the Paris Agreement.

On this day that Tony passed, we also held our final traditional funeral ceremony for Minister Mattlan Zachras who passed away less than two weeks ago. I am certain that Tony will join Mattlan in looking over the Marshall Islands. While our nation may have lost two of our finest men, and the Earth two of its fiercest champions, the best thing we can all do to honor their legacies is to keep up the battle for our future—to which they dedicated their lives. We now carry their torch.

Tony made our island home and the rest of the world safer and more peaceful. And for that a grateful nation and planet says kommol tata. May he rest in the peace that he fought so hard for.—Hilda Heine, President

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security Act, a bill as timely now as it was when I first began working on it. I saw the first signs in the closing of parts of our open society after the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, and I saw it again after 9/11. This bill grows even more urgent as the country is ensnared in continuing wars that threaten our security, causing an increasing variety of security measures to proliferate throughout the country without due diligence and deep thinking about the effects on common freedoms and ordinary public access, and often without guidance from the government or bona fide security experts. For example, security in some federal buildings bar tourists here for Cherry Blossom season from even use of restrooms or cafeterias. The security for some federal buildings has for too long been unduly influenced by non-security experts, who happen to work for an agency but do not have the expertise to take into account actual threats.

The bill I reintroduce today would begin the systematic investigation the nation needs to fully take into account the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threat that terrorism poses. To accomplish its difficult mission, the bill authorizes a 21-member commission, with the president designating nine members and the House and Senate each designating six members, to investigate the balance that should be required between openness and security. The commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but, for the first time at the same table, also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology and psychology. To date, questions of security most often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts should not alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the security/access balance required by our democratic traditions, a diverse group of experts needs to be at the same table.

For years, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and the fear of terrorism, on an often ad hoc basis. Some federal buildings such as the U.S. Capitol have been able to deal with security issues, and continue their openness to the public. Others, like the new Department of Transportation headquarters, remain mostly inaccessible to the public. These examples, drawn from the nation's capital, are replicated in public buildings throughout the United States.

When we have faced unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply before moving to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman-Robb Commission), and the Kerner Commission, which investigated the riots that swept American cities in the 1960s and 1970s. In the aftermath of the 2013 Navy Yard shooting, I wrote to then-President Barack Obama requesting the establishment of an independent panel to investigate issues raised by that tragedy and to evaluate how to secure federal employees who work in facilities like the Navy Yard that are a part of a residential or business community. However, this bill creates a commission that would act not in the wake of a tragedy but before a crisis and before erosion of basic freedoms takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long lasting, we cannot afford to allow the proliferation of security measures that neither require nor are subject to civilian oversight or an analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With no vehicles for leadership on issues of security and openness, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt, 19th-century approaches, such as crude blockades, unsightly barriers around beautiful monuments, and other signals that our society is closing down, all without appropriate exploration of possible alternatives. The threat of terrorism to an open society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level commission of experts from a broad array of disciplines to help chart the new course that will be required to protect our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

HONORING STEVEN WHYTE

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Steven Whyte, a sculptor based out of Carmel, California. His most recent sculpture, a bronze bust of our colleague, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, Jr., has been accepted into the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution.

Steven Whyte was born in England. He spent his youth living throughout Europe where he was inspired by the continent's expansive culture and history. From an early age, it was evident that art would maintain a constant presence in his life. Mr. Whyte studied at the prestigious Sir Henry Doulton School of Sculpture, which served as a catalyst for his remarkable career in portrait sculpture. His accomplishments in the medium were recognized when he became the youngest-ever member of the Society of Portrait Sculptors at age 24 and later the organization's Vice-President.

Whyte works out of his studio and gallery on the central coast of California in Carmel. He is

credited with more than 40 life size and larger bronze figure and monuments in the United States and United Kingdom. Whyte's work includes memorials for fallen first responders and soldiers, tributes to beloved cultural figures, and public art installations. One of his most prominent pieces on the Central Coast is the Cannery Row Monument located in Monterey. This piece features nine life-size figures, including author John Steinbeck, recipient of the Nobel Prize, and other figures prominent in Central Coast history.

Whyte's bronze bust of Congressman JOHN J. CONYERS, Jr. is one of the first busts sculpted of a sitting Member of Congress. His work captures Congressman CONYERS' significance as the Dean of the U.S. House of Representatives and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

On behalf of California's 20th Congressional District, I thank Steven Whyte for the rich tribute that his bronze sculpture affords our Congressional colleague, JOHN J. CONYERS, Jr. I also appreciate the recognition that Steven Whyte has brought to the Central Coast's artistic community through the acclaim of his art by the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution.

CONGRATULATING RYAN DARBY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, honor and thank a truly impressive young constituent from my district, 14-year old Ryan Darby, who is completing two years of exemplary service as a National Youth Ambassador for the Hyundai Hope On Wheels Foundation to fight pediatric cancer.

Ryan lives in Bethesda, Maryland and is himself a cancer survivor. He was selected to serve as a Hyundai Hope On Wheels National Youth Ambassador in March 2016.

Since then, Ryan has traveled across America to share his story of illness, resiliency, courage and hope and to inspire others to participate in the fight against cancer.

Ryan joined Hyundai Hope On Wheels in its continuing mission to educate people about pediatric cancer and to raise money—over $130 million since 1998—to find a cure.

Over the last two years, Ryan visited many children's hospitals and attended events to stand in solidarity with children and families who are battling cancer or who have been affected by the disease. He has spoken at numerous schools and even shared his story on TV and radio.

Ryan was only six years old when he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, and he became one tough cancer survivor.

He is an inspiring example of physical courage, mental toughness and devotion to the well-being of others. I am especially proud of him for giving others hope. We encourage and applaud the kind of selfless contributions this young man has made.

I wish Ryan Darby the best of luck with all his future endeavors, and I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating him on a job well done as he completes his service as a 2016–2017 Hyundai Hope On Wheels National Youth Ambassador.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CITY OF DENTON'S 9/11 FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL BELL TOWER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Denton, Texas as they dedicate a 9/11 Firefighters Memorial Bell Tower featuring an I-beam from the World Trade Center and Denton's original bronze fire bell. The Memorial was dedicated on the 16th anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and rural Pennsylvania.

An I-beam from the World Trade Center stands at the bottom of the 30-foot bell tower structure, which protects the I-beam below and frames the entrance to the Denton Firefighters Museum and Central Fire Station. The monument provides a visual representation of New York's landmark Twin Towers and displays the number 343 in remembrance of the firefighters who were killed at Ground Zero, as well as the words courage, dedication, and service, in honor of all firefighters.

The bell tower structure also features Denton's original bronze fire bell from City Hall West, which hangs at the top of the monument. The bell once sounded three times a day and was used to alert residents of fires. Cast originally in 1884, the bell was recently refurbished and made fully operational to make the same sounds as heard in historic Denton.

The dedication of the monument occurred as part of a special memorial event featuring retired New York City firefighter Bill Spade, who was at Ground Zero on September 11, 2001. Mr. Spade is the only survivor of the twelve responding firefighters on FDNY Rescue 5, a unit of the Special Operations Command. He shared his experiences from that unforgettable day, and put into perspective the debt of gratitude each of us owes to first responders that serve their communities each day.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the City of Denton as they honor the firefighters lost while responding to the attacks on our country in 2001, as well as the men and women currently serving Denton under the direction of Chief Paulsgrove and other leaders like him across Denton County. This recognition is well-deserved, and I am honored to represent these professionals and their families in the 26th District of Texas.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER CHARLES NATHAN FINDLEY

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of United States Navy Petty Officer Charles Nathan Findley and his service to our nation. On August 20th of this year, Petty Officer Findley was killed after a collision between the USS *John S. McCain* and a merchant vessel in waters near Singapore and Malaysia.

Respected by his fellow officers, Findley served as an electronics technician first class in the Navy. His friends and family will remember his love of rebuilding cars, Japanese culture, and foreign travel. Findley was a father and husband, leaving behind an 8-year-old daughter, 6-year-old son, and his beloved wife Riho.

His contributions as a Petty Officer for the United States Navy and his sacrifice to our nation serves as a reminder to us all that our freedom exists because of the dedication of brave individuals such as Charles. Our country is at a loss without his loyal service.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Petty Officer Charles Nathan Findley and his distinguished service to our nation.

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN BAKER

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lauren Baker who has served as a mentor, teacher, labor leader, college instructor, consultant, and administrator. Lauren is retiring from her current position as Executive Director of the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association (MTEA) comprised of educators, educational assistants', substitutes and bookkeepers who work on behalf of the students attending Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS). She officially retired on August 31, 2017.

Lauren has enjoyed a distinguished career. She spent over 25 years in the printing industry working as a journeyperson lithographer and then served as Education Director for the Graphic Communications International Union Local 577M (now GCC/IBT and Director of the Milwaukee Graphic Arts Institute (MGAI). Lauren taught at MGAI and Milwaukee Area Technical College. Highlights of her work during this period of her career include: leading the successful part-time teachers organizing campaign at MATC, founding the GCIU Women's Caucus and developing and implementing sexual harassment training for union members and employers. For 10 years, Lauren served as the Coordinator Career and Technical Education (CTE) for MPS. She led the district wide efforts in trade technical and other career educational disciplines. Further, she revitalized the career programming, advocated for publically funded career education at the state and federal level and also coordinated the work for teachers in schools for the CTE programs.

Lauren has served on numerous boards; she has served on the MATC Board for 19 years. She co-chairs the statewide District Boards Association's Legislation Committee and represented the Midwest Region on the National Board of Directors for the Association of Community College Trustees. Further, Lauren served on the National Council for Skills Standards in Graphic Communications, the State Superintendent's Council of Technical and Engineering Education and Milwaukee County Advisory Committee on Apprenticeships and other committees in relation to workforce preparation and education.

Lauren Baker has been recognized for her work including Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) award for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) where she earned a Master of Science Degree in Administrative Leadership and Educational Supervision. She was honored by Business Journal as a Woman of Influence. In 2010, Lauren was invited to the White House as a part of a small group advising the Obama Administration on equity in technical education for the National Educate to Innovate Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Lauren, her husband John Drew, a UAW labor leader and adult son, Nick, my friends. She has left a legacy of advocacy and compassion and is a true trailblazer. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin and the nation have benefited tremendously from her dedicated service. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Lauren Baker, and wish her the best as she transitions into a new phase of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. on September 5, 2017 because my flight from Oregon was delayed due to weather. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 2864, the Improving Access to Capital Act, and H.R. 3110, the Financial Stability Oversight Council Insurance Member Continuity Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVE NORTON AND HIS SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY STUDIES

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Norton as he moves on after twelve years from his role as Executive Director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies.

As Executive Director of the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, and previously as director of Medicaid Service for the N.H. Department of Health and Human Services, Steve made invaluable contributions to our community and our state. Through his commitment and compassion, he helped improve the lives of countless families and communities in need, and his vision has helped to create a better future for the Granite State and its residents.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and all those who have benefitted from Steve's work, I thank him for all he has done for our state, and I wish him the best of luck in his next step. I look forward to our continued work together to make New Hampshire be an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RON ARMSTEAD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ron Armstead, the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust.

Mr. Armstead began his career in public service as the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust, a role he has served in since the program's inception. Since then, he has served under various members, including former Representative Charles Rangel and Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Currently, Mr. Armstead serves under Representative SANFORD BISHOP Jr. In addition, Mr. Armstead also served as a consultant to the late Secretary Jerry Brown's Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Mr. Armstead holds a Master's in City Planning with a concentration in Affordable Housing and Community Development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is also a licensed social worker in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ron Armstead for his hard work with the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust.

HONORING SCOTT FRANZGROTE FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS FIRE CHIEF OF THE ROLLING MEADOWS FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of the long and distinguished service of Scott Franzgrote on the occasion of his retirement. On September 29th of this year, Mr. Franzgrote will conclude his loyal service as Fire Chief of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department.

Chief Franzgrote has served the community for a total of 27 years, including the last six years as Fire Chief of the Rolling Meadows Fire Department. Since joining the department in 1990, his extraordinary leadership has earned him great respect among colleagues and members of the community.

During his tenure, Chief Franzgrote led a consolidation effort for services with the Palatine and Palatine Rural fire departments. The "Rural Palatine Meadows" initiative has led to shared equipment, standardized training, streamlined responses to incidents, and has already saved the city of Rolling Meadows hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and wishing Chief Franzgrote every happiness in the well-deserved respite of his retirement.

DISCUSSION ABOUT REMOVING A PLAQUE ON THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following remarks by Peter Onoszko, President of the Jefferson County Commission:

"With malice toward none and charity for all" thus said President Abraham Lincoln in his Second Inaugural Address in 1865. Even though the Civil War would continue for several more months before the final victory over the Confederate States, President Lincoln was already setting the country on the path of reconciliation. Regardless of the military victory, the President knew that unless there was a reconciliation the military victory would be meaningless.

The path of reconciliation has been slow and tortuous. However, in the decades following the Civil War all but the most senior of the former Confederate military and civilian leadership had their United States citizenship restored by Congress. The post-War careers of Confederate general officers is illustrative of the reconciliation. Depending on how one counts, there were between 425 and 562 Confederate general officers. Of these numbers, 3 were recalled to active duty during the Spanish-American War and served in the United States Army. 51 were appointed to various federal civilian positions ranging from US ambassadors to foreign governments to US marshals to membership on various federal commissions to postmasters and so forth. 45 were elected to the US Congress as senators and representatives and at least one was appointed to a federal judgeship.

What of the ordinary soldiers and how they felt? In 1905 on the 40th anniversary of the Civil War, Congress authorized the first campaign medal ever awarded to members of the Armed Forces and this was the Civil War Campaign Medal awarded to all who had served honorably in BOTH the Union and Confederate armies. Perhaps the most poignant demonstration of reconciliation was the Battle of Gettysburg Reunion of 1913 marking the fiftieth anniversary of that great battle. Thousands of surviving veterans from both the North and the South gathered at the site of the battle. During several days of the reunion, Confederate and Union veterans toured the battlefield walking arm in arm as they revisited the site and reminisced with each other, recognizing that there was an unbreakable bond that had risen among all who had participated.

By 1978 the United States Congress had restored US citizenship to all of the senior leadership of the Confederacy, in some cases posthumously. The last was Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, who posthumously had his US citizenship restored by an act of Congress in 1978. In signing this act President Jimmy Carter observed that this was the final act of reconciliation.

Paralleling the reconciliation of "the Boys in Blue and the Boys in Gray" was the reconciliation between white and black Americans. This also followed a tortuous path. Starting with the Emancipation Proclamation promulgated in 1863 and continuing with the ratification of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution between 1864 and 1870, slavery was abolished and black Americans were recognized as full citizens of the United States with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

Unfortunately the full acceptance of black Americans was legally obstructed in many

sections of the country for the next century with the enactment of ''Jim Crow'' laws which made racial segregation and discrimination legal (''Separate but equal'' as the US Supreme Court ruled in Plessy v. Ferguson [1896]). However, the path toward racial reconciliation continued. The Armed Forces were racially integrated by President Harry Truman during the Korean War and Plessy v. Ferguson was overturned by the US Supreme Court in 1954 with the Brown v. Board of Education decision which ruled that ''Separate but equal is not equal at all'' to cite several examples of the country moving toward complete reconciliation. The struggle to legally abolish racial discrimination and insure civil rights for all Americans of whatever racial background, in which struggle both black and white Americans participated, came to a head in the civil rights protests and demonstrations of the 1960s. This resulted in the landmark Civil Rights Legislation of the era which ended racial segregation and outlawed discrimination on the basis of race.

In our lifetime we have had an African American president, African American cabinet officers, including two secretaries of state, two African American Justices on the Supreme Court, several African American four-star generals including one Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, many Members of Congress in both the Senate and House, along with African American leaders in business, industry, science, medicine, academia, and the arts.

Tragically today there exist small radical minorities among both white and black Americans who seek to undermine over a century and a half of progress toward the reconciliation between regions of America and the races of Americans, creating harmful division and discord between our people and threatening to destroy our country. This has got to stop. We are ALL Americans and as Abraham Lincoln said in 1858 ''A house divided against itself cannot stand.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed Roll Call vote number 480 regarding Motion to Concur (H.R. 601). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes; I missed Roll Call vote number 481 regarding On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 55 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted No; I missed Roll Call vote number 482 On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 56 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted No; I missed Roll Call vote number 483 regarding On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 57 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes; and I missed Roll Call vote number 484 On Agreeing to the Amendment, Amendment No. 63 (H.R. 3354). Had I been present, I would have voted No.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL DURANT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of Senior Deputy Sheriff Michael Durant of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and to thank him for his unwavering commitment to making California—and the United States—a safer place.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all of our nation's law enforcement officers, but Californians are especially thankful for the impact that Mike has made in his community and state. Over the course of his law enforcement career, which now spans more than three decades, Mike has held a number of important roles. He has been assigned to patrols and field trainings, conducted numerous investigations, and done extensive work with the canine unit.

At each step as Mike rose through the ranks, he gained experience and expertise that prepared him well for the position he currently holds with the Peace Officers Research Association of California, more commonly known as PORAC. PORAC's mission is to identify the public safety needs in communities and help to provide the services necessary to adequately meet those changing needs. After serving for seven years as the group's Vice President, in 2013 Mike was unanimously elected President and has since led the association with distinction.

As leader of the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest such statewide association in the nation with over 70,000 active members, Mike has strengthened the association and enhanced PORAC's voice at the state and national levels. I have seen firsthand Mike's passion for enacting public policy aligned with PORAC's honorable mission, at both the state and federal levels.

When PORAC meets with Members of Congress this week, it will be the last time it does so under the leadership of President Durant. With Mike's productive tenure as PORAC President coming to an end, I want to thank him for his service to California, congratulate him on a job well done, and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to Mike's wife, Roxanne, and his three children—because as a son of a police officer and brother of two members of law enforcement myself, I recognize the sacrifices such families make while their loved ones serve in the line of duty.

HONORING DELPHINE METCALF-FOSTER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Delphine Metcalf-Foster, who is the National Commander of Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Along with her position with DAV, Ms. Metcalf-Foster serves on the First Data Military Advisory Council, is a member of the DAV Department of California Claims and Service Committee, and has served as Chairman of the DAV Department of California Resolution Committee. In November 2015, she completed a four-year appointment as a member of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Women Veterans.

Ms. Metcalf-Foster has served in multiple tours and units. In 1991, she was injured while serving in Saudi Arabia as a part of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield. She has also served with the U.S. Army Reserve, 689th Quartermaster Unit, 6253rd Hospital Unit and 6211th Transportation Unit at the Letterman Army Medical Center. In 1996, Ms. Metcalf-Foster retired from the Army Reserves with the rank of first sergeant.

She is a graduate of Solano Community College and Sonoma State University, where she majored in psychology and liberal studies, respectively.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and honoring Ms. Delphine Metcalf-Foster.

REMEMBERING JOSE RAMOS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember my dear friend, and fierce advocate for his fellow veterans, Jose Ramos. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and my thoughts are with his wife, Sylvia, and his family at this very difficult time. Jose was a member of my Veterans Advisory Committee and a well-respected resource for veterans throughout our community. He will always be remembered for his tireless work to gain national recognition for Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

Jose Ramos was born in 1948 to Augustine and Herminia Ramos. He attended Garfield High School but chose to enlist in the Army when he was in 10th grade. He worked as an Army Combat Medic, and in 1968 he received the Purple Heart. After returning home, Jose worked at the Los Angeles County USC Medical Center and at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital. He retired in 1999.

Like his fellow Vietnam veterans, Jose Ramos returned home from an unpopular war only to face hostility and resentment. And like his fellow soldiers, Jose quietly went back to his normal life, built a family and stayed in touch with his veteran friends. He became a powerful advocate for veterans in our community and across the country. It was his personal experiences, and those of his fellow GIs, that motivated him to work toward establishing a national day of recognition. He inspired many, including me, to help give Vietnam veterans their long overdue welcome home.

His legacy lives on as several states all across the nation have already adopted Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. It is long past time for our country to officially recognize and commemorate their service. I will continue to introduce and advocate for legislation to establish a national 'Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day' on behalf of Jose Ramos and all of our veterans who fought bravely in the Vietnam War.

HONORING USPTO NATIONAL SUMMER TEACHER'S INSTITUTE ON INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PARTICIPANT BECKY McDOWELL

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Becky McDowell for being selected to participate in the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) 4th Annual National Summer Teacher's Institute on Innovation and Intellectual Property (NSTI).

The NSTI is a week-long program designed to provide teachers with a comprehensive understanding of intellectual property, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The USPTO reviewed over 500 applicants for the program and accepted only 44 participants, highlighting Ms. McDowell's unique qualifications.

Representing the schools of Roslyn Road, Barbara Rose, North Barrington, and Sunny Hill Schools in Wauconda, Illinois, Ms. McDowell worked with a group of fellow teachers to come up with their own invention. Ms. McDowell's group invented an animal care app where owners could update key information about their pets for use by kennels and animal caregivers to ensure the safety and well-being of pets.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing Ms. Becky McDowell for her outstanding service, and congratulate her on being selected to participate in the United States Patent and Trademark Office's 4th Annual National Summer Teacher's Institute on Innovation and Intellectual Property.

IN HONOR OF JIM McCANN

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, and long-serving member of the Westerville Community, Jim McCann who celebrated his 80th birthday on August 18, 2017.

Jim McCann has dedicated his life to service; to his nation as a soldier in the United States Army, to his students as an educator, and to his neighbors as an indefatigable community leader.

After years of teaching at Columbus South East High School in subjects such as journalism and psychology, he was selected in 1975 to become the Assistant Principal at the newly created Westerville North High School. For almost thirty years, he invested himself into fostering academic rigor and community pride in the students, faculty and staff of Westerville North. He served fourteen years as Assistant Principal before taking on a subsequent fourteen years as Principal. During Jim's tenure, he created the Warrior Way—a hallmark of the high school and a philosophy he developed in collaboration with students and faculty. Upon graduation, students receive a card printed with the Warrior Way as a constant reminder to respect themselves, fellow students, their school, their family, and their community. Jim's Warrior Way can be seen displayed proudly throughout the school, both in writing and in the actions and achievements of students.

In recognition of his tremendous impact, his friends and neighbors renamed Westerville North Stadium in his honor. As a testament to Jim's continued service to his community, the Jim McCann Award for Excellence in Journalism is given to a handful of seniors across the school district who exemplify his selfless style of leadership and passion for reporting.

Time and again, Jim's friends and colleagues have leaned on his wisdom and vision. He has brought these traits to the benefit of the many civic organizations with which he's involved, including the Westerville Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the American Legion Young Budd Post 171, the Westerville Kiwanis, the Westerville Symphony advisory board, and the Westerville Parks Foundation. In addition to all of this, Jim serves as the chairman of my service academy selection board, helping advance dozens of students into the ranks of our military officer corps.

I am honored to recognize my dear friend, and fellow Buckeye, for his lasting friendship and innumerable contributions to the city of Westerville and Central Ohio. It is with great pride that I join the residents of Ohio's 12th Congressional District to wish Jim a very happy 80th birthday.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my Amendment No.19 to H.R. 3354, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018, included in Division A En Bloc 1. My amendment would increase the funding for the Smithsonian Institute Salaries and Expenses by $2 million with the intended purpose of providing increased resources for the recently launched Smithsonian's American Women's History Initiative.

I strongly support the Initiative and its goal to more completely include the contributions of women throughout Smithsonian institutions by directing resources toward cataloging collections inventory, expanding exhibits, and developing educational programs on American women's history.

I strongly believe that ultimately we need a new Smithsonian museum dedicated to American women's history. Last year a bipartisan Congressional Commission made a strong, unanimous recommendation that our country needs such a museum and that it belongs in the Smithsonian system and should be prominently located on the National Mall. I have introduced legislation that incorporates those recommendations, and I'm grateful for the support of 247 bipartisan members of the House who have cosponsored my bill. I hope there will be broad support for this amendment as well. This Initiative represents the first important step toward establishing a physical Smithsonian Museum on American Women's History and aims to make important improvements in existing museum exhibitions to more accurately and completely tell the story of our nation's history.

I strongly urge the passage of this amendment and the en bloc.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF EVELYN SOMMERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Evelyn Sommers, who passed away on August 25, 2017.

During her tenure as Executive Director of the District of Columbia Nurses Association from 1980 to 2002, Evelyn Sommers touched many lives. After obtaining a journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin, Ms. Sommers went on to obtain a Master of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University. During that time, Ms. Sommers recognized her passion for helping others, which led her to the District of Columbia Nurses Association.

After Ms. Sommers retired from the District of Columbia Nurses Association, she went on to volunteer for the YWCA National Capitol Area in a number of leadership capacities, including president, vice president, and as a member of the board of directors. Aside from her time spent as a volunteer with the YWCA, Ms. Sommers and her husband volunteered their time and talents to other organizations, such as the Mid-County United Food Bank, the Homeless Project Advisory Board and the Voluntary Action Center. Additionally, Ms. Sommers and her husband assisted with the construction of St. Bernard Secondary School in the village of South Kinangop, Kenya, after they had toured the country and fell in love with its culture. The school continues to graduate many students and have a significant positive impact on the village and its surrounding communities.

Ms. Sommers leaves behind her husband of 50 years, John Sommers; her brothers, Jack Dugan, Fred Sommers, Martin Sommers and James Sommers; and countless nieces and nephews, as well as their spouses.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Evelyn Sommers and remembering her selfless dedication to others.

HONORING ZENNIE HERRING

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the honoree of the Molina Healthcare of Illinois' 2017 Community Champions Awards Ceremony and Dinner, Zennie Herring.

Zennie, who is from my hometown of Collinsville, has dedicated her life to improving the world around her. After retiring from her career as an elementary school teacher, Zennie volunteered at the Cahokia Mounds Visitor Center for 20 years. In addition, she served as director of the local Meals on Wheels program.

She is also a remarkable and avid tailor. Zennie has sewn thousands of reversible dresses for her church's mission team at Meadow Heights Baptist Church, and she has sent hundreds of her dresses abroad to little girls in Mexico and Haiti. She also sewed dog beds for the local shelter, dresses for children's toys, and lap robes and clothing protectors for nursing home residents.

The Community Champions Awards Ceremony and Dinner, created in honor of Molina Healthcare's founder Dr. C. David Molina, brings together people whose civic and faith-based leadership, volunteerism, and public advocacy embody Dr. Molina's legacy of service. There is no doubt that Zennie embodies the very spirit behind this award.

I applaud Zennie Herring for her service to her community, and I would like to thank her for representing my constituents so wonderfully both in Illinois and abroad.

HONORING 2017 PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS HONORABLE MENTION RECIPIENT AMY SCHWARTZ

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amy Schwartz for being named a 2017 Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators (PIAEE) honorable mention recipient.

The PIAEE recognizes elementary school teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning for their students. The PIAEE reviewed hundreds of applicants for the award and selected only 12 recipients, highlighting Ms. Schwartz's unique qualifications.

Representing Edison Middle School in Wheaton, Illinois, Ms. Schwartz coordinated a project in which student, faculty, parents and Wheaton Park District staff worked together to transform an area behind the Edison Middle School into a native tallgrass prairie. Students complemented this hands-on project with a field trip to Fermilab, a local physics laboratory, to learn more about energy and ecosystems.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in recognizing Ms. Amy Schwartz for her outstanding service and congratulate her being named a 2017 PIAEE honorable mention recipient.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE WASTE NOT OC COALITION

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the notable contributions and meaningful progress made by the Waste Not OC Coalition (WNOC) towards ending hunger in Orange County.

Food insecurity is a serious public health issue. It is linked to malnutrition, obesity, and other negative health consequences. For children, inconsistent food access can adversely affect their mental and physical development. Unfortunately, more than 300,000 Orange County residents—including one in five children—experience food insecurity each month.

A conversation between Orange County Public Health Officer Dr. Eric Handler and Orange County Food Bank Director Mark Lowry concerning the disconnect between the food insecurity of residents and the food waste of local restaurants led to the creation of WNOC.

Established in November 2012, as a public-private partnership, WNOC offers a simple yet innovative model for food recovery. WNOC facilitates the donation of wholesome surplus food from local restaurants, groceries, and other food-producing establishments to local pantries while reducing the amount of food waste destined for area landfills.

WNOC does more than just redistribute food; the organization uses county health inspectors to educate operators about food donation during routine inspections and uses food industry partners to safely and efficiently connect recoverable food sources with distribution agencies throughout the county. WNOC has facilitated a dual city-wide effort between Anaheim and Orange to identify food sources, partnered with community hospitals and clinics to implement a food insecurity screening tool, united with the Anaheim City School District to implement food recovery programs, and worked with local universities to establish campus pantries.

WNOC partners are working with hundreds of Orange County facilities to address food insecurity. Through these collaborative efforts, the Coalition has successfully recovered over 3,700 tons of excess food this year alone, or the equivalent of more than 6 million meals, to provide much needed sustenance to numerous residents. WNOC performs a vital function within my district. In recognition of that significant work, the National Association of City and County Officials named WNOC as a Model Practices Program in 2016.

Sometimes hunger feels like too big of an issue to tackle, but WNOC is proving there is meaningful work we can all participate in. The organization's work is remarkable not only for the strides they have made in Orange County, but also for the resources they provide for the greater community such as their willingness to work with any community interested in replicating the Waste Not OC Coalition Model for food recovery to end hunger and reduce food waste.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Waste Not OC Coalition for the profound impact it has had in our community these past five years and I look forward to its future contributions to Orange County.

TRIBUTE TO BART FORSYTH

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bart Forsyth, who recently left Capitol Hill after serving in many capacities over the past 13 years.

After graduating from Hofstra University and receiving his law degree from Washington and Lee School of Law, Bart began his career on Capitol Hill as a staff member on the Foreign Affairs Committee. He then went on to serve on the House Science Committee as investigative counsel, as my chief of staff on the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, a staff member of the House Judiciary Committee, and as my chief of staff in my personal office. In the more than 10 years I have known Bart, he has never lost sight of what brought him here—to solve problems and make a positive difference in peoples' lives.

Bart's extensive knowledge, foresight, and drive made him a force on Capitol Hill. He has championed a number of causes related to government surveillance, law enforcement, privacy and civil liberties, and European relations. In June, 2013 when it was revealed that the National Security Agency (NSA) had overstepped its authorities, he immediately began work on a legislative response that would eventually be known as USA Freedom Act. He also spearheaded work on the Judicial Redress Act of 2016, which ensures data is protected in the strongest possible way with our privacy laws. His achievements have not gone unnoticed. Twice, Bart has been recognized by European leaders as one of the Hill's top policy influencers. Additionally, he was admitted into the prestigious U.S. Supreme Court bar in 2014.

Too often, working long hours can take its toll on one's personal life. Not so with Bart. Whether it was running marathons, competing in an Ironman competition, including qualifying for the world championship in Kona, Hawaii, or more importantly taking on the role of devoted husband and father, Bart continuously sought out new challenges and did so with strength and determination.

Bart has been a true asset as a trusted advisor, effective facilitator, and respected leader. I'm thankful for his distinguished service and wish him, his wife Mindy, and daughter Triana, all the best as Bart begins this new chapter.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF SARKIS TATIGIAN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me

in honoring Sarkis Tatigian, the longest serving federal civilian employee on record.

Currently, Sarkis Tatigian serves as the Associate Director of Small Business Programs for the Naval Sea Systems Command, the largest component of the U.S. Navy. While he was initially eligible for retirement in 1973, Mr. Tatigian has continued to provide decades of selfless service to our country. Mr. Tatigian began his naval career in 1942, when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Junior Inspector of Radio at the Naval Aircraft Factory. Throughout his time with the U.S. Navy, Mr. Tatigian has served multiple tours; served in various units within the U.S. Navy, such as the Navy Bureau of Ordnance Experimental Unit and the Bureau of Naval Weapons; and worked as a Small Business Analyst for the Bureau of Ordinance. In addition, Mr. Tatigian has received numerous awards, including the U.S. Navy Meritorious Civilian Award, and has also had an award named after him for his role in small business, the Sarkis Tatigian Small Business Award.

On September 26, 2017, Mr. Tatigian will have served a total of 75 years of federal service.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Sarkis Tatigian.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLIPPARD WILSON TAYLOR VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3838

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clippard Wilson Taylor Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3838 of Cape Girardeau, Missouri on celebrating their 75th anniversary of serving veterans and their families as well as the community.

The Post was chartered on the 20th day of September, 1942 with 44 members. Since then, it has grown to be one of the largest VFW Posts in the state with a current membership of 590, a strong part of the 1.7 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary nationally.

Post 3838 has been instrumental throughout the years fostering patriotism in many ways which include teaching flag etiquette at local schools and supplying American flags to schools, churches, and parks. The Post shows great comradery amongst their war veterans and strives to assist fellow veterans in need. The members have lobbied successfully for legislation to provide care to veterans and funding for the military.

Throughout their years of service, the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3838 have remained loyal and dedicated to their organization, their country, their members, and the community. Therefore, it is my privilege and honor to recognize the Clippard Wilson Taylor VFW Post 3838 on celebrating their 75th anniversary before the U.S. House of Representatives.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARLAN WALDROP

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a beloved public servant, Marlan Waldrop. After a long and valiant battle with cancer, she is now at peace. Ms. Waldrop served for the last three years as the Director of the Veterans Benefits Administration, Houston Regional Office. As Director of the Houston Regional Office, Marlan was responsible for administering approximately two hundred nineteen million dollars each month in federal benefits to nearly eight hundred thousand veterans and their families living in ninety South Texas Counties, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

Ms. Waldrop began her VA service in December 1990 as a Veterans Service Representative in the Education Division of the Atlanta Regional Processing Office. During her twenty-seven years of VA service, Marlan served in numerous leadership roles including: Instructor for the Challenge 2001 veteran service representative training, Assistant Deputy Director of the Tiger Team in Cleveland, Ohio (2004–2005), Louisville Veterans Service Center Manager (2005–2007), Assistant Director of the Montgomery VA Regional Office (2007–2011), and as Director of the San Juan VA Regional Office (2011–2014).

Ms. Waldrop came to work for the VA because she needed a job, but found a career that allowed her to help improve the lives of our nation's veterans. She empowered her staff "to do what is right for the veteran" and to make the VA a welcoming place. She ensured that her outreach team was accessible to veterans beyond the walls of a VA facility. Marlan is survived by her son, Josh, six hundred sixty dedicated employees at the Houston VA Regional Office, and family and friends.

On behalf of a grateful nation and the tens of thousands of veterans whose lives were better because of her work on their behalf, I rise to remember Ms. Waldrop and her many years of devoted service to our nation's veterans.

JANYA RAM EARNS GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Janya Ram of Sugar Land, TX, for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. To earn this distinguished award, Janya had to spend at least 80 hours developing and executing a project that would benefit the community and have a long-term impact on girls as well. For her Gold award project, she taught self-defense workshops at the Boys and Girls Club in Stafford. Janya wanted to take the skills she learned in her karate classes and help girls in her community protect themselves in unsafe situations.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Janya Ram for earning her Girl Scout Gold Award. We are confident she will have continued success in her future endeavors. We are very proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to my need to be back in my district to help my community prepare for Hurricane Irma, I was unable to be present for Roll Call Votes 467 through 484.

Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 467; YEA on Roll Call No. 468; NAY on Roll Call No. 469; NAY on Roll Call No. 470; NAY on Roll Call No. 471; YEA on Roll Call No. 472; NAY on Roll Call No. 473; YEA on Roll Call No. 474; NAY on Roll Call No. 475; NAY on Roll Call No. 476; NAY on Roll Call No. 477; YEA on Roll Call No. 478; YEA on Roll Call No. 479; YEA on Roll Call No. 480; NAY on Roll Call No. 481; NAY on Roll Call No. 482; NAY on Roll Call No. 483; and YEA on Roll Call No. 484.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed one vote during a vote series on September 8, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted: No on Roll Call No. 484, on the Pearce amendment (H. Amdt. 361) to the Make American Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act of 2018 (H.R. 3354).

SEPTEMBER 11TH

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001 was on a Tuesday.

I remember watching the horrible destruction unfold, and thinking that the world would change for all of us. In those days and weeks after 9/11, Americans from the South Asian, Muslim, and Arab American community were subjected to hate crimes simply because of how they looked. Muslim students were pulled out of school because of fear for their safety, Sikh men were shot at for their turbans, and many of us were told to go home, back to our own country—even though America is our home.

But in the wake of that destruction, I was part of forming powerful coalitions to fight against hate of all kinds and to protect our civil rights and civil liberties.

As we reflect on the events of that day and honor first responders and those who lost their lives, let us also remember that America's true

values are about equal rights for all, inclusivity, resilience, generosity and abundance.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL IRENE TROWELL-HARRIS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the achievements of Major General Irene Trowell-Harris, who is currently the assistant to the director of the Air National Guard (ANG) for human resources readiness in the District of Columbia.

General Trowell-Harris began her career in public service in 1963 when she was commissioned to the New York National Guard. In this role, she served in a number of positions, including chief nurse, nurse administrator, flight nurse instructor and flight nurse examiner. In 1986, she was appointed commander of the 105th U.S. Air Force Clinic in New York, which made her the first nurse in ANG history to command a medical clinic. She then went on to serve as ANG advisor to the chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps and as ANG assistant to the director of medical readiness and nursing services in the Office of the Surgeon General at the United States Air Force headquarters in D.C.

General Trowell-Harris grew up in South Carolina as one of 11 children, working on a cotton field alongside members of her family. However, she always had big dreams and knew that she was destined to achieve something great. As a result, once she graduated from high school, General Trowell-Harris went on to obtain a Bachelor of Arts in Health Education from Jersey City State College in 1971. In 1973, she obtained her Master of Public Health from Yale University. But, General Trowell-Harris did not stop there—she went on to obtain a Doctor of Education in Health Education from Columbia University in 1983.

While General Trowell-Harris has completed her formal education, she continues to receive numerous degrees and honors for various achievements, including the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, from the Medical University of South Carolina. In addition, she is a member of multiple organizations, including the American Nurses Association and the Aerospace Medical Association, and was also the first woman in history to have a Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. chapter named in her honor, the Major General Trowell-Harris Chapter, located in New York.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the achievements of Major General Irene Trowell-Harris.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF KEITH BADGETT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the retirement of Keith Badgett from the Anniston Army Depot on September 30, 2017 after over 39 years of service.

Keith has made contributions to four different installations/agencies throughout his 39 year career. He served as Voucher Examiner Vendor Pay at Fort McClellan, Alabama, Voucher Examiner and Accounting Technician at the 81st Regional Support Command, as well as Accounting Technician, Management Accounting Analyst and Budget Analyst at Anniston Army Depot.

During his years of service, Keith has served as a role model for his co-workers. He has consistently demonstrated loyalty to his command and the Army during his employment. Keith is dedicated to the mission and displays a sense of duty in all accomplishments.

The retirement ceremony will take place on September 26th.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Keith on his retirement.

REMEMBERING JUDGE DICKSON PHILLIPS

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of North Carolina's finest and most distinguished citizens, James Dickson Phillips, Jr., former Dean of the Law School of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and former judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Judge Phillips died at home in Chapel Hill on August 27, at the age of 94.

A native of Scotland County, North Carolina, Dickson Phillips attended the public schools of Laurinburg and then Davidson College, where his athletic, academic, and leadership abilities became evident. He joined the army upon graduation in 1943. He was commissioned a lieutenant in the 17th Airborne Division and led his platoon as part of Operation Varsity, the largest single-day airborne assault in history. He was badly wounded in a firefight with retreating Germans and was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service.

Phillips enrolled in the UNC-Chapel Hill Law School after the war. He excelled as a student and in the practice of law and was invited to join the faculty in 1960. He was named Dean in 1964 and served for ten years. The present Dean, Martin Brinkley, describes him as one of the school's greatest deans and a "trailblazer":

By the fall of his second year as dean, total enrollment at the law school had more than doubled. The faculty also nearly doubled in size during his deanship. Dean Phillips hired Carolina Law's first African-American visiting faculty member, Harry Groves, and its first full-time African-American member, Charles Daye. There was only one African-American student at the law school when Phillips became dean; by 1973, there were 23, along with two Native American and one Latino students. The ten women students who enrolled during his first year had swelled to 121 by the time he left.

During his 10 years as dean, Phillips inaugurated the Holderness Moot court program and the McCall Teaching Award. Small section classes were instituted for first-year students, and the upper-class curriculum greatly expanded. The first-ever clinical classes were sponsored. By far the largest fundraising effort in the law school's history up to the time was successfully executed, while the 10-year North Carolina bar passage rate among Carolina Law graduates averaged 95.8 Percent.

President Jimmy Carter in 1978 appointed Dickson Phillips to a seat on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, where he served until 1994—the "greatest judge produced in North Carolina", in the judgment of former UNC Law School Dean Gene Nichol "since (eighteenth-century US Supreme Court Justice James) Iredell."

As was recalled in his obituary, "His role as an appellate judge brought together his great personal attributes of precision, clarity and wisdom along with a love of justice and mercy and a generous but realistic understanding of human nature and foibles . . . He brought both a long view of history and the particular experience of life in North Carolina of the Depression and post-war years to his decisions."

Judge Phillips' major cases involved some of the most contentious issues of the day—minority voting rights, gerrymandering, and sex discrimination. In a series of decisions beginning in 1982 with the Gingles case and continuing into the 1990s with the Shaw decisions, he led three-judge federal panels in rejecting state legislative districting that diluted minority voting strength, and upholding as constitutional majority-minority congressional districting. These cases remain important in enabling African-Americans to achieve representation in state legislatures and Congress. In the sex discrimination area, he dissented from the Fourth Circuit panel's finding that the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) could constitutionally provide a "separate but equal" program for women, a position that the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately adopted.

Over the years, Dickson Phillips served on many other fronts—as a trustee of Davidson College, a founding trustee of the NC Nature Conservatory, and first chairman of the state Ethics Commission. He and his wife Jean were faithful members of the University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, where they both served in many leadership roles.

I consider myself fortunate to have known Dickson Phillips late in his career—a man of great dignity, a source of wise counsel, always generous with words of encouragement and support. Stories abound of his great kindness, never too busy to relate to aspiring students, law clerks, and citizens of all walks of life. We grieve his loss with his family and friends, even as we express our gratitude for a life of great integrity and accomplishment, with positive consequences for those he touched, and for even more who may never know his name.

A TRIBUTE TO DONALD SYKES

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Donald "Don" Sykes. He was a sociologist and civil rights champion. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on August 13, 2017. He was 80 years old.

Don Sykes was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1936, the second of eight children born to Rose Bolden and father Chester Sykes who died when Donald was three years old. He lived in Chicago public housing while growing up, but said he never felt impoverished. Donald graduated from Wendell Phillips High School, and later taught at Phillips High School, while his younger siblings attended the school. He received a bachelor's degree at Northern Illinois University and later received a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

In 1968, Donald became the Executive Director of the Social Development Commission (SDC) in Milwaukee and joined the war on poverty. He led SDC for the next two decades and during his tenure, the agency grew into Milwaukee County's largest anti-poverty agency. I am proud to say that early in my career, I was employed by SDC in one of my first professional positions. In 1993, Donald was appointed to serve as the director of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Relations for President Clinton; he served in Washington, DC for the next seven years developing nationwide welfare and anti-poverty programs. In 2007, Donald returned to Milwaukee to assume leadership of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MWIB), known today as Employ Milwaukee—a public/private partnership that coordinates employment and training programs for adults and youth in Milwaukee County. He announced his retirement from MWIB in 2014, concluding a career of working on behalf of low-income people and the community as a whole. Donald was a gentleman who seldom spoke ill of anyone and who was open to considering differing viewpoints.

Donald married Geraldine Kirksey in 1960 and their union produced two sons, David and Dennis. In the 1970s, Donald and Gerri sponsored Trevor Knight, who became a beloved member of their family. He is survived by his wife Gerri, Sons David (Valerie), Dennis and Trevor (Laura); Grandchildren Travis (Susan), Ashley (Graham) and Tyler; Brothers Leonard and Clifton; Sisters Alberta and Patricia; Nieces Stephanie, Sharon, Jackie, Lisa, Sonja and Shamieka; Nephews Kenneth, Chris, Carleton; and numerous aunts, cousins, grand nieces and nephews. He leaves a strong legacy of leadership for his children and grandchildren to model.

Mr. Speaker, Don was my friend, and a valued member of Milwaukee and the 4th Congressional District. I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to the late Donald Sykes.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEBBIE WATROUS AND HER SERVICE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE HUMANITIES

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere gratitude for Debbie Watrous and her 24 remarkable years of service to New Hampshire Humanities.

Debbie's time and dedication to serve our state through this organization has been an invaluable contribution, and I congratulate and thank her on her tremendous work.

During her time as Executive Director over the last 13 years, Debbie helped make public programming more accessible. Her work allowed more Granite Staters to discover culture, history, and new ideas.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and all those who have benefitted from Debbie's work, I thank her for her many years of service to the Granite State. I wish her great joy and success at FoodCorps.

HONORING NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH 2017

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of National Recovery Month 2017. According to the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality's 2015 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 20.8 million individuals aged 12 or older were classified with a substance use disorder, while approximately 43.4 million Americans aged 18 or older had a diagnosed mental illness in 2015. Moreover, in 2015, more than 8.1 million U.S. adults aged 18 or older had co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. These disorders often require long-term, high-quality treatment and support services.

Now in its 27th year, National Recovery Month is coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) every September to increase awareness of the importance of behavioral health conditions and to highlight the achievements of those who have reclaimed their lives in recovery. National Recovery Month also affords Americans the opportunity to leam more about effective prevention, treatment and recovery programs designed to assist those dealing with behavioral health challenges and to celebrate the dedicated service providers who make recovery possible.

The theme for this year's commemoration of National Recovery Month is "Join the Voices for Recovery: Strengthen Families and Communities." The 2017 theme was selected in order to highlight the critical role families and communities play in supporting individuals throughout the recovery process, as well as to encourage individuals in recovery, their family members and their support networks to stay the course by reflecting upon their shared experiences, successes and achievements. I applaud this year's National Recovery Month theme for incorporating the importance of family and community resources in promoting a positive outcome.

Here in the District of Columbia, there are thousands of women and men working day in and day out on behalf of community-based organizations, nonprofit/advocacy associations, health care providers and both local and federal government agencies to support residents who are in recovery from mental and/or substance use disorders. Entities such as the D.C. Department of Behavioral Health, University Legal Services, D.C. Superior Court Mental Health Community Diversion Court, the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) all offer specialized programming and services to help those confronting behavioral health challenges.

To mark this year's commemoration of National Recovery Month, CSOSA, along with other D.C. public safety partners, will sponsor a series of events, panel discussions and programs designed to increase awareness and understanding of mental and substance abuse disorders throughout the District and to promote people in recovery and those working in the field of recovery. For example, on September 12, 2017, CSOSA's Reentry and Sanctions Center will host an open house to educate the public about CSOSA's treatment services, as well as to promote the ideals and theme of National Recovery Month 2017.

With over 80 percent of CSOSA's entering population self-reporting a history of substance abuse and approximately 40 percent reporting a diagnosed mental illness, CSOSA places a priority on providing quality programming and treatment services. CSOSA provides clients in need of treatment with a variety of services, including detox and short- and long-term residential and aftercare. In addition, CSOSA's Reentry and Sanctions Center provides high-risk clients with intensive assessment and pre-treatment services as well as those with co-occurring substance use and behavioral health challenges.

Mental and/or substance use disorders affect all communities. Yet, with the proper professional help, support and treatment, we know that people suffering from these disorders can achieve healthy and productive lives in recovery. The annual commemoration of National Recovery Month is designed to celebrate the gains made by these individuals and to further educate the American public on the transformative nature of substance use treatment and mental health services.

Therefore, I ask the House of Representatives to join me and the millions of other American voices of recovery this September in support of National Recovery Month 2017.

NATURAL DISASTERS AND THE FEDERAL RESPONSE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma will both go down in history as two of the most costly and destructive hurricanes in United States history. Hurricane Harvey is thought to be the most powerful hurricane to hit Texas in more than 50 years. Countless individuals, homes, and businesses across the country have been left devastated in their wake. Initial estimates suggest that Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma will have caused between $150 and $200 billion in damage to property, homes, and public infrastructure.

These unprecedented storms have already set new records in severity and cost to our nation as we begin to look toward recovery. A strong and coordinated federal, state, and local response is absolutely vital in these critical moments following the storm. More than

two weeks since Hurricane Harvey first made landfall in Texas, we have witnessed incredible cooperation among government agencies, individuals, charitable organizations, and others who have played an important role in the response, recovery, and relief efforts that have taken place over these past few weeks.

The intensity and frequency of these storms will only increase with time, as warmer oceans and extra heat in the atmosphere caused by climate change provide even more fuel for weather systems. Studies are already demonstrating that storms are intensifying significantly faster today than they did 25 years ago. Additional water vapor in the atmosphere is also leading to extreme precipitation. In fact, Hurricane Harvey brought more than 50 inches of rainfall to the Texas Gulf Coast, representing the greatest accumulation of rainfall ever recovered in the contiguous United States from a single tropical storm.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be taking these natural disasters and the environment more seriously. The financial and social costs to our society of these natural disasters are tremendous and the effects will only get worse. The role of the federal government in disaster response is critical to our nation's swift recovery. However, the level of coordination and resources necessary to properly respond to these historic natural disasters will grow with time as bigger and stronger natural events occur. For now, we must focus on the recovery at hand by assisting the victims and their families. Many survivors will remain unable to return to their homes for weeks, while others will be left cleaning up debris and other damage for months ahead. The federal response—and the compassion and help of others—is more important now than ever before.

IN RECOGNITION OF OAKCREST SCHOOL'S NEW CAMPUS IN VIENNA, VIRGINIA

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the grand opening of Oakcrest School's new campus in Virginia's 10th Congressional District on Saturday, September 9th in Vienna, Virginia. Together with the opening, the first annual Inaugural Homecoming reunited classmates, faculty and friends in celebration of this wonderful expansion. Oakcrest is an independently-owned, all-girls school, grades 6 to 12, that develops strong young women of character, inspiring these individuals to challenge, lead, and serve others through an instilled faith.

Founded in 1976 in Washington, D.C. with twenty-two students, Oakcrest has grown to serve over two-hundred-twenty-five young women, making each student well-rounded, through their mission to educate the whole person, in intellect, character, faith and leadership. This new campus in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, will offer Oakcrest the ability to grow to 330 students and eventually 450 students when they complete the second phase of campus construction. Currently this 70,000 square foot building includes a three story Virginia manor house, housing two academic wings. Students will enjoy learning in the vibrant environments of the two science labs, two music rooms with acoustic treatments, art room, and large library with a fireplace and a media center. In addition, Oakcrest will continue to build their athletics program with a brand new natural grass and softball fields.

Inspired by the teachings of the Catholic Church and the spirituality of Opus Dei, Oakcrest School develops deep love in faith and strong learning abilities, through a rich liberal arts curriculum, character development, one-on-one mentoring and service to create an encouraging environment that graduates confident and courageous young women. I appreciate the role your educators have held in shaping the future of our nation. While teaching can be an arduous task, I know it comes with its share of fulfilling moments, both inside and outside the classroom, which now includes an annual school spirit Homecoming celebration. It is due to the tireless efforts of our educators that we are able to foster a positive and nurturing learning environment for our children, and this year, able to come together as an entire Oakcrest community in celebration of our past and future achievements. More than 1,200 friends, families, current and former faculty and alumnae joined to celebrate this exciting chapter in Oakcrest's history in bringing together the largest group of Oakcrest alumnae with over 120 graduates in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Head of School, Mary T. Ortiz and the entire faculty, student body and alumnae at Oakcrest School for opening their new campus and working to unite Virginia's 10th Congressional District through this lifelong sisterhood. I wish Oakcrest a joyous year in support of lifelong faith, friendships and learning.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3354) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Chair, my amendment would prohibit funds from being used to implement a misguided and harmful rule from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration regarding occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica.

This destructive rule was first proposed in 2013 and significantly threatens jobs in a number of industries around the country including: construction, foundries, aggregates, oil and gas, brick manufacturers, maritime as well as several other industries.

The limits set in this rule are simply unworkable, without extraordinary costs to both workers and job creators in my district and manufacturing centers across America. We are talking about the loss of thousands upon thousands of American jobs.

Furthermore, even if these companies were able to meet this unreasonable requirement without putting hardworking Americans out of work, commercial laboratories have not been able to measure workplace silica levels with any accuracy or consistency making it nearly impossible for employers to determine if they are in compliance.

We are in the midst of strong economic growth, but burdensome regulations like this threaten our economic well-being. In fact, the cost of compliance for the construction industry alone has been estimated to be nearly $5 billion per year.

This rule's impact on the Foundry industry would also be catastrophic. Independent analyses show it would cost the industry $2.2 billion annually, which represents 9.9 percent of the industry's revenue and an astounding 276 percent of its profits.

Another key industry that will suffer under this regulation is hydraulic fracturing which uses tremendous amounts of sand. The American energy sector has boomed in recent years—increasing economic prosperity and creating thousands of jobs across America. Hydraulic fracturing is also a major reason why our nation has become more energy independent and allowed us to help our allies in Europe while countering countries such as Russia and Iran.

The deadline for the construction industry to comply with this rule is September 23.

We cannot stand by while another burdensome and unworkable regulation is piled on job creators that are finally starting to see growth. We need to act now to protect American Jobs. I encourage you to join me in voting for this amendment to stop this job-destroying rule.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5191–S5241

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1790–1801. **Page S5215**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year.

Pages S5192–96, S5198–S5210

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, Senate continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, with no post-cloture time remaining.

Page S5241

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 81 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. EX. 194), Kevin Allen Hassett, of Massachusetts, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Pages S5196–98, S5241

Messages from the House: **Page S5213**

Executive Communications: **Page S5213**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S5215–18**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S5219**

Additional Statements: **Page S5212**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5219–40**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S5240–41**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S5241**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—194) **Page S5198**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:02 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 13, 2017. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5241.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FINTECH LANDSCAPE

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Fintech landscape, including S. 536, to promote transparency in the oversight of cybersecurity risks at publicly traded companies, after receiving testimony from Lawrance L. Evans, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, Government Accountability Office; Eric W. Turner, S&P Global Market Intelligence, Princeton, New Jersey; and Frank Pasquale, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Baltimore.

MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, focusing on oversight of fisheries management successes and challenges, after receiving testimony from Phil Faulkner, Nauticstar Boats, Amory, Mississippi; James A. Donofrio, Recreational Fishing Alliance, New Gretna, New Jersey; Chris Horton, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Washington, D.C.; Lori Steele, West Coast Seafood Processors Association, Portland, Oregon; Peter Andrew, Jr., Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Anchorage, Alaska; Gregory P. DiDomenico, Garden State Seafood Association, Cape May, New Jersey; William Cochrane II, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance, Galveston, Texas; and Tony Friedrich, Granville, Maryland.

FOSTERING INNOVATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy concluded a hearing to examine fostering innovation, focusing on contributions of the Department of Energy's national laboratories, including S. 1799, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential, after receiving testimony from Paul Kearns, Interim Laboratory Director, Argonne National Laboratory, and Bill Tumas, Associate Lab Director, Materials and Chemical Science and Technology, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, both of the Department of Energy; Brian J. Anderson, West Virginia University Energy Institute, Morgantown; and Anuja Ratnayake, Duke Energy Corporation, Charlotte, North Carolina.

HEALTH CARE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine health care, focusing on issues impacting cost and coverage, after receiving testimony from Avik S. A. Roy, The Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, Austin, Texas; Edmund F. Haislmaier, The Heritage Foundation, and Aviva Aron-Dine, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, both of Washington, D.C.; and Andy Slavitt, Bipartisan Policy Center, Edina, Minnesota.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Eric M. Ueland, of Oregon, to be an Under Secretary (Management), who was introduced by Senator Enzi, John R. Bass, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and Justin Hicks Siberell, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, all of the Department of State, and J. Steven Dowd, of Florida, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Daniel J. Kaniewski, of Minnesota, to be Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and Jonathan H. Pittman, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

STABILIZING HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine stabilizing premiums and helping individuals in the individual insurance market for 2018, focusing on state flexibility, after receiving testimony from Michael O. Leavitt, former Secretary of Health and Human Services, Salt Lake City, Utah; Allison O'Toole, MNsure, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Tarren Bragdon, The Foundation for Government Accountability, Naples, Florida; Bernard J. Tyson, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc., and Hospitals, Pleasanton, California; and Tammy Tomczyk, Oliver Wyman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

U.S. COUNTERNARCOTICS EFFORTS IN COLOMBIA

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: Caucus concluded a hearing to examine adapting United States counternarcotics efforts in Colombia, including interdiction and eradication, given the increased availability of cocaine in the United States following years of decline, after receiving testimony from William R. Brownfield, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; Brigadier General Joseph J. McMenamin, USMC (Ret.), Principal Director for Counternarcotics and Global Threats, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Vice Admiral Charles W. Ray, Deputy Commandant for Operations, Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; Anthony D. Williams, Assistant Administrator, Chief of Operations, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; and Douglas Farah, IBI Consultants LLC, and Roger F. Noriega, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 3737–3753; and 1 resolution, H. Con. Res. 78, were introduced. **Pages H7312–13**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7314–15**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2582, to authorize the State of Utah to select certain lands that are available for disposal under the Pony Express Resource Management Plan to be used for the support and benefit of State institutions, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–305);

H.R. 1624, to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 115–306); and

H. Res. 513, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3697) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens associated with criminal gangs, and for other purposes, and providing for proceedings during the period from September 15, 2017, through September 22, 2017 (H. Rept. 15–307). **Page H7312**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Lucas to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7225**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H7227**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Department of Homeland Security Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program Act of 2017: H.R. 2453, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program in the Department of Homeland Security; **Pages H7232–36**

Pathways to Improving Homeland Security At the Local Level Act: H.R. 2427, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies; **Pages H7236–37**

Homeland Threat Assessment Act: H.R. 2470, to require an annual homeland threat assessment; **Pages H7237–41**

Unifying Department of Homeland Security Intelligence Enterprise Act: H.R. 2468, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a homeland intelligence doctrine for the Department of Homeland Security; **Pages H7241–42**

Homeland Security Assessment of Terrorists Use of Virtual Currencies Act: H.R. 2433, to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency; **Pages H7242–43**

Department of Homeland Security Data Framework Act of 2017: H.R. 2454, amended, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a data framework to provide access for appropriate personnel to law enforcement and other information of the Department; **Pages H7243–45**

Federal Information Resource to Strengthen Ties with State and Local Law Enforcement Act of 2017: H.R. 2442, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement; **Pages H7245–46**

Department of Homeland Security Classified Facility Inventory Act: H.R. 2443, amended, to require an inventory of all facilities certified by the Department of Homeland Security to host infrastructure or systems classified above the Secret level; **Pages H7246–47**

Terrorist Release Announcements to Counter Extremist Recidivism Act: H.R. 2471, amended, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to share with State, local, and regional fusion centers release information from a Federal correctional facility, including name, charging date, and expected place and date of release, of certain individuals who may pose a terrorist threat; **Pages H7247–48**

Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017: H.R. 931, amended, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters; and **Pages H7248–51**

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act: H.R. 2611, to modify the boundary of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 390 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 485. **Pages H7251–53, H7287**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the Filipino Veterans of World War II: The House agreed to

discharge from committee and agree to S. Con. Res. 23, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the Filipino Veterans of World War II. **Page H7287**

Condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured by the violence, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President's Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups: The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S.J. Res. 49, condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured by the violence, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups, and urging the President and the President's Cabinet to use all available resources to address the threats posed by those groups. **Page H7287**

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018: The House considered H.R. 3354, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, September 13th.

Pages H7253–77, H7277–87, H7288–91, H7291–H7310

Agreed to:

Culberson en bloc amendment No. 3 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 115–297: Castro (TX) (No. 81) that increases funding for Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms; Reichert (No. 82) that adds $10 million for competitive and evidence-based programs to reduce gun crime and gang violence, which is offset by a $10 million reduction from the general administration account for the Department of Justice; Demings (No. 84) that increases funding for the Minority Business Development Agency by $5 million, offset by a reduction to Department of Commerce, Departmental Management, Salaries and Expenses; Courtney (No. 86) that directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to consider establishing standards for acceptable levels of pyrrhotite in concrete aggregate, and to continue providing technical assistance to those interested in pyrrhotite detection, prevention, and mitigation tools; Lipinski (No. 88) that restores $10.1M in funding to maintain on-site Information Technology Officers in each National Weather Service Forecast Office; Lipinski (No. 89) that restores $1.2M in funding and eliminates the need to cut staff in the NWS National Centers for 12 Environmental Prediction or consolidate functions into the Weather Prediction Center; Bonamici (No. 90) that increases funding for ocean acidification program and decrease by same to highlight importance of program to help coastal communities; Bonamici (No. 92) that increases funding for the National Ocean Service to do coastal monitoring and assessment of harmful algal blooms; decreases funding by same; Buchanan (No. 93) that increases funding for NOAA's National Ocean Service by $8,000,000 to detect, respond to, and develop new and innovative technologies to mitigate impacts from some of the country's most challenging Harmful Algal Blooms—red tides caused by Karenia brevis algae and decreases funding from Department of Commerce's Departmental Management by the same amount; Demings (No. 95) that restores funding for DOJ Youth Mentoring grants to the FY17 level (+5 million), offset by a reduction to Department of Justice, General Administration, Salaries and Expenses; Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) (No. 96) that increases funds for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program by $5 million and reduces DOJ General Administration by the same amount; Castro (TX) (No. 97) that increases funding for the Body Worn Camera Partnership Initiative; Norman (No. 98) that transfers funding from the Department of Justice (DOJ) General Administration Account to Opioid Abuse Reduction Activities; McSally (No. 99) that increases State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funding which reimburses states and localities for the costs of incarcerating unlawfully present individuals who have committed crimes in the United States by $10 million; Issa (No. 100) that increases funding for the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program and equally decreases funding for asset forfeiture; Cohen (No. 102) that increases funding for the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) by $4 million, offset by a $4 million reduction to the increased amount allocated in the bill to the Drug Enforcement Administration; Brownley (No. 103) that increases funds for Veterans

Treatment Courts by $3 million, off-set with $3 million from DEA; Jackson Lee (No. 107) that restricts the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture or any federal agency head from providing assistance and benefits to victims of trafficking as permitted by 22 U.S.C. 7105(b) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 1464, Pub. Law 106–386), and that providing victims of trafficking access to information about their eligibility to receive SNAP benefits does not constitute the type of SNAP recruitment activities or ''advertising'' of the SNAP program prohibited by the bill and by Section 4018 of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (Public Law No: 113–079); Cicilline (No. 110) that provides funding to provide training and resources for first responders on carrying and administering an opioid overdose reversal drug or device approved or cleared by the Food and Drug Administration, and purchasing such a drug or device for first responders to carry; and Murphy (PA) (No. 111) that increases by $2 million grants that support community initiatives and expand mental health and drug treatment; funds facilitate collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and mental health and substance abuse treatment systems to improve access to effective treatment for people with mental illnesses involved with the justice system; **Pages H7254–56**

McKinley amendment (No. 91 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that provides funding for the NOAA Environmental Security Computing Center to support an increase in electrical capacity and completion of the build out; **Page H7257**

Grothman amendment (No. 106 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that strikes language that currently prevents funds from being used to process applications for relief from personal firearms disabilities; **Pages H7260–61**

Pascrell amendment (No. 109 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that provides $100 million for the COPS Hiring Program; **Pages H7262–63**

Smith (TX) amendment (No. 112 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that increases basic research in the physical and biological sciences by 0.5% of the NSF Research budget; **Page H7264**

Zeldin amendment (No. 115 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that lifts the ban on striped bass fishing in the Block Island Transit Zone between Montauk, NY and Block Island, RI; **Pages H7265–66**

Latta amendment (No. 118 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that prohibits the ATF from reclassifying the M855 ammunition as armor piercing ammunition; **Pages H7267–68**

Gaetz amendment (No. 122 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that prohibits NOAA from using funds to relocate the Southeast Fisheries Science Center located in Virginia Key, Florida; **Page H7268**

Amash amendment (No. 126 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that restricts the federal government's use of adoptive forfeiture; **Pages H7272–73**

Roskam amendment (No. 127 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that prohibits bonuses to the Money Laundering and Asset Forfeiture division of DOJ until they make decisions on the backlog of petitions of remission or mitigation on civil asset forfeiture cases; **Page H7273**

Walberg amendment (No. 129 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that limits funds to carry out Department of Justice Policy Directive 17–1, which reinstates the adoptive seizure policy and circumvents state limitations on civil asset forfeiture; **Pages H7273–74**

Raskin amendment (No. 130 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that prohibits funds from being used to implement Order Number 3946–2017 allowing Department of Justice components and agencies to forfeit assets seized by State or local law enforcement agencies; **Pages H7274–75**

Cole en bloc amendment No. 4 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 115–297: Lee (No. 132) that increases funding for the Office of Job Corps, off-set with DOL administration funds; Bonamici (No. 140) that increases funding for Women Apprenticeships in Nontraditional Occupations Grants for local communities to provide pre-apprenticeship training; Bonamici (No. 143) that reduces Health Workforce by $18,270,000 and increases Health Workforce by $18,270,000 to express support for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs; Kildee (No. 144) that increases funding for programs that reduce lead exposure by $1 million each and decreases General Departmental Management in the Office of the Secretary by the same amount; Nolan (No. 146) that increases the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases program by $300,000 for additional Lyme Disease research, offset with a reduction to the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Secretary account; Keating (No. 147) that provides funds to support distribution of CDC tick-borne disease prevention and early detection materials in high-risk areas; Mast (No. 148) that increases the Safe Water Program under the CDC's Environmental Health account by $400,000 to match FY17 program requirements and continue safeguarding public health by reducing and investigating environmental threats to water systems and addressing public exposure to waterborne contaminants; DeSaulnier (No. 151) that increases National Cancer Institute (NCI) funding by $1 million to execute a study on how to improve doctor-patient communication; Tonko (No. 153) that specifies that $12.5 million appropriated

for the Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration may be used to award competitive grants to strengthen mental health and substance use community crisis response systems as authorized in the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act; Denham (No. 157) that ensures shelters and centers that administer runaway and homeless youth grants do not face an extended gap in grant eligibility due to off-cycle appropriations from previous years; McSally (No. 159) that increases funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III B supportive services account $14.2 million; Bonamici (No. 162) that increases funding for State Assessment Grants, Title I, Part B by $8.9 million; Bonamici (No. 163) that increases funding for Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, by $1.15 billion and decreases by same; DeSaulnier (No. 166) that provides $10 million in funding for Statewide Family Engagement Centers in education; Murphy (PA) (No. 177) that awards $10 million in grants for training medical residents and fellows practicing mental health and addiction treatment in underserved and community based settings that integrate primary care with mental and substance use disorders prevention and treatment services; Sewell (AL) (No. 181) that prohibits Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds from going to a child care provider that has been complicit, due to a health and safety violation, in the death of a child in its care and remains exempt from state licensure, safety, and oversight requirements; and Griffith (No. 185) that adds $2.734 million to the Black Lung Clinics Program in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide for a total of $10 million, the authorized level, with this transfer offset by a reduction in HRSA's Program Management account; **Pages H7275–77**

Foster amendment (No. 139 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that requires the Bureau of Labor Statistics to submit an estimate of the resources needed to model for various changes in the workforce composition because of technological displacement; **Pages H7281–82**

Nolan amendment (No. 152 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that increases National Cancer Institute funding by $3,819,000, offset with a reduction to the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Secretary account; **Pages H7285–86**

Kelly amendment (No. 156 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that supports funding of the Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program to train pregnancy and health counselors regarding how to offer adoption as an option to women with unplanned pregnancies; **Pages H7290–91**

Murphy (PA) amendment (No. 179 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that provides $10 million in grants to develop, maintain, or enhance a database of inpatient psychiatric facilities, crisis stabilization units, and residential community mental health and residential substance use disorder treatment facilities to address a lack of inpatient psychiatric beds; **Pages H7305–06**

Burgess amendment (No. 182 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that provides $10,000,000 to the Controlled Substance Monitoring Program, per 42 U.S.C. 280g–3; the amendment is offset by a reduction in the Office of the Secretary, General Department Management for $10,000,000; and **Pages H7306–07**

Scott (VA) amendment (No. 184 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that prohibits the use of funds in this Act to prepare for or facilitate the transfer of the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs into the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. **Page H7307**

Rejected:

Rosen amendment (No. 94 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that sought to maintain FY17 funding level for National Science Foundation's Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE); **Pages H7257–58**

Serrano amendment (No. 123 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that sought to prohibit funds in the bill for private prisons; **Pages H7268–70**

Mitchell amendment (No. 133 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that sought to reduce by 10% general administrative and departmental salary and expense accounts in Division F, and transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account; **Pages H7278–79**

Sablan amendment (No. 136 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that sought to transfer funds from OSHA—Salaries and Expenses-Compliance Assistance-Federal Assistance to OSHA—Salaries and Expenses-Federal Enforcement to fund a Full Time Employment position to increase OSHA enforcement presence in the Pacific as a result of recent worker fatalities and numerous injuries at construction and other work sites; **Pages H7280–81**

Meng amendment (No. 141 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that sought to increase funding for the Behavioral Health Workforce and Training program by $5 million; **Pages H7282–83**

Meng amendment (No. 142 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that sought to increase funding for HRSA's Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program by $4 million, consistent with the current enacted level of funding, and decrease funding for the Office of the Secretary of the HHS by the same amount; and **Page H7283**

Bonamici amendment (No. 158 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that sought to increase Aging and

Disability Services by $51,000,000 and reduces General Departmental Management by $64,000,000 to provide additional funding for Older Americans Act Title III, parts B, C, and E nutrition programs. **Pages H7291–92**

Withdrawn:

Cohen amendment (No. 101 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding for Legal Services Corporation by $10 million, offset by a $10 million reduction to the increased amount allocated in the bill to the U.S. Marshals Service; **Pages H7258–59**

Cohen amendment (No. 108 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have provided funds for the support of Juvenile Justice; **Pages H7261–62**

Tenney amendment (No. 150 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased $10 million to Community Services Block Grants and reduced funding for Global Health by $14 million; and **Page H7285**

Murphy (PA) amendment (No. 178 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have provided $5 million for the creation and operation of a National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory. **Page H7305**

Proceedings Postponed:

Torres amendment (No. 87 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to increase funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program which is offset by a reduction in funding for the General Administration Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Justice; **Pages H7256–57**

Grothman amendment (No. 105 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to reduce the funding level for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives by five percent; **Pages H7259–60**

Scott (VA) amendment (No. 113 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to strike section prohibiting the EEOC from using funds to implement pay data collection; **Pages H7264–65**

Norton amendment (No. 117 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to prohibit the Federal Bureau of Prisons from requiring individuals in halfway houses or on home confinement to pay a subsistence fee; **Pages H7266–67**

Flores amendment (No. 124 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to state that none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Executive Order No. 13547 (75 Fed. Reg. 43023, relating to the stewardship of oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes), including the National Ocean Policy developed under such Executive Order; **Pages H7269–70**

Buck amendment (No. 125 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to require that localities receiving State Criminal Alien Assistance Program funds comply with federal immigration law; **Pages H7270–72**

Kildee amendment (No. 131 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to increase funding for Youth Employment Activities by $10 million and reduce Department of Labor Salaries and Expenses by the same amount; **Pages H7277–78**

Pocan amendment (No. 134 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to restore funding to worker protection agencies, offset with DOL/HHS/ED program administration funds; **Pages H7279–80**

Meng amendment (No. 138 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to increase funding for the Women's Bureau within the Department of Labor by $1.064 million, and decrease funding by the same amount for the Bureau of Labor Statistics—Prices and Cost of Living Division; **Page H7281**

Kildee amendment (No. 145 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to increase funding for the Healthy Start Program by $24.8 million and decrease General Departmental Management in the Office of the Secretary by the same amount; **Pages H7283–84**

Flores amendment (No. 149 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to increase CDC funding by $40 million for an opioid drug overdose prevention program, increase National Cancer Institute funding by $40 million for pediatric cancer research, increase National Institute on Aging funding by $40 million for Alzheimer's research, decrease CMS Program Management by $120 million; **Pages H7284–85**

Clark amendment (No. 154 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to restore funding to SAMHSA's mental health programs, offset with HHS program administration funds; **Page H7286**

Murphy (PA) amendment (No. 155 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to support funding of the Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program to train pregnancy and health counselors regarding how to offer adoption as an option to women with unplanned pregnancies; **Pages H7288–90**

Ben Ray Lujan (NM) amendment (No. 160 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to decrease funding for HHS General Departmental Management by $2 million and transfer those funds to the Peer Support Programs; **Pages H7292–93**

Lowey amendment (No. 161 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to restore funding to 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, offset with Department of Education program administration funds; **Pages H7293–94**

Courtney amendment (No. 164 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to increase Funding for Magnet Schools Assistance by $1,184,000; decrease funding for Charter School Grants by $1,184,000; **Pages H7294–95**

Lewis (MN) amendment (No. 167 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to increase funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) State Grants by $70,246,000; **Pages H7295–97**

Grothman amendment (No. 168 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to reduce funding for the Department of Education's Program Administration, Office of Inspector General, and Office of Student Aid Administration by 2%; **Pages H7297–98**

Grothman amendment (No. 170 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to reduce the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) budget by $99,000,000, funding the NLRB at $150,000,000 for FY2018; the amendment would also reduce budget authority by $99 million and reduce outlays by $92 million; **Pages H7298–99**

Meadows amendment (No. 172 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to reduce the number of positions and funding at Mine Safety and Health Administration by 10%; **Pages H7299–H7300**

Walberg amendment (No. 173 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to prevent funding to implement the National Labor Relations Board's Ambush Election rule; **Pages H7300–01**

Blackburn amendment (No. 174 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to provide for a 1% across the board cut to Division F; **Pages H7301–02**

Murphy (PA) amendment (No. 175 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to provide $5 million for grants that enhance infant and early childhood mental health promotion, intervention, and treatment programs; **Pages H7302–04**

Murphy (PA) amendment (No. 176 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to provide $9 million to provide access to behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care by supporting the development and improvement of statewide or regional pediatric mental health care telehealth access programs; **Pages H7304–05**

Ellison amendment (No. 186 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to prohibit funds from going federal contracts with willful or repeated violators of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and **Pages H7307–09**

Gibbs amendment (No. 187 printed in H. Rept. 115–297) that seeks to prohibit funds to implement, administer, or enforce the final regulations on "Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses". **Pages H7309–10**

H. Res. 504, the rule providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3354) was agreed to Thursday, September 7th.

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017: H.R. 3284, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series. **Pages H7229–32**

Senate Referrals: S.J. Res. 49 was held at the desk. S. 416 was held at the desk. S. 327 was held at the desk. S. 444 was held at the desk. S. 462 was held at the desk. S. 484 was held at the desk. S. 488 was held at the desk. S. 102 was held at the desk. S. 1311 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Homeland Security. S. 1312 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. **Page H7310**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate and message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H7229 and H7277.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H7287. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRUDENTIAL REGULATION AND MONETARY POLICY AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit; and Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade held a joint hearing entitled "Examining the Relationship Between Prudential Regulation and Monetary Policy at the Federal Reserve". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SANCTIONS, DIPLOMACY, AND INFORMATION: PRESSURING NORTH KOREA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Sanctions, Diplomacy, and Information: Pressuring North Korea". Testimony was heard from Susan A. Thornton, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State; and Marshall Billingslea, Assistant Secretary, Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Department of the Treasury.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING: REGULATION AND COMPETITION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law held a hearing entitled ''Occupational Licensing: Regulation and Competition''. Testimony was heard from Maureen Ohlhausen, Acting Chairman, Federal Trade Commission; Sarah Allen, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Virginia; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on H.R. 3668, the ''SHARE Act''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 210, the ''Native American Energy Act''; H.R. 424, the ''Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017''; H.R. 717, the ''Listing Reform Act''; H.R. 1274, the ''State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act''; H.R. 2603, the ''SAVES Act''; H.R. 3131, the ''Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act''; and H.R. 3668, the ''SHARE Act''.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3697, the ''Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act''. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–3, a closed rule for H.R. 3697. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 2, the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from September 15, 2017, through September 22, 2017: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. In section 3, the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2. Testimony was heard from Representatives Johnson of Louisiana, Lofgren, and Jackson Lee.

VA MAIL MANAGEMENT: THE CASE OF THE $11,257 PACKAGE

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''VA Mail Management: The Case of the $11,257 Package''. Testimony was heard from John Oswalt, Executive Director for Privacy, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Lori Rectanus, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office.

Joint Meetings

FREE DIGITAL TRADE

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the dynamic gains from free digital trade for the United States economy, after receiving testimony from Daniel Griswold, George Mason University Mercatus Center, Arlington, Virginia; Sean Heather, United States Chamber of Commerce, and Daniel A. Sepulveda, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, both of Washington, D.C.; and Nick Quade, Relay Networks Inc., Deephaven, Minnesota.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine transportation innovation, focusing on automated trucks and our Nation's highways, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine expanding and accelerating the deployment and use of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of Daniel J. Kaniewski, of Minnesota, to be Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, 9:55 a.m., SD–342.

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold hearings to examine the Office of Management and Budget's memorandum on the Federal workforce, focusing on OMB's ongoing government-wide reorganization, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider H.R. 984, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe, S. 1285, to allow the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to lease or transfer certain lands, and S. 1333, to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine high risk Indian programs, focusing on progress and efforts in addressing Government Accountability Office recommendations, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

House

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections; and Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, joint hearing on H.R. 3441, the ''Save Local Business Act'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled ''Big Relief for Small Business: Legislation Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Small Manufacturers and Other Job Creators'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Modernizing FDA's Regulation of Over-the-Counter Drugs'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, markup on H.R. 1148, the ''FAST Act of 2017''; H.R. 2465, the ''Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017''; H.R. 2557, the ''Prostate Cancer Misdiagnosis Elimination Act of 2017''; H.R. 3120, to reduce the volume of future electronic health record-related significant hardship requests; H.R. 3245, the ''Medicare Civil and Criminal Penalties Act''; H.R. 3263, to extend the Medicare Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration program; and H.R. 3271, the ''Protecting Access to Diabetes Supplies Act of 2017'', 1 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled ''A Legislative Proposal to Impede North Korea's Access to Finance'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The Future of Democracy and Governance in Liberia'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled ''The Venezuela Crisis: The Malicious Influence of State and Criminal Actors'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, hearing entitled ''Sixteen Years After 9/11: Assessing Suspicious Activity Reporting Efforts'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 210, the ''Native American Energy Act''; H.R. 424, the ''Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017''; H.R. 717, the ''Listing Reform Act''; H.R. 1274, the ''State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act''; H.R. 2603, the ''SAVES Act''; H.R. 3131, the ''Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act''; and H.R. 3668, the ''SHARE Act'', 11 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2017; legislation on the Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2017; H.R. 1701, the ''Eliminating Government-funded Oil-painting Act''; H.R. 3019, the ''Promoting Value Based Procurement Act of 2017''; legislation on the Reporting Use of Social Media in Clearance Investigations Act of 2017; H.R. 3071, the ''Federal Acquisition Savings Act of 2017''; H.R. 2331, the ''Connected Government Act''; H.R. 294, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Cullen Boulevard in Pearland, Texas, as the ''Endy Ekpanya Post Office Building''; H.R. 452, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 324 West Saint Louis Street in Pacific, Missouri, as the ''Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr. Post Office''; H.R. 606, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1025 Nevin Avenue in Richmond, California, as the ''Harold D. McCraw, Sr., Post Office Building''; H.R. 1207, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 River Street in Tilden, Texas, as the ''Tilden Veterans Post Office''; H.R. 1208, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9155 Schaefer Road, Converse, Texas, as the ''Converse Veterans Post Office Building''; H.R. 1209, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 901 N. Francisco Avenue, Mission, Texas, as the ''Mission Veterans Post Office Building''; H.R. 1210, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 W. Goodwin Street, Pleasanton, Texas, as the ''Pleasanton Veterans Post Office''; H.R. 1211, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 400 N. Main Street, Encinal, Texas, as the ''Encinal Veterans Post Office''; H.R. 1858, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4514 Williamson Trail in Liberty, Pennsylvania, as the ''Staff Sergeant Ryan Scott Ostrom Post Office''; H.R. 1950, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Pike Street in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, as the ''Police Officer Scott Bashioum Post Office Building''; H.R. 2254, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2635 Napa Street in Vallejo, California, as the ''Janet Capello Post Office Building''; H.R. 2302, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 259 Nassau Street, Suite 2 in Princeton, New Jersey, as the ''Dr. John F. Nash, Jr. Post Office''; H.R. 2464, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 New Chardon Street Lobby in Boston, Massachusetts, as the ''John Fitzgerald Kennedy Post Office''; H.R. 2815, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30 East Somerset Street in Raritan, New Jersey, as the ''Sergeant John Basilone Post Office''; H.R. 2873, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 Glenside Avenue in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, as the ''Staff Sergeant Peter Taub Post Office Building''; H.R. 3109, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1114 North 2nd Street in Chillicothe, Illinois, as the ''Sr. Chief Ryan Owens Post Office Building''; H.R. 3230, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 915 Center Avenue in Payette, Idaho, as the ''Harmon

Killebrew Post Office Building''; and H.R. 3369, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 225 North Main Street in Spring Lake, North Carolina, as the ''Howard B. Pate, Jr. Post Office'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Serving Small Businesses: Examining the Effectiveness of HUBZone Reforms'', 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled ''Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Economic Development Stakeholders' Perspectives'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing on H.R. 1721, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate at least one city in the United States each year as an ''American World War II City'', and for other purposes; H.R. 1900, the ''National Veterans Memorial and Museum Act''; H.R. 3122, the ''Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017''; H.R. 3656, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a consistent eligibility date for provision of Department of Veterans Affairs memorial headstones and markers for eligible spouses and dependent children of veterans whose remains are unavailable; H.R. 3657, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide headstones and markers for the graves of spouses and children of veterans who are buried in tribal cemeteries; and legislation on the Veterans Fair Debt Notice Act of 2017; and a legislation on the Veterans Fair Debt Notice Act of 2017, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3729, the ''Comprehensive Operations, Sustainability, and Transport Act of 2017''; H.R. 3727, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include additional telehealth services for purposes of MA organization bids, and for other purposes; H.R. 3726, the ''Stark Administrative Simplification Act of 2017''; H.R. 2824, the ''Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act''; and H.R. 2792, the ''Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017'', 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled ''IRS Reform: Resolving Taxpayer Disputes'', 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2810, National Defense Authorization Act, with no post-cloture time remaining.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 13

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Continue consideration of H.R. 3354—Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018. Consideration of H.R. 3697—Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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