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

**DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

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

WASHINGTON, DC. October 12, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Bradley Byrne 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.

**OPIOID CRISIS**

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Dana Milbank had an interesting column in the morning Post about the reckless congressional response to the opioid crisis. Both the administration and Congress have been good at hyping the crisis, but when it comes time to actually taking action, almost nothing happens.

The failure to protect our citizens is appalling, especially since most of the opioid crisis is a result of failed public policies. We have spent over $1 trillion on a failed war on drugs that concentrates on prohibition and punishment instead of treatment, which would help people break the cycle of addiction.

The challenges that drove people to abuse opioids in the first place, like chronic pain, depression, and lax policies prescribing vast quantities of ever-more powerful opioids, should never have been allowed to happen in the first place. It was a public policy failure of government, the industry, and, sadly, some unscrupulous practitioners that allowed the addiction genie out of the bottle.

When denied access to opioids, people, understandably, turn to heroin and other damaging and addictive drugs because they were trapped by these powerful forces. Few people willingly damage their bodies and destroy their families and careers, if not for powerful forces beyond their control.

As appalling as this failure is, what is even worse is that we fail to take reasonable, commonsense steps to stop it. The easiest solution is to provide more access to medical marijuana, already available in 28 States. This availability, by the way, has been driven by a result of citizen action and not politicians, who have too often been afraid to touch it.

The evidence is powerful and overwhelming. Where there is access to medical marijuana to treat the problems that drove people on the path to addiction in the first place, there are fewer pills prescribed and overdose deaths drop.

It is clear that using medical marijuana is as effective, or perhaps even more effective, than opioids to treat pain. They cause less damage to people’s health and are far less costly than pharmaceuticals. I provided the subcommittee taking testimony with the facts and citations that would justify digging deep into this potential solution.

Cannabis reduces overdose deaths, reduces opioid consumption, and it can prevent dose escalation and the development of opioid tolerance, which leads to that cycle, and too often, tragically, opioid deaths: 175 people a day.

As my friend, GREG WALDEN, pointed out in the subcommittee hearing yesterday, more people die in Oregon from opioid overdose than traffic accidents.

More benefits, fewer side effects, lower costs.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the evidence I gave to the Subcommittee on Health yesterday.

**PHYSICIAN GUIDE TO CANNABIS-ASSISTED OPIOID REDUCTION**

(Prepared by Adrienne Wilson-Poe, Ph.D.)

Cannabis reduces opioid overdose mortality.

In states with medicinal cannabis laws, opioid overdoses drop by an average of 25%.
This effect gets bigger the longer the law has been in place. For instance, there is a 33% drop in mortality in California, where compassion use has been in place since 1996. This finding replicated a Columbia’s school of public health, using a completely different analysis strategy.

Cannabis reduces opioid consumption. Cannabis is opioid-sparing in chronic pain patients. When patients are given access to cannabis, they drop their opioid use by roughly 50%. This finding has been replicated several times from Ann Arbor to Jerusalem.

This opioid sparing effect is accompanied by a lack of cognitive function once patients begin cannabis therapy: this effect is most likely due to the fact that patients reduce their opioid use.

Cannabis use is associated with a reduction in not only opioid consumption, but also many other drugs including benzodiazepines, which also have a high incidence of fatal overdose. In states with medicinal cannabis laws, the number of prescriptions for analgesic and anxiolytic drugs (among others) are substantially reduced. Medicare and Medicaid prescription costs are substantially lower in states with cannabis laws.

Cannabis can prevent dose escalation and the development of opioid tolerance. Cannabinoids and opioids have acute analgesic synergy. When opioids and cannabinoids are coadministered, they produce an additive result. This suggests that analgesic dose of opioids is substantially lower for patients using cannabis therapy.

In chronic pain patients on opioid therapy, cannabis does not affect pharmacokinetics of opioids, yet it still enhances analgesia. This finding further supports a synergistic mechanism of action.

Pre-clinical models indicate that cannabinoids attenuate the development of opioid tolerance.

Cannabis, alone or in combination with opioids, could be a viable first-line analgesic. The CDC has updated its recommendations in the spring of 2016, stating that most cases of chronic pain should be treated with non-opioids.

The National Academies of Science and Medicine recently conducted an exhaustive review of 10,000+ human studies published since 1999, definitively concluding that cannabinoids (and specific cannabinoid or cannabis-derived molecule) is safe and effective for the treatment of chronic pain.

When 3,000 chronic pain patients were surveyed, 97% strongly agreed/agreed that they could decrease their opioid use when using cannabis.

2% strongly agreed/agreed that they prefer cannabis to treat their medical condition.

81% strongly agreed/agreed that cannabis by itself was more effective than taking opioids.

Cannabis may be a viable tool in medication-assisted relapse prevention.

CBD is non-intoxicating, and is the 2nd most abundant cannabinoid found in cannabis. CBD alleviates the anxiety that leads to drug craving. In human pilot studies, CBD administration is sufficient to prevent heroin craving at 17 days.

Cannabinoid users are more likely to adhere to naltrexone maintenance for opioid dependence.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. There is a reason that over 70 percent of the American public favors greater access to medical marijuana. Last year, voters in Florida approved their program by over 70 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government continues to interfere, threatening medical marijuana programs, which requires Congress to step in to shield it, as we have done last year and for the previous 2 years. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee denied us a chance to vote.

Last Congress, both Houses approved measures for VA doctors to be able to consult with veterans who have a serious overdose problem. Despite passing both Chambers, it was stripped out and the Rules Committee failed to allow us to vote on this as well.

Most tragically, Congress continues to have the Federal Government to have a stranglehold on research to be able to definitively answer these questions.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join my friend, Dr. ANDY HARRIS, and me on our research bill, H.R. 3391. There is no reason that the Federal Government denies research to be able to definitively answer these questions.

I am tired of looking at the opioid damage in my State and around the country, and have Congress propose Band-aids when there is a simple, commonsense, widely accepted, and popular approach to how people access to medical marijuana.

The time to do it is now. Lives are being lost as we dither.

NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, a little over a month ago, Hurricane Irma struck the Caribbean island of St. Maarten very hard.

Within a couple of days, I got a call from loved ones of a couple of constituents. They had family members trapped at a hotel in St. Maarten with dozens of other Americans. The power was out, they were running out of food and water, and incidents of looting were reported. So they called me, their Congressman, and I called the State Department to see what could be done.

Within 36 hours of my call, our U.S. citizens—nearly 150 of them—were evacuated from an island, in the ocean, surrounded by water.

Do you know where they were taken to for safety?

Puerto Rico, Yes, Puerto Rico, where it has now been 3 weeks since Hurricane Maria and most people do not have power or clean drinking water, and where the deterioration of the healthcare system is leaving people without critical treatments and causing the death toll to go up.

Now, in St. Maarten, this is what the State Department said, according to NBC News: “Evacuation efforts will prioritize U.S. citizens needing urgent medical care.”

Within a few days, they had evacuated 1,200 Americans.

So, right now, if a thousand U.S. citizens are facing danger in Japan, Ethiopia, or Finland, our State Department would arrange to save them. But we have millions of Americans facing danger in Puerto Rico and we can’t get the same help, not from the military, not from FEMA, and not from the State Department, because they don’t assist U.S. citizens who are on U.S. soil, even if that soil is a colony in the ocean surrounded by water, as our President reminds us.

It took 36 hours to get evacuated from St. Maarten. Three weeks in Puerto Rico and still no plan for evacuation.

This morning, the President is tweeting that he wants to pull FEMA and the military out of Puerto Rico.

How long do we have to stay in Puerto Rico?

Until every Puerto Rican’s name is taken off the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall or erased from the records of the Korean war, Afghanistan, and Iraq.
As long as it takes. They gave their lives and died.

Yesterday, a lot of us received military briefings from FEMA, the military, and Homeland Security. I wanted to know whether FEMA and the military are prepared to take people off the island, not during the pitch-black darkness, which is what Puerto Ricans are used to. We normally do it in emergency situations. We did it in Houston, in Jacksonville, and New Orleans.

No, the Governor has not asked for help in evacuating people, they told me.

I asked: How many bridges, even temporary ones, have been constructed in Puerto Rico to replace those destroyed by the hurricane? For the transportation of supplies and the evacuation of people?

They said: None, Congressman. Zero. We have not erected any bridges. Again, because the Governor of Puerto Rico hasn’t asked us to.

When I was there, I flew over the town of Maricao in the mountains, well known for coffee. There are six ways in and out of the town, and five of those bridges are gone.

Three weeks after D-day in 1944, the allies liberated the deepwater port of Cherbourg, one of the most important objectives in Europe. It took 20 days and we built bridges and communication lines along the way.

We made better progress in the 3 weeks after D-day than we are making on Puerto Rico. And in Puerto Rico, to the best of my knowledge, there are no Germans shooting at us.

Now, when I asked the officials about evacuating people from the island, they had no real answer. But if I remember correctly, FEMA and the military come to us to fund their budget every year. They are accountable to this Congress.

We are accountable to our constituents. Constituents are coming to me, as they did in St. Maarten, and are saying: Help us get our families out of danger’s way.

Mr. Speaker, when will we be able to give these constituents an answer as to why their family members and loved ones aren’t being allowed to leave the island and evacuated from danger?

This weekend, Members of Congress are going to Puerto Rico. I spoke with a few of them and said: Hey, at night, you should go to this place where it is dark, not during the pitch-black darkness, which is what Puerto Ricans are living with every single night for the last 3 weeks.

Regardless of what my colleagues see during the day or what the President tweets in the morning, my friends stand in baskets for food. If they can find it; my constituents are worried about their family members; and 5 million Puerto Ricans in the diaspora have run out of patience. We want our people free to live in the United States of America wherever they can.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents want the government to help get their families out of danger’s way.

HONORING THE MANY ACOMPLISHMENTS OF STUART EPPERSON

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize North Carolina Fifth District constituent, Mr. Stuart Epperson, whose work has positively affected so many in North Carolina and so many across this great Nation.

Stuart, or “Stu,” as his friends know him, is living proof that not only is the American Dream possible, it is achievable if you are simply willing to work hard for it. Stu’s story is a model one for all.

Growing up on a small tobacco farm in Virginia, Stu learned hard work and perseverance. In the 1980s, Stu and his brother-in-law started the Salem Media Group to minister to and report positive news to families across the country.

Under his leadership, Salem Media Group and Salem Radio now host 120 radio stations, 67 of which are in the top 25 markets, and operate 2,400 affiliates.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when many Americans opt to turn off the news due to the negative content, Mr. Epperson’s audience is tuning in to be inspired and to be informed.

The content put forth by the Salem Media Group serves as a beacon of hope to the many in seek positive and instructive stories.

Mr. Speaker, when I consider the body of Mr. Epperson’s work, I am reminded of the parable of the faithful servant in Luke 12:48. The Good Book tells us that: “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him much shall be required.”

The Lord has certainly gifted Mr. Epperson with some amazing abilities, and in return, Mr. Epperson has used these talents to give back to multiple communities.

Among those activities are the Winston-Salem Rescue Mission, Salem Pregnancy Care Center, One Kid at a Time mentoring program, and the Christian Association of Youth Mentoring, which he founded.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Stu would agree that the adage “behind every good man is a good woman” is true one for him. Stu married the love of his life, Nancy Etlinger Epperson, 54 years ago. This lovely couple has 4 children and 21 grandchildren.

I commend Stu Epperson not only for his many accomplishments but also for his dedication to ensuring that radio remains family-friendly and value-focused. In recognition of Stu’s life and work, I am pleased to announce that soon Stu will be receiving the highly coveted Vision and Leadership Award from the Family Research Council. This award is not only for such an accomplished man, and I add my salute to him.

I know that the community in Winston-Salem, this Nation, and the wider world have benefitted from Stu Epperson’s many acts to make the world a better place. I commend Mr. Epperson on his many accomplishments and his service to our Nation.

STRUGGLES IN PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to tell where and in what direction Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are heading today. There is not enough food, millions are struggling to live without drinking water and electricity, and only 8 percent of the roads are open to traffic.

Containers with supplies, medical supplies, and food and other commodities are sitting in containers on the docks in the Port of San Juan and are not moving towards the people and the communities that need them the most.

Struggles in the Virgin Islands are less heard about but no less real.

The question is whether we, as a nation, are doing all we can for the citizens of this Nation. Let’s compare.

After an earthquake hit Haiti in 2010, where the infrastructure was severely damaged, the U.S. military mobilized as if we were going to war.

The very next morning, after the earthquake hit, an Army unit was airborne. Within 2 weeks, 33 ships and 22,000 soldiers had arrived, and more than 300 helicopters were delivering millions of pounds of food and water, not just to the port, but the people of Haiti.

By contrast, today, there are fewer than 14,000 military personnel assisting in relief efforts in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and there are only 88 helicopters and only 4 naval ships, one of them the USNS Comfort that are 3.5 million Americans—3.4 million Americans in Puerto Rico, 100,000 Americans in the Virgin Islands.

In Haiti, Mr. Speaker, we airlifted 15,000 U.S. citizens in 2010 after the earthquake, but in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, we are unwilling to evacuate a single American, even those who have relatives and friends in the many communities across the 50 States of this great country.

As Americans are starving and Americans are desperate, our response needs to be more vigorous, even those who have relatives and friends in the many communities across the 50 States of this great country.

Now, let’s be sure, the military is doing what we are asking them to do. This is not a criticism of the military
Mr. Speaker, the President must lead on this issue. We have got dedicated members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard who are willing, ready, and able to be in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to deliver the relief to our neighbors and our citizens.

We need to ask the Department of Defense to send more engineers, more transportation companies, and expeditionary sustainment battalions.

Yesterday, I asked a senior military leader: How many pontoon bridges have been erected in Puerto Rico to cross those washed out roads? Zero. How many miles of power transmission lines have been reestablished to get electricity out to more communities? The answer is zero.

We have military engineers on the ground, but they have not been asked to do what we need to direct our military to provide the direct services on the local or, in military parlance, on the tactical level. I am not talking about long-term rebuilding of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by the United States. I am talking about directing the Department of Defense to establish the minimum infrastructure necessary to do the job that we should be asking them to do, which is to provide relief to 3.5 million Americans in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Logic movements are good, military assessments and evaluations help, but what is needed is no less than what was done 7 years ago in Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, the President must lead on this issue, and the President must ask our military to do more.

NATIONAL FARMERS DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today is National Farmers Day. From farm to fork, our farmers work hard to put food on dinner tables across this country and around the world.

Today has traditionally been a day to recognize farmers and thank them for all their endless hard work. Records of National Farmers Day events date back to the 1800s.

Mr. Speaker, our farmers are the cornerstone of our rural communities. They face tough odds by the very nature of the business, and food security is national security.

Right now, there is a critical shortfall of skilled young and beginning farmers and ranchers. That is why, together with Congressman JOE COURTNEY from Connecticut and Congressman JOHN FASO from New York, we introduced the Young Farmer Success Act.

This legislation provides incentives for those who would like to pursue a future in the agriculture industry by adding farmers to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, which currently offers loan payback assistance for professions such as government service, teaching, and nursing.

Under this bill eligible public service professionals who make 10 years of income-driven student loan payments can have the balance of their loans forgiven.

On Monday, I heard from a number of young farmers in upstate New York in Congressman FASO’s district. The House Agriculture Committee hosted a farm bill listening session at SUNY Cobleskill, and we covered topics from dairy to specialty crops to nutrition assistance programs, and we heard a lot of excellent feedback from those who shared their stories with us.

As the House Agriculture Committee works to craft the next farm bill, these listening sessions have allowed us to hear firsthand from those who are directly impacted by the farm bill. They provide us with real world examples of what is working and what isn’t working.

With farmers in every region of this country, we heard from many different perspectives. This feedback will help us write the best farm bill possible.

Mr. Speaker, food security is national security, and it aids the long-term sustainability of our country. They provide fresh produce and products to communities throughout the country, and there is no better food than something grown locally.

Today, we celebrate our food producers on National Farmers Day, but we should also celebrate them every day for putting food on our tables and in our grocery stores. Let’s face it, farming is a tough business. Long hours, unpredictable commodity prices, and, even more, unpredictable weather conditions, but it is also exciting, rewarding, and full of opportunities.

Generations of farmers have worked every patch of American soil caring for the Earth, their animals, and their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, as vice chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I want to wholeheartedly thank America’s farmers for providing, every day, safe, sustainable, healthy, and nutritious food every day. Happy Farmers Day.

AMENDMENT TO THE WAR POWERS ACT

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

Mr. DeFazio of Oregon. Well, last weekend I was shocked to read the statements of the Republican chair of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate, Senator CORKER. He said that, “Trump has put us on the path to World War III.”

This makes it essential that Congress assert its full powers under the Constitution of the United States.

In reaction to Nixon’s secret bombing of Cambodia and the aftermath, Congress passed something called the War Powers Act. Unfortunately, there was a dispute between the two bodies, and, ultimately, the Senate prevailed and watered down the bill.

Instead of saying, “Before the President engages our troops in hostilities, that he or she must come to the Congress,” instead, the bill ultimately adopted saying, “48 hours after the President has engaged our troops in hostilities, he or she must report to the Congress and then seek subsequent authorization, or the troops would be withdrawn after 60 days.”

I have introduced legislation in this and preceding Congresses to fix that. That clearly does not represent the constitutional powers of the United States Congress. The Constitution is absolutely clear. Only Congress has the authority to declare war. Once war is declared, the President, under the Constitution, is the Commander in Chief who would act with one voice to conduct the war and coordinate military efforts.

So my bill would say—do away with the allowance of 48 hours and say: Before engaging U.S. troops in military hostilities, that the President must first come to the Congress and seek a declaration of war. I think it is absolutely essential that this Congress act on this legislation and make it clear to the President of the United States that he does not have the authority to wake up one morning and tweet of an attack against another country and engage these people in an escalation that may end, as Senator CORKER says, in World War III.

This is a very dangerous time for our country. It is time for this separate and equal branch of the government to assert its full authority to rein in any and all dangerous activities by this President.
home. She was “an anti-establishment figure with a reputation for her fearless criticism of undemocratic elements within the parties in power.” The circumstances of her death were “strikingly similar” to the murders of three additional Indian activists.

Just another of India’s most prominent political journalists, Professor Kancha Ilaiah, known for criticizing India’s caste social order, was threatened by a Hindu member of India’s parliament. This member of parliament is an ally of the current BJP government, issued a statement that Kancha should be “publicly hanged.” Kancha subsequently received numerous death threats.

These threats had a significant effect. A mob tried to attack Professor Ilaiah with stones as he and a coworker were driving to a meeting. Kancha is now under self-imposed house arrest because he is simply not safe otherwise.

Was Professor Ilaiah’s crime significant?

Kancha was called a modern-day Dr. Ambedkar, who is known as the “Father of the Indian Constitution,” and Professor Ilaiah’s crime was he was the author of “Why I Am Not a Hindu.”

A recent translation of his 2009 book “Post-Hindu India” is what seems to have sparked the threats against him. This book described the polarized context of modern-day India specifically dealing with the productivity of the Dalits and the “low” castes and the seeming spiritual and monetary monopoly of the “higher” castes. These critiques became even more relevant in India’s growing agrarian crisis, the resulting farmer suicides due to hopelessness, and the massive joblessness due to demonetization and economic slowdown.

Mr. Speaker, I stand on the floor of the United States House of Representatives to state unequivocally that the United States and the entire global community is, and should be, deeply concerned about this threat to the life of Professor Kancha Ilaiah, one of the world’s well-known intellectuals.

Our trusted ally and friend, India, is better than this. Mr. Speaker, Professor Kancha Ilaiah’s right and freedom to speak should not be infringed; and his protection, and that of those like him, should be of the utmost priority to the Indian Government. I am able to express freely this viewpoint because we have freedom of speech in the United States of America, Mr. Speaker. May we remember at what cost and for what purpose we were given this priceless freedom.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month for millions of us in the breast cancer community.

The statistics are sobering: one in eight women will get breast cancer in her lifetime.

The EARLY Act is the bipartisan legislation to fund awareness campaigns. Last year, I received a note from a former staffer. She learned I had breast cancer. While I was on my honeymoon, I noticed a small lump in my right breast. Since I had the benefit of working for you, I know that, while rare, it is possible that young women can get breast cancer, and I should take it seriously. Luckily, it was caught early and I live a long and happy life.

She ended the note by thanking me for advocating for breast cancer awareness, specifically for younger women.

She said: “DWS,” as I am often referred to by staff, “keep fighting the good fight. It is saving the lives of people like me.” Today, she is fighting the good fight, and I know she will win.

Unfortunately, just like my former staffer, I know all too well that it can strike even when you are young. In 2007, when I was only 41 years old, I learned I had breast cancer.

Like many others before me, when I was diagnosed, and later identified as a BRCA2 gene mutation carrier, I worried about many things: Would I be there to see my children grow up? Would I be able to beat this disease? Wasn’t I too young to have breast cancer?

Fortunately, with the passage of the ACA—the Affordable Care Act—insurance coverage cannot be taken away from people like me and like my former staffer. Access to affordable, quality healthcare is now a right, not a privilege.

As Members of Congress, we have a duty to protect this right. Instead of cutting funding to protect this right, I call on my Republican colleagues to join me in recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month by supporting those of us who are living healthier, stronger lives every day because of the Affordable Care Act.

The statistics for breast cancer remain alarming. The American Cancer Society estimates that 40,610 women will die from breast cancer in 2017 alone, making it the second most common type of cancer death in women.

Between the ages of 60 and 64, breast cancer incidence rates are markedly higher in White women than Black women. However, Black women have a higher cancer mortality rate before age 45, and are more likely to die from breast cancer at every age. This is wholly unacceptable.

We must take action to provide women with the preventative services and screenings available while educating them on their risks and treatment options.

That is why, in 2009, I introduced the EARLY Act, a bipartisan bill that became law as part of the Affordable Care Act. This legislation focuses on equipping young women with the tools they need to make informed decisions regarding their breast health.

I am proud that the EARLY Act was reauthorized in 2014, and even more proud that it has, and is, helping young women like my former staffer.

This Congress, I also introduced the PALS Act with my good friend from Indiana, Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS. This bill would extend the moratorium on the United States Preventive Services Task Force mammography screening guidelines to ensure women have access to lifesaving mammograms beginning at age 40.

It would also ensure women who have served our country—our women veterans—don’t have to face these same obstacles in getting the care they and their healthcare providers deem necessary.

For example, many insurance companies use the USPSTF guidelines as the basis for coverage. 22 million women between ages 40 and 49 could be at risk of losing coverage for this lifesaving screening.

The bottom line is the vast majority of experts recommend beginning screening mammograms at age 40. Women need to be able to follow this guidance until scientific consensus can be reached.

As someone who was diagnosed at just age 41, I can tell you that women need guaranteed access to these tests beginning at age 40.

We must also ensure the National Institutes of Health has the funding it needs to continue their progress.

I will continue to use my voice and my vote as an appropriator to ensure that critical funding is provided through the annual appropriations bill for breast cancer research, services, and support programs to ensure the men and my former staffer’s story isn’t unique. That is why we must do more to support our mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends who are
battling or who have survived this deadly disease. And we must do everything we can to eradicate breast cancer once and for all.

I look forward to continuing to work together with all of you—my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—and with the advocacy community to help women know their risk, discover cancer early, and access the best treatment possible.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE

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

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I, along with my good friend, MARCY KAPTUR, reestablished the NASA Caucus.

Last week, I spoke about the 50th anniversary of my father’s absolute air-speed record flight that happened on October 3, 1967. Two weeks ago was the 70th anniversary of the Air Force. On Saturday, we welcome the anniversary of supersonic flight.

For years, there was a thought that there was a barrier present to stop aircraft or inhibit flight controls. Many believed attempting to pass through this barrier would be fatal.

Well, on October 14, 1947, Captain Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager was dropped from a B-29 at about 45,000 feet and quickly accelerated through that invisible barrier we know as the speed of sound.

The first man to achieve Mach 1, we know that as something simple today, but for the last 70 years, It was because of one man that we get to do this.

General Yeager retired in 1975 as a brigadier general, after 34 years of flying, for the Army Corps and for the United States Air Force. What he achieved that day was something that many thought would happen.

There were about two or three pilots at Muroc or the Army air field out at southern California that were trying to do it, but absolutely there was only one that did it. Captain Yeager, flying the Bell X-1, that he renamed Glamorous Glennis after his wife, was the man who achieved that.

I am proud to represent the men and women of Edwards Air Force Base with my good friend, Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY. And I understand what they do on a daily basis from the F-35, to the F-22, to all the work they do there at Edwards, to all of the flying expertise that they have on a daily basis. I am very proud of them. I am proud of what Edwards Air Force Base means to the country, and I am proud of what they mean to the history of this Nation. But a lot of that happened out there at Edwards, to all of the flying expertise that they have on a daily basis.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SERGEANT LA DAVID T. JOHNSON

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of U.S. Army Sergeant La David T. Johnson, born in Miami Gardens, Florida, and Myeshia is expecting their third child.

I sprung into action after Boko Haram kidnapped 276 schoolgirls in their boarding school in Nigeria. I traveled to Nigeria, as did many of you, and I have initiated the “Bring Back Our Girls Wear Red Wednesdays” in the Congress of the United States. I appreciate the support, especially from our leader, NANCY PELOSI.

I traveled there in August and met over 100 girls who were once hostages of Boko Haram. I wanted them to know that this Congress loves them and we will never, ever forget them.

Boko Haram actually means “Western education is a sin.” They believe girls should be denied the privilege of an education, and they have killed more people than ISIS. In fact, they have joined forces with ISIS in the region and have killed over 20,000 Africans, sexually abused women and girls, and sends them on suicide missions using babies as decoys.

More than 1 million people have been displaced from their homes and are starving to death. What a tragedy. It would be an even greater tragedy to allow the deaths of Sergeant Johnson and his comrades—Staff Sergeant Bryan C. Black, 35, from Washington; Staff Sergeant Jeremiah W. Johnson, 29, from Ohio; and Staff Sergeant Dustin M. Wright, 29, from Georgia—to be in vain.

Nearly a year ago, this Chamber voted unanimously for legislation that Republican Senator SUSAN COLLINS from Maine and I introduced that directed the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence to jointly develop a 5-year strategy to end Boko Haram’s reign of terror. The law also calls for a plan to assist the Nigerian Government, the Multinational Joint Task Force, and international partners in their efforts to counter this regional threat.

Our soldiers were not there to fight but to provide training and assistance to the Nigerian Army forces and the Multinational joint task force created to combat Boko Haram.

Yes, my heart breaks for this monumental loss, but it is also bursting with pride for all that he achieved and would have accomplished. During the few years in which he bravely served our Nation, he received several awards and accolades, including the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and, ironically, the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

Boko Haram is a threat to the many nations across the globe that, like the United States, have committed money and human resources to help defeat this terrorist group, and we must never ever forget that this heinous organization’s daily list of casualties can include one of our own, like Sergeant Johnson, Staff Sergeant Black, Staff Sergeant Jeremiah Johnson, and Staff Sergeant Wright.

May they rest in peace.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, as an OB/GYN and now a U.S. Congressman, I want to continue to highlight October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

One out of eight women will develop breast cancer. Let me say that again, Mr. Speaker. One out of eight women will develop breast cancer.

If you are a woman over the age of 35, you should ask your physician if you need a mammogram; and certainly if you are over the age of 50, every woman needs a mammogram every year.

A mammogram is quick, it is easy, and the great thing about mammograms is how easy it can be to catch breast cancer at its very early stages and give us a great chance to treat the problem.

Over my career as a physician, we have helped hundreds of women who have successfully fought this dreaded disease. There are great treatments out there and ways we can save lives, so I encourage every woman over the age of 35 to talk to their physician about a mammogram. It is one thing to be aware of breast cancer, but it is another thing to do something about it.

NATIONAL WOMEN’S SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the National Women’s Business Council in recognizing October as National Women’s Small Business Month.
Women bring unique and invaluable skills and experiences to the workplace. Across the country, there are over 9 million women-owned small businesses, and they contribute over a trillion dollars to our national economy.

In Kansas alone, there are more than 73 businesses owned by women, representing industries such as accounting, veterinary medicine, and management consulting.

As I have toured Kansas, I have met with women entrepreneurs in towns like Ellsworth and Emporia, learning about how these businesses are growing local economies and the positive impact these businesses have on their communities. It is inspiring to see what these women have achieved and to hear their perspective on the challenges that small-business owners face.

I ask my colleagues to join me now in celebrating these women during National Women’s Small Business Month.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, though mostly known as the top basketball program in the country, I want to acknowledge and salute the University of Kansas and our innovative work through the Kansas Heart and Stroke Collaborative.

The collaborative has worked diligently over the past 3 years to establish a new model and standard for how to ensure the care of heart disease and strokes in rural areas. They provide better care in a way that saves overall costs and is truly a win-win.

Fifty-three counties in Kansas, with more than 90 hospitals, clinics, and offices, are now represented in the collaborative care model. Not only do they better the lives of patients in rural Kansas, they do so based on a model that is a poster child for other conservative-style demonstration projects.

In 2014, the University of Kansas partnered with Hays Medical Center and received a $12 million, 3-year innovation grant. Now that 3-year window is closing, and I am pleased to say that the collaborative will continue as a self-sustaining entity.

Let me say that again. This will continue as a self-sustaining entity, continue to provide efficient care, and, literally, save thousands of rural Americans’ lives and give them more meaningful life after their stroke or heart attack.

As a physician in rural Kansas for three decades, this is one of the greatest success stories I have ever seen, and it will always hold a special place in my heart, as I have seen it unfold right before my eyes.

The Kansas Heart and Stroke Collaborative provides hope and direction for rural healthcare in Kansas and beyond, and it should be looked at by other States.

ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud Member of this House. I am always so honored to know that I have the privilege of standing in the well of the Congress of the United States of America. There are only 435 people who are elected as Members from the various States who have voting rights in Congress. That privilege, so it is an honor for me to do it. I want people to know that when I stand here, my words are sincere and my efforts are those that I believe can make a difference in the lives of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I called to the attention of the House of Representatives Articles of Impeachment, and I called these Articles of Impeachment to the House because it is a part of a process. It can be a three-step process, which has been used on multiple occasions in the past, a three-step process that allows the Member to give notice. After the Member gives notice, the Member does not have to allow a vote to take place immediately.

The Member can decide that, rather than have the vote take place within 2 days, the Member can give notice a second time and then allow that process to move forward, and the Speaker can then set a time for the Member to give a final notice, or present the actual Articles of Impeachment.

I have chosen to use the three-step process: initial notice; thereafter to come back before this House, which every Member has the privilege of doing and which has been done before, and again notice the House; and, thereafter, have the articles considered with a final reading.

Mr. Speaker, I don’t think it is any secret that I have indicated that the President should be impeached. It is no secret, I don’t think it is any secret that I have always thought that there will be a vote in Congress on Articles of Impeachment.

If perchance I have been misunderstood, allow me to make it perspicuous today; there will be a vote. There is a three-step process that we are pursuing. That process will continue when we return. And when we return, I assure everyone there will be a vote.

There has been some confusion. My suspicion is because where there are few facts, there is much speculation, so there has been some confusion about why there wasn’t go forward yesterday.

So now allow me to make it abundantly clear: no person, no living, breathing child of God influenced my decision to move forward as I have.

Others can give their opinions. No one did. I did not receive an opinion indicating that I should not go forward as I did.

I have made my decision. This is where I stand. If I stand alone, Mr. Speaker, I have no fear of standing alone.

If Rosa Parks could sit alone in a racist Southern town to deal with injustice and bring about some form of justice, surely I can stand alone in the well of the Congress and stand alone on what we are pursuing with impeachment.

If Dr. King could go to jail and write one of the greatest essays on human rights I have ever read, surely I can stand in the well of the Congress—if he could go to jail—and I can extol and stand upon why I believe we have to move forward with impeachment.

Finally this: those of you who bothered to read the Articles of Impeachment, and I beg that you would, because that is why this time is being made available, so that everyone can read it and understand why we are going forward, and those of who you will read them will find that I don’t approve of anyone calling mothers dogs. I don’t approve of it. I don’t approve of it. I don’t approve of it. When you say “S.O.B.,” you are saying that somebody’s mother is a dog. I don’t approve of that.

By the way, that is not widely published that that is in the Articles of Impeachment, but it is there. It is there for all to see.

So for those who believe that motherhood is sacred, for those who believe that a President of the United States ought not say “S.O.B.,” and you know who you are—I’m talking to you. I never use profanity. But I want you to know this: I am going to move forward with those Articles of Impeachment, and motherhood is sacred.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING MATT BELLINA

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of my constituent, Matt Bellina, of Holland, Pennsylvania.

On April 9, 2014, at the age of 30, Matt was diagnosed with ALS, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. ALS attacks the nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord, leaving those with ALS to lose control of their muscles.

Matt graduated from Virginia Tech in May 2005 and received his commission into the U.S. Navy as a naval aviator. Following the onset of his symptoms, which include crumbling hands, twitching arms, stiffness in his legs, Matt was grounded from flying. He continued to serve in the Navy in an administrative capacity until he medically retired in 2014, with the rank of lieutenant commander.

Matt eventually moved back home to Bucks County with his wife, Caitlin, and his young children to be surrounded by family and friends.
Although this disease stopped Matt’s career in its tracks, he persisted and actively involved himself in the ALS community and became a strong advocate for right-to-try legislation.

Mr. Speaker, each year Americans like Matt’s family receive the devastating news of a terminal diagnosis. Even with the amazing work done in American medical research, for too many families, access to these potentially lifesaving treatments will come too late or not at all.

Therapies for terminally ill patients suffer needlessly while awaiting final approval for drugs, therapies, and other medical technologies. While the Food and Drug Administration carries out its three-phase approval process, which can take years and cost billions of dollars, many patients simply want the chance to try treatments that are already demonstrated to be safe. A bill that was unanimously passed by the Senate will offer them a chance to extend their lives.

The Right to Try Act would ensure that terminally ill patients, together with their physicians and pharmaceutical manufacturers, can administer investigational treatments where no alternative exists. In fact, this bipartisan idea is already the law in 37 States.

A Federal right-to-try law would prevent the government from blocking access to potentially lifesaving medications. It would require patients to first try all other available treatments and be unable to participate in clinical trials.

For these patients caught between the traditional drug approval delays, the clinical trial process for which they do not qualify, and limited time, the right to try simply establishes the freedom for patients and their doctors to try therapies where the benefits far outweigh the risks. It gives them an option of trying to save their life.

Mr. Speaker, it is a father courageously battling ALS or a brave child living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, they deserve the right to try.

MASS SHOOTING IN LAS VEGAS

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the tragedy that happened in my home town of Las Vegas last Sunday, October 1.

Last week, a horrific mass shooting took place in the community that I grew up in. Immediately when I heard the news on Sunday night, like so many people, I felt helpless and I rushed to the hospital to see how I could help.

This shooting was the deadliest in modern U.S. history: 58 innocent people were killed, and over 500 were injured.

The 58 innocent victims came from all walks of life. They came to Las Vegas from all over the United States of America. Some were there to celebrate their birthdays, their favorite country singer, a night out with friends and family, and even celebrating their wedding anniversaries.

Even though these families will never get another Christmas, another Thanksgiving, or another birthday with their loved one, they will never forget them, and we won’t either.

As we grieve for those who were killed or injured, and pray for their families, I want to recognize the heroes who bravely rushed to help: law enforcement officers and first responders, including some who were off duty and attending the concert, who ran toward the gunfire to protect the concertgoers and provide desperately needed care for victims; people at the concert who shielded those around them, gave them medical care, and led others to safety, exposing themselves to the hail of bullets while they tried to save others; people driving by who stopped their cars to help take shooting victims to the hospitals; strangers helping strangers: the healthcare professionals, doctors, nurses, support staff, and volunteers who have been working tirelessly around the clock to care for the more than 500 injured people; hospitality industry employees, who rushed to help however they could; and the Las Vegas businesses and residents, who have generously donated their money, time, and blood to help the victims.

To all of these heroes, I say: Thank you. Thank you so much.

Over the coming days and weeks, I plan to speak on this floor about each and every one of you. Thank you so much.

As a SEAL platoon commander in Iraq during the Battle of Ramadi in 2006, he served alongside my son, Leif Babin, as they led some of the toughest sustained urban combat operations in the history of the SEAL teams.

Seth was a storied and an exceptional combat leader that helped turn the tide for America in two of the most pivotal battles of the Iraq war.

Seth and his SEAL platoon played an integral role in the victorious efforts of the U.S. Army’s 1st Armored Division’s Ready First Brigade Combat Team that transformed Ramadi from the most violent and dangerous place in Iraq to a stable, secure, and peaceful city.

In more than 6 months of continuous urban combat, a number of his SEALs were wounded and killed in action, including Master-at-Arms Second Class Michael A. Monsoor, when he dove onto a grenade to save three of his SEAL teammates next to him. For his actions, Petty Officer Monsoor was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Seth returned to Iraq 2 years later and led a SEAL task unit that included American Sniper, Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle, also from Texas.

Seth’s outstanding combat record placed him in a very special class that included Petty Officer Michael Monsoor, Chief Petty Officer Chris Kyle, Petty Officer Marc Lee, and Petty Officer Ryan Job.

Seth epitomized the warrior ethos, risking his life for his country on multiple occasions in combat against our Nation’s mortal enemies. He saved countless U.S. service members, and he helped bring stability to embattled regions of the world.

About his military service, Seth said: It was my honor to fight for my country. The best life is one lived as a sacrifice for others. I love my country, and I love the teams. That is what drove me to fight so hard for America while wearing the SEAL Trident. At the same time, I did not really consider myself to be a SEAL but, rather, a soldier for the Lord.

In everything he did and throughout his life he served the Lord from a place of deep faith. He was a very special person. I was proud to know him, and I will be forever grateful for his service to our great country and the friendship and camaraderie that he had with my son and all those whom he served with.

While Seth has left us on Earth, his position for his friends, his country, and his Lord will certainly live on and never be forgotten.

FEMA CAN DO BETTER FOR OUR FELLOW AMERICANS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, there was applause from the gallery, and every American applauds FEMA, that is the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for its response to Hurricane Harvey and the devastation that it caused.

But it is clear that the agency’s response to another major disaster shows the need for significant improvements, and that is what we are doing today.

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While Seth has left us on Earth, his position for his friends, his country, and his Lord will certainly live on and never be forgotten.
The Iran nuclear deal was a giant mistake. It has been bad for America’s national security, bad for our ally Israel’s national security, and bad for the world.

By decertifying the flawed Iran nuclear deal before October 15, the administration has a chance to send a strong message that the United States will not sit idly by while the Iranian threat continues to grow.

The deal was premised on a naive notion that Iran would somehow evolve into a peaceful global partner, but that couldn’t have been further from the truth. Make no mistake about it: Iran is not our friend, does not share our values, and should not have been trusted.

For decades, Iran has called the United States the Great Satan, and their leadership continues to call for the total annihilation of our ally Israel. Iran remains the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world and is actively working towards obtaining a nuclear bomb. This much is clear: Iran has not upheld the spirit of this deal. Now is the time to reassert our authority on the world stage and hold Iran accountable.

I look forward to working with President Trump to keep America, our allies, and the rest of the world safe from Iranian aggression.
Florida's number two industry, utilizing one-third of Florida's available land. Without agriculture, urban developments—in fact, all developments—could not flourish. There is a simple symbiotic relationship between families and communities, and that is, if you care about one, you care about the other.

Every time you get hungry you think about your farmer, so thank a farmer today.

**Honoring the Life of Bud Adams**

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting on National Farmers Day that I am able to rise and honor a true Florida legend, Mr. Bud Adams of Fort Pierce, Florida, and his contributions to the Florida cattle industry. He is an icon in Florida and the Nation's cattle industry.

Mr. Adams was a pioneer, a wildlife photographer, but more than anything else, he was a true American pioneer and cattle rancher. He was a real American cowboy in Florida, and they are known in Florida as Florida crackers. Mr. Adams is derived from the sound of a bullwhip when it is used to round up and herd cattle.

After a stint in the Navy during World War II, Mr. Adams returned home to work and grow the family ranch. For the past 80 years, you could find Mr. Adams on horseback surveying the land and the cattle that they raised. He was a strong advocate for conservation and was nationally recognized for his leadership in preserving the land for future generations.

Even more so, Mr. Adams is known for creating the Braford breed of cattle, which is a cross between the Brahman cattle and the Hereford cattle, a heat-tolerant, heavy-beef-producing cow, ideal for the Florida climate. Mr. Adams was rightfully proud of this breed and went on to help found the United Braford Breeders Association.

Additionally, Mr. Adams was a proud member of the Florida Cattlemen's Association. He served as the president in 1958, and for the last 59 years, he was always willing to offer a helping hand to the new Florida Cattlemen's leadership.

Mr. Adams will always be remembered for the impact he had on the Florida cattle industry and his willingness to nurture future generations of Florida cattlemen. He will be greatly missed.

**Supporting the Care Corps**

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage my colleagues to support the Care Corps Demonstration Act.

By the year 2030, there will be more than 72 million older Americans. As they age, more Americans will require long-term support and services, placing a significant burden on our elder care system that is already struggling to provide and finance services to our seniors.

The Care Corps Demonstration Act, which my colleague Congresswoman MICHELLE LUIJAN GRISHAM and I have introduced, will address this growing need by placing Care Corps volunteers in communities where they will provide essential services to seniors that will allow these older Americans to remain independent. In turn, these wonderful volunteers will receive assistance in paying down their educational expenses.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, this program will help us train a new generation of healthcare providers to meet our Nation's demand for senior care services by giving our students essential, real-world experience in the field.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will create stronger communities across our Nation by bringing generations of Americans together. I encourage my colleagues to support our bill, the Care Corps Demonstration Act, of this session. The bill number, Mr. Speaker, is H.R. 3493.

So please contact my congressional office or the office of Congresswoman MICHELLE LUIJAN GRISHAM to cosponsor H.R. 3493.

**National Farmers Day**

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize America's farmers on National Farmers Day.

I call our American farmers the thin green line because food security is national security. We can never discount the importance of our Nation's ability to feed itself, and we can do so only by the hard work of the men and women in the agricultural community.

In honor of National Farmers Day, I wanted to recite a poem first delivered in the agricultural community.

God said, "I need somebody with arms strong enough to plow the fields; who works the soil with a plow handle and a hoe, who can dig a 5-mile drive to church; somebody who would make a harness out of haywire, feed sacks, and take and ride a broken-down horse, who could sleep in a small wooden shed on a straw mattress; somebody to make a barrel of hay, drag it across the field, and strain the milk and replenish the self-feeder and finish a hard week's work with a 5-mile drive to church; somebody who would bale a family together with the soft strong bonds of sharing, who would laugh, and then sigh, and then reply, with smiling eyes, when his son says that he wants to spend his life "doing what dad does," so God made a farmer.

**Prayer**

Reverend Joshua Leu, First Christian Church, Great Bend, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

God, I ask today that You would open these honorable men and women of the House to the significance, weight, and powerlessness of the work that they get to do.

Remind them that the detailed decisions that they make here and now will not only have effects on the entire world, but will ripple through time for generations to come, making a way for all people.

So gift them, O Lord, with Your wisdom today and every day they serve so they can be a part of causing Your kingdom to come, Your will to be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.

**The Journal**

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

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD)
come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GABBARD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

WELCOMING REVEREND JOSHUA LEU

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute and say thanks during Pastor Appreciation Month. This one is particularly special, as one of my own church's pastors gave the opening prayer to this body just moments ago.

From baptisms to weddings to funerals, pastors give us encouragement to meet the demands of life. They give spiritual balance to a material world and are spiritual leaders for a nation deemed "one Nation under God."

I thank my current pastor, Pastor Josh Leu; his wife, Ashley; his lovely daughters, Kaysie and Khora. I also want to thank my pastor of 20 years, Pastor Bill Johnson, and his wife, Lois.

Thanks for all you have done for us, for my family, for my community, and for my church.

Like Pastor Bill always used to say: Have a good day, if you want to.

Mr. Speaker, let's all reach out to pastors and their families to tell them thanks for all they do for us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was grateful to join Secretary Rick Perry and my colleagues, Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, yesterday to celebrate the Department of Energy's 40th birthday.

The goals presented of progressing our science, protecting our Nation, and promoting our energy were meaningful to me, having served as Deputy General Counsel under Secretary Jim Edwards of the Reagan administration. I was also grateful to have worked at the Savannah River Site, where I saw firsthand so many dedicated personnel.

In Washington, I served with General Counsel R. Tenney Johnson; was welcomed by Administrative Assistant Marsha McQueen; and was trained by Deputy General Counsel Eric Fygi, who was recognized as an original DOE staff member.

I look forward to working with Secretary Perry to ensure continued progress on our nuclear cleanup missions, effective stewardship of the nuclear weapons stockpile, and continued research and development at our Nation's national labs. DOE now clearly promotes energy development to create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, the Iran nuclear deal is far from perfect. There are outstanding issues like ballistic missiles, that are and should be addressed outside the nuclear agreement.

Ultimately, the goal of this deal was to prevent Iran from attaining a nuclear weapon and averting all-out war. This is exactly what it has done.

Now, President Trump is threatening to pull out of the deal and break our commitments to Iran and our allies, with no evidence to prove that Iran has not complied. In fact, the IAEA and our U.S. military and intelligence sources unanimously agree that Iran has remained compliant to the agreement.

Walking away from the Iran nuclear agreement that, so far, is working will likely cause Iran to restart its nuclear weapons program, eliminate the possibility of diplomatic negotiations to denuclearize North Korea, kick off a nuclear arms race, and greatly increase the chances of nuclear war.

If President Trump breaks our commitment to the Iran deal, the American people have everything to lose and nothing to gain. For the peace and security of the American people, we must uphold our commitment to this nuclear deal.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAMES BUSKEY

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alabama State Representative James Buskey.

Representative Buskey recently announced that he will be retiring from the Alabama House of Representatives after 42 years of representing people in Mobile, Alabama.

He was first elected to the House in 1976, making him one of the longest-serving legislators in Alabama history. Outside of the legislature, Representative Buskey spent much of his life working in public education, including as a school administrator at E.S. Chastang Middle School in Mobile.

While we have had our share of political differences, I have always appreciated his institutional knowledge and respected his passion for our local community. I am honored to call James a friend and appreciate his decades of service to the people of Mobile and Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, I wish James and his wife, Vergie, all the best upon his retirement and the years ahead.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HANNAH AHLERS

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire on thousands of innocent people at a music festival in Las Vegas.

As our families mourn, I want to honor the life of Hannah Ahlers, a wife, mother, daughter, sister, friend to many, and beloved by her community, whose life was taken too soon. Her brother recently told me: "She was loved by everyone that met her . . . she was our sunshine."

Her beautiful personality was felt by all, from her family and friends, to the mothers she worked with in her children's schools, to the volleyball team she volunteered with. As her husband shared: "She wasn't too good for anybody: beautiful inside and out."

At 34, her dedication to family and community is felt in her home in the city of Beaumont and across the Inland Empire.

On behalf of my wife, Monica, and the entire 36th Congressional District, we join together as a community to mourn her heartbreaking loss and celebrate her life.

To Hannah's husband, Brian; her children, Briannah, Brice, and Hailey, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We commit to take up Hannah's mantle of dedication by serving our own communities. Her love and devotion will never be forgotten.

NATIONAL FARMERS DAY

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, when you eat today, you can thank a farmer. Across this great Nation, over 3 million farmers work tirelessly each day to produce the food that feeds our families and keeps our country running.

From Grace-Way Dairy Farm in Lowville to Everett Orchards in Peru, I have been blessed to meet with so many farmers that make up the backbone of our north country economy. Many of these family farms in my district produce dairy, apples, honey, wine, and the most delicious maple in the country.

As Congress works on the next farm bill, we need to focus on supporting those who support our Nation's food supply.
Mr. Speaker, today, on National Farmers Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking the men and women who rise before the sun each and every day to make sure our families are fed.

HELPING FLOOD VICTIMS IN NEED
(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge Congress to help the neediest and most vulnerable flood victims from our Nation’s recent hurricanes.

Our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas, is familiar with hurricanes and disaster recovery. We rebuilt our communities after Allison in 2001, and again in 2008, after Hurricane Ike.

Texasans are proud and independent people. We take pride in our self-reliance and can-do attitude. However, many members of our community—low-income families, seniors, and disabled Americans—are in the greatest need and must rely on others for help.

Current rules can prevent the neediest victims from receiving assistance they need to recover and rebuild their homes, including denying individuals Federal assistance for being able to afford flood insurance premiums that can exceed over $4,000 a year. That is out of range for most of these folks.

As America’s elected representatives, we have a moral responsibility to act and protect our Nation’s most vulnerable disaster victims, especially our seniors and disabled, from being left with nothing.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES B. BRIEN, JR.
(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Mr. James Brien of Mayfield, a dedicated public servant and a staunch advocate for Graves County, whose passion for bettering the community was rivaled only by his love for University of Kentucky football and basketball.

We have seen some devastating fires throughout California, specifically huge fires in northern California, that have already burned over 142,000 acres. It is one of the deadliest weeks in California wildfire history, already seeing 23 lives perish in those fires.

Today, we will see disaster relief funding here on the floor. It is important that, while we have already passed one funding bill, we pass another to address all natural emergencies across the entire country. We must also have funding available for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria in devastated areas like Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida.

We have had big challenges in this country, and it is time to make sure that we pass a second relief funding bill that will address many of those concerns in the disasters that we have seen across the country.

Shortly hereafter, we are going to see another funding bill come forward that will address some reforms. While some of our States have building codes and are addressing the impacts so that we don’t see this devastation in the future, we need to make sure that these reforms are passed in the coming bill as well.

We have three major bills. We will pass one today. Another one is soon to follow. We have to address the country’s national emergencies.

BEWARE OF POLLS
(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, a recent Washington Post/ABC News poll professed to find that a majority of Americans supported amnesty for illegal immigrants. That is not hard to do, given how the survey was conducted.

The pollsters asked to speak only with the youngest adult at home; over-sampled Democrats by at least 4 percent; used the word “undocumented” rather than “illegal;” questioned illegal immigrants, at least 3 percent of the population; and conditioned amnesty on requirements that can’t be met.

Other than that, I am sure it was an accurate poll. Beware of polls done by liberal media organizations that have an agenda of their own. The American people may not be getting the facts. They deserve better.

ADDRESSING OUR COUNTRY’S NATURAL DISASTERS
(Mr. DENHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of the victims of the California wildfires.

May God continue to bless his sons, James B. Brien III and Joshua V. Brien, and his family and friends, through which his legacy lives on.

NATIONAL FARMERS DAY
(Mr. ARRINGTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of west Texas, home to 14 million acres of farmland, making it one of the largest agriculture production regions in the world.

I have spent a lot of time with these plowboys and cowboys over the years, and I can tell you this: these men and women don’t work our land and our cattle for the money, and they certainly don’t do it for recognition.

But today is National Farmers Day. Let’s pause and pay tribute to the American farmer.

Farming was man’s first profession. Farming saved and sustained our first colony at Jamestown. Farming helped fund the Revolution, securing the very freedoms we have and cherish today.

Farming has allowed us to feed and clothe our own people, and that food and fiber independence has contributed to America being the most powerful, most prosperous, and most generous Nation in the history of the world.

God bless our farmers.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT RYAN MCCARTHY AND STAFF SERGEANT CHAD HICKEY
(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two valued members of our States defense community, Staff Sergeant Ryan McCarthy and Staff Sergeant Chad Hickey. They are both stationed out of Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri’s Fourth District, and these soldiers are exceptional representatives of their base, their State, and their service branch—the United States Army.

Both men recently received top honors at the Association of the United States Army’s Annual Meeting and Exposition, where they were recognized for their leadership, excellence, and achievements.

Staff Sergeant McCarthy, who is right here, was named the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year by AUSA. A combat engineer with more than 9 years of service, McCarthy has served multiple deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. His dedication and leadership represent the best ideals of our Army and America’s fighting forces.

Another Fort Leonard Wood soldier, Staff Sergeant Chad Hickey, pictured here, was named Drill Sergeant of the Year. Hickey received the honor after winning a grueling fitness, endurance, and combat-readiness competition.
against the Nation’s top drill ser-
gen. The fact that Staff Sergeant McCar-
thry and Staff Sergeant Hickey are both
from Fort Leonard Wood is no surprise.
The men and women stationed there
serve with strength, seriousness, and
purpose, and it is an example of the
military leadership for the entire Army.
To Staff Sergeant McCarthy and Hickey,
and to all of the soldiers sta-
tioned at Fort Leonard Wood, I wish to
extend to each and every one of you
and your families our gratitude and
congratulations.

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE
(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania
asked and was given permission to ad-
dress the House for 1 minute and to
re-

view and extend his remarks.)
Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
Mr. Speaker, technology connects the
world in ways like never before. From
everyday conveniences at our finger-
tips to improved communications,
technology plays an ever-increasing
role in our lives.

We are becoming more dependent on
applications, or apps, and the students
of today will become the leaders of to-
morrow by developing such technology.
That is why my office is proud again
to participate in the Congressional App
Challenge.

This competition allows K–12 stu-
dents from across the country to prac-
tice their code-writing skills by devel-
oping an app. Winning apps will be dis-
played in the Capitol Building later
this year.
The 2015 winner from my office,
Lachlan Campbell, created an app to
store recipes and discover new dishes. I
am proud that this State College stu-
dent was able to show off his talents in
our Nation’s Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that stu-
dents from across Pennsylvania’s Fifth
Congressional District will put their
skills to work, create an app, and sub-
mit it to the Congressional App Chal-


enge.

Submissions will close on November
1, and I can’t wait to see what our stu-
dents create.

RECOGNITION OF BIOENERGY DAY
(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was
given permission to address the House
for 1 minute and to review and extend
his remarks.)
Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I
rise today in recognition of Bioenergy
Day, a day we celebrate natural renew-
able energy in America. On October 18,
organizations across America will
mark this special day by opening their
doors to the public and highlighting
how bioenergy is fueling America.

Forest by-products are a primary
source of bioenergy, making my home
State of Arkansas a leading producer
in this field.

Across the country, bioenergy keeps
the lights on and so much more. Bio-

energy produces just under 6 percent
of the Nation’s total energy supply and
provides full-time jobs for tens of thou-
sands of Americans, with more plants
coming online in the near future.

We need to do more research to find
economical ways to harness renewable
energy, forest by-products, and the en-
vironmental benefits derived from our
natural resources.

CREATING A TURNING POINT
FROM A TRAGEDY
(Mr. GALLAGHER asked and was
given permission to address the House
for 1 minute and to review and extend
his remarks.)
Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I am
proud to rise as a cosponsor of the
Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower
Protection Act the House will be voting
on later today.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was a promising
young clinical psychologist assigned to
the Tomah VA in Wisconsin. Com-
mitted to finding innovative treat-
ments for PTSD, he expressed alarm
that patients of the VA were being
overmedicated, preventing him from
providing the treatment they so des-
perately needed.

Rather than listen to his concerns,
the VA retaliated against him and,
ultimately, Chris was fired; and that
day, he took his own life. The VA
investigation later found that Chris’
concerns about overmedication were
entirely founded.

Chris’ story is a tragedy, but can also
serve as a turning point. Just as our
veterans have earned world-class care,
their allies such as Chris deserve full
protection should they bravely decide
to document VA wrongdoing or abuse.

By increasing these protections today,
we are honoring Chris’ memory, serv-
ing as a fitting remembrance to a life
that was tragically cut short.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
ant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair
will postpone further proceedings
today on the motion to suspend the
rules on which a recorded vote or the
yeas and nays are ordered, or if the
vote is objected to under clause 6 of
rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed
question will be taken later.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER
RELIEF REQUIREMENTS ACT, 2017
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker,
I move to suspend the rules and agree
to the resolution (H. Res. 569) providing
for the concurrence by the House in the
Senate amendment to H.R. 2266, with
an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolu-
tion.
The text of the resolution is as fol-

ows:
H. Res. 569.
Resolved. That upon the adoption of this
resolution the House shall be considered
to have taken from the Speaker’s table
the bill, H.R. 2266, with the Senate amendment thereto,
and to have concurred in the Senate
amendment with the following amend-
ment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be
inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Additional
Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster
Relief Requirements Act, 2017”.

DIVISION A—ADDITIONAL
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER
RELIEF REQUIREMENTS ACT OF 2017

The following sums are hereby appro-
piated, out of any money not otherwise appropriated, and out of appli-
cable corporate or other revenues, receipts,
and funds, for the several departments, agen-
cies, corporations, and other organizational
units of Government for fiscal year 2018, and
for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
DISASTER RELIEF FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Disaster
Relief Fund” for major disasters declared
pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
U.S.C. §521 et seq.), $18,670,000,000, to remain
available until expended, of which $10,000,000
shall be transferred to the Department
of Homeland Security Office of Inspector
General for audits and investigations related
to disasters: Provided, That the Administra-
tor of the Federal Emergency Management
Agency shall publish on the Agency’s
website not later than 5 days after an award
of a public assistance grant under section 406
of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §5172)
the specifics of each such grant award;
Provided further, That for any mission assign-
ment or mission assignment task order to another Federal de-
partment or agency regarding a major dis-
aster in excess of $1,000,000, not later than 5
days after the issuance of such mission as-
signment or mission assignment task order,
the Administrator shall publish on the Agen-
cy’s website the following: the name of the
impacted State, the disaster declaration for
such State, the assigned agency, the assist-
tance provided, the total cost estimate, the amount obli-
gated, and the total cost estimate; provided
that in any fiscal year in excess of $1,000,000,
the total cost estimate and the amount obli-
gated: Provided further, That not later than 10
days after the last day of each month
following the date of enactment of this Act,
the Administrator shall publish on the Agency’s
website not later than 5 days after the last day of
for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

S. 363. The terms and conditions applicable to the funds provided in this division, in addition to those contained in the disaster assistance direct loan program authorized by section 251(b)(2)(A)(i), shall also apply to the funds made available in division B of Public Law 115–56.

S. 364. Each amount designated in this division for the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

S. 365. (a)(v) Not later than March 31, 2018, the Gov-

ernment Accountability Office, the respective Inspector General of each agency, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate the designations of the internal control plans required by paragraph (1).

(b) All programs and activities receiving funds under this division shall be deemed to be ''susceptible to significant improper payments'' for purposes of the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 321 note), notwithstanding section 2(a) of such Act.

(c) Funds for grants provided by this division or division B of Public Law 115–56 shall be included in the grantee's budget for the 24-month period following the agency's obligation of funds for the grant, unless, in accordance with guidance to be issued by the Director of OMB, the Director waive this requirement for a particular grant program and submits a written justification for such waiver to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the case of such grants, the agency shall include in the grant that requires the grantee to return to the agency any funds not expended within the period provided.

S. 366. (a) The first proviso under the heading "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and De-

velopment—General Provisions—Community Development Fund" in division B of Public Law 115–56 is amended by striking "State or unit of general local government" and inserting "State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe (as such term is defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 3302))."

(b) Amounts repurposed pursuant to subsection (a) that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of such Act.

S. 369. Title I of Division D of Public Law 115–56 is amended to read as follows:

(1) Section 101(a)(7) of title II of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by striking "(A) Community Development Fund" and inserting "(D) Community Development Fund;"


S. 360. (a) The first proviso under the heading "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and De-

velopment—Community Development Fund" in division B of Public Law 115–56 is amended by striking "State or unit of general local government" and inserting "State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe (as such term is defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 3302))."

(b) Amounts repurposed pursuant to subsection (a) that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of such Act.

S. 307. Section 101(a)(7) of division D of Public Law 115–56 is amended to read as follows:

(1) Section 101(a)(7) of Division D of Public Law 115–56 is amended by striking "(A) Community Development Fund" and inserting "(D) Community Development Fund;"

Act of 1956 (28 U.S.C. 514(e)), and any bor-
rowing agreement entered into between the
Department of the Treasury and the Federal
Emergency Management Agency, of the in-
development of a bankruptcy judge under any
notes or other obligations issued pursuant to
section 1306(a) of the National Flood Insur-
ance Act of 1968 (28 U.S.C. 516(a)) and sec-
tion 1308(a) of the National Flood Insur-
ance Act of 1968 (28 U.S.C. 516(a)) is that out-
standing as of the date of the enactment of this
Act, an amount of $16,000,000,000 is hereby
cancelled. To the extent the amount cancelled
is provided by the Secretary of the Treasury and
the National Flood Insurance Fund are relieved of
liability to the Secretary of the Treasury under any
such notes or other obligations, including the
interest due under such notes and any other
fees and charges payable in connection with
such notes, and the total amount of notes and
obligations issued by the Administrator
pursuant to such sections shall be considered
to be reduced by such amount for the pur-
purposes of the limitation on such total amount
under such section 1306(a).

(b) The amount of the indebtedness can-
celled under subsection (a) may be treated as
public debt of the United States.

(c) The section is designated as an
emergency requirement pursuant to section
4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of

(2) The amount provided in this section is
designated by the Congress as being for an
emergency requirement pursuant to section
251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and

SEC. 309. Notwithstanding section
19(a)(2)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028), not to exceed
$1,270,000,000 of funds made available for the
contingency reserve under the heading “Sup-
plemental Nutrition Assistance Program” of
division B of the Balanced Budget and

SEC. 309. Notwithstanding section
251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and

SEC. 309. Notwithstanding section
2208(b)(4)(c) of title 10, United States Code, during fiscal
year 2018, the dollar limitation on advance
billing of a customer of a working-capital fund in such section shall not apply with re-
spect to the advance billing of the Federal
Emergency Management Agency. In the pre-
ceding sentence, the term “advance billing
shall mean the term in section
2208(b)(4)(c) of title 10, United States Code.

This division may be cited as the “Addi-
tional Supplemental Appropriations for Dis-
aster Relief Appropriations Act of 2017

DIVISION B—BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP
ACT OF 2017

SECTION 1001. SHORT TITLE.
This division may be cited as the “Bank-
rruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017.”

SEC. 1002. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY OFFICE
OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES IN CERTAIN
JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

(a) TEMPORARY OFFICE OF BANK-
RUPTCY JUDGES AUTHORIZED BY THE BANKRUPTCY
JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2005.—

(1) EXTENSIONS.—The temporary office
of bankruptcy judges authorized for the fol-
lowing districts by subsection (b) of the
152 note) are extended until the applicable
vacancy specified in paragraph (2) in the of-
fice of a bankruptcy judge for the respective
district occurs:

(A) The district of Delaware.

(B) The southern district of Florida.

(C) The district of Maryland.

(D) The eastern district of Michigan.

(E) The eastern district of North Carolina.

(F) The district of Puerto Rico.

(G) The eastern district of Virginia.

(2) VACANCIES.—(A) SINGLE VACANCIES.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), the 1st va-
cancy in the office of a bankruptcy judge for each
district occurs:

(i) occurring more than 5 years after the
date of the enactment of this Act, and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

(B) DISTRICT OF DELAWARE.—The 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th vacancies in the office of a bank-
ruptcy judge for the district of Delaware—

(i) occurring 5 years or more after the
date of the enactment of this Act, and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

(C) DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.—

(i) The 1st vacancy in the office of a bank-
ruptcy judge for the district of Maryland—

(I) occurring more than 5 years after the
date of the enactment of this Act, and

(II) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

(ii) The 2d and 3d vacancies in the office of
a bankruptcy judge for the district of Mary-
land resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

(D) SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.—The 1st and 2d vacancies in the office of a bank-
ruptcy judge for the southern district of
Florida—

(i) occurring more than 5 years after the
date of the enactment of this Act, and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

(3) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—
Except as provided in paragraphs (1) and (2), all
other provisions of subsection (b) of the
152 note) and section 2 of the Temporary
Bankruptcy Judgeships Extension Act of 2012
(28 U.S.C. 152 note) remain applicable to the
temporary office of bankruptcy judges re-
furred to in paragraph (1).

(b) TEMPORARY OFFICE OF BANKRUPTCY
JUDGES EXTENDED BY THE BANKRUPTCY
JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2005.—

(1) EXTENSIONS.—The temporary office of
bankruptcy judges authorized by section 3 of
152 note) and extended by subsection (c) of
the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2005
(28 U.S.C. 152 note) and further extended by
section 2 of the Temporary Bankruptcy
152 note) for the district of Delaware and the
district of Puerto Rico are extended until the
applicable vacancy specified in para-
graph (2) in the office of a bankruptcy judge
for the respective district occurs.

(2) VACANCIES.—(A) DISTRICT OF DELAWARE.—The 5th va-
cancy in the office of a bankruptcy judge for
the district of Delaware—

(i) occurring more than 5 years after the
date of the enactment of this Act, and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

(B) DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO.—The 2d va-
cancy in the office of a bankruptcy judge for
the district of Puerto Rico—

(i) occurring more than 5 years after the
date of the enactment of this Act, and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

(3) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—
Except as provided in paragraph (2), all
other provisions of section 3 of the Bank-
note), subsection (c) of the Bankruptcy
Judgeship Act of 2005 (28 U.S.C. 152 note), and
section 2 of the Temporary Bankruptcy
152 note) remain applicable to the temporary
office of bankruptcy judges referred to in
paragraph (1).

SEC. 1003. TEMPORARY OFFICE OF BANKRUPTCY
JUDGE AUTHORIZED.

(a) APPOINTMENTS.—Following bank-
ruptcy judges shall be appointed in the manner
prescribed in section 152(a)(1) of title 28,
United States Code, for the appointment of
bankruptcy judges provided for in section
152(a)(2) of that title:

(1) Two additional bankruptcy judges for
the district of Delaware.

(2) One additional bankruptcy judge for
the middle district of Florida.

(3) One additional bankruptcy judge for
the eastern district of Michigan.

(b) VACANCIES.—

(1) DISTRICT OF DELAWARE.—The 6th and
7th vacancies in the office of a bankruptcy judge
for the district of Delaware—

(i) occurring more than 5 years after the
appointment date of the bankruptcy judge
appointed under subsection (a)(1) to such
office, and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

(2) MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.—The 1st
vacancy in the office of a bankruptcy judge
for the middle district of Florida—

(A) occurring 5 years or more after the
appointment date of the bankruptcy judge
appointed under subsection (a)(2) to such
office, and

(B) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

(3) EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.—The 2d
vacancy in the office of a bankruptcy judge
for the eastern district of Michigan—

(A) occurring 5 years or more after the
appointment date of the bankruptcy judge
appointed under subsection (a)(3) to such
office, and

(B) resulting from the death, retirement,
resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy
judge, shall not be filled.

SEC. 1004. BANKRUPTCY FEES.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28 OF THE
UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 1930(a)(6) of title 28,
United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “(6) In” and inserting
“(6)(A) Except as provided in paragraph
(B)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) During each of fiscal years 2018
through 2022, if the balance in the United
States Trustee System Fund as of September
30 of the most recent full fiscal year is less
than $200,000,000, the quarterly fee payable

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for a quarter in which disbursements equal
or exceed $1,000,000 shall be the lesser of 1
percent of such disbursements or $250,000.
(b) Deposits of certain fees for fiscal
years 2020-2022—Notwithstanding section
589(a) of title 28, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022—
(1) 88 percent of the fees collected under
section 1930(a)(6) of such title shall be deposited
as offsetting collections to the appro-
priations account "United States Trustee System
Fund", to remain available until expended; and
(2) 2 percent of the fees collected under
section 1930(a)(6) of such title shall be deposited in
the Treasury.
(c) Application of amendments.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to quarterly fees payable under section
1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, as
amended by this section, for disbursements
made in any calendar quarter that begins on or
after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1005. Clarification of rule allowing
discharge to governmental claims arising from
disposition of farm assets under chapter 12 bankruptcies.
(a) In general.—Subchapter II of chapter
12 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
"§ 1232. Claim by a governmental unit based
on the disposition of property used in a farming operation
"(a) Any unsecured claim of a govern-
mental unit against the debtor or the estate
that arises before the filing of the petition,
or that arises after the filing of the petition
and before the debtor's discharge under sec-
tion 1228, as a result of the sale, transfer, ex-
change, or other disposition of any property
used in the debtor's farming operation.
"(b) For purposes of applying sections
1222(a)(4), 1228(b)(2), and 1229(b)(1) to a claim
described in subsection (a) of this section,
the amount that would be paid by the estate
of the debtor were liquidated in
the table of sections.
"(1) 98 percent of the fees collected under
section 1930(a)(6) of such title shall be deposited
as offsetting collections to the appro-
priations account "United States Trustee System
Fund", to remain available until expended; and
"(2) 2 percent of the fees collected under
section 1930(a)(6) of such title shall be deposited in
the Treasury.
(c) Application of amendments.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to quarterly fees payable under section
1930(a)(6) of title 28, United States Code, as
amended by this section, for disbursements
made in any calendar quarter that begins on or
after the date of enactment of this Act.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman
from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-
bers have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and
to limit their remarks to material in consider-
ation of H. Res. 569.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gentle-
man from New Jersey?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may con-
sume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present
H. Res. 569, which will address the additional ap-
propriations for disaster relief
requirements for the current fiscal
year to help respond to recent devast-
ating natural disasters.

The past 2 months have seen
millions of Americans have had their lives forever altered by destructive hurricanes in
Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the
Virgin Islands, and by raging and dead-
ly wildfires in the West.

We support those who are victim-
ized, particularly those who lost their lives or lost loved ones, and we will
continue to be with them every step of
the way with the Federal support they need as they recover and rebuild.

Our thanks go to the first responders,
volunteers, and States who saved countless lives, protected communities,
and demonstrated the best of humanity; that includes FEMA, the
Army Corps of Engineers, the Depart-
ment of Defense, and many other Federal agencies for get-
ing the first installment of relief to those in need.

However, with such massive, unprec-
edented damage, more help is clearly needed to continue to respond to these
recovery efforts, to rebuild communities with dollars, with resources, with manpower, and with our support.

This emergency funding legislation,
the second installment of this ur-
gent short-term immediate priorities: replenishing FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund,
supporting ongoing Federal wild-
fire suppression efforts, providing debt
relief for the Federal Flood Insurance
Program, and other assistance that will help our fellow Americans in their
time of greatest need.

To summarize the $36.5 billion in
emergency funding provided in this
bill, in total, $18.7 billion is provided for the Disaster Relief Fund. This in-
cludes $13.77 billion for the most imme-
diate response needs: lifesaving mis-
sions, emergency protection, the repair
and restoration of public infrastructure
like communications, power, transpor-
tation, and, yes, financial assistance to individuals and families
affected as they rebuild their lives.

This package also includes $1.9 bil-
lion for community disaster loans,
which will ensure local governments
are able to provide critical municipal
services such as police and fire protec-
tion and public education throughout
this trying time.
In addition to the Disaster Relief Fund, this bill provides a one-time payment of $1.27 billion to allow Puerto Rico and our fellow citizens to receive the same access to emergency disaster and nutrition program benefits that other States receive.

This bill also ensures that the National Flood Insurance Program is able to meet its existing claim obligations as Americans cope with the tremendous flood damage to their homes and communities.

Puerto Rico would be aided by provision of $576.5 million. As we have seen, the situation out West has grown even more desperate and deadly. We must ensure that those heroic firefighters can continue to save lives and protect property.

As we know, the needs of each disaster area are ever changing. Consequently, our Appropriations Committee and all of our Members continue to monitor the progress of recovery efforts as well as anticipate emerging needs.

This will be a long process, Mr. Speaker, and the second package or installment of the Federal support will certainly not be all that is needed over the long term.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill. It is important for the Nation, for the communities affected, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, since Hurricane Harvey wrought historic flooding in Texas, 12 major disasters have been declared. From a hurricane that damaged large swaths of Florida, storms that annihilated Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and wildfires burning in the West, Americans deserve certainty the Federal Government will stand by them in their time of need. This is particularly important after the President threatened to abandon Puerto Rico in his latest Twitter this morning.

Congress cannot turn its back on recovery, no matter how reckless the President’s outburst may be, as Americans are suffering and simply trying to survive. This package provides critical disaster relief, flood insurance aid, and help for communities devastated by wildfires.

Puerto Rico would be aided by provisions to address its liquidity crisis by facilitating recovery, not paying creditors, and providing additional nutrition assistance. Additionally, the bill would continue aid to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands from the Department of Defense.

However, more must be done to provide medium- and long-term investments, including rebuilding ports, coastlines, airports, roads, bridges, repairing the electrical grid and other infrastructure, and ensuring the health needs of American citizens are met.

I urge your support for this bill and your continued focus on ensuring the full recovery of American communities devastated by natural disasters.

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

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. SERRANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

This bill is a first step in helping Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands recover from the devastation of Hurricane Maria. It will provide FEMA and the governments of the islands with the funds needed to address immediate relief needs and begin the recovery process.

I do want to thank the chairman and ranking member for their commitment to this issue and for taking my phone calls at all different times, on weekends. You have been very helpful and very supportive.

Both will be visiting the island tomorrow and will be able to see firsthand the dramatic and comprehensive needs that Puerto Rico is facing.

Right now, 85 percent of the island still lacks electricity more than 3 weeks after the hurricane hit. One-third of the island doesn’t have access to clean drinking water. Most of the island still lacks cellular service, hampering the vital information to deliver assistance in the areas that are needed.

Federal employees on the island now are doing important and vital work, but we need more boots on the ground. This funding provides them with the resources needed to do that in the short term.

But to succeed, there needs to be a commitment from the highest levels of government to ensure the recovery of all areas that are part of our Nation, including its territories. Unfortunately, given the President’s latest Twitter rant this morning, it seems unlikely that we have that focus and commitment.

So it is up to us in Congress to make sure that the Federal Government doesn’t forget about Puerto Rico, and that is what I intend to do in the days, weeks, and months ahead. But to both of you and to our membership here, thank you for not forgetting Puerto Rico. This is an ongoing battle and an ongoing issue.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the supplemental appropriations bill.

I want to commend Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and the committee staff for their quick and thorough work to put this supplemental package together, and I thank the leadership for its swift action in scheduling this for House consideration.

In fiscal year 2017, the Forest Service had a shortfall of nearly $577 million in firefighting funds. To cover its immediate need, the Forest Service borrowed from its nonfire programs, as well as the Department of the Interior.

The bill will replace and repay those borrowed funds and close the books on fiscal year 2017. Specifically, it provides $536 million for the Forest Service and $50 million for the Department of the Interior.

The cost of fighting fires on our national forests and other public lands has increased dramatically over the last 15 years, yet these fires and costs remain highly unpredictable.

Right now the West is on fire. In my home State of California, firefighters are battling 22 large wildfires that have burned nearly 170,000 acres. The bill gives the government the tools it needs to assist local officials to get those fires under control as soon as possible.

We, the Congress, need to fix the way we budget for wildland fire so that the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior can focus on managing our Federal lands appropriately. We also need to give them the necessary legal authorities and tools to improve the condition and management of our national forests.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD), the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, the past few months have witnessed one of the most devastating natural disasters ever endured by our country. They include hurricanes, voracious wildfires in my home State of California that have killed at least 23 people, required mass evacuations, and burned more than 170,000 acres and thousands of homes and businesses.

By acting quickly on this emergency supplemental, we are sending a strong message that we are here for disaster victims, including our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. But this is just a downpayment. We still don’t have the final damage estimates for many of the affected areas.

In the coming weeks and months, we will need to once again support FEMA’s continued recovery efforts, including in Puerto Rico, despite the President’s threats to abandon the people there. There will be more to do to address unmet needs through the Community Development Block Grant program and other disaster relief programs.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage support for this bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM), the ranking member of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this funding package. This bill is a downpayment on the recovery from the recent fires and hurricanes. We have all seen the devastation and the tragic loss of life from large fires burning across our country. Fiscal year 2017 was the most expensive year on record for wildfire suppression, costing $2.4 billion. As the duration and severity of wildfires grows, costs will continue to rise. Unfortunately, once again we have missed the opportunity to fix the way the Federal Government funds wildfire suppression.

Let me be clear: the next supplemental must include a legislative fix for wildfire spending, and it must adequately support the Department of the Interior and its vital efforts to help our country rebuild from the recent fires and hurricanes.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Miss González-Colón), whose leadership in this time of crisis we all salute.

Miss González-Colón of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, first, I thank the Speaker of the House and the whole leadership, Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, and all of the members from the Appropriations Committee for allowing the Federal Government to help Puerto Rico in this dire situation.

On 3.4 million American citizens that live in Puerto Rico and the nearly 5.5 million Puerto Ricans that live on the mainland, I rise today in strong support of this disaster supplemental appropriations bill. They have been focused on Puerto Rico since before the arrival of Hurricane Irma, and then during Hurricane Maria.

I also thank all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who have reached out during these past 3 weeks to express encouragement and offer their assistance during this process. For that, my constituents and I will always be grateful to all of the Members of this House.

As you may know by now, Puerto Rico was hit by two major hurricanes: First, Hurricane Irma, which caused significant damage on the eastern part of the island. That was on September 6. Then, on September 20, a few days later, we got hit by Hurricane Maria, which caused unprecedented destruction across the whole island, and which many people consider that hurricane to be the most catastrophic natural disaster ever on U.S. soil.

Today, 22 days after the storm hit, nearly 85 percent of our population remains without power, 44 percent without running water, and almost 58 percent without access to telecommunications. To this date, we still have towns like Las Marías, Maricao, Utuado, and what is known as the central mountain region of the island, which remain uncommunicated and can only be accessed by air since most of the roads and bridges were washed away. We are talking about more than 18 major roads and bridges that we just washed away.

The death toll has reached 48 fatalities, and, unfortunately, certainly that number is going to increase in the coming days and weeks.

This unprecedented humanitarian crisis in our own Nation has begun what is likely to evolve into a mass exodus of Puerto Ricans to the U.S. mainland, further jeopardizing the island’s long-term recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to declare to you today telling you that the American citizens that live in Puerto Rico still are suffering in different ways. This is not the time to focus on how and when resources will be withdrawn from Puerto Rico, or how we are going to rebuild the island. Today, 85 percent of our island is without electricity, yet 3.4 million American citizens living there just got less than 15,000 people working to recover the power grid. I just want to remind you that Florida got more than 61,000 people helping to recover their power grid in just 4 days. That is not acceptable in our case, and we are still American citizens.

I know a lot of problems persist. It is too difficult to address the issue when you are not part of the mainland, you are not part of the power grid. It is different when you get access and resources to Texas, Louisiana, or Florida, because you can drive or you can have by every ship or air. That means it is more difficult for the Federal Government to assist directly. That’s the reason we got more than 15,000 personnel from the Coast Guard, National Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Navy, and the assistance of all national guards—Virginia, Florida, and New York, just to name a few.

The Puerto Rican communities in the States and on the island are showing the way, along with private companies, NGOs, and countless volunteers throughout the whole Nation. But there is still a lot that needs to be done as we begin the reconstruction. That is the reason this supplemental is so important for us.

Allowing the people of Puerto Rico to access problems that we never have before, like SNAP, which will provide $1.3 billion to receive the same emergency disaster and nutrition assistance benefits as the States, this is the first time this Congress has allowed this to happen to Puerto Rico.

I thank the Members and leadership of the House for allowing this money.

This is the bill that provides for $19.7 billion to FEMA to have the disaster relief fund to help in lifesaving missions across the island for emergency protection and removal of debris—we continue to have a lot of debris on the island—and the repair and restoration of infrastructure. A lot of work is going to be a matter of discussion on another day because we can’t rebuild or redo the infrastructure we did before from the fifties or the sixties. We need to redo a lot of things on our power grid. We need to provide the people of Puerto Rico is a very important area—$7.4 billion to have liquidity to the local government of Puerto Rico just to match Federal funds that are needed to these recovery actions. This is the second step this House has taken in terms of helping the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, people that are American citizens. This is the second step. The first one was the first supplemental that was approved.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today telling you that the time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Miss González-Colón of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, this is the second step. This is not going to be the last one. We are going to need a lot more help in the coming months, and I know we can count on this House and on this Congress to make that happen.

As you may know by now, Puerto Rico are grateful, they are resilient, and they are going to continue to show us the way to recover. It is going to take a lot of time, a lot of resources, a lot of money, and a lot of commitment as U.S. citizens, like we are.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Wasserman Schultz), the ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. Wasserman Schultz. Mr. Speaker, let me just start by saying to the people of Puerto Rico: Despite President Trump’s indifference and soft bigotry, we will be there for the people of Puerto Rico until the last American’s life returns to normal.

While I rise to support this critical emergency appropriations bill, this supplemental leaves much to be desired. This legislative deal for Federal recovery funds to my home State of Florida, as well as Texas; the U.S. Virgin Islands; Puerto Rico; and California, where wildfires remain ablaze. However, it neglects to include SBA loans for small businesses and homeowners, as well as making smart investments in our ports, coastlines, water systems, and electrical grids.

This bill also neglects to address the devastating agricultural losses, especially to Florida’s $10 billion citrus industry. It is also important to note that, in Florida, this vital funding will not be able to address the public health hazard of debris strewn across our...
Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let’s be clear. There is going to need to be much more assistance in the future. Puerto Rico will need help rebuilding its energy grid, repairing telecommunications networks, and putting up its ports, bridges, and roads back together, but we cannot and we will not wait until the island’s Medicaid system, something that was critical before Maria, but is even more important now.

This problem is of Congress’ making, and we must fix it. Make no mistake. Those priorities will require more money, and we will need to come back and address them in a few weeks.

The people of Puerto Rico are American citizens. And, you know, what? Even when so many of my brothers and sisters are suffering in Puerto Rico, are facing a humanitarian crisis, at last, 50 percent of the people in this country who didn’t know that Puerto Ricans are American citizens are learning that fact.

Yes, American citizens, when, in 1898, Puerto Rico was invaded and taken over by the U.S. Government. So now it is our responsibility to make Puerto Rico whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are once again reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, and the chairman, who has been phe-nomenal.

According to a letter sent to the congressmen, back in February, the Department of Health and Human Services stated by this storm.

This supplemental must be followed by additional measures to provide disaster relief funding and financial assistance to bring the infrastructure of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands up to 21st century standards in order to pre-vent a repeat of what has occurred.

Today’s Washington Post has a front page story chronicling the tragedy that continues as of now to unfold in Puerto Rico, where nightfall brings complete darkness, and diseases are spreading by way of contaminated water. The island has been plunged into the 19th century. The Virgin Islands shares that status.

This supplemental must be followed in the weeks and months ahead by additional measures to provide disaster relief funding and financial assistance to bring the infrastructure of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands up to 21st century standards in order to pre-vent a repeat of what has occurred.

To conclude, I look forward to continue working with the chairman, who has been phe-nomenal.

Specifically, we are going to have to deal with the agricultural impact of this storm, and again, particularly on the citrus industry, that has been devastat-ed by this storm.

This is an important bill. It is an im-portant bill. I want to thank the chair-man for bringing it up so quickly. We must pass it. I look forward to working with Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and with all our colleagues through this process, because as we are going to need more assistance in the future.

So this is an important bill. I urge you to support it.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I rise in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, millions of our fellow Americans in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are looking to Congress and the administration to work together to provide aid and assis-tance in recovery and rebuilding.

I disagree with the President of the United States that we are going to leave Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands or any other American precipitously before we have done the job we need to do.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for bringing this bill to the floor to ef-fect that end.

That is why I have called on Presi-dent Trump to muster every Federal resource, to muster and ensure that aid and supplies can reach those who need them, and to work on restoring power, water, and communications. Because many are still out of reach, we do not yet know the full extent of the damage and loss of life.
Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, Puerto Rico has no power. The U.S. Virgin Islands has no power. St. Johns is completely collapsed in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The people are dying from contaminated water.

Mr. President, how can you abandon the American people?

This bill is going to provide FEMA assistance to keep giving so they can have it. It is going to give $16 billion to the senior citizens in my district, who have paid their flood insurance, who are desperate to get their houses repaired, to get the mold out after being impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Yes I woke up this morning to the outrage of the fires and people dying in California. That is what is in this bill. I can’t imagine that a President would make this comment of walking away, but I am here to fight for those who have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey. We are still suffering. Senior citizens are out of their homes. We have been evicting people in public housing. We need community development block grants. The Army Corps of Engineers is greatly needed.

The funding for the levees we ask for is not in here, block grants is not in here, and as well the restoration that we need. We will fight. I will not turn my back on Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands and vote ‘no’. I will vote ‘yes’—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is out of order.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. And help Americans, but Hurricane Harvey has to be in the next bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. * * *

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel.
Before this hurricane season, NFIP policyholders were already paying more in interest than the entire NFIP spends on salaries and expenses or funding mitigation or paying for flood maps.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Lee), a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our ranking member for yielding time to me and for her tireless leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative from northern California, let me just say that my thoughts and prayers are with our neighbors in the North Bay. I remember the Oakland Hills. I represent Oakland and Berkeley, California; and just as many helped us then, we will help our neighbors now.

I am deeply grateful to our firefighters who are our first responders who have been working around the clock to extinguish these fires.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in strong support of this emergency supplemental. Our neighbors in the North Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, Gulf of the Rio Grande, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Texas, they need our help, and they need it now. Communities are devastated, and many are still without power and water. This is a life-and-death situation for so many.

Make no mistake, the recovery process is just beginning, and we cannot forget our Caribbean neighbors who are also suffering.

Mr. Speaker, the supplemental is a good first step. It is a good first step in a very long process, but we must provide more long-term assistance to help communities rebuild and to help them recover very quickly, and we must leave no one behind.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here with my partner, our chairman, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I know that he understands, as we all do, this is not a Republican or Democratic issue. This is our responsibility, to face the tremendous challenge that we see: people are suffering, schools are closed, more than three-quarters of the island does not have any energy, no clean water, need for food, need for basic services.

I am very pleased to work with the chairman of the committee, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and I know that we will both be going to the island of Puerto Rico to actually see firsthand what has to be done, and it is clear it has to be done now.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to travel to Puerto Rico this past Saturday with a bipartisan group of legislators. We traveled there with Resident Commissioner GONZÁLEZ-COLON, who has been an absolutely outstanding advocate for Puerto Rico during this difficult time. I have a few takeaways from that:

One, it was a sobering experience to see how widespread the devastation is on the island. Every aspect of the island of Puerto Rico was affected.

Secondly, the full commitment of the Department of Defense, of FEMA, of every Federal Government agency and the Army Corps of Engineers, that is being conducted in conjunction with the Governor and folks on the ground in Puerto Rico is great to see. It is an effective initial recovery effort that has saved and has sustained lives. Millions of meals and millions of bottles of water have been distributed.

A third takeaway is this will require a sustained active and effective effort. I want to thank the chairman for introducing this bill today, which is absolutely necessary to bring back the life of the island of Puerto Rico. The top priority now is to rebuild the grid, which is absolutely essential to getting the economy in Puerto Rico moving. That is why we need this aid package. It is an important step along the line for our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico, as well as for all of those impacted by hurricanes in the South and those out West battling wildfires.

One thing I saw as well: the American people come to the assistance of other citizens in need, and that is true whether it is in Houston, Florida, or in Puerto Rico.

Again, I would like to thank the chair for introducing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate my remarks with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) as well as with my colleague from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

On the motion to get the work of the Nation done, and at this point in history we have had some incredible tragedies and natural disasters. As a group, as this House, we must act quickly to ensure that the Federal Government fulfills its duty to millions of Americans in need. Whether they are from Texas or whether they are from Florida or whether they are from Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands, they are all citizens. Whether they are from the folks who have been fighting these deadly fires, they deserve our support.

This will be the second installment of emergency funding. There will be others. I know people are concerned that not every State's needs are met, but this is a good step in the right direction, and I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation so we can get this money out the door as quickly as possible.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stand with the hundreds of thousands of Texas families victimized by Hurricane Harvey, and urge our state and federal officials to use available resources to help our fellow Americans in their time of need.

With nearly four-and-a-half feet of rain and 130 mile per hour winds, Hurricane Harvey is the largest and most expensive natural disaster to hit Texas in living memory. At least 270,000 homes and residences were damaged in our state. Most tragically, over 75 people lost their lives as a result of Harvey, most of them in Harris County.

Later today the U.S. House of Representatives will be voting on a $36.5 billion disaster supplemental bill to sustain relief and recovery efforts in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This is not a perfect bill. I would have strongly preferred Congress provide dedicated funds to rebuild Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast, especially dedicated funding towards our region's flood control infrastructure and immediate housing needs for hurricane victims.

However, this supplemental will sustain the current recovery efforts till the damages caused by these devastating hurricanes can be better assessed. Today's supplemental is on top of $15 billion in emergency funding Congress passed last month in the immediate aftermath of Harvey.

The bipartisan Texas Congressional Delegation is committed to securing the substantial federal funds Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast need to rebuild and be prepared for the next big storm before the holiday season.

Our local officials, in particular the Governor of Texas and the state legislature, have the opportunity right now to act and ramp-up rebuilding efforts through our state's Economic Stabilization Fund.

Popularly known as Texas's "rainy day fund," the ESF currently has over $10 billion available for emergencies. There can be no question that the destruction caused by Harvey and the immediate needs of tens of thousands of Texans are an emergency and the reason why our state has been investing in a rainy day fund in the first place.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner have already called on Governor Greg Abbott to use his authority to tap the rainy day fund and help Texans in need and rebuild our infrastructure.

I join Judge Emmett and Mayor Turner in calling on the governor to immediately authorize emergency funding through our rainy day fund and help rebuild Houston and Harris County.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 569.

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. FRELINGHUYSEN. 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.
TITLE I—EMPLOYEES GENERALLY

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the term ‘agency’—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means an entity that is an agency, as defined under section 2302 of title 5, United States Code, without regard to whether one or more portions of title 5 of the United States Code are inapplicable to the entity; and

(B) does not include any entity that is an element of the intelligence community, as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403(4));

(2) the term ‘employee’ means an employee (as defined in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code) of an agency; and

(3) the term ‘prohibited personnel action’ has the meaning given that term under section 2302 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 102. STAYS; PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES.

(a) REPEAL—Section 1214(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(E) If the Merit Systems Protection Board grants a stay under this subsection, the head of the agency employing the employee shall give priority to a request for a transfer submitted by the employee.’’.

(b) PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES.—Section 1221 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(k) If the Merit Systems Protection Board grants a stay to an employee in probationary status under subsection (c), the head of the agency employing the employee shall give priority to a request for a transfer submitted by the employee.’’.

(c) STUDY REGARDING RETALIATION AGAINST PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report discussing retaliation against employees in probationary status.

SEC. 103. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES.

Section 2302(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12), by striking ‘‘or’’ at the end;

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘‘;’’; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (13) the following:

‘‘(14) access the medical record of another employee or an employee for employment as a part of, or otherwise in furtherance of, any conduct described in paragraphs (1) through (13).’’.

SEC. 104. DISCIPLINE OF SUPERVISORS BASED ON RETALIATION AGAINST WHISTLEBLOWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘§ 7515. Discipline of supervisors based on retaliation against whistleblowers

(1) an employee of the agency committed suicide;

(2) prior to the death of the employee, the employee made any disclosure of information which reasonably evidences—

(A) any violation of any law, rule, or regulation; or

(B) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; and

(3) after a disclosure described in paragraph (2), a personnel action was taken against the employee.

(b) OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL REVIEW.—For any reference to the Special Counsel under subsection (a), the Special Counsel shall—

‘‘(E) If the Merit Systems Protection Board grants a stay under this subsection, the head of the agency employing the employee shall give priority to a request for a transfer submitted by the employee.’’.

‘‘(k) If the Merit Systems Protection Board grants a stay to an employee in probationary status under subsection (c), the head of the agency employing the employee shall give priority to a request for a transfer submitted by the employee.’’.

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(3) by inserting after paragraph (13) the following:

‘‘(14) access the medical record of another employee or an employee for employment as a part of, or otherwise in furtherance of, any conduct described in paragraphs (1) through (13).’’.

SEC. 104. DISCIPLINE OF SUPERVISORS BASED ON RETALIATION AGAINST WHISTLEBLOWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘§ 7515. Discipline of supervisors based on retaliation against whistleblowers

(1) an employee of the agency committed suicide;

(2) prior to the death of the employee, the employee made any disclosure of information which reasonably evidences—

(A) any violation of any law, rule, or regulation; or

(B) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; and

(3) after a disclosure described in paragraph (2), a personnel action was taken against the employee.

(b) OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL REVIEW.—For any reference to the Special Counsel under subsection (a), the Special Counsel shall—
(1) examine whether any personnel action was taken because of any disclosure of information described in subsection (a)(2); and
(2) take any action the Special Counsel determines appropriate under chapter II of chapter 12 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 106. TRAINING FOR SUPERVISORS.

In consultation with the Special Counsel and the Inspector General of the agency, the head of each agency shall provide training regarding the obligations and responsibilities of the agency—
(1) to employees appointed to supervisory positions in the agency who have not previously served as a supervisor; and
(2) on an annual basis, to all employees of the agency serving in a supervisory position.

SEC. 107. INFORMATION ON WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.

(a) EXISTING PROVISION.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2302 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—
(A) by striking subsection (c); and
(B) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
(A) Section 4505a(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 2302(d)” and inserting “section 2302(c)”.
(B) Section 5755(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 2302(d)” and inserting “section 2302(c)”.
(C) Section 118(b)(2) of the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1992 (5 U.S.C. 3003(4)); is amended by striking “section 2302(f)(1) or (2)” and inserting “section 2302(e)(1) or (2)”.
(D) Section 123(h)(3) of the Panama Canal Act of 1979 (22 U.S.C. 3673(d)(3)) is amended by striking “section 2302(d)” and inserting “section 2302(c)’”.

(b) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—Chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 2307. Information on whistleblower protections.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
“(1) the term ‘agency’—
“(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), has the meaning given that term in section 2302; and
“(B) does not include any entity that is an element of the intelligence community, as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3002(4));

“(2) the term ‘new employee’ means an individual—
“(A) appointed to a position as an employee of an agency on or after the date of enactment of the Act, or
“(B) who has not previously served as an employee; and

“(3) the term ‘whistleblower protections’ means the protections against and remedies for a prohibited personnel practice described in paragraph (8), subparagraph (A)(i), (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (9), or paragraph (14) of section 2302(b).

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEAD OF AGENCY.—The head of each agency shall be responsible for the prevention of prohibited personnel practices, for the compliance with and enforcement of the laws, rules, and regulations, and for other aspects of personnel management, and for ensuring (in consultation with the Special Counsel and the Inspector General of the agency) that employees of the agency are informed of the rights and remedies available to them under this chapter and chapter 12, including—

“(1) information regarding whistleblower protections available to new employees during the first 6 months of employment;

“(2) the role of the Office of Special Counsel and the Merit Systems Protection Board with regard to whistleblower protections; and

“(3) how to make a lawful disclosure of information that is specifically required by law or Executive order to be kept classified in accordance with directives of the President or the conduct of foreign affairs to the Special Counsel, the Inspector General of an agency, Congress, or other agency employee designated to receive such disclosures.

“(c) TIMING.—The head of each agency shall ensure that the information required to be provided under subsection (b) is provided to each new employee of the agency not later than 6 months after the date the new employee begins performing service as an employee.

“(d) INFORMATION ONLINE.—The head of each agency shall make available information regarding whistleblower protections applicable to employees of the agency on the Internet and on any other online portal that is made available only to employees of the agency if one exists.

“(e) DELEGATION.—Any employee to whom the head of an agency delegates authority for personnel management, or for any aspect thereof, shall, within the limits of the scope of the delegated authority, be responsible for the activities described in subsection (b).

“(f) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“2307. Information on whistleblower protections.”.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES

SEC. 201. PREVENTION OF UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—
(A) develop a plan to prevent access to the medical records of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs by employees of the Department who are not authorized to access such records;
(B) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the plan developed under paragraph (A) and
(C) upon request, provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress with respect to the plan developed under subparagraph (A).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:
(A) A detailed assessment of strategic goals of the Department for the prevention of unauthorized access to the medical records of employees of the Department;
(B) A list of circumstances in which an employee of the Department who is not a health care provider or an assistant to a health care provider would be authorized to access the medical records of another employee of the Department;
(C) Steps that the Secretary will take to acquire new or implement existing technological solutions to prevent an employee of the Department from accessing the medical records of another employee of the Department without a specific need to access such records.

(D) Steps the Secretary will take, including plans to issue new regulations, as necessary, to ensure that an employee of the Department may not access the medical records of another employee of the Department for the purpose of retrieving demographic information if that demographic information is available to the employee in another section or through another format.

(E) A proposed timetable for the implementation of such plan.

(F) An estimate of the costs associated with implementing such plan.

(b) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—
(A) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; and
(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 202. OUTREACH ON AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a program of outreach to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to inform those employees of any mental health services, including—

(F) that are available to them under this chapter and chapter 12, including—

(G) that are available to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include—

(A) a detailed assessment of strategic goals of the Department for the prevention of unauthorized access to the medical records of employees of the Department;
(B) a list of circumstances in which an employee of the Department who is not a health care provider or an assistant to a health care provider would be authorized to access the medical records of another employee of the Department;
(C) Steps that the Secretary will take to acquire new or implement existing technological solutions to prevent an employee of the Department from accessing the medical records of another employee of the Department without a specific need to access such records.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that protocols are in effect to address threats from individuals receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs directed towards employees of the Department who are providing such health care.

SEC. 204. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES STUDY ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF CHIEFS OF POLICE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess the reporting, staffing, accountability, and chain of command structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs police officers at medical centers of the Department.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to review and extend the time to include extraneous material on S. 585, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of S. 585, the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017.

This bill addresses problems that were exposed in the tragic case of whistleblower retaliation in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick was a doctor employed on a probationary basis by
Veterans Affairs, who committed suicide hours after he was fired for questioning overmedication of the veterans he cared for.

This bill would, for the first time, create minimum disciplinary standards to require that managers who retaliate against whistleblowers be disciplined. First offenders would receive at least 3 days of suspension, and repeat offenders would face mandatory termination.

The Kirkpatrick Act also adds whistleblower protections to Federal employees hired on a probationary basis, like Dr. Kirkpatrick. Agencies will be required to grant priority to requests for transfer from probationary period whistleblowers.

The bill would create a number of other whistleblower protections, many of which are overdue. For example, accessing the medical file of a whistleblower for the purpose of retaliation would be declared a prohibited personnel action. The Department of Veterans Affairs would also be required to devise a plan to prevent that sort of unauthorized medical file access.

The bill also requires apparent suicides by whistleblowers to be referred to the Office of Special Counsel for further investigation. Agencies would be required to initiate training programs for supervisors and information disclosures for employees regarding whistleblower protection.

The Senate passed this bill by voice vote earlier this year, and passage through the House would send the bill to the President’s desk for signature and enactment.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to honor the memory of Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick and to protect future whistleblowers.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as the ranking member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the committee with oversight jurisdiction over Federal workers and agencies, I am one of the staunchest supporters of whistleblower protections in the Congress. I strongly support enhancing protections for the brave men and women who put their careers on the line to speak out against waste, fraud, and abuse.

I fully support the intent of S. 585 to protect whistleblowers who face investigations in retaliation for their disclosures. But I am disappointed that the Republican leadership chose not to consider this measure under regular order.

House Republicans rushed this legislation directly to the floor, bypassing any consideration by the Oversight Committee or the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, which have jurisdiction over the bill. It is especially disappointing that my committee was not given the opportunity to address constitutional and privacy concerns raised by the Trump administration’s Office of Personnel Management about the bill. That is what I said: the Trump administration’s concerns about it.

It is even more disheartening that the Rules Committee issued a closed rule for this bill. They blocked all three germane amendments that I submitted, including one to fix the problems identified by the OPM.

The measure before us today would change the procedures for disciplining Federal supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers. It would require agencies to impose suspensions of at least 3 days for a first offense, and termination for a second offense whenever an agency head, administrative law judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, a Federal judge, or an inspector general finds that a supervisor retaliated against an employee who blew the whistle.

It would also reduce the length of the notice requirement for proposed disciplinary action from 30 days to 14 days. It would eliminate the option to hold a hearing if a supervisor contests a proposed disciplinary action. It would change the current burden of proof from preponderance of evidence to a preponderance of the evidence to require agencies to impose disciplinary action in any case in which a supervisor does not furnish evidence or if the head of the agency determines that such evidence is not sufficient to reverse the proposed action.

The bill also would require an agency head, when an employee may have committed suicide, to refer any information to the Special Counsel, indicating that the employee had blown the whistle and that the agency took personnel action against the employee.

The OPM has questioned whether some of the provisions in the bill would withstand constitutional scrutiny if challenged in court, and I agree with the OPM on that issue.

For example, the OPM explained that the bill requires agencies to propose minimum penalties of 3 days suspension for the first offense and termination for second offenses could violate due process protections. These protections require agencies to notify employees of factors they will consider regarding proposed penalties for findings of wrongdoing and to provide employees with meaningful opportunities to respond. The United States Supreme Court and Federal Circuit Courts have ruled that Federal employees are entitled to these protections. After all, they are Americans.

But according to the OPM, the bill would eliminate agency consideration of many of the 12 factors that were set forth by the Merit Systems Protection Board in Douglas v. Veterans Administration in 1981. The Board uses these so-called Douglas factors to assess the reasonableness of penalties, and agency officials who propose or decide adverse actions against employees must concurrently consider these factors.

Concerns have also been raised that by reducing the current requirement for 30 days’ notice of adverse action to 14 days, lowering the existing burden of proof, and eliminating the option for hearings, the bill could be challenged on the basis that it does not give supervisors sufficiently meaningful opportunities to respond to accusations of retaliation.

In addition, although the intent of the bill is to enhance protections for whistleblowers, there is some concern that it would be misused to harm whistleblowers. For example, an agency head could utilize the abbreviated disciplinary processes in bad faith to retaliate against supervisors who blow the whistle on high-level waste, fraud, or abuse.

Lastly, the provision requiring agency heads to refer information to the Office of Special Counsel regarding employees who may have committed suicide raises important privacy questions. The bill does not include any provision requiring agencies to obtain written permission from their next of kin before agency heads disclose the details about the death.

And another amendment that I submitted would have made corrections in the underlying bill to ensure that managers who violate whistleblower rights will be held accountable, while safeguarding due process rights.

Finally, the third amendment was the text of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 702, the Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination Act of 2017, which passed the House by a voice vote under suspension in the 115th Congress, and also passed the House by a vote of 403-0 in the last Congress.

This amendment would have expanded the protections for employees who suffer retaliation and discrimination. It also would have prohibited the use of nondisclosure agreements to prevent employees from disclosing waste, fraud, or abuse to Congress, to the Office of Special Counsel, and inspector generals.

I reject the bill, as it now stands, to engage substantial litigation that may have to be addressed by the courts. It would, indeed, be unfortunate if that litigation resulted in overturning disciplinary action against an employee who retaliated against a whistleblower when we could have acted today to address the constitutional concerns.

As I said before the Rules Committee, sometimes I think we can get so caught up in our partisan battles, that even when we come with good suggestions as to how to make a piece of legislation better and more effective and certainly come within the bounds
of the Constitution, we are blinded by what we see; and that is this battle between Republicans and Democrats. Mr. Speaker, and we don’t come up, sometimes with the very best product.

But even with all that, because I am so concerned about whistleblowers, I plan to vote for the bill.

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

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act, which will enhance whistleblower protections for employees at the VA and lead to better care for our Nation’s veterans.

This bill is named in honor of Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick, a Wisconsin native who tragically took his own life after being fired from the Tomah VA Medical Center in my congressional district in Tomah, Wisconsin.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was a surgical psychologist who specialized in treating some of the toughest and most pressing issues our veterans face today: PTSD, substance abuse, and chronic pain.

During his time at Tomah, Dr. Kirkpatrick noticed a disturbing trend of overprescribing of opioids to patients.

Dr. Kirkpatrick had the courage to blow the whistle to his superiors about what he rightly saw as dangerous pain management practices at the time. Sadly, the overprescribing issues that Dr. Kirkpatrick tried to warn about continued to occur at Tomah VA.

In 2015, a Wisconsin veteran named Jason Simcakoski tragically lost his life at the facility due to the dangerous pain management practices at the Tomah VA. Last year, I worked with the Simcakoski family to pass the bipartisan Jason Simcakoski PROMISE Act to improve pain management practices at the VA so that no other veterans and their families have to go through what the Simcakoski family had to.

Although Dr. Kirkpatrick is no longer with us today, his dedication to serving veterans and his courage to stand up for what was right is why we are here today. This act will ensure that no one is retaliated against for coming forward with concerns about waste, fraud, abuse, and malpractice at the VA. The bill offers a number of new protections for whistleblowers and will help ensure that supervisors found guilty of retaliation are held responsible for their actions.

Dr. Kirkpatrick was dedicated to improving lives and serving our Nation’s veterans. The bill before us today will honor the memory of Dr. Kirkpatrick by helping to make sure no one has to go through what he did.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.
amount but I am being paid $230,000. Because I expressed to the Eugene Hcc administrator I felt I was misled about the salary, Dr. Ranjan has gone after my clinical privileges, this isn’t about protecting bad managers. It is about protecting whistleblowers. This isn’t about protecting bad managers.

In addition to serving on the House Veterans’ Affairs’ Committee as the founder and co-chair of the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force makes VA’s retaliation against another VA doctor, Dr. Kirkpatrick, an especially troublesome tragedy. When he tried to raise the alarm over concerns that another VA doctor, over-prescribing opioids that may have led to patient deaths, he was aware that doing so could be harmful to his own position at the Tomah VA Medical Center.

Dr. Kirkpatrick’s action was laudable. Veterans have been acutely impacted by the opioid epidemic, and his efforts to reduce prescription rates for veterans is not only a good example for VA physicians, but for all physicians in the U.S. today.

Title II of this bill puts in place a number of requirements for the VA to protect VA employees from several retaliatory measures. It requires the Secretary to put in place a plan to prevent unauthorized access to medical records and other VA material. It provides outreach to ensure that VA employees are aware of mental health services available to them.

These and other improvements in title II will not only help prevent the type of retaliation that Dr. Kirkpatrick suffered, they will improve care for veterans to also help make the VA a better place to work.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER).

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member CUMMINGS for yielding me time to speak about this important legislation to protect whistleblowers.

Mr. Speaker, I share the concerns that were brought up yesterday in the Rules Committee and today on the floor about the procedure for bringing this bill to the floor without full House committee process. However, I will support the bill because it is so important.

The Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act will provide protection for employees at the Department of Veterans Affairs who blow the whistle on wrongdoing in the agency.

As the ranking member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I know full well that whistleblowers are vital to the VA to protect the health and well-being of the men and women who have served our country. Although we have numerous protections currently in place for whistleblowers, those who are committed to silencing them still manage to find ways to retaliate, which we saw with tragic consequences at the Phoenix VA Health Care System and in Dr. Kirkpatrick’s case.

In addition to serving on the House Veterans’ Affairs’ Committee as the founder and co-chair of the Bipartisan Heroin Task Force makes VA’s retaliation against another VA doctor, Dr. Kirkpatrick, an especially troublesome tragedy. When he tried to raise the alarm over concerns that another VA doctor, over-prescribing opioids that may have led to patient deaths, he was aware that doing so could be harmful to his own position at the Tomah VA Medical Center.

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These and other improvements in title II will not only help prevent the type of retaliation that Dr. Kirkpatrick suffered, they will improve care for veterans to also help make the VA a better place to work.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

As I close, I take the opportunity to reiterate that I strongly support the objectives of S. 585. If there is anything that we agree on in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, it is that we must protect whistleblowers.

Many of the investigations that we have conducted have been as a result of somebody who saw something and said something. Like Dr. Kirkpatrick, I am sure, in most of those instances, it was very difficult for them because they, on the one hand, wanted to improve a situation, but at the same time, they knew that it was possible that they, themselves, might be harmed and their families might be harmed. So they make a very, very difficult choice, a very difficult choice.

I am horrified that Dr. Kirkpatrick was so agonized by the treatment he endures at the Veterans Administration that he saw no options for himself. In other words, Mr. Speaker, he saw no way out. I worry that there are civil servants today who are enduring that same treatment.

But we say to them that we will protect you with all we have got, and that is why I appreciate Senator Johnson’s work on S. 585, and I share his commitment to protecting whistleblowers. For that reason, as I said earlier, I will vote in favor of this legislation.

That said, I wish that the Republican leadership had taken the opportunities that my amendments provided to improve this bill. These issues of equal protection are nothing to play with because we begin to chip away and chip away and chip away at employees’ rights, and the next you know, those rights begin to disappear. Those are the kind of rights that are a part and the fabric of this thing we call a democracy. I think we have to be very, very, very careful. It is going to be important to see what the courts have to say about this legislation.

My amendments would have addressed the constitutional concerns raised by OPM—and I emphasize OPM. This was not the Obama OPM. This was the Trump OPM.

My amendments would also have protected the privacy of employees who take their own lives. In addition, my amendments would have added to the underlying bill additional protections for employees who suffer retaliation or discrimination, protections that the House has already approved.

I believe this is a missed opportunity and it is sad. I truly hope that future litigation does not undo the advances that this bill seeks to make in the protections provided for the courageous men and women willing to blow the whistle on wrongdoing. In this day and age, we need the whistleblower more now than we have ever needed them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members to support this bill to protect some of the boldest, most courageous people in our Nation, the whistleblowers.

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

Mr. BLUM, Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 585 the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017. As Chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, protecting whistleblowers is of paramount concern to ensure that we provide high quality healthcare and benefits to our nation’s veterans.

This bill authored by Senator Johnson of Wisconsin was named in honor of Dr. Christopher Kirkpatrick, a former VA doctor who served our veterans at the Tomah, WI medical center. Many of us know that the Tomah VA medical center has been a facility plagued with the over-prescribing of opioids to our veterans. Dr. Kirkpatrick was a brave patriot who blew the whistle on these over prescriptions and the harm that was being done to veterans, however, instead of commending him for coming forward, VA fired him on trumped-up reasons, which ultimately led to him taking his own life.

In my opinion, the corrosive culture within this facility and VA’s actions toward Dr. Kirkpatrick left a chilling effect not only in Tomah, but across the Department. I believe that protecting whistleblowers feels questioned and worried that they would be punished instead of being lauded and encouraged to come forward.
It is because of brave whistleblowers like Dr. Kirkpatrick that my Committee has been able to expose issues and scandals across the VA. It is because of whistleblowers that we were able to uncover the manipulation of wait times at the Phoenix Medical Center; the falsification of records in the Philadelphia Regional Office; the fact that a VA employee participated in an armed robbery in Puerto Rico and stayed on the job following their arrest; and many more egregious behaviors at the Department that put veterans in harm’s way.

I have confidence that Secretary Shulkin is committed to protecting whistleblowers, so that we never again lose another talented doctor, like Dr. Kirkpatrick. The best way to help him in this mission is to send a clear message to all VA employees, at every level in the Department, and within every level of management, that there are stiff penalties for those who retaliate against the men and women who are brave enough to come forward and protect veterans.

S. 585 builds off of our work this Congress that started with the passage of the bill I championed, the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, which provides the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the tools he needs to hold poor employees accountable. I am pleased that the bill before us today modernizes those changes to our outdated civil service laws for all Federal Government employees, which have become so archaic and complex that they tend to put the rights of retaliators above the rights of whistleblowers.

The bill before us would also provide needed reforms to information regarding VA employees who die by suicide, additional penalties for those who retaliate against whistleblowers, while ignoring the underlying causes of their concerns.

If Dr. Kirkpatrick’s death wasn’t tragic enough, a subsequent investigation at the VA found that a patient had died from “mixed drug toxicity”, and that Dr. Kirkpatrick’s concerns were completely warranted.

Not only did whistleblower retaliation cost Dr. Kirkpatrick his life, it cost the life of a patient as well.

That’s why I urge you all to vote yes on the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act.

A yes vote means that VA personnel will no longer be able to access a whistleblower’s medical records as means of discrediting them, which a separate investigation found happens far too often.

A yes vote also means keeping upholding normal burdens of proof to strengthen protections for whistleblowers, including the improper use of air transportation that applied to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona is recorded for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

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

Mr. Speaker, increasing accountability and transparency across our government is a shared principle we can all agree on among this body. Whether at the VA or other Federal agencies, the American people deserve to know that Federal officials from the top down are being held to the standards we expect of them.

We owe it to our veterans, to our seniors, and to the hardworking American taxpayers to ensure that their tax dollars are utilized appropriately and efficiently, as intended. Waste, fraud, and abuse, have no place at our agencies, and those who help uncover it deserve our admiration and our protection.

I am proud that we are coming together to increase protections for whistleblowers of Federal agencies, a long overdue effort. But, Mr. Speaker, in light of recent reports and events that have revealed a disturbing pattern of improper use of tax dollars on air travel by senior Federal officials, I believe we must go further.

The reports of Cabinet officials abusing the rules for air travel that applied to them are not isolated. Not one, not two, not three, but at least four Cabinet officials are facing scrutiny for irregular and irresponsible use of agency resources for official and nonofficial air travel. In light of Secretary Price’s recent resignation, it is clear that Congress must conduct greater oversight.
My amendment simply extends whistleblower protections that are created under the bill to Federal employees who disclose information about travel, including improper use of aircraft.

Not only would this make clear to agencies that any violation of laws, rules, or regulations concerning travel or government aircraft is unacceptable, it will also ensure those who come forward to expose any wrongdoing will have appropriate protection from retaliation.

Regardless of party, those who serve the American public must be held to the highest ethical standards. Our ability to hold government officials accountable to taxpayers is a hallmark of our democracy, and we must work to uphold that principle. The resources invested to agencies to fulfill their missions of serving Americans should not be abused or frivolously flaunted for personal gain or convenience.

This is not about Republicans or Democrats. We come together to stand up for accountability and transparency. The moment we begin treating disregard for the rules by our elected and appointed officials as partisan politics, we risk ceding the very values that make our democracy great and unique in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting my commonsense amendment on behalf of American taxpayers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the motion to recommit.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I oppose the motion to recommit.

This bill addresses critical flaws in how the Federal Government addresses whistleblower retaliation.

The consequences for whistleblower retaliation are very real. There is a chilling effect of whistleblower reports or unjust termination. In some cases, like that of Dr. Kirkpatrick in the Department of Veterans Affairs, the consequences are literally life and death.

We have the opportunity to send this bill to the President for a signature today and fix this now. Why wait? And at what cost to Federal employees, veterans, and taxpayers?

I support the gentleman from Maryland’s effort to pass this provision which I previously cosponsored myself, but let’s not let one good bill get in the way of another.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the motion to recommit and support the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. O’HALLERAN. 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 question will be postponed.

RECESS

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly, (at 1 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Rogers of Kentucky) at 1 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2810, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table 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, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to instruct conferees at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Langevin moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2810 be instructed as follows:

(1) To disagree with subsection (c) of section 336 of the Senate amendment.

(2) To recede from section 1064 of the House bill.

(3) To disagree with section 1087 of the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. Langevin) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Thornberry) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Army has a surplus of pistols. The M-1911 A-1, a .45-caliber pistol—the Armed Forces standard issue sidearm for more than 50 years— was replaced in the 1980s by a newer model.

Since then the Army has accumulated stores of surplus M-1911 pistols which are housed at taxpayer expense in Alabama.

There is no national security reason to keep these pistols. The Army stopped issuing them 30 years ago, yet the Army has been prevented from disposing of them due to parochial interests tied to the Civilian Marksmanship Program, or CMP.

The CMP’s proponents basically want to transfer the pistols to a private corporation so that it can sell them. Do we want this to happen? We have the opportunity in this year’s NDAA to stop this transfer of tens of thousands of M-1911 A-1 pistols which constitutes a multimillion-dollar government giveaway.

It is also important to note that this would make our streets more dangerous at a time when gun violence is all too common.

The CMP was established in 1903—just to put this in historical context—following the Spanish-American War when American militiamen demonstrated distressingly poor marksman ship. At that time, our Nation needed a better trained and organized militia, and the CMP helped the government build a broader base of able citizen-soldiers.

Now, the program was an important component of our national defense back then. But today, Mr. Speaker, over a century later, we have a professional military and many rifle clubs. The CMP, quite frankly, no longer needed. Congress clearly understood this when it privatized the CMP in 1996.

Now, as an initial capital investment at a time when earmarks are still common, Congress provided the newly chartered corporation with a stock of rifles, ammunition, and other spare parts. The CMP could sell the surplus equipment—mostly M1 Garand rifles—in order to fund its activities until it became self-sufficient.

However, it was never Congress’ intent to equip the CMP with handguns, or it would have provided the corporation with surplus M-1911 A1 .45-caliber pistols at that time.

Now, more than two decades later, the CMP is running out of rifles to sell. The reality is that it is in dire financial straits as, more than 20 years later, the program is still reliant on rifle sales to support its activities.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is clearly not the taxpayers’ responsibility to bail out this multimillion-dollar government handout at a time when earmarks have been banned for years.
So what makes this program so special? There is nothing.

Beyond this, it would flood our streets with handguns—the guns that are most often used by criminals. I believe they are extremely dangerous when, more than 2 years ago, the first attempt was made to effectuate this earmark, I heard the argument that storing surplus pistols, as the Army is now doing, is a waste of government funds. Well, I agree. However, this is not the answer.

There is no national security reason to put these guns on our streets. In fact, an increase in the number of handguns will only result potentially in more violence.

So, Mr. Speaker, we should allow the Army to dispose of these pistols by melting them down, as it plans to do with other surplus arms.

Senate language in the NDAA exempted M1-M16 and M1-M16A1 pistols from Army disposal, but I urge my colleagues to support the motion to instruct the conference to reject this exemption. There is no reason to store these pistols. There is no reason to flood our streets with them. There is no reason to give an earmark, allegedly, to a private corporation. They should be melted down and repurchased for other military uses, which is exactly what this motion supports.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise against the motion to instruct. I believe this is the first motion to instruct that the House has voted on so far this year and this Congress, so not all Members may not realize that, as the House and the Senate are about to go to conference committee to work out differences in the House's and Senate's versions of whatever bill they are focused on, procedurally it is possible to have a motion to instruct conferees, such as the gentleman from Rhode Island has offered.

That motion is not binding on the conferees, but it is an attempt to have a vote on an issue that a Member or group of Members think is important or that they can make a point upon.

The subject of this motion to instruct is the disposal of excess weapons, as the gentleman from Rhode Island mentioned.

I would just say, Mr. Speaker, I know of no evidence that—as the government has over the years disposed of these weapons, there is no evidence that any of them have been improperly used. They may be disposed of fully consistent with the law, and that includes background checks and the rest, and the proceeds support safety programs, which I would suspect that all of us think is a worthwhile endeavor.

I would also say, Mr. Speaker, the House has regularly expressed its opinion and its will with amendment votes both on the floor and in committee over the years. We have voted on this program a number of times and it has consistently been the will of the House that this program should continue. As a matter of fact, in this year's bill, we had a vote in committee and the amendment to provide for this program was adopted.

So, to me, Mr. Speaker, the most important point to make is this: the bill before us is one that helps this Congress fulfill the first responsibilities of the Federal Government, and that is to defend our country.

It also provides the support that the men and women who serve our Nation in the military must have if they are to carry out the missions to which they are assigned.

That is the purpose of this bill, that is the focus of this bill: to defend the country and to support our troops. That will continue to be the focus as the House and Senate move into conference.

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I certainly have great respect for the chairman and his leadership of the Armed Services Committee. No one questions that he is supporting the notion in support of our military, but we don't need to support earmarks to a private corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBajal).

Mr. CARBajal. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak against provisions in the House and the Senate National Defense Authorization Act that would allow the transfer of all surplus pistols to the Civilian Marksmanship Program—or CMP—for sale to the public.

Allowing the transfer of this large volume of guns for sale to the public moves the CMP into the retail gun market and away from its statutorily mandated functions. This is a program meant to instruct citizens in marksmanship and promote safety in the use of firearms, not to deal firearms.

The Army has opposed such provisions in the past, and I am here to oppose any NDAA provisions that would allow the transfer of any surplus Army firearms to the CMP.

I join my colleague, Mr. LANGEVIN, in calling for all surplus firearms to be melted down and not distributed to the public.

There are over 300 million guns in America, nearly one for every citizen. We have lost way too many lives to gun violence.

The Department of Defense should not participate in freely distributing their guns onto our streets.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the Civilian Marksmanship Program is an organization that was established initially by this Congress because we needed institutions to help people better understand gun safety and how to handle weapons. It has fulfilled a vital mission.

Fortunately, in recent years, we have been able to not have to fund it any more by being able to self-fund through the refurbishment and sale of surplus weapons.

It has been their mission for a century. These 1911s are surplus pistols that were used up until the early nineteen-ties by our military. Since that time, statutorily, they were made available for law enforcement and allied countries.

As you might imagine, most law enforcement and allied countries would rather have new, modern weapons, rather than surplus. So we have approximately 100,000 of these weapons in storage at the Anniston Army Depot in my district. It costs us in the neighborhood of $50,000 or $60,000 a year in direct cost to store these weapons.

What the Armed Services Committee and this Congress has repeatedly done has been to instruct the Department of the Army to start turning those over to the Civilian Marksmanship Program at 10,000 a year until the full 100,000 has been either disposed of or stored.

The CMP—the Civilian Marksmanship Program—takes those weapons as they get them, completely refurbishes them, and then sells them to collectors. These are not weapons that wind up in the streets. They generally cost between $800 and $1,000, and they are sold to collectors.

To be able to buy one, you have to go through the same background check as any other buyer. But not just anybody can buy these. You have to either be in law enforcement, the military, or an active member of a gun club.

These are not a danger to the public. In fact, this whole process of taking this money, the CMP then sells the weapons back to the Federal Government, and their trust fund to allow them to continue to train Americans in gun safety, is a vital mission that we should be supporting. This Congress has repeatedly supported it over the years.

It is my hope that the full body will reject this motion by my friend and colleague, Mr. LANGEVIN. It has been defeated repeatedly in the Armed Services Committee, and I hope it will be defeated again today.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN).

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to a provision in the NDAA authorizing the transfer of nearly 100,000 surplus military-grade firearms to the Civilian Marksmanship Program for sale to the public.

This multimillion-dollar government handout to a private corporation is bad policy. It places more military-grade
weapons on our streets and in our communities. The horrific violence on October 1 in Las Vegas, the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history, has forever altered the lives of hundreds of thousands of families related to those 22,000 victims that were there the day of the shooting.

It is now more urgent than ever that we take meaningful action on passing gun safety measures. That should be our priority, yet here we are taking a step backward.

Instead of bringing legislation on the floor to ban the manufacture of bump stocks that allow semiautomatic rifles to fire hundreds of rounds per minute, instead of being on the floor to ban the sale of high-capacity magazines used to inflict widespread carnage, or instead of being on the floor to expand background checks to all commercial gun sales so that felons and the seriously mentally ill and terrorists cannot obtain dangerous weapons, here we are debating a provision that increases a number of military weapons on our streets.

I know we can uphold the Second Amendment while taking reasonable steps to roll back gun violence inflicted in our communities. Putting nearly 100,000 more military-grade firearms designed for Army use into our neighborhoods is not a reasonable step in the right direction.

According to text, the provision included in this bill mandates the immediate transfer of an unlimited number of guns to the Civilian Marksman Program for sale to the public. This program was originally created to instruct Americans in marksmanship, promote firearms safety, and conduct friendly shooting competitions in controlled environments.

The NDAA provision we are speaking of today would turn this program into a massacre weapon, with the intent that the millions of dollars, ostensibly, in government property to a corporation that is in the congressional district of the measure's chief advocate. And while I have deep respect for my colleagues, the government shouldn't be engaged in this type of practice.

The government has occasionally transferred surplus property to nonprofit corporations for education or other purposes; however, it has never done so with the intent that the property be immediately sold, with the proceeds going to the corporation's bottom line. So if that isn't an earmark, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what is. It is blatant subversion of congressional authority and will through the appropriations process, not through a provision that is, quite frankly, again, an earmark.

As my colleagues so well know, earmarks were banned in the 112th Congress, yet the issue is back in the House-passed NDAA would transfer millions of dollars, ostensibly, in government property to a corporation that is in the congressional district of the measure's chief advocate. And while I have deep respect for my colleague, the government shouldn't be engaged in this type of practice.

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I hope that my colleagues would join me in upholding the rules of the House and support the motion to instruct. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight the danger of this transfer, potentially, to public safety. Injecting tens of thousands of new pistols onto our streets by providing them to the CMP, I believe, could be disastrous, as handguns are regularly used in crime.

Now, in 2013, of the 6,493 homicides committed by a firearm for which the type of weapon was known, 89 percent were handgun related—89 percent. Only 4 percent were carried out using a rifle, the type of firearm the CMP has traditionally sold.

The qualities that made the M1911A1 .45-caliber pistol a fun sidearm is the fact that it is easily concealed, extremely reliable, and packs quite a punch, all qualities that make it prized among also criminals. In fact, the Department of Justice has tracked 1,768 M1911A1s over the last decade due to their involvement in criminal activity.

In a time when mass shootings have become all too common and 93 American children are killed each day, the last thing we need is more guns on our streets.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, the bill before us, overall, is a fine mark. I was proud to support it in committee, overall, because it provides for our national defense. It supports key programs of the Department of Defense to make sure our warfighters have every advantage possible. We never want to send our warfighters into a fair fight. This bill, overall, goes a long way toward ensuring for our national defense and provides great support for our men and women in uniform.

Unfortunately, this CMP issue has become an unnecessary distraction. It is something I don't believe holds up in the bill. I believe that and, again, I made the point that we have done away with earmarks, and so we shouldn't be using an earmark and subverting congressional authority and will through the appropriations process, to help fund a private organization.

Again, there are many, I am sure, meritorious organizations around the country that would love to have an earmark, but we don't do them anymore, and we shouldn't be doing a side-step here to give a private organization such an earmark.

As I said, I have highlighted again the potential for guns to fall into the wrong hands. And although the owners of the weapons may be of good character and those who purchased the guns, to fund, again, the operations of the CMP, a private organization, even if they have them in their home, if there is criminal activity that takes place, whether it is an act of violence or if the home is broken into and the weapon is stolen, which happens every day in America that a law-abiding citizen has a weapon that gets in the wrong hands, that weapon is then used in the crime. The more weapons out there, the more likely something like that could potentially happen.

This is what we are trying to prevent. We want to do this in a responsible way. Again, we want to make sure that these guns don't just wind up out in our streets, and we want to make sure that they are melted down like other surplus equipment.

The Army surely does not need to send these weapons any longer. We want to get rid of them. We want the Army to be able to do that, but they should be able to do what they do with other surplus equipment, and that is melt it down,
Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time I have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The gentleman from Rhode Island has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers other than myself, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member SMITH for speaking on behalf of this motion to instruct. I deeply appreciate his leadership on the Armed Services Committee and his years of service, as I do, again, have deep respect for Chairman THORNBERRY and his leadership as chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Case in point, the NDAA this year, and as has been the case in past years, has been truly a bipartisan effort, and it's one of the reasons I truly enjoy serving in the Armed Services Committee is because of the bipartisan cooperation that is demonstrated when it comes to protecting our country, when it comes to providing for our national defense, especially supporting our men and women in uniform. It is a bipartisan effort. It is unfortunate that in this one particular case we have this difference of opinion.

We are, again, a program that was initially intended to train marksmen years ago when we didn't have a professional military. Maybe it had merit and the organization was supported, but we have a professional military now, great marksmanship programs and training programs, as well as private organizations that do this. But it doesn't require or need a government subsidy, and so it wouldn't be appropriate in this case any further to continue to support this private organization, the CMP program with, ostensibly, a earmark.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today, we are considering a National Defense Authorization Act measure that would transfer thousands of military weapons to a civilian nonprofit, the Civilian Marksmanship Program. These guns will then make their way into the public for purchase.

The Army decided against this proposal. One of their concerns, not a surprise, is public safety. For us to go against the recommendations of our own military on this matter is, frankly, absurd. Every single day, our country—our country—experiences horrific gun violence, and the last thing we should be doing is going against the advice of our military and putting more guns onto American streets.

Those who are in support of the measure claim that transferring these weapons to the Civilian Marksmanship Program will save the government the cost of storing these guns, but the amount of money to be saved to store some weapons is really negligible, and that small cost is nothing compared to the potential cost to human life by unleashing these handguns for the public to purchase.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to employ common sense here. Listen to the advice of our Army and support the motion to instruct.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for her comments and support of the motion to instruct. I also want to commend her and thank her for her leadership on the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Speaker, just to once again reiterate and underscore, the NDAA that we worked on in a bipartisan, collaborative way, this one sticking point is this provision in the NDAA that, again, amounts to an earmark, and it could potentially put tens of thousands of additional weapons on our streets that could wind up in the wrong hands. It is an unnecessary step.

Again, when the CMP was first created, it had a legitimate purpose. That purpose is no longer needed, per se, for the military in terms of marksmanship training. There are other organizations out there that do that, but we also have a professional military. Maybe it had merit years ago when we didn't have a professional military. It was a program that was originally created, and the reason that we were selling back firearms to the public we were worried that there wouldn't be enough people that knew how to fire a weapon if we needed to draft them into a war. That is why the program was created.

Obviously, for a whole bunch of reasons, that is no longer applicable. We have an all volunteer military. They are trained to shoot. They know how to shoot. We don't need to train random folks with weapons from the military.

Also, originally, the program was simplicitly a subsidy; it was early on, and it gave money to organizations where firearms get into the wrong hands and are misused, causing loss of life and sometimes, unfortunately, for our country. It was a terrible tragedy for Nevada, for those who lost their lives, and hundreds more were injured. It was a terrible tragedy for Nevada, for those who lost their lives, and for those who were injured, and, really, it was a tragedy once again that has plagued and affected our country.

It has to stop. We should not be adding to the problem by injecting tens of thousands of handguns onto our streets.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will support the motion to instruct, and I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker. first, I want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Rhode Island. As he said, we make every effort to ensure that the support for the men and women who serve in the military is bipartisan. The gentleman from Rhode Island is a key leader on a number of those issues, whether it is cyber, directed energy, and a host of others.

I appreciate all of the Members on both sides of the aisle who have spoken. That bipartisan support is what helped lead us to pass the House version of this bill by the biggest majority in 8 years. That does not mean we agree on everything, obviously, but when it comes to supporting the military, their interests are first, and I think we need to keep it that way.

The subject of this motion to instruct is a long-running program designed to support safety programs. While votes on this have been made on the floor and in committee over the years, it has never been a particularly controversial program, even though the gentleman from Rhode Island has consistently been against it from the start. But the point is that in both the House and the Senate bills this year, there are provisions dealing with these programs. We come to some resolution every year, and for 55 straight years the conference report has gotten signed into law.

I would like to correct one point, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that the Army is opposed to this program. As a matter of fact, both Mr. ROGERS and I have talked to the Army about this, and they have not expressed in any sense that they are opposed to it. They were waiting to see what direction they are given, and they are happy to go implement that.

Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, our country has been buffeted by a number of tragedies: hurricanes; of course, wildfires going on now in the West. And the horrible, horrific murders in Las Vegas, or others, to these particular programs. They are collectors items. So it would be inappropriate, in my opinion, to try to tie that horrible tragedy in Las Vegas or others, to these particular programs.

That leads me to the last point I would like to make. Mr. Speaker, and it is similar to the first. On a bipartisan basis, this House and, indeed, this Congress, come together to support the men and women who risk their lives to defend us. The world is getting more dangerous, and, unfortunately—the fault of both parties in both the executive and legislative branches of government—we cut our military too much. We are seeing the effects of that through declining readiness, through increasing accidents, and a whole variety of things where the fruits of that neglect is more apparent.

But I think it is crucial, as we begin to rebuild and repair our military, that we not let other agendas, other issues, impair our ability to do so. I am concerned, for example, that some Republicans say: Oh, yeah, I will increase funding for defense, as long as you increase other parts of the budget.

I am concerned when anybody brings any other agenda, any other issue, that impedes our ability to support the men and women who serve our Nation. We ought to do our best to support them on the basis of those issues alone and let other debates, whatever they may be, stand on their own as well.

As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, motions to instruct are, of course, non-binding. I think, in this case, the better vote is to vote “no.” There are provisions dealing with this in both the House and the Senate bill. I hope that we can come to a reasonable conclusion on these provisions and the whole bill. But the goal is to defend the country and to support the men and women who serve. We can never be distracted from that goal.

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

The SPEAKER. The motion to instruct the Senate to report the bill (H.R. 2810) without amendment is before the House.

The motion to instruct on the bill (H.R. 2810) represents the views of the following Members: Mr. ROGERS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CASTRO, Mr. BELL, Mr. BROWNLEY, Mr. BOYLE, and Mr. HARRAGAN.

The question is on the motion to instruct. The previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct. There was no objection. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.
Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KIND, Mrs. HARTZLER, Messrs. HOLLINGSWORTH, ROHRABACHER, DENHAM, DENT, and COSTELLO of Pennsylvania changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. GENE GREEN of Texas and LOEBSTEIN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 237, not voting 11.

This is a five-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 237, not voting 11.

The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Amash) announced, as above recorded.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF REQUIREMENTS ACT. 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 569) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2266, with an amendment, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Frelinghuysen) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 335, nays 69, not voting 11, as follows:

YEAS—353

[Roll No. 566]

Hays—393

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Adler
Aguilar
Allen
Amedol
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Barbetta
Barbargan
Taylor
Browney
Thompson (MS)
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Caldwell
Noem
Brady (PA)
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Young (IN)
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Mr. MARCHANT changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill. The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.  

**RECORDED VOTE**

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker. I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered. The Speaker pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 420, noes 0, not voting 13, as follows:

**Not Voting—11**

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From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of sections 221, 551, 555, and 3509 of the House bill, and sections 236, 551–53, 3116, 5508, and 6001 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. JOHNSON of Ohio, BERGMAN, and YARMUTH.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 122, 311, 546, 1061, 1067, 1069, 3502, 3505, and 3507–10 of the House bill, and sections 391, 601, 1048, 6002, 13501, 13502, 13508, 13515, 13607, and 14013 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. CHABOT, KELLY of Mississippi, and Ms. BUSTOS.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 572, 573, 576, 577, 1077, and 2841 of the House bill, and sections 731, 1084, 1088, 1264, 11001, 11006, and 14004 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ROE of Tennessee, BILIRAKIS, and WALZ.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of section 701 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. NEAL.

There was no objection.

STRENGTHENING STATE AND LOCAL CYBER CRIME FIGHTING ACT OF 2017

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1616) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereeto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The Clerk read as follows: Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 381 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 822. NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized for fiscal years 2017 through 2022 within the United States Secret Service a National Computer Forensics Institute (in this section referred to as the 'Institute'). The Institute shall disseminate information related to the investigation and prevention of cyber and electronic crime and related threats, and educate, train, and equip State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges.

"(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Institute shall include the following:

(1) Educating State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on current—
vestigation, and prosecution of white collar
enter into a cooperative agreement with or
Bureau of Justice Assistance is authorized to
Support, may be used to carry out this Act
trained at the Institute.
rorial law enforcement officers educated and
network of Electronic Crime Task Forces of
curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is
stitute at any location as of the day before
activities and functions carried out by the In-
"SEC. 3030. SHORT TITLE.
other white collar crime.
DOWN, AND PROSECUTION OF WHITE
"SEC. 3033. AUTHORIZED PROGRAMS.
other resources to aid State and local crimi-
nal activities and related criminal activities.
such agencies with skills and resources need-
local criminal justice agencies to provide
listening strategies and related information shar-
litness-focused polic-
"(d) EQUIPMENT.—The Institute may pro-
research to the general public to facilitate
related problems.
"(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Omnibus
other high-tech crime, including cyber and
financial crimes, recognize emerging issues, manage
and improve local criminal justice agency re-
sponses to such threats.
"(2) To provide operational and technical
assistance and training concerning tools,
products, resources, guidelines, and proce-
dures to aid and enhance criminal intel-
ligence analysis, conduct cyber crime and fi-
ancial crime investigations, and related
justice information sharing at the local and
State levels.
"(4) To provide appropriate training on
protections for privacy, civil rights, and
civil liberties in the conduct of criminal intel-
ligence analysis and cyber and electronic
crime and financial crime investigations, in-
cluding in the development of policies,
guidelines, and procedures by State, local,
tribal, and territorial law enforcement agen-
cies to protect and enhance privacy, civil
rights, and civil liberties protections and
identify weaknesses and gaps in the protec-
tion of privacy, civil rights, and civil
liberties.
"SEC. 3033. AUTHORIZED PROGRAMS.
A grant or cooperative agreement award-
ed under this part may be made only for the
following programs, with respect to the pre-
vention, investigation, and prosecution of
certain criminal activities:
"(1) Programs to provide a nationwide sup-
port system for State and local criminal jus-
tice agencies.
"(2) Programs to assist State and local
criminal justice agencies to develop, estab-
lish, and maintain intelligence-focused polic-
ing strategies and related information shar-
ing.
"(3) Programs to provide training and
investigative support services to State and
local criminal justice agencies to provide
such agencies with skills and resources need-
ed to investigate and prosecute such crimi-
nal activities and related criminal activities.
"(4) Programs to provide research support,
to establish partnerships, and to provide
other resources to aid State and local crim-
inal justice agencies to prevent, investigate,
and prosecute such criminal activities and
related problems.
"(5) Programs to provide information and
research to the general public to facilitate
the prevention of such criminal activities.
"(6) Programs to establish or support na-
tional training and research centers region-
ally to provide training and research services
for State and local criminal justice agencies.
other programs specified by the Attorney
General as furthering the purposes
"SEC. 3034. APPLICATION.
"To be eligible for an award of a grant or
cooperative agreement under this part, an
entity shall submit to the Director of the Bureau
of Justice Assistance a description in such form
and manner, and containing such information,
as required by the Director of the Bureau of
Justice Assistance.
"SEC. 3035. ELIGIBILITY.
"States, units of local government, not-
for-profit entities, and institutions of higher
education with demonstrated capacity and
experience in delivering training, technical
assistance and other resources including
direct, practical laboratory training to law
enforcement officers, investigators, auditors
and others in States, units of local government
and over the Internet shall be eligible to receive
an award under this part.
"SEC. 3036. RULES AND REGULATIONS.
"The Director of the Bureau of Justice As-
sistance may promulgate rules and regu-
lations as are necessary to carry out this
part, including rules and regulations for sub-
mitting and reviewing applications under
section 3030.
"(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
There are authorized to be appropriated $13,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through
2022 to carry out this part.
"(1) A grant or cooperative agreement award-
ed under this part may be made only for the
following programs, with respect to the pre-
vention, investigation, and prosecution of
certain criminal activities:
"(1) Programs to provide a nationwide sup-
port system for State and local criminal jus-
tice agencies.
"(2) Programs to assist State and local
criminal justice agencies to develop, estab-
lish, and maintain intelligence-focused polic-
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"(3) Programs to provide training and in-
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"(4) Programs to provide research support,
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other resources to aid State and local crim-
inal justice agencies to prevent, investigate,
and prosecute such criminal activities and
related problems.
"(5) Programs to provide information and
research to the general public to facilitate
the prevention of such criminal activities.
"(6) Programs to establish or support na-
tional training and research centers region-
ally to provide training and research services
for State and local criminal justice agencies.
Representatives shall make the following correction: Amend the long title so as to read: “Making additional supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.”

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017, TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING BRIAN McQUEEN

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brian McQueen, a constituent and a dear friend from the 22nd District who has dedicated his life to public service.

For 34 years, Brian worked in the Whitesboro Central School District—as a teacher for 19 years and as a principal thereafter. Brian also took his compassion for our community to the Whitesboro Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as fire chief from 1999 to 2002. He currently serves as a lieutenant and safety officer, in addition to serving on the board of directors of the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York.

In 2013, Brian was diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma. Brian joined members of the Barneveld Fire Department to found the Believe 271, a foundation to assist volunteer firefighters and EMTs who are battling cancer and life-threatening diseases. Since that day, Believe 271 has provided financial and emotional support to firefighters and their families throughout Oneida and Herkimer Counties.

With increased exposure to smoke and toxins, firefighters are at a much higher risk of contracting cancer. Brian’s tireless advocacy is a testament to his dedication and his compassion for all volunteer firefighters who risk their lives to keep our communities safe, and it is an honor to recognize my friend and a great community partner, Brian McQueen, today.

REAUTHORIZING CHIP FUNDING

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, in New Jersey, nearly 231,000 children rely on CHIP to get them to the doctor. CHIP gets them to the hospital. CHIP saves their lives.

But last month, Republican Members of Congress made a choice to put on another replacement dog and pony show and let CHIP expire.

Mr. Speaker, what do my Republican colleagues have against needy children? Who thought it would be a good idea to put 9 million children’s health at risk for political gains? So much for compassionate conservatism.

Mr. Speaker, CHIP is vital to the Nation’s future. Along with Medicaid, CHIP has cut the rate of low-income, uninsured children nationally by half—from 14 percent to 7 percent. But if Congress doesn’t immediately reauthorize long-term CHIP funding, children will not get to see their doctors. They won’t have access to hospitals, and some may die.

TAX REFORM

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our framework for tax reform to put American workers and businesses first.

I come from Michigan, and the last time our tax system was updated, Steve Yzerman was the captain of the Detroit Red Wings. Hockeytown is rebuilding, and it is about time our Tax Code was rebuilt. We have the opportunity to reform and reduce taxes for American workers and the small businesses that create jobs for those workers.

America’s nearly 30 million small businesses are the engine of our economy, employing nearly 60 million workers, half of the United States workforce. But our current Tax Code is a monstrosity. When combined with State and local taxes, small businesses pay up to 50 percent of their income to the government.

Polling indicates that small- and mid-size businesses would use their tax savings to invest in their businesses: opening new locations, upgrading equipment, and increasing hiring and wages.

Tax reform is about rewarding work and prosperity for all Americans. Let’s get on with that work.

DACA

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, Delila is a graduate student at the University of California, Riverside, who exemplifies the American spirit. As a DREAMer, she worked two and three jobs to support her family and helped her father, who was their sole provider.

Three years ago, when her father suffered a stroke, Delila stepped up and kept the family afloat while he recovered. She went on to take a full-time position as a sexual assault advocate in our community. Delila says that job allowed her to help those who live in fear and live without hope.

This year, she will graduate with a master’s degree, and there is no question that she is destined to accomplish great things. The only question is where she will accomplish them.

Delila is a DREAMer, and her future in this country depends on whether we pass the Dream Act. Once again, I am asking my colleagues to do the right thing. Pass the Dream Act so people like Delila can continue to make our communities proud.

THE HOLY CITY OF JERUSALEM

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

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support our friend and ally, Israel, and to stand for the obvious proposition that Israelis and the Jewish people have an ancient connection to the city of Jerusalem.

This connection has been forged through millennia of shared faith and shared history, yet the U.N. is actually trying to rewrite history:

They condemn Israel and call it an occupying power in Jerusalem;

They prevent Israeli scientists from excavating, even though past findings have been significant to Christians, Muslims, and Jews alike;

They have been silent when Israel’s culture has been attacked, including the desecration and burning of holy sites.

Each year brings new horrors from the U.N. Their cruelty and attempts to erase history and their anti-Semitism cannot be tolerated any longer.

Today I am introducing a resolution reaffirming the connection of the Jewish people to the city of Jerusalem and condemning UNESCO’s attempts to punish and delegitimize Israel.

I encourage my colleagues to show solidarity with Israel, to support the President’s removal of the United States from UNESCO, and to support this resolution I have proposed.

CLEAN POWER PLAN

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Clean Power Plan. This rule was intended to combat and mitigate the effects of climate change and create first-ever limits to carbon pollution from U.S. power plants.

As we deal with the devastation created by some of the strongest hurricanes in recorded history and the wildfires that are raging through Western States, we can’t stand idly by while...
this administration eliminates the Clean Power Plan, condemning future generations to scarce resources, harsher climates, and economic uncertainty.

Extreme weather has cost the U.S. economy at least $240 billion over the past 10 years. Climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather. Shouldn’t we focus on hardening and securing our infrastructure and making it more resilient to climate change?

The Clean Power Plan would also reduce plant pollutants that cause asthma attacks and respiratory illnesses, and it is projected to prevent thousands of premature deaths, tens of thousands of asthma attacks, and provide at least $20 billion in total health benefits.

The denial of science by this administration is alarming and dangerous. I urge my colleagues to stand up for clean energy and our environment and take positive action to address climate change.

**HURRICANE RELIEF BAILOUT**

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Madam Speaker, buried in today’s disaster supplemental spending bill is a $16 billion taxpayer bailout of the National Flood Insurance Program that is nearly half the cost of this bill. This bailout does not come with a single reform that would put the program on the path to sustainability.

This taxpayer bailout maintains a program that has resulted in taxpayer-subsidized development and reconstruction of homes that repeatedly flood.

Madam Speaker, why are we not reforming this program that puts residents and first responders in harm’s way? How much more debt are we willing to let this program pile onto the next generation?

Americans in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands need help, and I would have liked to vote for the relief portion of today’s legislation, but the multibillion-dollar taxpayer bailout of an unreformed program made the bill unacceptable.

I urge my colleagues to reconsider the program we are on. We could have had a bill that not only provided relief to hurricane victims, but would have provided relief for taxpayers and the next generation as well, but we did not.

We will get another chance for fiscal sanity in December, when we reconsider the additional disaster funding and funding for the rest of 2018. Let’s hope we make better progress at that time.

**TAX REFORM**

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I came to Washington to cut taxes for the residents of north Jersey. Our taxes are simply too high.

This morning, at The Heritage Foundation, the Speaker claimed that the rest of the country is propping up New Jersey. That is backwards. Currently, New Jersey pays in so that States like Wisconsin can cash out.

New Jersey is already a grand subsidizer of other States. We are one of the top 3 percent taxing districts in the entire country and at the bottom in what we get back. We need to change that.

New Jersey only gets back 33 cents for every dollar we send to Washington. New Jersey residents get $3,076 less, as this shows, than what they pay in. West Virginia, for example, gets $4.23 back for every dollar it sends in.

New Jersey is not America’s piggybank.

Our one saving grace has been the State and local property tax deduction: the ability to deduct those higher State, local, and property taxes before we have to send in our tax checks every April. It allows us to avoid double taxation. Eliminating these State and local tax deductions will cost New Jersey an average of a $3,500 tax increase per resident. Property values will go down more than 10 percent.

So I am fighting to remove this tax hike provision from the tax reform bill that can hurt our businesses and our citizens.

**PROUD OF VIRGINIA’S ASSISTANCE TO DISASTERS**

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, Congress approved the second tranche of emergency funding for those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and the wildfires in the Western United States.

I would like to take a second and shine a light on Virginians who have worked alongside others to help in these natural disasters.

Just the other day, I pulled up to a restaurant in Virginia Beach, where there was a steady line of vehicles coming in the parking lot to drop off goods and essential items. Hundreds came together to give money and items for the people of Puerto Rico.

From Hampton Roads to Richmond, to Roanoke, Virginia rose to the occasion. We had soldiers and sailors and coastguardsmen and civilians deploy forward to help in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. We had National Guardsmen, Spanish speakers, FEMA workers, EMS units, helicopters, drones, boats, and medical supplies, and much more.

**UNIFIED SPAIN**

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

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Spain Caucus to discuss why a unified Spain is both legally, culturally, and economically justified, and how it best serves United States foreign policy interests.

First, the illegal Catalan independence referendum was held in violation of the Spanish constitution and in defiance of the federal government. Catalunya, as an autonomous region within Spain, enjoys many rights and privileges under the Spanish constitution, but self-determination is clearly not one of them.

The historical and cultural ties between Spain and Catalunya are strong. Spain and Catalunya have a shared history, being united under the reigns of Ferdinand and Isabel over 500 years ago, and later, under the governance of the Kingdom of Aragon, similar to how
it is a part of the Kingdom of Spain today.

Because of this history, Catalunya has a pluralistic society, with a mix of Spaniards and Catalans, and where both cultures’ languages are regularly spoken.

Lastly, the deep economic ties Catalunya shares with Spain are evidence that Spain should be united. Catalunya relies heavily on Madrid for its financial sector, infrastructure, and its national security deficit.

A united Spain is a friend of the United States. A strong, united Spain has been a reliable ally in fighting the spread of Islamic extremism. Our relationship with Spain is invaluable to our foreign policy interests, and we need to speak out on behalf of a unified Spain.

HONORING 50TH COMPANY, INFANTRY OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL CLASS OC 24–69

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a special group worthy of our recognition for the sacrifices they have made for our country.

This month, the surviving members of the 50th Company, Infantry Officer Candidate School’s Class OC 24–69 will have their first reunion at Fort Benning, 48 years after pinning on the gold bars of second lieutenants.

The men in the 50th Company came from 42 different States, representing all walks of life and backgrounds. They accepted the risks and volunteered to become Army officers at the height of the Vietnam war.

After graduation, over half received orders to Vietnam. Two classmates made the ultimate sacrifice: James Du Pont and Thomas Edgren. Many others earned the Purple Heart.

At the reunion in Fort Benning, these men will renew the bonds forged 48 years ago. I join me in pausing to reflect on their sacrifices and extending them our thanks.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH DENT

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the tremendous work of Elizabeth Dent, who has been an invaluable part of the staff of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture for the past 3 years. Elizabeth came to work with the subcommittee chair after working several years with a former appropriator, Congressman Jack Kingston.

Elizabeth has been a valuable member of the subcommittee team. She is diligent, dedicated, and keen to details, something that is very important to the appropriations work.

She is always eager to volunteer and lend a hand to accomplish whatever tasks may be needed in assisting in the agricultural community. She has become an integral part of the team, and she will be greatly missed on our subcommittee.

Elizabeth will be leaving the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture to work for the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee. I thank her for her outstanding work.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is very fortunate to have her work on the staff. We wish her all the very best, and we look forward to working with her in her new capacity.

ACA BIRTH CONTROL MANDATE

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in defense of every woman’s access to healthcare and right to make her own personal healthcare decisions in private consultation with her physician and her family.

Last week, President Trump issued a shameful executive order that will allow employers to deny women insurance coverage for contraception. This rolls back progress under the Affordable Care Act that required insurance companies to cover birth control without a copay.

This is outrageous. Employers have no right dictating what healthcare women can and cannot have. That is a decision between a woman and her doctor.

Nearly 9 in 10 women will use birth control at some point in their lives. This order is a direct attack on their healthcare.

President Trump tried to sneak this change through, announcing it on a Friday afternoon before a long weekend. Well, we noticed and so did millions of other women that this order will adversely impact.

We are paying attention and we are not about to stop speaking out and working to protect women’s access to healthcare.

FALLEN TTU OFFICER FLOYD EAST, JR.

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero, Officer Floyd East, Jr. Officer East was a police officer for the Texas Tech University Police Department. On Monday, October 9, Officer East completed his final patrol to protect and serve.

Officer East has been described by friends as someone you could rely on and someone who was always there to help or just listen. No doubt, he represented the very best of the values of Texas Tech.

His loss reminds us that policemen and women put their lives at risk every day. He left behind a loving wife, Carmen, who generously allowed him to dedicate his life to keeping us safe.

To his children, Ana and Monica: Our prayers are with you. Scripture tells us that “there’s no greater love than for a man to lay down his life for his friends.” That was God’s greatest gift to this world and that was your dad’s greatest gift. Our Red Raider family is behind you, and we will never forget Floyd and how he held the thin blue line, God bless your family.

ALDO’S STORY

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

Mr. SCHRADE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Aldo Solano of Woodburn, Oregon.

Aldo was only 6 years old when his family first immigrated to the United States from Colima, Mexico. Economic distress, corruption, and a lack of opportunities pushed his parents to leave everything behind and head to the Willamette Valley. They wanted a different life for Aldo and his siblings, one where they could go to school and pursue their dreams.

Aldo has done just that. At Woodburn High School, he served as vice president of his class. While earning good grades, he participated in sports and other opportunities. Through the 4-H Latino Summer Camp, encouraging young people to enter the STEM field.

After graduating, Aldo became a DACA recipient. Through DACA, he has been able to work for the Latino Health Coalition, where he worked to pass Cover All Kids, a State law to ensure access to healthcare for every child in Oregon. This winter, he will begin working towards a public health degree at Portland State University.

Without DACA, none of this would have been possible for Aldo. Young people across the country are relying on us. We need to pass a clean Dream Act that will recognize Aldo and over 800,000 DREAMers as equal members of our community.

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS’ MONTH

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

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize all pharmacists across America to ensure that Americans have access to important and often lifesaving medications.

As the only pharmacist currently serving in Congress, I am proud to recognize all pharmacists across America to ensure that Americans have access to important and often lifesaving medications.

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carefully counsel patients on prescriptions and over-the-counter medications to help heal sickness and reduce pain. Pharmacists are also considered one of the top two most trusted professions in America.

During October, as well as throughout the year, I encourage everyone to visit your pharmacist, ask questions about your prescriptions, receive advice about preventative care, and get to know the person who provides your medicine and works to keep you healthy.

Thank you, fellow pharmacists, for all that you do. Please know that your work is appreciated and you are an important part of keeping our Nation healthy.

GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, we are now a few days after the most violent and largest massacre in modern American history in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Many that you encounter has a story, amazingly, about who was there during that week. They obviously were not at that site, but they may have been in Las Vegas for work or otherwise. It will be on the minds of Americans for a long time.

Just this past Monday, I stood with Sheriff Acevedo, my chief of police, my sheriff, my constable; mothers who have lost loved ones and children; and a woman who had been abused and her significant other carried around a heavy weapon to scare her, threaten her, and abuse her.

Why we can’t have gun safety regulation, I don’t know, but I believe after Sandy Hook and after Pulse nightclub, we must pass real gun safety legislation. We must ban assault weapons, heavy weapon to scare her, threaten her, and abuse her.

Overcoming Problems with the Affordable Care Act

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I want to commend President Trump’s decision this week with executive orders to do some of the work we have been unable to do so far in the House and the Senate, helping people overcome the problems with the ACA, the Affordable Care Act.

One of the measures he put forth was association health plans to allow employers’ employees to form health plans that suit them—indeed, to associate with their type of business, their type of industry on a small scale in their neighborhoods. It makes perfect sense, if you want to give people more choices.

Also, short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans, which allow people to have, if they are in between jobs, instead of limiting it to just 3 months, perhaps just a little longer. In the interim, while they are in between jobs, they have choices that they could afford with the elements in the plan they would like.

Finally, health reimbursement arrangements, which make it where employees—if they want to provide benefits to their—employers to their employees, that they can reimburse for more issues in their plan, such as helping them pay for their premiums, if that is how the employee wishes to have that.

Flexibility is what we need; choices are what we need; and then Congress needs to accomplish something in the Senate so we can bring it back and give this to the American people.

RESPONSE TO THE REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TENNEY). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California? (Mr. KHANNA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, before my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus and I begin our discussion about the response to the Republican tax plan, I wish to take a moment to express our sympathy for the people of northern California who are facing devastating and destructive wildfires.

I represent a Silicon Valley district where hundreds of our neighbors to our north and south remain missing. Tens of thousands are suffering at this very moment from the destruction of more than 150,000 acres and counting, as well as an increasing number of family homes and businesses. It seems that our Nation has been struck by one national tragedy after another. Our prayers are with the California residents, and I know that everyone in this body is committed to their relief.

I also, on a personal note, want to recognize Liz Bartolomeo, who has been our executive director and worked very hard with the Congressional Progressive Caucus. She is going on to work for Democracy Alliance. I wish her very well in her next steps, and I thank her for her service to our office and to the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

The purpose of this hour is to discuss the Republican economic plan, and I believe the way to achieve that is by giving tax cuts to corporations, giving tax cuts to the investors in stock, giving tax cuts to the executives who already get large compensation packages; and that if we do that, if we cut corporate tax rates at a time where corporations are making record profits, if we give more tax breaks to those who are investing in our stock market, if we give more tax breaks to those who get dividend checks, then somehow, magically, people making 30 grand or 40 grand will see their wages go up, that somehow we are going to get many more jobs in places across this country.

And the question is why would we believe that? Why would I think the trickle-down economics, which has failed time and again, is going to help? Does someone really believe, in my district, who is a construction worker or a nurse or a teacher, that lowering the corporate tax rate is going to anything to put more money in their pocket, that it is going to do anything for a nurse who is struggling to get an apartment and pay rent to be able to afford that rent, or that it is going to do anything for people in Youngstown, Ohio, to be able to send their kids to school or get vocational training or get a college education?

The difference is very simple. Our belief is, if you want to raise wages—if you want to give more pay to average Americans, just go raise the wage. Provide the tax credit to those making under $75,000. For one-third of the cost of the Republican tax plan, which is geared towards corporations and the investor class, we could give every single American, who is making under $75,000, a 20 percent pay raise. I believe that is bottom-up economics, and that is actually what is going to grow the economy.

It is not a matter of just the economists. It is a matter of common sense. Think about it. Who do you think is going to create more jobs in the United States? Someone worth $5 million bucks who gets tax money back and is going to invest in stocks? Or is that money going to create jobs in the United States? Or could that money be spent anywhere in the world, sheltered anywhere in the world? As opposed to if you give that money to someone making $50,000, $60,000, they are going to spend that money in their local community, they are going to buy more groceries; they are going to buy more things for their house; they are going to get more education; that money is
going to go into the local economy, and it is going to actually create jobs. That is what is going to grow the economy. That is our only shot of getting 3 percent economic growth if we invest in actual workers, the people doing the work.

By the way, they haven’t gotten a raise for the past 40 years. Since 1979, wages in this country have stagnated, and we heard the same thing: just cut the taxes on the top and the wages will go up. But the wages haven’t gone up.

Guess who promised to help, finally, those forgotten Americans? Guess who promised to help them? President Donald Trump. That was his whole campaign. The stock market is doing great, but you are being left behind. And I am going to come to the White House and I am not going to give the keys to the Wall Street bankers. I am going to actually worry about wages.

His biggest disappointment as President is that he went back on the promise that he made to ordinary Americans, and we know that he can do it if he wants to. All he has to do is tell his Wall Street advisers: No, no more tax breaks for Wall Street. I want the tax credits going to Main Street, and I can do that at a third of the cost of the plan that you are selling to me and the American people.

This is the debate in this country, supply-side economics that believes the greatness of America is with the investor class and the CEO class and the elite. The stock market is doing great, but you are being left behind. And I am going to come to the White House and I am not going to give the keys to the Wall Street bankers. I am going to actually worry about wages.

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would eliminate the estate tax, which would generate massive tax savings for President Trump and his family. If his assets, reportedly valued at $2.86 billion, were transferred after his death under today’s rules, his estate would be taxed around the 40 percent level, still leaving his heirs with more than $1 billion.

Repealing the Federal estate tax, which they propose to do, would save his family $1.1 billion, at least, in estate tax costs.

Why would we do this?

The Founders of our country were passionately opposed to hereditary wealth, just like they were passionately opposed to hereditary government. They thought it was dangerous to have the intergenerational transmission of wealth and great fortunes like that. They said that it would cause idleness and irresponsibility in the heirs to great wealth, and they would be able to convert their wealth not into estates, houses, purchases, bigger houses, but actually in the public offices. They had a very profound democratic critique of that kind of intergenerational wealth inequality, because, at a certain point, you could have enough houses,分支, jets, you have bought enough jets, and now you want a governorship, you want the Presidency, you want a Senate seat. In a democracy, we need to have much reduced levels of inequality that are being proposed under this idea of abolishing the estate tax.

They also are proposing to abolish the alternative minimum tax, which is the only reason that President Trump paid any taxes in the one year over the last two decades that we know he paid taxes in, in 2005. Remember, somebody mysteriously leaked information about that year to the Rachel Maddow show, and it turned out that the President paid taxes because of the alternative minimum tax, which says that you can’t push a good joke too far, you can only use all of your deductions and allowances, and so on, up to a certain point. If you are at a certain place, in terms of your wealth, you have got to pay something.

Well, The New York Times now estimates that the GOP tax plan to repeal the alternative minimum tax would save the President at least $31.3 million. He would not have had to pay in that one year that we know he paid taxes in. And that is why he said, as far as I know about the rest because he has refused to release it.

And let’s just look at one more provision, which would change the treatment of pass-through business income. According to The New York Times, President Trump could save as much as $6.2 million on business income and $9.8 million on income from real estate and other kinds of partnerships under changes to the taxation of pass-through businesses.

Now, look, Madam Speaker, nobody likes paying taxes, nobody loves it, especially when we know that there are billions of dollars being wasted, for example, at the Department of Defense in boondoggles, fraud, and abuse taking place, according to a hearing that we had just this session in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. So people don’t love the experience.

But just as Oliver Wendell Holmes said, that he didn’t mind paying his taxes because he understood that they were the price of civilization. It is what we all put into, in order to have roads and highways and airports and schools and universities. That is what it means to be a citizen. People don’t mind, as long as there is a basic sense in the public that everybody is participating and we are not getting ripped off.

And I am terrified that if they succeed in barreling this plan through Congress, that it is going to spread more cynicism and more disenchantment and more negativity about the tax system and about the government, and it would produce, because of the massive tax cuts, escalating crises of climate change, which are all around us, our people are suffering. We have millions of people in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands tonight who have no access to power, no access to clean water. We have people in Florida and Texas and Mississippi and Louisiana who are still recovering from the last hurricanes. We have Californians, many of whom have died already, who are struggling against the forces of climate control.

Now is a point when we need a tax system that brings our people together, that says that wealthier people can pay more because they are wealthy, but everybody is going to pay their share, and we are all going to participate together. That is the tax system we should be looking for, a tax system where we get rid of all of the special interest inflicted deductions and allowances and loopholes and rip-offs that are built into the system, where it is simplified.

In the European countries, you can pay your taxes in about 10 or 15 minutes, and you don’t have to go to the multibillion-dollar tax preparation industry, or go find a law firm to do it. We can simplify our taxes if we decide to get rid of all of the special interest loopholes. And wealthy people can pay more because they get more out of being part of this society, and they use more of the infrastructure of the country, instead of paying their taxes to everybody else, instead of trying to rip off the system by paying nothing.

Madam Speaker, now is the time when we need the wisest and most principled leadership to get us through the accumulating crises of the time. This tax plan is totally irresponsible. I hope that it will be withdrawn and we can work together across the aisle on a bipartisan plan that will represent the best values of government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Madam Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague from California for allowing me this opportunity.
Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it has been an interesting number of days here this week. We continue to have hearings and fight for good legislation, and we continue to hear from people back home that we simply must at least work on our promises to repeal ObamaCare and bring their health insurance into a realm that is affordable.

They realize they were lied to. They will never get the insurance they liked back. They would like to try to get their doctors back.

One of the interesting things about the design of the devious architect of ObamaCare is the guy who bragged later: Yeah, we knew you couldn’t keep your insurance, you couldn’t keep your doctor, but we had to say that to sell it.

The actually incentivized the handful of insurance companies not to put the best cancer healthcare providers in their network. ObamaCare actually incentivizes insurance companies not putting the best heart healthcare providers or, in fact, any chronic, expensive disease that the insurance companies need to do to continue putting the money in the insurer’s pockets. ObamaCare is the guy who bragged the design of the devious architect of ObamaCare—and I think it was intentional—basically were penalized if they put the very best cancer treaters, heart treaters in their network. So there actually are indications that insurance companies can literally do what they did not know. What they did not understand is that, says: Just give us all your information.

For example, I had read that MD Anderson was not in those networks as a cancer provider. Some would argue it is the best cancer treatment facility. That certainly can be debated. I think it still comes down to the effort to get to the point where government is completely in charge of every American’s healthcare.

ObamaCare was a good start, but obviously if you design a system so that the insurance companies, they just get down to a handful of monopolies and they are having record years, and that same bill even allows those insurance companies to get what are called bail-outs after they have had record profits, well, most people are going to end up hating the insurance companies. And we have seen that.

What would happen, of course, is eventually people get so outraged at the premiums going up, whether it is 10 percent or 70 percent—I have heard of it being doubled, being tripled since the last 7 years. I have heard all kinds of horror stories from people in east Texas. Around other places I have visited, it is the same thing happening. They can’t afford their policy, yet they can’t afford to pay an extra tax for not having a policy that the government says they have to have; and yet if they pay for their policy, the deductible is so high, they are still not going to get any benefit out of it.

So it is easy to see, when you start looking at the way in which ObamaCare was created, the rules in place for it, the day would come when people got so outraged at how expensive their health insurance was that they would scream: Look, I just can’t stand it anymore. I never wanted the government to be in charge of my personal life, but it has got to be better than the current system. Just let the government take it over.

Then, there you are, government controlling everybody’s body, everybody’s personal life. Of course, we have got this Consumer Financial Protection Bureau out there created during the Obama years by the Democrats. We were not helpful in that. We thought, sure, we want to help people who are being taken advantage of by unscrupulous lenders, but we don’t need a Bureau to monitor everybody’s debt and credit card transactions. There were those who argued: Yeah, but this way, they can monitor, and they can tell if somebody’s being ripped off.

There was a time, as a felony judge in Texas, that, if someone wanted your bank records, under the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution, we are supposed to be protected from unreasonable search and seizures. Now, ObamaCare is the guy who bragged the design of the devious architect of ObamaCare—and I think it was intentional—basically were penalized if they put the very best cancer treaters, heart treaters in their network. So there actually are indications that insurance companies can literally do what they did not know. What they did not understand is that, says: Just give us all your information.

We used to care about the Fourth Amendment. I know my friends across the aisle, our Democratic friends, they cared greatly, because I have heard over and over in Judiciary Committee arguments about the protections against unreasonable searches, and yet they set up a Bureau that violates that, says: Just give us all your information.

Well, sure, if somebody is being taken advantage of by an unscrupulous lender, then the remedy is they go to a judge like I was, get the warrant, get the records, and then make the determination if there is probable cause. We just lost so much of our privacy.

Several years ago, we said, well, since ObamaCare, we noticed how the mass gathering of people’s medical records and our Democratic friends set up this consumer protection racket here in Washington, we could conceivably have a day—and if we don’t do something about ObamaCare and the CFPB, then it is closer than I imagined—when you get your mail, Madam Speaker, and you see: Oh, I have got a letter from the government here. And you open it, and it says: We noticed, when you were at Brookshire’s grocery store and you bought a pound of bacon; and we also noticed, from your healthcare records, that your cholesterol rate is at this certain level, and so, therefore, since we control your healthcare now and we monitor your debit and credit purchases, here is the deal: you are either going to join a health club and start working out once a week and stop buying bacon, or we are going to have to raise the amount you have to pay for your policy.

I mean, this is where it goes when you have the Orwellian Big Brother that was advanced more through ObamaCare than anything that has ever occurred in U.S. history. It has got to be repealed.

I want to applaud and thank President Trump for taking steps today through executive order. He shouldn’t have had to do that. I am very, very grateful he did. God bless him for doing it. But we should have already taken care of that stuff. That is our job.

What do we do here in the House? It was contentious. The first bill was a disaster, but we got it to where it actually was going to bring premiums down for the middle-class families. It was going to make their premiums cheaper. It was going to make their deductibles lower. Then we had people in the Senate who got elected on the promise of repealing ObamaCare that voted “no.”

I loved seeing the President’s interview with our good friend, Sean Hannity, last night. I love this about President Trump. I think it is why he got elected. When Sean asked him about, basically, just if he gets this smile and says: No, we are not giving up, not giving up.

The truth is we cannot give up. People are counting on us. They don’t know what to do.

There are small-business employers like the one in Tyler who told me that a few years ago he was paying $50,000 for his employees’ health insurance. He has the same number of employees, and this year it is $153,000, and he is going to have to start letting people go or drop their insurance. It just cannot continue. People are already taking losses. It can’t continue.

Well, with the proper President in place, and here in Congress we have taken some steps to ameliorate some of the damage to jobs in America, things seem to be turning around some. But we actually have to keep our promise, and I think we do that by putting a lot more heat on the Senate as the vote approaches. These are the Republicans. We have got to put pressure on the Senate. Like the President said, this fight cannot be over.

Normally, I have been told since my freshman term, you can’t do big things in an election year. But I am beginning to think, America makes it clear to the Republicans in the Senate that you either will keep your promise on ObamaCare, you will keep your promise on tax reform or you will not be back in the Senate, then I think we could buck tradition in this place.

The idea was that we were told back in 2006, in January: Okay. Well, we didn’t keep any of our promises last...
year as the Republican majority, but now, you veterans know we are into an even-numbered year. That means it is an election year, so we can’t do any of those big things, because everybody knows you just can’t do big things in an election year or you might lose.

Well, the truth is, we could have been a lot better if we had already done those things, if we had repealed ObamaCare and put a system in place that was affordable, that gave people the healthcare they needed and with actual insurance and encouragement. I have also spent $700, $800, $900, sending it to the insurance company, how about putting $700, $800 in your own medical health savings account you control, debit-card coded where it can only be spent on healthcare, whether it is shots, medicine, doctor visits, hospital stays, whatever, and you could have a high deductible. We could have a day where $700 goes to your account, $200 goes for catastrophic coverage. That is the kind of thing that should have been done here with no brains and it is not getting done. We do have to do that. We promised we would. We have got to do it for the sake of the economy that will make people’s lives so much better.

But in the meantime, if we are going to be an effective Congress, we have got to make sure that we maintain proper systems in place that we can do our business without inappropriate outside influence, whether it is coming from Russia or Pakistan. Wherever it is, that shouldn’t have to happen and we need to protect ourselves.

That is why this Taxed Enough Already Caucus meeting we had, we invited people in the tradition of my friend Tim Huelskamp, the former Congressman from Kansas. Just a great guy, a great American. It was great to talk to him recently. Tim started with this caucus having representatives of outside groups with important information we should share about the things that Congress come in and share information, figure out how we can help get the Nation’s business done.

We have been concerned about articles we continue to read, especially by Luke Rosiak of The Daily Caller. No one has done more investigation on the issue of the Awan family cohorts that were working here on Capitol Hill for House Members. They happened to be Democratic House Members. I think the same could happen where one Republican could say, “Oh, these folks are great,” and before you know it, you have dozens of people having the same IT computer workers working part time. People are allowed to do that, hire somebody part time so it doesn’t overwhelm your budget. Others can hire them part time, but under no circumstances can anybody working on the Hill make more than around $160,000.

We found out this week from the lead investigator, oh, not law enforcement, oh, no. FBI, apparently they are not getting anything done, and I will explain why in a moment. But as he has gone around and investigated and asked witnesses questions that have direct information about what is going on, Luke Rosiak would also ask: Has anyone from the FBI talked to you, or has any law enforcement talked to you?

He said 80 percent of the time the answer is no. No one from the FBI has talked to me. No one from any law enforcement has talked to me. Stagging.

I hear rumors that there are people from the FBI telling the Department of Justice: Yeah, we have looked into it. There is nothing there.

Yeah, just the way the FBI looked into the notice from Russia that the Tsarnaev older brother had been radicalized. What do they do?

I know because I have asked Director Mueller after he had run off thousands of years of our best experienced FBI agents, done more damage to the FBI than anybody since Hoover. He has got plenty of young aggressive people without enough experience to call him out when he was making mistakes, as he did.

They send out an FBI agent to talk to the older Tsarnaev after the second notice from Russian agents that this guy has been radicalized. He is going to be a threat. But because Director Mueller—now Special Counsel Mueller, who is hiring lawyers and investigators right—built up a beautiful, comfortable nest for himself, that same Mueller, as Director of the FBI, had the FBI training materials on radical Islamists purged of anything that might offend radical Islamists.

The more concerned about the little lunches and dinners he had with CAIR—or the Council of American-Islamic Relations—that he was about people being killed in Boston, because if he had, he would have made sure that the Tsarnaev brothers were properly investigated after they got two heads-up.

If they had bothered to look, they would have seen where the older Tsarnaev went and would have known he went to a hotspot of radicalism. They would have known to investigate: What has he been reading? What scriptures from the Koran has he been reading? What has he talked about? Is he doing more memorization? What is his appearance looking like now? Who is he hanging out with?

But no. Because he was too concerned about what he called the outreach program to Islamic Americans, he didn’t want to offend anybody. He was more worried about offending somebody than saving the lives and limbs of Bostonians.

He created a massive problem at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and now we are turning special counsel over this man.

We heard from Mr. Comey himself that he talked to Mueller even before his testimony before Congress. We heard from him that he leaked information that was clearly FBI information that should not have been leaked.

So there is a question of did he commit a crime, or did he just commit a breach of FBI ethics? What action should be taken?

So we have got FBI Director Mueller on the case, and if you go back and look at the Washingtonian back in 2013, they did a big expose on how wonderful Mr. Comey was; and they point
out in there that, gee, basically if the whole world were on fire, Comey knew there would be one person that would still be standing with him there to protect him, Mr. Mueller; the same guy that is protecting him instead of investigating. There are leaks that have come from the FBI that they appear to have gone through the exact same person through whom he leaked what he admitted. But, no, we have got Mueller, the same man who is going to be there through thick and thin to protect Comey; he is the only investigator.

If Jeff Sessions as Attorney General cannot investigate Mr. Comey and his violations, potential breaches of the law, then we need another special counsel, and it sure ain’t going to come from Mr. Rosenstein, that is for sure.

We need a special counsel. I think the Attorney General could do it, but I am not sure the extent to which he has recused himself. But this has to be investigated. Unfortunately, because of the delay to the FBI, I still have questions arise on things they investigate because I know the damage that Mueller did to their training materials, to their ability. As one of our intelligence agents explained, we have blinded ourselves of the ability to see our enemies.

But don’t worry, the guy that was the biggest blinder is now the special counsel growing his little bureaucracy. And I am sure, knowing how vengeful he is, when he hears what I have had to say, then he probably will open an investigation on me. That is just how vengeful this man has been.

But the truth is the truth. He damaged the FBI, running off thousands of years of experienced people. He purged the training materials that would have—and Michele Bachmann and I went through these, and another Congressman from Georgia went through some, and there were some things, sure; some take them out, fine. But there were some things in there very clearly that every FBI agent needs to know to help them spot a radical Islamist, and Mueller blinded them of the opportunity to do that.

I will never forget, at one of our hearings, after it was so clear that he was more concerned about offending CAIR than he was of protecting Boston, and he was so defensive. I said: You didn’t even go to the mosque where Tsarnaev went to see if he had been radicalized? And he was so defensive, I said: You didn’t even go to the mosque where Tsarnaev went to see if he had been radicalized?

After fumbling around, I finally got him to tell me how he thought that was the case. And he said: We did go to the mosque.

And I didn’t hear it at first. Unfortunately, I didn’t hear it until I had it played on the video.

He said: We did go to that mosque in our outreach program.

Oh, the outreach program. Yeah, you didn’t go to investigate Tsarnaev to find out if he had been radicalized by asking questions in the mosque where he worshipped to find out if he was now acting like a radical. And there are clear indications. That is why we don’t have to worry about most Muslims, but you sure need to know what you are looking for.

For those that want to call people like me an Islamophobe, well, it is another story. There are lots of Islamophobes around Washington. I have got enough Muslim friends in the Middle East and Afghanistan and other countries. They know they don’t want radicals. I am so proud of the President of Egypt, el-Sisi, a man who before him had been before imams and tell them: We have got to get our religion back from the radicals.

That is a courageous great man. We owe him a lot of help.

So what do we have here on Capitol Hill?

We had guys that apparently never had a background search. And as we found out from the investigator for The Daily Caller, there were actually three or more of them in the year when Imran Awan would be in Pakistan doing his job, supposedly making sure Capitol Hill computers were secured. We find out that there was suspicion when they saw this Imran Awan clan. His wife was heard, got them up, when they would get up to the maximum amount one person could make on Capitol Hill, they would add another family member, and then they would get up to $160,000; add another family member and then another family member. And apparently all of these people didn’t work.

We had $160,000 or so a year, and we find out—

The people that had a lot of experience working at McDonald's probably didn’t have that much experience on computers, but he didn’t have $160,000 or so a year and, we find out—

I had no idea, just this week I found out—there were Able to gain $6 million to $7 million from the House of Representatives' budget.

And we find out, gee, one of them, had gotten $100,000 from an individual who was looking for a loan, isn’t it?

But the report was, this week, investigate the IT workers, and we found out that they didn’t know for what reason, but clearly never came to Capitol Hill. He was put on the payroll of the U.S. House of Representatives, the guy that was owed $100,000 with ties to Hezbollah, and made over $200,000 or so before he was taken off the payroll.

That is a good way to pay back a loan, isn’t it?

So we had Imran Awan; Hina Alvi, his wife; Abid Awan; Jamal Awan; Rao Ather; and possibly a couple of others, that we found out—just incredible that this kind of thing could happen.

But the suspicion grew when he was supposed to be working on the computer system of Congressman, now attorney general, Becerra. He fled before Becerra knew anything was wrong, but people here on the Hill watching this saw there have been 5,700 accesses to his computer system and 5,400, at least, not from people who should have been getting into his computer system.

Then we find out, actually, he downloaded other Members of Congress’ servers completely onto Becerra’s server, and, actually, he had 2 terabytes of information that he said was for their child’s homework—a little child’s homework taking 2 terabytes.

But we also know, apparently, from what came out this week, he was downloading dozens of Members’ computers onto one server so that anybody he wanted to could access any of that information.

Now, there is no indication that classified information was revealed through the access to all these computer systems by people who were not hired by that Member of Congress. But we also know—I mean, General Petraeus, I read somewhere that it was actually a calendar that he gave to the lady who was to do a book, that he was having an affair with, that had some stuff that was considered classified.

Well, on every Member’s computer system, you get their calendar, you get all their email, you get all their appointments, things that are going on in the office, you get reactions to people who come in over different bills, you get all kinds of things that have been learned in the intelligence community. There are all kinds of things that people would pay a lot of money for.

Then we find out, you had a bankruptcy in the Awan history, you had domestic violence in the history, and now we find out this week, newly reported, that his wife is now upset. We can maybe get some answers now that she is upset because now, she has found out that not only was he being corrupt to the banks here in the United States and on Capitol Hill, but he also, without his wife’s knowledge, married another lady. So that may help bring his wife around, giving us more information about just how bad things got.

But the report was, this week, investigators with the IG’s office here on Capitol Hill have been quietly tracking the IT workers who raided the Awan group—their digital footprints for months. They were alarmed by what they saw.

The employees, the Awans, appeared to be accessing congressional servers without authorization, an indication that they “could be reading and/or removing information,” according to the documents distributed at the previously unreported private briefings. They know that the person who have reported here on Capitol Hill, well, it is being looked into, but there is no evidence of crime. Really?

Because we have also learned that there may have been hundreds of sent technological systems, at least $800 an iPad. But if you say that it is under $500, then it doesn’t go in the inventory, and it is easier to steal and sell, for example, hypothetically, in Pakistan, where there are reports that he sent back to the United States and sold them to make extra money.

We know that he was not truthful and honest in his financial disclosures.
That can be a crime. But just one voucher where you claim something only cost $490 and the server system cost $310 when you know that item actually cost $800 and should go into the inventory, that could be a crime. It appears that happened countless times, but we need to be trying to count anyway.

We know that there were many pieces of computer equipment found at his home after FBI agents said his wife appeared to not have come back, even though she had a trip back. We don’t know what representations have been made to get her to come back, but we know that the tenants who leased the house where they fled from had been threatened by Imran Awan’s lawyer for allowing law enforcement to have access to that computer equipment that was there at his house. Hard drives appeared to be destroyed so they could not be properly investigated.

We got a report that one of the group appeared to be home most of the time and was not here in Washington, D.C. But what a great gig, when you can make $160,000 a year for servicing computer equipment. And it appears all of these people involved in this group didn’t have competence to do computer or IT work, yet they were sure making a good living doing it.

But for those who continue to say “we just don’t think there is much there,” all that should tell you is the report by Luke Rosiak, of all the witnesses to this whole sordid matter. Only about 20 percent of them have ever been interviewed by FBI or law enforcement. It tells you somebody around here in this town, this Hill, somebody does not want to get to the bottom of this. If law enforcement wants to get to the bottom of this, they will get to the bottom of it.

Kind of like Benghazi, if we really wanted to get to the bottom of this, we would do like Judicial Watch and be relentless till we got to the bottom of it. We haven’t gotten there yet.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot that needs to be investigated, a lot that needs to be done. We need—somebody, sounds like, needs to be investigating Mr. Mueller, but certainly needs to be investigating the various leaks that appear to have come from Mr. Comey through the same sources as the one he admits to not having got to be investigated. And Mueller can’t do it and, apparently, the current Attorney General can’t. We have got to have somebody appointed to get to the bottom of what was happening at the DOJ during last year when an election was going on.

We need to have an investigation to thoroughly get into this matter of having a U.N.—our representative to the U.N. is unmasking American information. We were assured that kind of thing would not happen if we would just reauthorize that program: Oh, no, no. If there are Americans who happen to be incidentally picked up by the monitors, the wiretap, by listening in on conversations, look, if there is an American, we mask the name. You can’t just get that. You are protected. It is minimized.

Well, we find out that wasn’t true, that anybody that they want to go skipping and jumping to any politically opponents can do that if you are corrupt enough. And if you are corrupt enough and you have corrupted other people, then it won’t be investigated.

Maybe there are things other people around here don’t want found out, but it is time we cleaned up the mess that has been left here, we clean up the wiretapping capability. It is coming up for reauthorization here. It has got to be done before the end of December, and I still need a lot of answers before I could even consider doing that.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we have got to help the American people by keeping our promises.

I yield back the balance of my time.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN PAKISTAN AND SINDH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ARRINGTON) announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am the ranking member on the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee, the one who has put together the Sindh Caucus. In those two roles, I have focused on human rights and the rule of law in Pakistan, and particularly in its perhaps largest province, Sindh, comprising most of southern Pakistan.

We have dedicated ourselves in the Sindh Caucus to efforts to preserve the culture and the language of the Sindhi people, and particularly their dedication to religious tolerance. Unfortunately, not only are the types of atrocities that we fight in Pakistan and in Sindh not good.

I would like to say a few words about the disappearance of Punhal Sario, the leader of the Voice for Missing Persons of Sindh movement, and about the very serious problem of disappearances in Sindh in southern Pakistan.

Just this past summer, Punhal Sario led a march between Sindh’s two major cities, Hyderabad and Karachi, demanding accountability for Sindhi activists who have been abducted by Pakistani security forces or simply disappeared.

Where is Punhal now? It appears that he, too, has fallen victim to the very serious forces that he marched against.
While the numbers are unclear, reports suggest that every year perhaps 1,000 girls and young women in Pakistan, including many in Sindh, are forcibly converted upon a marriage, not of their choice, to Muslim men. The Pakistani Government is not done enough to stop this practice, and reform measures have been circumvented and not enforced.

Human rights abuses of this type cannot go unanswered. Activists disappear under these circumstances. It is our obligation to speak out and demand accountability. These disappearances and other violations of human rights should be a major topic of conversation in all bilateral discussions between our government and the government in Islamabad.

**TAX PROPOSAL DELETES DEDUCTIONS**

Mr. SHERMAN. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move on to a second speech, one dealing with the tax proposal of the Trump administration.

The provision I would like to focus on closely are those involving taking away the deductions, the itemized deductions that so many Americans take to reduce their tax liability.

Now, these deductions are eliminated on the theory that, oh, they just go to the wealthy, and, for those purposes, they define the wealthy as the wealthiest 30 percent or so of the American people—say a family with an income of $100,000 or $150,000. We are told that is the case. The provision I add to that is the top one-tenth of 1 percent, say a family with an income of $1 million or $2 million a year.

There is a difference in the ability to pay of those two typical families, typifying their income brackets. The fact is, that taxing hardworking families with incomes of $100,000 or $150,000, in order to provide reduced tax rates for those with incomes of $1 million or $2 million, makes our tax system more regressive. The provision would put the entire top 30 percent in one category for these income calculations.

That is why, and that is only one reason why, I oppose the elimination of the home mortgage deduction. Another reason that I oppose it is elimination of the home mortgage deduction and reduction for local property taxes will probably decrease the value of homes by 20 percent, is the best estimate I have seen.

We don’t lose 20 percent of the value of your home, you may very well lose all of the equity in your home. How is that going to affect the economy? How is that going to affect the ability of homeowners to go and spend money in their communities and support the economy of their communities?

What does it do to the Federal budget when we are responsible through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for underwriting home mortgages? We know that if you wipe out the equity of many homeowners in their homes, this can lead to defaults and cost the Federal Government perhaps more than we give up by having a home mortgage deduction.

Another element to keep in mind is that the entire idea of an income tax is that we tax people based on their ability to pay. If you are in a State with high income taxes, high property taxes, that diminishes your ability to pay. If you make a certain salary and money is taken out of your State government before you ever see it, your ability to pay is only on that net paycheck.

It is simply taking away the deduction for State and local taxes. But make no mistake about it, the purpose of removing that deduction is not just to hurt the top 30, or 40 percent, or 50 percent of the American people who itemize their deductions, it is designed to punish those who are dependent on State and local government.

All the conservative theorists say: If we can just eliminate the deduction for State and local taxes, we will cut the size of State and local governments.

We will see that in some of the states in which they slash money for local schools, slash money for local health programs for the poor, slash money for police.

Who will be hurt from those cuts? Not just the top 30 percent or 50 percent, but everyone in America, most particularly, the poor.

Finally, I want to focus on the medical deduction. They take away the medical deduction in this program, this proposal of the Trump administration.

Now, keep in mind that we already have severe limits on deducting medical expenses. You can deduct medical expenses only if they exceed 10 percent of your family’s income. So medical expenses are itemized and deducted only by those families including someone with very significant health costs.

Now, we have worked hard in this House to make sure that people have health insurance. But even with health insurance, the copays; there are not deductibles. These can be absorbed in a family budget where no one has a particular strong medical need. But what if there is some member of the family who needs experimental treatments that are not covered, therapies that are not covered?

Under the present system, at least they get to deduct these extraordinary—not the first 10 percent of AGI, of adjusted gross income—but when they start spending out-of-pocket costs in excess of 10 percent income, they can take a tax deduction—a tax deduction taken away in the Trump tax proposal.

I speak not just as someone who spent a lot of time as a tax expert who headed the second largest tax agency in the country, but as the father of a child with special needs. What does this tax proposal mean for such a family? Well, first, there is a cut in Federal revenue under this proposal of between $150 billion to $200 billion a year. Deficit hawks will demand that these revenue cuts be matched by cuts to Federal spending.

What does that do to the $13 billion the Federal Government dedicates to the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA, also known as special education? And what do these cuts in our Federal expenditures mean for the $293 million that are spent by the National Institutes of Health on research designed to prevent and treat autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, ADHD?

The first impact on a family with special needs is a slashing of the money the Federal Government spends for special education and medical research. But second, I talked about those out-of-pocket medical expenses. Parents with special-needs children know that health insurance pays only a portion of what is needed, or perhaps none of what is needed, for behavioral therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, therapy, developmental pediatrics, neuropsychological services, et cetera.

Medical insurance will pay nothing toward anything branded an experimental treatment, and, of course, medical insurance does not cover special schools required to meet the needs of some special-needs children.

Under current law, a special school designed to meet those with a physical or mental handicap are considered medical expenses. All of these tax deductions are taken away from a family whose ability to pay is diminished by the costs of providing these therapies to a special-needs child.

Addition, right now, the tax law provides a personal exemption of $4,050 for each dependent child. The Trump administration proposal takes that away. It does say, in some vague language, that there will be a child tax credit to compensate parents who are losing the personal exemption. But this credit will be limited to children 16 years of age and younger.

So what about parents supporting children in their teenage years and older? Remember, some special-needs children will need parental support for a lifetime. Those parents lose the exemption and are ineligible for this credit or available only to parents of younger children.

But perhaps parents of children with special needs should support the Trump tax program. While it will tremendously increase their taxes, while it will cut Federal expenditures on special education and research, parents of children with special needs can take solace in knowing that this plan will reduce taxes for the Trump family by over $1 billion in estate taxes and by tens of millions of dollars in Federal taxes.

Perhaps we should tell parents of special-needs children that they should stop wondering so much about their children and start worrying about Donald Trump’s children. If they did, they would support the Trump tax proposal.

**iran nuclear control deal**

Mr. SHERMAN. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the issue of
Iran and the nuclear deal, nuclear control deal that we signed with Iran.

First, a little background. In 1997, I said at the Foreign Affairs Committee that Iran and its nuclear program were the number one threat to American national security.

For the last 20 years, I have supported every effort to impose sanctions on the Iranian regime. When the Iran nuclear deal was finalized and published, I was the first of either party to come to this floor and say that Congress should not vote to endorse that deal.

But the question before us now is: Should we renounce the deal?

Now, it would be one thing if Iran decides that we are so tough on them on other issues that they choose to renounce the deal, but that is not the issue before us today. The issue before us today is whether America should renounce the deal, and the resounding and clear answer is that is not something we should do at this time.

Now, I will give you an example. Let’s say you bought a flawed automobile. In other words, you take the used car back here and give it back to the dealer. The dealer keeps the money. But what opponents—what some are proposing now is that we renounce the deal. Imagine you are in a jurisdiction where you have to take back the car and the dealer keeps your money. Too. Taking back the car doesn’t look like such a good idea anymore.

Now, like a flawed automobile, the Iran nuclear deal is liable to not be working next decade. But that doesn’t mean you take back the car and the deal keeps the money.

What happens if we renounce the deal?

Iran keeps the money. We unfroze very close to $100 billion of their money. If we renounce the deal, they keep the money. We delivered over $1 billion in currency on big pallets. If we renounce the deal, Iran keeps the money. If we renounce the deal, Iran is liberated from all of the restrictions that it agreed to on its nuclear program.

I opposed the deal because the restrictions on Iran's nuclear program in the deal were temporary. I believe we need to extend and enforce those limitation on their nuclear program. If you listen to the Prime Minister of Israel, Bibi Netanyahu, he has identified the fact that we have not been able to extend and make permanent the limitations on Iran's nuclear program.

So if we stick with the deal, we don't extend and enforce the limitations on Iran's nuclear program, we end and eliminate immediately the restrictions on Iran's nuclear program. I cannot think of a worse result.

Now, there are two mechanisms that we could use as a nation to renounce the deal, give Iran all the benefits, and liberate them from all their obligations. The first of these is on our mind now because it could be triggered on October 15. That is the day on which the President could, in effect, decertify this deal under the Iran Nuclear Review Act. If he does that, the press will not overlay it, because a decertification does nothing more than focus Congress’ attention on whether we want to reinstitute the exact sanctions that were waived as part of the deal. A decertification does nothing more than focus our attention and, over in the Senate, provide for a reinstatement of the old sanctions.

Now, I don’t think that Congress would be stupid enough to do that because, as I have explained, if we renounce the deal, Iran keeps the benefits and is liberated from its obligations.

But the President should not decertify the deal and focus the world’s attention on whether America will stand with the deal at this time.

The second way that America could renounce the deal will occur next January because the basic element of the deal—the basic agreement from the United States—was an agreement that the President would, every 4 months to 6 months, it depends on the exact statute, waive particular identified sanctions. As it happens, the existing waivers will expire in the middle of next January. If the President were to fail to issue those waivers, that would be an American renunciation of the deal. So it does not meet our national security objectives to renounce the deal.

What meets our national security objectives is to impose tough sanctions on Iran, draft those sanctions carefully, and explain them to the world not as a renunciation of the deal, but as appropriate sanctions given Iran’s non-nuclear, outside-the-deal, wrongful behavior.

Now, the question is: Can we have sanctions on Iran and continue to force them to abide by the deal?

The answer is clearly yes. In July of 2015, Secretary Kerry came before our committee, and I raised this very issue: If we adopt the deal, can we impose sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran to deter terrorism? Or would that violate this agreement?

I specifically asked: “If we and the United States free under the agreement to adopt new sanctions legislation that will remain in force as long as Iran holds American hostages or supports the murderous Assad regime?”

Secretary Kerry was clear. He stated: We are free to adopt additional sanctions as long as they are not a phony excuse for just taking the whole pot of past ones and putting them back.

So we can and should impose new sanctions on Iran to the extent justified by Iran’s behavior outside the area of nuclear research and uranium enrichment. Look at that as an opportunity because you could make a list of every sanction any one of us here on this floor has thought of. And add in the creativity of the United States Senate and make a list of every sanction we could impose, I assure you that those sanctions and more are justified and will be committed by the regime in Tehran.

Iran is more responsible than Russia for the hundreds of thousands of deaths in Syria. The lifeline of Assad’s murderous regime is a lifeline to the aid, weapons, support that is giving Iran its opportunity that Iran has provided—hundreds of thousands of deaths, an immoral responsibility of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Turn to Yemen, where tens of thousands of people have died because of Iran. Look at worldwide terrorism, and Iran is the number one state sponsor of terrorism year after year, according to our State Department. Look at the treatment by Iran of its own people, the murders by the state of anyone they identify as being part of the LGBT community, the murders by the state of women—it is usually women—accused of adultery.

The evil that comes from the Islamic Republic of Iran is far exceeds the ability of anyone in this House to identify sanction points. That is why the proper policy for the United States is to impose the maximum sanctions and to explain to the world that this is not a phony renunciation of the nuclear deal, but it is the appropriate response to Iran’s actions that are outside of the nuclear deal.

If we do that, we will have substantial support from Europe, Asia, and elsewhere first for demanding that Iran continue to be subject to all the nuclear limitations and inspections that they agreed to under the deal and which continue to be enforced well in the next decade.

What we shall do next decade, well, I will come back here and give another speech next decade. But at least many years deep in the next decade, this deal provides us with valuable limitations and valuable inspections of the Iran nuclear program, and Europe will insist that those be adhered to.

Second, Europe may join us in the sanctions when we sanction Iran for its actions in Syria, its actions to its own people, its actions in Yemen. One more I should add, and that is Iran’s violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions by testing and exporting missiles and exporting weapons.

So if we stick with the deal and we sanction Iran, they may choose—if those sanctions are as effective as I think they can be—to walk away from the deal. But if they do, we will have the whole world with us enforcing sanctions against Iran.

Now, there is one part of the policy I put forward that may not meet the geopolitical needs of the President of the United States. It is an uncontrollable personal need to pour disgusting liquids on anything associated with President Obama. Maybe it
meets his psychological needs to say he is renouncing the nuclear deal. But the fact is we don’t have to renounce the nuclear deal and liberate Iran from its obligations in order to impose the toughest imaginable sanctions on this regime that is doing so much evil.

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

THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, let me just note I believe that our President is doing a terrific job. I think that the last Presidents of the United States have left us an inch-grosser situation, and this President is trying to deal with it with strength and purpose, and, yes, being a forceful leader.

For example, during the Clinton administration, we provided $4 billion to $5 billion to North Korea, the same way the last administration tried to provide funds for Iran.

What do we have now? A crisis with possible nuclear weapons and missiles in North Korea. That is called kicking the can down the road. They sure kicked it down to us, and now the people want to kick the can down the road with the Iranians. No. Let us see that again and leave future generations to face the music that we left them.

Our President wants to make sure that Iran does not become a nuclear power as long as it is controlled by radical, fanatic mullahs who don’t even represent their own people. In fact, if Iran was more peaceful and actually more democratic, then we wouldn’t have to worry about that because they wouldn’t want to have a wasteful program of nuclear weapons.

Those are the type of issues we face today. We face a lot of uncertainties at home and abroad, and it behooves us to look for explanations for the shifts in power, the dangers, and the influence that are taking place in the world today.

Europe, along with the United States, for five decades, seemed to be the center of world order and progress. Now that the Soviet Union, and the common market all seemed to be the epitome of sophisticated and proper governance needed to offset humankind’s destructive and combative inclinations. World Wars I and II had undercut, if not destroyed, the expansion of classical liberalism that was in the process of retiring royalist and imperialist domination of the world, which, of course, is where the world was at the turn and the beginning of the 20th century as classical liberalism began to replace imperialism and monarchy.

Yes, the two World Wars that we experienced were traumas that still impact our lives. The Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I was the last gasp of European colonialism.

Maps drawn at that international gathering brought on World War II. Some of those other lines that they drew on that map plague us to this day. Those national borders mandated by the Versailles Treaty made the world temporarily tranquil. Maybe we just heard about that a few moments ago, how we have got to overcome the tragedy right now, like we did in Korea, by not having confrontations with those people who were engaged in hostile activity.

Yes, the Treaty of Versailles gave the world temporary tranquility, but doomed following generations to instability and conflict. Such future challenges were left to the League of Nations. When that failed, the baton was passed to the United Nations.

Humanity, obviously, hoped that global government, in one form or the other, would resolve everything. The EU, the common market, NATO, and other multinational bureaucracies would demonstrate how nation-states can cooperate and achieve a collective peace, freedom, and prosperity.

Well, just as things changed dramatically after the 19th century turned into the 20th century, and it became a different world, so, too, is our world changing. We must make sure that we have turned from the 20th century into the 21st.

The 20th century was dominated by the wars and by the defeat of the Soviet Union. Yet we are plagued with conflicts and upheavals that can be traced back to border and sovereign depositions that are now dead, not only from the 20th century, but, as I said, from the end of World War I.

Many of the confrontations between various nationalities that we face today are not just the greatest threats of violence, insurrection, and war itself could be defused if our world would again recognize the right of self-determination.

It seems to have been forgotten that the United States was not only founded on the principles of liberty and independence, but also of the right of people to demand their rights, and, yes, that right of independence. They had a right to declare their independence.

This was the revolutionary idea that people have a right to select their government. This was the revolutionary idea that gave our Founding Fathers and Mothers the moral high ground to take care of each other in Jewish charities. We have that. We have Catholic schools and different things.

Yes, it is meant because people do share certain values that they can work together on together. That is a good thing. However, the idea that people like that might want to be in their own country, which is what our Founding Fathers said, because it was only shared values, it wasn’t specific that we wanted freedom of religion for all people.

Well, today the world is threatened by people who want to be independent of domination of others who don’t share their same values and their nationality. The reason why it is being rejected is basically by the power brokers throughout the world because it threatens those in power with losing authority over people who don’t want to live under their domination.

That is what self-determination is all about: letting people decide their own fate. If a majority of people in an area want to be independent of anyone else, that is what they should be, according to our Declaration of Independence. And this is something that brings a
more peaceful world, rather than trying to have subjugation of one people by another.

There has been a major cause of conflict in the world today when people don't recognize that, yes, there are other people they are being oppressed by being forced under the jurisdiction of a particular government. They would like to have their own independence.

This, of course, has been especially true where people, since the end of the Cold War, have started looking at their own self-identification. When the right of self-determination is recognized, disputes are usually settled peacefully, as happened when, for example, after the fall of communism, the Czechs and the Slovaks, who had one country before, under the Treaty of Versailles, Czecho-slovakia became the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Well, that is fine. It is a good thing that they were able to separate. Now they can be friends.

But when they were one country, if the Czechs and Slovaks felt like they were being oppressed, they weren't satisfied. It was a good thing to permit them to act on that. If you don't want to be part of the country with us, yes, you can be a separate country. Otherwise, there would have been turmoil at one level or another.

We saw a peaceful solution in countries like Slovenia. Yugoslavia was breaking up, Tito was dead, the Cold War was over, and guess what. Slovenia and a bunch of other republics within Yugoslavia wanted to be independent, and they were able to do it.

Well, perhaps they were able to do it because the Serbs had already launched attacks on the Croatians and the Kosovars and other people in Yugoslavia that now was splitting apart because people wanted to be independent and free, but the Serbs attacked them.

They didn't attack Slovenia, because I think by that time they realized that they had to proceed going toward with all of these various groups. Had the Kosovars and the Croatians been free to go and separate and become independent countries—as Croatia is today, and as the Kosovars would like to be, and as we are trying to help them to be—that would have been better for Serbia. It would have been better for everybody. There would have probably been by now an agreement for some kind of free trade zone.

Instead, when the Serbs used force to keep those people under its jurisdiction, we had violence throughout the Balkans that has lasted for several decades. That is a tragedy. We should be working today in the Balkans.

Let me just note that the Serbs today are an example of people who are reaching out, for example, to the Kosovars and others to try to find peaceful solutions and trying to come to some agreements that will make peace more likely.

But, again, if you would have had people who were under their thumb, nobody would be talking to them because they would be afraid of them. No. People who treat other people as equals and have rights as people in the world, they are more likely to reach understandings that are of mutual cooperation that can lead to peace in the world.

I am not trying to say you have to submit yourself to some other group of people. The former Soviet Union, Ukraine, and other of the so-called Soviet republics were actually permitted at the end of the Cold War to, basically, peacefully establish their own independence. I know it is not as simple as that, but it happened in a peaceful way in which thousands of lives were not lost trying to force groups of people who do not want to be under Moscow's control.

Those people, whether Ukraine or elsewhere in the Baltics or the Balkans, had the right—and also in Central Asia—and people were permitted to have, basically, an independent government free from being only suppressed by Moscow and have to follow its orders.

That happened relatively peacefully. Had that not happened, there probably would be conflict throughout that part of the world. Otherwise, there certainly would have been, as communism faltered in Russia itself.

So it took a lot of prodding for us to make sure that the Russians in the Soviet Union, in Moscow, understood that they could not keep people under their thumb. It was the Cold War.

Thank God, we ended the Cold War peacefully, because that was the great gift that Ronald Reagan gave to us. I am very proud to have served with Ronald Reagan for 7 years in the White House as a senior speechwriter to the President for 7½ years, as well as being a Special Assistant to the President and very involved with his efforts to try to move peace in the world. A lot of it was peace by recognizing people's right to independence.

Look back, for example—Ronald Reagan was an Irish American—at the needless violence that the British perpetrated and what happened in Ireland because the British insisted that the Irish be kept under British rule for so long, when it was clear that the Irish people wanted to be independent of Great Britain.

Look at what happened, in contrast, in Singapore and Malaysia, where the British just peacefully permitted those countries that were basically under the domination—they were part of Great Britain and the British Empire—to leave and establish their independence peacefully. Then Malaysia and Singapore separated from Great Britain, and then separated from each other, peacefully.

But in any one of these cases, if somebody demanded that these people stay in this particular status within this particular government, there would have been a lot more violence.

When self-determination is respected, peace is more likely. When a people are subjugated to the orders of a government in a country they don't want to be part of, violence is more likely.

How easy is that?

Special interests and power elites throughout the world are not so inclined to this obvious reason.

Why?

Because it is not in their interest to let people just go when they have them right there under their control.

So let's look at a few examples where self-determination has manifest itself in conflict.

Today, one of the greatest conflict areas of the world is the Middle East. Again, many of the conflicts that we have seen, if not a majority, can be traced right back to the Treaty of Versailles, right back to World War I, and the decisions of colonialists and imperialists and royalists to draw borders in the Middle East, just as they did in Africa and elsewhere, which made no sense.

Yes, we ended up separating whole nations. For example, one nation of people that we are aware of today are the Kurds. The Kurds were separated into various countries in the Treaty of Versailles by these British and French colonialists.

And we are supposed to just abide by their decision of what the borders should be today, 100 years later? No, I don't think so.

The Kurds, of course, were not living just subjugating themselves to what they had been dictated. No, the Kurds have been our greatest ally in the fight against radical Islamic terrorism and what they are doing today and what they just voted on recently was they had a vote to determine if their people wanted self-determination and wanted to be an independent country from Iraq.

Yes, that was a good thing, and we should recognize that. They won overwhelmingly, and we should look at the map of—we should say a map of the Middle East needs to be changed so you can have a Kurdistan that flows all the way from Turkey and Iraq and Iran and Syria. There are more, for example, Kurds in Iran than there are in Iraq. In Turkey, there are more Kurds, and, of course, in Syria.

This should be a modern country. Why are we letting this turmoil go on when our greatest allies are looking for their own self-determination and these other countries are becoming or are already our enemies? Yes, it will behoove the United States to support the independence of Kurdistan and all the Kurds. We should support in bringing together these Kurdish people as a nation, because that is what they are. They are a nation without a state. Let them have their country.

There has been so much bloodshed in the treatment of the Kurds from the Iranians, from the mullah regime, but also the Shah before him. The Kurds were oppressed by Saddam Hussein,
and right now, what we have is a repression of people even in Iran where the mullah regime is oppressing not only the rest of its people, not only the other people who make up Iran, but the Kurds, in particular.

Look at what is going on with the Baloch, for example. Now, a small group—there are groups of people. There is an area in Iran where the vast majority of people are of the Baloch extraction. They would like their independence, they desire their right to self-determination, and they are not suffering from the oppression of Iran.

By the way, if we are going to try to deal with Iran, let’s not ratchet up our militarism and threaten to attack them that way. Let’s ratchet up our support for people like the Kurds and the Baloch and the Azaris and other people who live in Iran who don’t like the oppression of the mullahs, and we can even—except for, of course, the Punjabis and then others, the Pashtuns who control that Government in Pakistan.

This is the history of Pakistan. Right now they are doing it to the Baloch, to the Sindhis, to the Singhis, you name it. You have got just a group of people—there are groups of people who live in Iran who don’t like the oppression of the mullahs, and we can even—except for, of course, the Punjabis and then others, the Pashtuns who control that Government in Pakistan.

Well, remember what happened before. We have seen it before. When the people of Bangladesh wanted to be a little independent of the Pakistani Government, have some way to, you know, control their own lives and control their own government, they were brutally repressed by the Pakistani Government, and that is what led to, basically, the uprising of the people in Bangladesh when they freed themselves.

Remember, that same type of oppression is continuing not only on the Baloch, but there are other groups of people in Pakistan, the populations that came over from India, after India and Pakistan split. A lot of them went to Karachi. Those people in Karachi now, there are people who want to have Karachi—It is like a Singorama, but it is a part of the world independent. That is what they want to do because they have a right of self-determination.

They don’t want to be subjugated by this corrupt, militaristic, proterrorist Government in Pakistan. We should be siding with people like that who want their independence and believe in these same values that we believe in.

Another example of that, of course, is what we see in Spain today. Today, of course, now there are groups of people who live in Catalonia. Catalonia is a province with a long history in Spain. People identify themselves as Catalans. Yes, Spanish, but also Catalans. They have a right to vote on whether or not they want to remain part of Spain, whether or not they give up their sovereignty to a central government in Madrid or do they want to have a government of Catalonia that they can control their own government, and yes, their own sovereignty.

Well, the Spanish overreaction to the efforts of the Catalonians just to have a poll—basically it was a vote on independence, but it was—you know, basically it had to be recognized for it to have effect. But instead of letting them do this and just saying, “Well, it has no legal effect.” Instead, the Spanish Government came down with brute force and said, “We will murder anyone who would think violence coming from terrorists would exert on a group of people in Spain. It was their own government that was exercising violence and force and intimidation against the people of Catalonia.

Now, of course, the people of Catalonia are united because they know the brutality and subjugation of what is going on with Madrid.

Now, the British knew how to do it. Unlike Madrid and Spain, the British permitted their people in Scotland to have a vote, and that was a wonderful thing. The Scots had their vote, there was no interference, and if they didn’t want to be part of Great Britain, they didn’t have to be, and that was a wonderful example of the world of how you should do this.

Now, the Scots decided to stay part of England, part of Great Britain. That is fine, but they had their chance. The Scots had their chance. The British government, have some way to, you know, control their own lives and control their own government, they were brutally repressed by the Pakistani Government, and that is what led to, basically, the uprising of the people in Bangladesh when they freed themselves.

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watching out for each other with four countries. The United States, of course; the other one is India, and I will soon be going to India. In fact, I will be going to India tomorrow. And number three, Japan; and number four, Russia.

Now, there is some work that needs to be done to make a coalition like that real, but a coalition of those countries working together, not mandated that we have to do this and we have to subjugate ourselves to decisions of what the four say, but, instead, seeking out cooperation with those countries where there is mutual benefit to do, we can make this a better world. We can secure our prosperity and secure the peace of our own country and the security of our own country.

So with a vision and with a recognition of fundamental things like the right of self-determination and the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that our Founding Fathers talked about, and limited government where they said government only derives its just powers from the consent of the governed, let us champion these values and these ideals.

Let us have a vision for the future, as Ronald Reagan did, and we can make this a more peaceful world as we side with people all over the world who want to control their own destiny by having their own nation rather than being subjected to someone else.

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

**SENATE BILL REFERRED**

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1595. An act to amend the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 to impose additional sanctions with respect to Hizballah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, October 16, 2017, at 10 a.m.

**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. McCaul: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 3699. A bill to improve and streamline security procedures related to general aviation, charter air carriers, utilizing risk-based security standards, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-346). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

**TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL.**

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 3. 2017. Referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure extended for a period ending not later than November 9, 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:

Mr. McCaul:

H.R. 4028. A bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to establish cybersecurity supervision and examination of large consumer reporting agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. Speier:

H.R. 4029. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make reasonable adjustments to earnings data for graduates of cosmetology and esthetician programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. Speier (for herself, Ms. Bonamici, Ms. Delauro, Mrs. DeSaulnier, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Espaillat, Ms. Frankel of Florida, Ms. Jackson Lee, Ms. Kuster of New Hampshire, Ms. Lee, Ms. Matsui, Mrs. Napolitano, Ms. Norton, Mr. Quigley, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Takanu, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Maxine Waters of California, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, Mr. G. J. G. Murphy of Maryland, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Ms. Fudge, Ms. Shea-Porter, Mr. Courtney, and California):

H.R. 4030. A bill to amend the Department of Education Organization Act to codify into law the "Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance for School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties", issued January 19, 2001, by the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, as in effect on January 1, 2017; and the “Questions and Answers on Title IX and Sexual Violence” issued April 29, 2014, by the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, as in effect on January 1, 2017, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. Pearce:

H.R. 4031. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress annual reports on beneficiary travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. Pearlman:

H.R. 4032. A bill to authorize the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. Lamborn (for himself and Ms. Brown of Maryland):

H.R. 4033. A bill to authorize the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. Harper (for himself, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, and Mr. Palazzo):

H.R. 4034. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to issue to the Pat Harrison Wapato Project, to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. Webster of Texas (for himself, Mr. Mrazek of Colorado):

H.R. 4035. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal certain loan guarantees for certain projects. H.R. 4036. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal certain loan guarantee programs of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy, and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. Graves of Georgia (for himself and Ms. Sinema):

H.R. 4038. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a defense to prosecution for fraud and related activity in connection with computers for persons defending against unauthorized intrusions into their computers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. Hartzler:

H.R. 4037. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the non-applicability of non-Department of Veterans Affairs contracts not to compete with the appointment of certain Veterans Administration personnel; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. McCaul (for himself and Ms. Brown of California):

H.R. 4038. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reassert article 1 authorities over the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. Cartwright (for himself and Ms. Brown of California):

H.R. 4039. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the number of local wage areas allowable within a General Schedule area in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. Cohen (for himself, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Bettye, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Judy Chu of California, Ms. Clarke of New York, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Mr. Connolly, Ms. Cummings, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Deutch, Ms. Esty of Connecticut, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Krattinger, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. King of New York, Ms. Lieu, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Ms. Lofgren, Mr. Lowenthal, Mr. Lowey,
Ms. MICHELLE LULIAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RICHARDSON, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SIRETS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. Smith of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TITUS, Mr. TSONGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. WELCH:  

H.R. 4041. A bill to provide for the retention and service of transgender members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.  

By Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. BILIART of Florida, Mr. CUMBEN of Florida, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JACKSON of Florida, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. POSHY, Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. ROS-LeHTINEN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ROYBAL-DURAN-FOX, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. YOKO, Mr. DUNN, Mr. GAETZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. FONG, Mrs. HUNT, Mr. CRIST, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. MARTY):  

H.R. 4042. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Kissimmee, County, State, as the “Borinqueneers Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.  

By Mr. BLUM (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):  

H.R. 4043. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to reauthorize the whistleblower protection program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.  

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GRAVIS of Louisiana, Mr. RICHETT, Mr. HIE, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. VELA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. HURST, Ms. SCALISE, Mr. TITUS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. DUNN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. KELMER, Mr. RHGINALS of Louisiana, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, and Mr. CRIST):  

H.R. 4044. A bill to authorize the minting of a coin in honor of the 75th anniversary of the United States Navy; to the Committee on Financial Services.  

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:  

H.R. 4045. A bill to provide for the reauthorization of certain agreements to acquire or lease real property for the use of such military department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.  

By Mrs. BUSTOS:  

H.R. 4047. A bill to provide for the identification and reporting of improper payments and the identification of strategic sourcing opportunities by reviewing and analyzing the underlying charge cards; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.  

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:  

H.R. 4048. A bill to reauthorize the institutions of higher education to provide students with statistical employment information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.  

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. NGUYEN, Mr. NORTON):  

H.R. 4049. A bill to establish a grant program to ensure that students in high-need schools have equal access to a quality education delivered by an effective, diverse workforce; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.  

By Mrs. HUISINGH (for herself, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):  

H.R. 4050. A bill to support research, development, and other activities to develop innovative vehicles and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.  

By Ms. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. Evans, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. ELLISON):  

H.R. 4051. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a bollard installation grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security.  

By Ms. ESTY of Connecticut (for herself, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KIHUEEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BASS, Mr. Cicilline, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DELAURLE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MARTIN, Ms. AUSTIN MOORE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. REBER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ENRIED F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. TRONDAS, Mr. SIRETS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. SHEARMAN, Mr. MCCABEACH, Mr. LEE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. VIRGINIA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BIVIER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. JACKSON of Florida, Mr. CONNENL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SPEIER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BERA, Mr. SANCHEZ, Ms. TONKO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MEKES, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SHIA-PORTEI, Mr. DEMINGS, Mr. HIGGINBOTHAM, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):  

H.R. 4052. A bill to prohibit the transfer or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.  

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:  

H.R. 4053. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Reform Act to require an independent audit of the cybersecurity practices of certain consumer reporting agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.  

By Mr. GUTHRIE:  

H.R. 4054. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to make residents of Puerto Rico eligible for the earned income tax credit and to provide for equitable treatment for residents of Puerto Rico with respect to the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.  

By Mr. KIND:  

H.R. 4055. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and other laws to return private property of governments of the States, to establish a private corporation to insure States against risks and costs of disasters otherwise borne by the States, and to provide for reimbursable Federal assistance to States for activities in response to disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.  

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. MURDOCK and Miss RICE of New York):  

H.R. 4057. A bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of a firearm or the issuance of firearms or explosives licenses to a known or suspected dangerous terrorist; to the Committee on the Judiciary.  

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. COMER, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOKO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ANDERSON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SOTO, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Mr. LUCAS):  

H.R. 4058. A bill to establish a trust for the benefit of all unpaid cash sellers of livestock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.  

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS (for herself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. BLODGETT):  

H.R. 4059. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs fulfill the ethical duty to report to the Department of Veterans Affairs impaired, incompetent, and unethical medical health care activities; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.  

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. JACKSON LEE, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. ZALEZ of Texas, Mr. SOTO, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. DELAURLE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Mr. GUTTREBER):  

H.R. 4060. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make residents of Puerto Rico eligible for the earned income tax credit and to provide for equitable treatment for residents of Puerto Rico with respect to the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LUKTKEMEIYER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MCAFEE, Mr. MERRICK, Mr. McRAE, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. PITTENGER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MESSER, Ms. SEELIY of Alabama, Mr. TIPPTON, Mr. KILMER, Mr. WILKERSON, Ms. Poliquin, Mr. KIND, Mrs. LOVE, Ms. DEBENE, Mr. HILL, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. EMMER, Mr. QUICKLEY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Ms. MACARONE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BENNET, Miss RICK of New York, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. TIERI, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 4061. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to improve the transparency of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, to improve the SIFI designation process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 4062. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geographic data and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 4063. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to maintain a database of information on electricity outages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 4064. A bill to impose restrictions on the sale of binary explosives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. SCHAUCHOWSKY):

H.R. 4065. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish grants to reduce the incidence of hate crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TIERI, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. MILLI of California, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. MITTEN):

H.R. 4066. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations) to the products of Kazakhstan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Mr. ROSS, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 4068. A bill to make necessary changes to the competitive need limitations provision of the Federal System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 4069. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of authentic Alaska Native articles of handi- craft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COFFMAN (for himself, Mr. GALLEY, Mr. RACON, and Mr. PA- NETTA):

H.R. 4070. A bill to make necessary changes to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 4029. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 4030. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 4031. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

H.R. 8031. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. O’HALLERAN:

H.R. 4032. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

H.R. 4037. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 4038. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

H.R. 4034. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. HARPED:

H.R. 4039. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. GRAVES of Georgia:

H.R. 4036. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 4037. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 4035. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 4039. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. McCaul:

H.R. 4038. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4040. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 4041. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

H.R. 4028. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 4066.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mrs. WALORSKI:
H.R. 4067.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 2 of the Constitution, specifically Clause 3 regarding regulating commerce with foreign nations.

By Mrs. WALORSKI:
H.R. 4068.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, specifically Clause 3 regarding regulating commerce with foreign nations.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 4069.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

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 this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MARSHALL:
H.R. 4058.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:
H.R. 4046.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:
H.R. 4048.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 4049.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8, Clause 11 of the Constitution.

By Mr. KING of New York:
H.R. 4057.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mrs. MCGRORRIS RODGERS:
H.R. 4059.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PASCRELL:
H.R. 4060.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. ROSS:
H.R. 4061.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (The Congress shall have the Power “to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States and with the Indian Tribes”)

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER:
H.R. 4062.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 4063.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. VELAZQUEZ:
H.R. 4064.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Ms. ESTY of Connecticut:
H.R. 4065.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:
H.R. 4066.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One of the United States Constitution, section 8, clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power—To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 4067.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 4068.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 4069.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority for this bill is pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. GABBARD, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:
H.R. 4070.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power . . . to coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures.”

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 4071.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:
H.R. 4072.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:
H.R. 4073.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:
H.R. 4074.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 4075.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 4076.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:
H.R. 4077.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:
H.R. 4078.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 4079.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power . . . to coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures.”

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 4080.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 4081.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:
H.R. 4082.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 4083.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 4084.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:
H.R. 4085.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:
H.R. 4086.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:
H.R. 4087.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 4088.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 4089.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:
H.R. 4090.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:
H.R. 4091.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 4092.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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 or Article One of the United States Constitution, Section 8, Clause 3:

The Congress shall have Power—To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. ESTY of Connecticut:
H.R. 4093.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
H.R. 1078: Ms. Kuster of New Hampshire, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, and Mr. Guttierrez.
H.R. 1098: Mrs. Waltorski, Mr. DeSaulnier, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Palazzo.
H.R. 1116: Mr. Gottheimer.
H.R. 1148: Ms. Pingree and Mr. Young of Alaska.
H.R. 1164: Mr. Young of Alaska.
H.R. 1311: Mr. Comer.
H.R. 1360: Mr. Geske.
H.R. 1374: Mr. Krishnamoorthi.
H.R. 1380: Mr. David Scott of Georgia.
H.R. 1406: Mr. Roe of Tennessee and Mr. Lowenthal.
H.R. 1421: Mr. Doogset and Mr. Welch.
H.R. 1437: Ms. Lee.
H.R. 1475: Mr. Matsui.
H.R. 1478: Ms. Frankel of Florida, Mr. Yarmuth, Ms. Collum, Ms. Jayapal, Ms. Hanabusa, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mr. Tonko, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Tsongas, Mr. Evans, Ms. Green of Texas, and Mr. Polis.
H.R. 1562: Mr. Panetta.
H.R. 1612: Mr. Moulton and Mr. Matsui.
H.R. 1617: Ms. Pingree.
H.R. 1626: Mr. Pocan, Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York, Mr. Duncan of Tennessee, and Mr. Danny Davis of Illinois.
H.R. 1631: Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Graves of Missouri, Mr. MacArthur of Texas, and Mr. MacArthur.
H.R. 1661: Mr. Donovan, Mr. Costello of Pennsylvania, Mr. Correa, Mr. McNerney, and Mr. O’Rourke.
H.R. 1676: Mr. Schewekett and Ms. Norton.
H.R. 1710: Mr. Messer.
H.R. 1731: Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Renacci, and Ms. Bustos.
H.R. 1739: Mr. Wexton and Mr. Christ.
H.R. 1783: Ms. Pingree.
H.R. 1796: Mr. Peace.
H.R. 1810: Mr. Hunter, Mr. McNerney, Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois, and Mr. Paulsen.
H.R. 1825: Mr. Ruiz.
H.R. 1828: Mr. Blumenauer and Mr. Reed.
H.R. 1832: Mr. Moulton and Ms. Matsui.
H.R. 1841: Mr. McNerney.
H.R. 1849: Mr. Gonzalez of Texas.
H.R. 1864: Mr. Moulton.
H.R. 1902: Mr. Wexton, Ms. Barletta, and Mr. Sensenbrenner.
H.R. 1898: Mr. Bishop of Michigan.
H.R. 1967: Mr. Pressie.
H.R. 2024: Mr. Cuellar.
H.R. 2069: Mr. Khanna.
H.R. 2079: Mr. Poliquin.
H.R. 2092: Mr. Knight.
H.R. 2133: Mr. Francis Rooney of Florida, Mr. Sam Johnson of Texas, and Mr. Mitchell.
H.R. 2148: Mr. Emmer.
H.R. 2151: Mr. Crist and Mr. Pascarella.
H.R. 2232: Mr. Dunn, Mr. Gaetz, and Mr. Cook.
H.R. 2244: Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Ms. Norton, Mr. Nadder, Mr. MacArthur, and Mr. Vargas.
H.R. 2293: Mr. Curbelo of Florida.
H.R. 2306: Mr. Higgins of New York.
H.R. 2319: Mr. Barr and Mr. Emmer.
H.R. 2440: Mrs. Love, Ms. Norton, and Mr. MacArthur.
H.R. 2401: Mr. Merhman.
H.R. 2404: Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 2412: Mr. Faso.
H.R. 2431: Mr. Banks of Indiana.
H.R. 2501: Ms. Pingree.
H.R. 2564: Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Duncan of Tennessee, and Mr. Cook.
H.R. 2387: Mr. Engel.
H. Res. 142: Ms. Esty of Connecticut and Mrs. Walorski.
H. Res. 274: Mr. Pocan and Mr. Reichert.
H. Res. 401: Mr. Lance and Mr. Panetta.
H. Res. 428: Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Ruppersberger, and Mr. Sensenbrenner.
H. Res. 443: Ms. Moore.
H. Res. 495: Mr. Brown of Maryland and Ms. Esty of Connecticut.
H. Res. 521: Mrs. Mimi Walters of California.
H. Res. 528: Mr. Schiff and Mr. Welch.
H. Res. 556: Mr. Pascrell.
H. Res. 557: Mr. Pascrell.
H. Res. 560: Mr. Hastings.
H. Res. 564: Mr. Meadows and Mr. Massie.
H. Res. 566: Mr. Grijalva.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE SCALISE
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, during my medical recovery, I missed the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

June 15, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 308
June 20, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 309
Yea on Roll Call No. 310
June 21, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 311
Yea on Roll Call No. 312
Yea on Roll Call No. 313
Nay on Roll Call No. 314
Yea on Roll Call No. 315
June 22, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 316
Yea on Roll Call No. 317
Nay on Roll Call No. 318
Yea on Roll Call No. 319
June 23, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 320
Yea on Roll Call No. 321
Yea on Roll Call No. 322
June 26, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 323
Yea on Roll Call No. 324
June 27, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 325
Yea on Roll Call No. 326
Yea on Roll Call No. 327
Yea on Roll Call No. 328
Yea on Roll Call No. 329
Yea on Roll Call No. 330
June 28, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 331
Yea on Roll Call No. 332
Yea on Roll Call No. 333
Yea on Roll Call No. 334
Yea on Roll Call No. 335
Nay on Roll Call No. 336
Yea on Roll Call No. 337
Nay on Roll Call No. 338
June 29, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 339
Yea on Roll Call No. 340
Nay on Roll Call No. 341
Yea on Roll Call No. 342
Nay on Roll Call No. 343
Yea on Roll Call No. 344
July 11, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 345
Yea on Roll Call No. 346
July 12, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 347
Yea on Roll Call No. 348
Yea on Roll Call No. 349
Nay on Roll Call No. 350
Nay on Roll Call No. 351
Yea on Roll Call No. 352
July 13, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 353
Yea on Roll Call No. 354

This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
Yea on Roll Call No. 481
Yea on Roll Call No. 482
Nay on Roll Call No. 483
Yea on Roll Call No. 484
September 12, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 485
September 13, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 486
Yea on Roll Call No. 487
Yea on Roll Call No. 488
Nay on Roll Call No. 489
Nay on Roll Call No. 490
Nay on Roll Call No. 491
Yea on Roll Call No. 492
Nay on Roll Call No. 493
Nay on Roll Call No. 494
Nay on Roll Call No. 495
Nay on Roll Call No. 496
Yea on Roll Call No. 497
Yea on Roll Call No. 498
Nay on Roll Call No. 499
Nay on Roll Call No. 500
Nay on Roll Call No. 501
Nay on Roll Call No. 502
Nay on Roll Call No. 503
Yea on Roll Call No. 504
Nay on Roll Call No. 505
Nay on Roll Call No. 506
Nay on Roll Call No. 507
Nay on Roll Call No. 508
Yea on Roll Call No. 509
Nay on Roll Call No. 510
Nay on Roll Call No. 511
Yea on Roll Call No. 512
Nay on Roll Call No. 513
Nay on Roll Call No. 514
Nay on Roll Call No. 515
September 14, 2017
Yay on Roll Call No. 516
Yea on Roll Call No. 517
Yea on Roll Call No. 518
Nay on Roll Call No. 519
Nay on Roll Call No. 520
Nay on Roll Call No. 521
Nay on Roll Call No. 522
Nay on Roll Call No. 523
Nay on Roll Call No. 524
Nay on Roll Call No. 525
Nay on Roll Call No. 526
Nay on Roll Call No. 527
Yea on Roll Call No. 528
Yea on Roll Call No. 529
September 25, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 530
Yea on Roll Call No. 531
September 26, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 532
Yea on Roll Call No. 533
Yea on Roll Call No. 534
Nay on Roll Call No. 535
Nay on Roll Call No. 536
Yea on Roll Call No. 537
September 27, 2017
Yea on Roll Call No. 538
Yea on Roll Call No. 539
Yea on Roll Call No. 540
September 28, 2017
Nay on Roll Call No. 541

HONORING STEPHEN CONQUEST
HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Mr. Gonzalez of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Stephen Conquest, who is celebrating his 50th Birthday.

Defying all odds, Mr. Conquest has outlived the life expectancy given to him by doctors, who estimated that he would not make it past his teenage years. Born with Down Syndrome, a genetic anomaly that leads to developmental delays, the likelihood of Mr. Conquest developing life threatening conditions was higher than most. Mr. Conquest went on to join the Boy Scouts, receiving the Order of the Arrow; became an active member of the Future Farmers of America; won state gold medals in the 100-meter dash and long jump in the Special Olympics; and has been an invaluable employee at The McAllen Monitor since 1990.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Conquest is also a valued friend, coworker, and son. I am proud to represent constituents like Mr. Conquest, who set the example for how life should truly be lived.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Mr. Conquest and his family. His perseverance, compassion, and versatility to leading a full life is exemplary and has not gone unnoticed. He has made the South Texas community a better place, and it is my honor to acknowledge him today.

HONORING DRISCOLL’S
HON. JIMMY PANETTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Mr. Panetta. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Driscoll’s, a company based in California’s 20th Congressional District as the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County’s 2017 Food Donor of the Year. The company, made up of dedicated independent growers, has been donating their fresh berries to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Watsonville for over two decades. In 2016 alone, Driscoll’s donated nearly one thousand tons of berries. Because of Driscoll’s efforts, many food insecure families on the central coast of California now have access to the vitamin-rich and highly nutritious berries and can make them a part of a healthy diet.

The Driscoll and Reiter families, the founders of Driscoll’s, have been producing berries in the Pajaro Valley since 1904. Officially founded in 1930 as Driscoll Strawberry Associates, Inc., the company originally sold only fresh California strawberries. Their creation of the first patented strawberry variety in 1958 made Driscoll’s the national berry of choice by extending the crop’s growing season and allowing berries to be shipped long distances. Today, they have expanded their operations from just strawberries to include raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries. Driscoll’s innovative work, along with the contributions from many other farmers and ranchers of the Central Coast, has contributed to my district’s reputation as an agricultural powerhouse.

Driscoll’s has always been committed to giving back to the local communities that have given them so much. Through their Berry Donation Program, Driscoll’s works to make sure families throughout their community have access to berries during local growing seasons. The company also supports a variety of food banks and related organizations such as the California Association of Food Banks and Ag Against Hunger. Driscoll’s culture of philanthropy is not limited solely to their senior leadership, but extends to their employees who are closely involved in the company’s efforts to support their communities. Together, Driscoll’s and their employees have donated over 5 million pounds of berries to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

As the representative of the 20th Congressional District, I commend Driscoll’s for working to ensure that families on the Central Coast have access to the fresh and nutritious berries grown in their own backyard. We are lucky that they call the 20th Congressional District home. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Driscoll’s on their 2017 Food Donor of the Year award.

HONORING DR. TED CHRISTOPHER ON HIS INAUGURATION TO PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MEDICAL SOCIETY
HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017
Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our nation’s most dedicated advocates for doctors and patients, Dr. Ted Christopher of Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District, who is to be sworn in on October 14, 2017 as the 168th President of the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

As a leader in emergency medicine, Dr. Christopher is the epitome of a physician who goes above and beyond—who uses his or her talents not only for individual patients, but also the practice of medicine as a whole. Not only has he been a trustee of the Pennsylvania Medical Society since 2011, but he has also served as president of the Association of Academic Chairs of Emergency Medicine, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Philadelphia County Medical Society.

Dr. Christopher’s invaluable contributions to the field of emergency medicine are displayed through his robust academic research. As Professor and Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, he has long been a leader in his field and an inspiring mentor to countless students.

I am confident that Dr. Christopher will bring his extraordinary skills and experience to this new position to the benefit of all advocates of best-practices in medical care, and represent Pennsylvania’s doctors with honor and distinction.

On behalf of Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District, I wish him my utmost congratulations and all the best for his coming term.
Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleagues, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and Congressman Jimmiy Paknetta to honor the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) as it celebrates its Tenth Year Anniversary. The Peninsula Community Foundation and Community Foundation Silicon Valley merged in 2007 to increase their impact by creating SVCF. Under the superb leadership of CEO Dr. Emmett D. Carson, SVCF has grown to become the world’s largest community foundation with more than $8 billion in assets. SVCF has been able to do this by engaging, empowering, and collaborating with families, individuals, and corporate donors to generate positive impacts and by supporting organizations within and beyond county lines and national borders.

SVCF has a comprehensive center for philanthropy and over the last decade has continued to advocate in pursuit of public policy issues and strategic initiatives in support of those in need. It also serves as a key leader and partner to nonprofit groups and institutions who work to advance ideas and direct resources strategically toward the pressing local needs of the community. SVCF has awarded $4.3 billion in grants since 2007, and the strong support that it has from the community and donors has enabled it to award $2.3 billion to local charities in nine Bay Area counties, with an additional $245 million awarded to other California charities. In their efforts to assist students in their higher education and careers SVCF also awarded close to 400 scholarships totaling $1.7 million to students in high school, community college and university programs during the 2014 to 2015 school year.

SVCF exemplifies its values of collaboration; diversity; inclusiveness; innovation; integrity; public accountability; respect; and responsiveness. It is fitting and proper that we recognize the tremendous impact of philanthropy, and the spirit of generosity and community service that SVCF has had in the Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join my colleagues and me in commending Mrs. Resch Aquatic Center at Fisk Park. Mrs. Resch’s efforts are not limited to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Her generosity can be seen all across northeastern Wisconsin, with contributions to the Resch Center, Miracle League of Green Bay, and Resch Aquatic Center at Fisk Park. Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in honoring Mrs. Resch for her continued commitment to the betterment of our communities both at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in honoring Mrs. Sharon Resch of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation for its extraordinary contributions to charities and nonprofit organizations throughout our state and nation. We offer our congratulations on the occasion of its decade of philanthropic work and accomplishments in each of our Congressional Districts.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. SHARON RESCH AND HER LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO THE FINES ARTS, COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY, AND WORLDWIDE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Sharon Resch of Green Bay for her ongoing commitment to community philanthropy, worldwide humanitarian efforts, and the fine arts. Mrs. Resch has achieved this by being a dedicated supporter of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay’s mission and a vital resource and partner to its students. Mrs. Resch has helped transform the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay through her leadership in bringing the American International Czech and Slovak Voice Competition to campus on a semi-annual basis. Mrs. Resch has also founded the Sharon J. Resch Endowed Scholarship for Fine Arts, which is reserved for students who graduate from the non-profit Fine Arts Institute and continue their music studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in honoring Mrs. Sharon Resch for her ongoing commitment to the betterment of our communities both at home and abroad.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP CLIFFORD M. JOHNSON, JR.’S 48TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF MOUNT PLEASANT CHURCH AND MINISTRIES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American and a visionary leader—Bishop Clifford M. Johnson, Jr. This month, Bishop Johnson celebrates his 48th anniversary as Pastor of Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries, which is located in my Congressional District in Baltimore, Maryland. For nearly half a century, Bishop Johnson has used his God-given talents and abilities to uplift the people of his church and those in the surrounding community.

As a passionate Bible scholar and avid reader, Bishop Johnson was drawn to studying the Word of God at a young age. A native of Baltimore, he graduated from Kenwood High School in Baltimore County and pursued additional studies at the Baltimore College of Commerce and the Community College of Baltimore. Bishop Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Theology from the Washington Bible College and Capital Seminary. In 1975, he received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Virginia Seminary and College of Lynchburg, Virginia.

Under Bishop Johnson’s dynamic leadership, Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries has grown to serve a congregation of 8,000 people. He turned a deteriorating shopping center into a thriving 17-acre campus with several ministries that reach beyond the walls of the church to bring resources and support to neighbors in need. Those ministries include: Kingdom Men Bible Class, the Prison Ministry, the Adult Learning Center, the Word of Life Ministry for children, the Evangelism Ministry, the Food and Grand Banquet Ministry, and the Lampstand Christian Bookstore.

Because of Bishop Johnson’s deep belief in the power of education to change the trajectory of the lives of young people, he established the Mount Pleasant Christian School. The school serves children from Kindergarten through grade five, and everyone involved with the school—from teachers, to parents and support staff—has committed to the mission of “awakening the genius in every child.”

Bishop Johnson’s influence runs deep through the City of Baltimore. He is highly regarded by elected officials, business and civic leaders, and the people of the community. I witnessed this influence first-hand during the city’s unrest following the killing of Freddie Gray. Bishop Johnson was one of the first pastors to join with me and other spiritual leaders to help bring calm to the streets of Baltimore. Bishop Johnson then helped to devise a long-term plan to heal the shattered relationship between police and the communities they serve and protect. His genuine connection to the people of the community helped us assess and respond to their real needs.

Bishop Johnson has such a powerful ministry because he relates the Word of God to people’s everyday lives. He has made an impact throughout the world by ministering in Canada, Israel, Sweden, France and Africa. He recently earned the distinction of being the first African American to preach and evangelize in Cuba. A loving family man, Bishop Johnson has been married to Dorothy Johnson for more than 50 years. They have five children and thirteen grandchildren.

I am honored to pay tribute to Bishop Clifford M. Johnson, Jr. for his 48 years of pastoring Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries. He is a noble American who continues to serve his church, his community, and his country with distinction, and I thank him for his ministry.

CELEBRATING THE REUNION OF THE 50TH COMPANY, INFANTRY OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL CLASS OC 24–69

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a special group of Americans who are worthy of our recognition for the sacrifices they made for our country.

In October of this year, the surviving members of the 50th Company, Infantry Officer Candidate Schools Class OC 24–69 will have their first reunion at Fort Benning, Georgia, 48
years after pinning on the gold bars of Second Lieutenants. It was a time when the United States was still deeply mired in the Vietnam war.

The young men who made up the 50th Company came from 42 of our 50 states and represented all walk of life and ethnic heritages. Almost all of them had recently graduated from college, and were of an age at which most of their contemporaries were starting their careers, not facing military service and the rigors of war and sacrifice. They were fully aware that the Vietnam war did not receive the near universal support that the country had offered the servicemen and women of World War II, in whose shadow they had grown up. The feelings of these men toward the war in Southeast Asia were as varied as those of their countrymen.

Nevertheless, they accepted the risks inherent in their decision to become Army officers. Despite their varied backgrounds and their support for, or opposition to, the Vietnam war, they shared more important traits—a love of the United States of America, an abiding belief in democracy, and a devotion to duty no matter the consequences. They had all volunteered for the OCRs.

Within a year of graduation, over half would receive orders for Vietnam. Two classmates made the ultimate sacrifice for our country—James DuPont from North Canton, Ohio and Thomas Edgren from Libertyville, Illinois. Many others were awarded the Purple Heart.

They all, no matter where they served, made sacrifices as previous generations who had served in the armed forces had sacrificed—separation from families, missed holidays, arduous and often dangerous work, and sometimes miserable living conditions. And sadly, for these men of the Vietnam era, their sacrifices were often met upon their return with indifference and even open hostility from a seemingly ungrateful country.

Some of these men made the military a career. But most were classic “citizen soldiers” who returned to civilian life once they had served in the Army. Many of these students attended an English-speaking, Jesuit-run university in St. Omer, France. Notable among these children were the sons of the distinguished Carroll family, who owned much of Maryland, including the future site of the United States Capitol. Charles, Daniel, and John Carroll all studied at the Jesuit University in St. Omer before returning to the colonies to play significant roles in the American Revolution. In St. Omer, the Carolins learned the values that helped inspire their participation in the fight for independence from the British Empire. Charles Carroll signed the Declaration of Independence. Daniel Carroll was involved in the ratification of the Articles of Confederation and the United States Constitution, and John Carroll became the first Catholic Archbishop of the United States, founded Georgetown University, and established the first Catholic seminary in our country.

During the French Revolution, the Jesuit University in St. Omer was disbanded, many of its buildings were destroyed, and the memory of the Americans who studied there began to fade. Recently, the people of St. Omer, alongside many friends in the United States, sought to refresh this memory, and remind Americans and Frenchmen alike that the American Revolution took some of its impetus from a Jesuit university in the North of France. Together, they restored the handsome Jesuit chapel where the Carolins attended mass as students in the 18th century.

On October 15, Archbishop Lori of Baltimore will cut the ribbon on this newly renovated chapel and kick off a weekend of celebration that will dialogue with the Carroll family and their contribution to our great nation. I thank the St. Omer Foundation for its contributions to help preserve the legacy of heroes of the American Revolution.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JIM MCLoughlin

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH OF ILLINOIS

RECOGNIZING HERMAN ROBERTS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA

M. ROGERS, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Herman Roberts who is to be inducted into the Chicago Blues Hall of Fame this Sunday, October 15, 2017. Born in Beeges, Oklahoma in 1924, Herman Roberts and his family moved to Chicago when he was 12. He entered the workforce a few years later working for a cab company washing cars. At the age of 15, he was given the responsibility of driving those cabs and by 1944, he became owner of his own business, the Roberts Cab Company.

Mr. Speaker, like many young men of the era Mr. Roberts fulfilled his patriotic duty by serving in the army during World War II. After returning from war, his ambition drove him to become a force in labor and active contributors in the communities.” His worldview that the treatment of workers is critical to the wellbeing of the community remains as relevant now as it was in Jim’s time. I am proud to have been Jim’s friend, and thankful for the many ways in which Jim advocated for workers in California and throughout the world.
His success as a club owner is evidenced by the headliners he booked: Nat “King” Cole, Sammy Davis, Jr., Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, R&B acts like the Treniers, Brook Benton, Sam Cooke, and Jackie Wilson, and jazz diva Dinah Washington. While Mr. Roberts focused primarily on black acts, he would make exceptions for people like Tony Bennett and Gene Krupa.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roberts’ pioneering spirit wasn’t limited to the musical sphere. In fact, he was the first entertainment business owner to give the famed Dick Gregory a chance when he hired him as a late-night emcee at the Herman Roberts Show Lounge in Chicago in 1958. In the political realm, his motel served as the original meeting place for another pioneer when he hosted Chicago Mayor Harold Washington’s initial campaign.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roberts’ venues served as the epicenter for Chicago’s Black civil society and he served as the Godfather of Chicago’s Black entertainment industry.

Finally, after decades of hard work, Mr. Roberts retired in 1992 and still, today, maintains his home on Chicago’s Southside.

Mr. Speaker, clearly Mr. Roberts is an accomplished individual and we, in Chicago, are proud to call him one of our own. I am delighted to congratulate my longtime friend and supporter, Mr. Herman Roberts, on this important achievement. On behalf of all my constituents in the 1st Congressional District of Illinois, I extend my heartfelt congratulations.

**CONGRATULATING WAUKEGAN TO COLLEGE (W2C)**

**HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Waukegan to College (W2C) Program for its recent selection as an exemplary organization for promoting Latino success in higher education by Excelencia in Education.

This is a true honor, and the staff, volunteers, students, and families of Waukegan to College should be very proud.

Waukegan to College demonstrates how community support, resources, and encouragement can help students achieve their dreams of attending and graduating college. Through services such as tutoring, mentoring, college and scholarship application coaching, and advising sessions that include parents, Waukegan to College equips students with the tools they need to succeed not just in higher education, but in life.

This prestigious award is a testament to their commitment to the youth of Waukegan. The time, effort and energy that they invest in this program do not go unnoticed—and sets a national example of the impact that a community-based organization can make.

I congratulate the team at Waukegan to College on this impressive accomplishment, and thank them for all they do to make a difference in the lives of our youth.

**HONORING TERESA P. PEREZ**

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ OF TEXAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Weslaco, Texas native, Mrs. Teresa P. Perez, who is celebrating her 80th birthday.

Born on October 14, 1937, she has been a pillar in the community. Mrs. Perez has resid ed in Weslaco since 1958 and has been a lifelong member of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

Mrs. Perez has held many successful roles throughout her life but none more important than those to her family as a daughter, sister, mother and grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Mrs. Perez and her family: Cindy, Tommy, Louie, Rose, Arturo, Terry Ruben, Mike, Andrew, Cathy, Danny, and all 20 of her beloved grandchildren. Mrs. Perez and her family have made South Texas a better place, and it is my honor to acknowledge her today and wish her a very happy birthday.

**HONORING REVEREND SAMUEL E. GASKINS, SR.**

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Samuel E. Gaskins, Sr. for his tireless dedication to improving the lives of residents in my district.

Born in Lake City, South Carolina in 1937, Rev. Gaskins enlisted in the United States Army at the age of fifteen. By the age of seventeen he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and later a Chief Petty Warrant Officer, a testament to his innate leadership skills. After twenty four years of military service, including two tours as a chaplain in Vietnam, Rev. Gaskins settled in Seaside, California where he continued serving the public. In the late 1990s, the United States Army donated the former Fort Ord’s Army chapel to Rev. Gaskins. Through tireless work, he restored and converted the building into the Christian Memorial Tabernacle’s chapel still in use to this day.

Rev. Gaskins’ efforts to improve the lives of his fellow citizens extend far past the walls of his church. Rev. Gaskins has founded numerous organizations and initiatives aimed at helping those in our community who are most in need. One such program is a new homeless ministry named “The Stepping Stone Outreach Program.” Rev. Gaskins’ five year program aims to provide housing and education for over 500 people in need. I commend Rev. Gaskins for his dedication to caring for those in my district who need help the most.

Apart from his work to care for the less fortunate, Rev. Gaskins has worked to foster solidarity and strong relationships among communities in my district. One such initiative is “One Great Fellowship,” which he created in conjunction with Jason Harbert of the Carmel Presbyterian Church. One Great Fellowship aims to promote racial harmony between communities on the Monterey Peninsula. The program, which involves multiple Peninsula churches, has held several interfaith and interdenominational services per year which regularly drew hundreds of people.

Rev. Gaskins has proven himself to be a natural leader in service to his country and community. His life’s work adds up to nothing short of transforming the lives of the residents of the Central Coast. We are lucky to have someone as selfless and dedicated as Rev. Gaskins call the 20th district home. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Samuel E. Gaskins, Sr. for his many accomplishments and contributions to the betterment of his community, country, and fellow man.

**HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. JEROME E. JACKSON**

**HON. JIM COSTA OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, October 12, 2017**

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Jerome Jackson, professor of Criminology at California State University, Fresno. Dr. Jackson has had a remarkable career, spanning over 30 years. He is a renowned criminologist, author and lecturer known for his work for various civil rights causes.

Dr. Jerome Jackson was born in Texas before relocating to California. He earned his Bachelors in Arts in Political Science from Southern University in Baton Rouge Louisiana, a Master’s in Public Administration from Texas Southern University and a Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University. Currently, Dr. Jackson is the first and only African American born in the state of Texas to graduate from the distinguished Ph.D. program at Sam Houston State University. He also holds a Masters in Theological Studies and Doctorate in Theological Studies from the Faith Seminary in Tacoma, Washington.

Currently, Dr. Jackson is a tenured Full Professor of Criminology at California State University, Fresno. During his tenure at Fresno State he took on a number of roles. This includes serving as the president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association and chairing the Martin Luther King Monument Statue Committee, helping to raise over $75,000.00. His work has been well recognized and he has received a number of honors throughout his career. This includes the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1998. His outstanding work has also been recognized by the cities of Fresno and Clovis.

Mr. Speaker, it with great pleasure that I ask you to join me in celebrating the career of Dr. Jerome E. Jackson. I wish Dr. Jackson and his family continued success and happiness going forward.
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF ZF FRIEDRICHSHAFEN IN GAINESVILLE

HON. DOUG COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my hometown in celebration of ZF, one of the top automotive suppliers in the world. For thirty years, this company has been a part of our Hall County, and I commend the city of Gainesville for establishing September 23 as “ZF Day.”

When ZF opened its first North American production facility on Palmour Drive back in 1987, no one could predict the impact that this company would have on our community in northeast Georgia. What began as one location and a few jobs quickly grew to more than 50 locations and 31,900 jobs across North America.

Hall County alone is now home to four production facilities and over 1,000 employees representing ZF. The Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce played a significant role in bringing this company to Georgia and helping them achieve success. I want to thank them for all of their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I take pride in the number of international companies, like ZF, that have chosen to invest in our state over the last several decades. These companies have provided many neighbors with careers and the means to pursue their dreams. I wish the company well as it continues to expand and create more opportunities for hard-working men and women.

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE LAS VEGAS MASSACRE

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. CALVERT of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to residents of California’s 42nd Congressional District who were tragically killed during the massacre at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada on Sunday, October 1, 2017.

Thomas Day, Jr. was born and raised in my hometown of Corona, California. After graduating from Corona High School, Tom attended Riverside Community College and later went to work for Portrait Construction, a home building company founded by his father, Tom Sr. Those who worked with Tom knew him as someone who was easy to talk to and get along with. The Day family has been active in our community for many years, making a number of important contributions to non-profit organizations. Attending concerts and music festivals with his children was a win-win for Tom because it allowed him to do two things he loved at one time—listen to music and spend time with his family. Tom was attending the Route 91 Harvest country music festival with his children when he was senselessly taken from us.

Rocio Guillen grew up in Anaheim, California and attended Katella High School, where she ran track and cross country. Most recently, she worked as an assistant manager at a California Pizza Kitchen. Rocio was a tireless worker both at her job and at home caring for her children. She was blessed with four children: 18-year-old Marcus, 13-year-old Christopher, 10-month-old Austin. Marcus recently described Rocio as “an amazing mother. She worked so many hours at work and would come back and take care of all of us.” Rocio’s fiancé, Chris Jaksha, attended the Route 91 Harvest country music festival with her and comforted her in those terrifying final moments of her life.

Pati Mestas lived in Menifee, California and was a graduate of Garey High in Pomona. While she previously helped manage the deli at a Corona gas station, Pati recently stopped working to spend more time with her three children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Pati loved going to country music concerts and having a good time with her friends. Her son Brandon wrote, “She left this world surrounded by friends, singing and dancing with thousands of people. If I had to write the script myself, I could not have done a better job.”

Christopher Roybal proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy as a dog handler, completing multiple deployments to Afghanistan. After leaving the Navy, Chris returned home to Corona, California, and managed Crunch Fitness gyms. According to family and friends, Chris loved to sing and enjoyed all genres of music—they say he was a karaoke king. Chris is survived by his wife Dixie Roybal, his mother Debby Allen, father Samuel Roybal brothers Jacob, Jayson and Nicholas, and sisters Nina and Jillian. We are eternally grateful for Chris’ service to our nation.

Our hearts ache for all of those whose lives were cut short and forever impacted by the evil acts of that evening. We pray that their loved ones, colleagues and friends find comfort in the memories shared with those we have lost. We also pray for the speedy recovery of all of the wounded. As a country we must stand together in the wake of this horrific event and demonstrate that the love, decency and compassion inside all of us is far stronger than any evil act.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF BELLFLOWER’S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD of California. Mr. Speaker, I, along with Representative Sánchez, rise today to recognize the City of Bellflower on its 60th anniversary. We hope our colleagues will join us in paying tribute to the city and its residents.

The City of Bellflower was incorporated in 1957 after a measure to do so was endorsed by most of the civic organizations in town and supported by the local newspaper. Several of the supporting groups that played a critical role at the time still exist today, including the Bellflower Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Masonic Temple, and Bellflower Woman’s Club. At the time of incorporation, Bellflower was already a 51-year-old community, fully matured in all areas but that of city government.

Over the years, Bellflower has become a vibrant city with an innovative approach to enhancing services and generating revenues to support its growing community. There has been a long tradition of implementing programs that uphold the mission of the city, which is “to make Bellflower an excellent place to live, work, and play.” Bellflower places a high value on programs that attract new businesses, provide recreation activities and community services, preserve the environment, and protect the safety of city residents.

Through fiscal conservatism and the establishment of a redevelopment strategy, the city continues to grow and expand by attracting new businesses, improving business facades, and upgrading infrastructure. Since 2011, as a result of these strategies, Bellflower has seen more than $60 million of direct investment into its community. This includes the construction of Auto Zone, Biomat USA, and Kaiser Permanente offices, as well as unique restaurants like Golden Corral and Franks. More recently, the city has placed a high priority on economic development and the revitalization of its downtown area. The new Bellflower Events Center and Los Angeles County Fire Museum will open in mid-November, and they are destined to become centerpiece attractions in the resurgent heart of the city. The Events Center will provide an elegant indoor and outdoor venue for small groups, gatherings and larger parties, while the Fire Museum will house a tremendous display of Los Angeles County Fire Department history.

The city is also excited to welcome SteelCraft, with its rapidly growing reputation as a unique dining and social experience, into Downtown Bellflower. A lease was recently approved by Bellflower’s City Council for SteelCraft to develop its third shipping container retail park on a 15,000 square foot city-owned lot located on Bellflower Boulevard and Oak Street. SteelCraft will perfectly complement Bellflower’s unique retail stores and delicious home-grown restaurants.

Capital improvements have also been at the top of Bellflower’s priorities. With the completion of the Bellflower Boulevard Pedestrian Enhancement Project in July of 2016, Bellflower’s streets, sidewalks, and crosswalks have undergone immense improvements, adding to the beautification and safety of its downtown area.

We hope our colleagues will join us in sending their best wishes and congratulations to the City of Bellflower on its 60th anniversary. Let us salute its optimistic spirit, and its commitment to embracing the future and reaping the benefits of smart investments, innovation, and creativity.

HON. RODNEY P. FREILINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. FREILINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morristown & Morris Township Public Library’s Willis Wing, located in Morristown, New Jersey on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.
Library services have been available in Morristown since 1792. The first circulating library consisted of 97 members and 96 books. The Morristown Library Association was formed in 1812 and by the middle of the 19th century the library had grown to several thousand volumes. From 1875 to 1914 the Library was housed on South Street in the Morristown Library and Lyceum, an organization that officially incorporated in 1866. Its collection grew from 8,000 books to over 30,000 when the building, and almost everything in it, was destroyed by fire in 1914.

A temporary library was soon opened in the old YMCA building on South Street. With money from both insurance and the sale of the land on which the Library and Lyceum stood, the property at the corner of Miller Road and South Street was purchased with the intention of building a new library building. In 1916, Grinnell Willis, a retired textile merchant who lived in Morristown since 1889, approached the Library Trustees and offered to pay the entire cost of a new fireproof building. The new Library would be built in "grateful remembrance of the love and affection bestowed on his late wife by her friends and neighbors in Morristown." The day after Mr. Willis made his offer, an Act of Incorporation for the Morristown Library was filed. Its objective was "to establish and maintain a free public library and reading rooms, to establish and maintain an art gallery and museum for the encouragement of arts and science, to establish and maintain a collection of books and documents of historic interest and to advance the literary and educational interests of the community." On December 13, 1917 the Library, with 8,000 volumes and a staff of four was opened to the public.

In 1929, with the collection now totaling 43,500 volumes, Mr. Willis funded the cost of an addition to the original 1917 building. This addition, which opened in 1930, contained the Children’s Wing. Grinnell Willis died shortly after the new wing was completed. In his will he left the library an endowment of $200,000. The Library continued to grow and serve its public as an association library until 1966 when the residents of Morristown and Morris Township united in the support, maintenance, and control of a joint free public library.

In 1987 the cornerstone was laid for an addition to the Library largely financed by Edythe and Dorothy Dowling which became the Dowling Wing. In addition to the generosity of the Dowlins, many members of the community contributed to this addition which doubled the size of the Library. In 2006, the latest addition of the Library was completed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in congratulating the Morristown & Morris Township Public Library’s Willis Wing, on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE TAI LOOK MERCHANTS’ ASSOCIATION ON THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY GALA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ OF NEW YORK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Tai Look Merchants’ Association on their Centennial Anniversary Gala. I thank you for your commitment to bettering the community of Chinatown and the community of New York City as a whole.

The Tai Look Merchants’ Association was established on 1917 in Hong Kong but expanded to New York less than a decade later and has been a part of our community ever since. For a century the Tai Look Merchants’ Association has contributed to the community through the mission, “for the love of the Country and Motherland.”

Under the leadership of Teddy Mui and representing over a hundred members and small businesses, Tai Look Merchants’ Association has shown the good that can be done when people work together, from raising money for victims of the Sichuan Earthquake and Hurricane Katrina to holding local Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations for Chinatown’s seniors.

As they celebrate 100 years of tremendous work, I am confident the Tai Look Merchants’ Association will continue to build on its history of service and find many more years of success.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative CASTRO for calling for this special order to discuss the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya people from Burma.

It’s a heartbreaking humanitarian disaster and day-by-day the situation continues to deteriorate.

Just today, Bangladesh Border Guards are reporting that more than 11,000 Rohingya refugees entered Bangladesh from Burma.

These refugees are the result of the unprecedented level of violence in Burma’s Rakhine State.

Because of this bloody conflict, more than half a million Rohingya—60 percent of whom are children—have fled as refugees across the border into Bangladesh.

This is the swiftest exodus of any population since the 1994 Rwanda genocide and Serbia’s 1999 ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

The Burmese military has claimed that this brutal crackdown is the response to a clash that took place on August 25th, in which border security forces faced off against Rohingya insurgents reportedly using knives, small arms, and small explosives.

But this isn’t a legitimate counterinsurgency or counterterrorism operation. The Burmese military and border security forces have specifically targeted Rohingya using medieval tactics: slash and burn, rape, indiscriminate killing. Twenty-one square kilometers of villages systematically burned to the ground.

As I see it, the only person in Burma who could put an end to the violence, clear the way for humanitarian aid, and allow for a full accounting of what has occurred is Min Aung Hlaing, Commander in Chief of the Burmese military. Unfortunately, the intentions of the military are clear: to remove the Rohingya people from Burma.

Welcoming these refugees, thankfully, is the Government of Bangladesh, which is now hosting nearly a million Rohingya refugees.

And while Bangladesh opens its doors, I consider it an embarrassment that the United States is closing ours. The Trump Administration has lowered our yearly cap on refugees from all over the world to 45,000 per year—the smallest number ever. As this crisis grew worse, Mr. Trump allowed Bangladesh to take in that many people every four days.

This policy harms American leadership in the world. It undermines our ability to speak credibly about refugees, human rights, or living up to basic international humanitarian principles. It diminishes our standing in a part of the world where China is only too happy to fill the void.

The United States has allocated $38 million to assist with the crisis. That number seems grossly inadequate considering the scale of the humanitarian nightmare now facing the Government of Bangladesh and the Rohingya who have found refuge there.

We need to do more, and that starts by shining a light on this tragedy. So I’m grateful to Mr. CASTRO. I’m grateful to all my colleagues who are putting this issue front and center. I hope that the Administration will give this crisis the focus and resources needed. This is a situation that calls for American leadership, and I’ll keep making the case in Congress that we can and must do more.

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Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, I join with my colleague, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, in expressing our appreciation for Regina Milledge-Brown’s service to the Committee.

Regina has enjoyed a distinguished career in service to our Nation. Regina is an employee of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), who joined us on detail at the beginning of this year. An attorney who graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law, Regina has worked for over fifteen years at ATF in various capacities. In her detail to the Committee, her experience with law enforcement and firearms issues has been an invaluable assistance to the Members and staff of the Committee.

Regina has worked on a number of important issues as the Committee has pursued its legislative and oversight agenda during 2017. In addition to her work on firearms-related issues, Regina has worked on issues such as hate crimes prevention, forensics, DNA identification, law enforcement grants, the protection of federal officers and agents, federal prisons, reauthorizations of the United States Secret Service, protecting the victims of trafficking, and preventing violence against women.

In these and other legislative issues, Regina has displayed a high degree of professionalism and personal commitment, providing Members of the Committee and staff with wise counsel.
I’ve witnessed firsthand some great successes of Wyandotte County in the last 20 years—rebuilding neighborhoods, diversifying the local economy and expanding the tax base. The consolidation has led to a better quality of life for residents, and a booming tourism industry for the state. The Kansas Speedway really led the way out west and Sporting K’s Children’s Mercy Park stands out as one of the best, state of the art soccer stadiums across the country and the world.

Mr. Speaker, the Unified Government should be proud of their successes on this 20th anniversary. I’m honored to represent this county in Congress and to be a part of their enriched community. Thank you to the local leaders and residents who came together to make this vision a reality.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DANIEL RUIZ

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Special Agent Daniel “Danny” Ruiz for his outstanding work as Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) at the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), a directorate within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE). Special Agent Ruiz serves as RAC in the Fresno, California office.

Special Agent Ruiz began serving as the Resident Agent in Charge at HSI Fresno on November 1, 2015 and was responsible for fulfilling the mission of HSI in Tulare, Merced, Madera, Mariposa, Fresno and Kings Counties.

In his capacity as the Resident Agent in Charge at Fresno HSI, Danny is always available to discuss and work together on issues of concern with me and my staff.

Danny has been a U.S. Government employee since 1994. Before his Fresno HSI assignment, Danny served in multiple capacities and positions in Newark, New Jersey; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Jacksonville, Florida; Dallas, Texas, and two separate tours in Washington, D.C.

Danny holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Saint Peter’s University, Jersey City, New Jersey with a Major in Political Science and Minor in Criminal Justice.

It is with great pleasure that I applaud and congratulate Daniel Ruiz for his many years of wireless work on behalf of the United States Government and to our local community. His ongoing dedication to public service is extremely commendable.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the commitment, dedication and success of Daniel “Danny” Ruiz, and wish him well as he embarks on new endeavors in his role with HSI Florida.

HON. KEVIN YODER
OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, and recognize the community and people who helped make the consolidation possible.

In 1997, the governments of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County decided to consolidate into one entity in the effort to help the city and county become a prosperous community in Kansas. That vision and foresight led to 20 years of growth and prosperity in the area.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Higher Education Employment and Transparency Act. This important legislation would help ensure that students are adequately informed of their choices as they navigate the process of applying to college. While a college degree is as valuable as ever, the choices facing students as they attempt to choose the right school remain daunting. While most students cite employment as a prime motivator for college attendance, they nevertheless are often inadequately informed about the employment outcomes at various institutions of higher education and for various fields.

Navigating the college application process is hard enough. While in some cases data on employment and earnings information does exist, in too many cases it is unclear or not easily accessible to prospective students. Making this information more transparent— and pointing prospective students in the right direction—would go a long way in ensuring that students are making the best choices tailored to their individual needs.

The Higher Education Employment and Transparency Act seeks to tackle these challenges. The bill represents one piece of the puzzle to ensure data on higher education outcomes is presented in a manner that is clear, transparent, standardized, and above all easily accessible to prospective students. Without requiring the collection of new data, the bill would give students better access to high-quality information about the schools they are considering.

The legislation would make a number of key changes:

First, it would expand on current requirements for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to disseminate certain information to prospective and enrolled students, through appropriate publications, mailings, and electronic media. The Higher Education Employment and Transparency Act would update this requirement to include, disaggregated earnings and employment information, and require the use of data from more reliable sources.

Second, it would expand and improve the College Navigator, which is already a useful tool presenting a variety of information about IHEs. The Higher Education Employment and Transparency Act would require additional information to be included on this site, in addition to what is currently required: a link to a page with that same, higher-quality information that IHEs are newly required to disclose; a link to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Outlook Handbook website, which includes regional data on starting salaries in all major occupations; and, a link to a website that provides information about former students’ employment and earnings information, based on high-quality federal data.

Last, under this legislation, IHEs would also be required to provide prominent links on their own websites to each of these new pieces of information.
While disagreements exist regarding potential longer-term changes to our higher education data regime, this bill is a key step that would improve students’ access to data that already exists. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

MIDNIGHT CIRCUS IN THE PARKS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an initiative launched to raise community funds and to rebuild parks—Midnight Circus in the Parks.

The program is presented in part by the Chicago Park District’s Night Out in the Parks, which brings over 1,000 cultural events to neighborhood parks each year. The program is in its 5th year and the Night Out in the Parks series has brought more than 1,000 events to neighborhood parks throughout the City of Chicago, making community parks safe havens and hubs of cultural activity.

Jaff Jenkins, founder and executive director of Midnight Circus in the Parks, envisioned a perfect opportunity to bring his circus to the community and raise money for park improvements. Midnight Circus tours Chicago parks every year bringing over 15,000 people together in their park to celebrate and make a difference. This venture is a true family collaboration. Jeff’s wife, Julie, is the artistic director; their son, Maxwell, is an acrobat and musician in the show, and their daughter, Samantha, does the trapeze. Their rescued pit bull also performs. Every year, they add new and incredible artists.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Jenkins Family for launching Midnight Circus in the Parks, and the Chicago Park District for having the vision to bring a circus to the Chicago communities and for all their countless hours of volunteer efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF LT. KEN HOBBS FOR BEING NAMED YPSILANTI’S 2017 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

HON. DEBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Ken Hobbs for being named 2017 Firefighter of the Year by the Washtenaw 100 Honors’ Board of Membership. He has distinguished himself through his outstanding public service and advocacy on behalf of the Ypsilanti Fire Department and community.

Since joining the Ypsilanti Fire Department in 1986, Lt. Hobbs has worked tirelessly to protect Ypsilanti residents and promote a positive relationship between the department and city at large. The City of Ypsilanti Fire Department is a full-time department that provides prevention and protective fire services to Ypsilanti and the Eastern Michigan University campus, and Lt. Hobbs is well regarded by the more than 40,000 constituents served by the department. Throughout his career, he has made it a priority to give back to the community he serves by holding community fire prevention and education workshops and attending various fundraisers throughout the year.

In addition to being recognized as Washtenaw 100 Honors’ Firefighter of the Year, Lt. Hobbs has served as President of the Ypsilanti Firefighters Union for many years and has received widespread acclaim for promoting unity between the union and fire department. Additionally, he has played a key role in securing grants for the department through the Department of Homeland Security, which has allowed for increased firefighting staff and much-needed equipment. Their success in securing federal grants over the years speaks to the quality of their applications and the great work being done by Lt. Hobbs and his fellow firefighters. Lt. Hobbs has also been instrumental in fostering greater diversity at the department and advocated for hiring a female firefighter with a 2014 Department of Homeland Security grant. His dedication and efforts on behalf of the city of Ypsilanti are worthy of commendation, and I know that Lt. Hobbs will continue his diligent work on behalf of the area residents in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Lt. Ken Hobbs for being named Ypsilanti’s Firefighter of the Year. His advocacy and service on behalf of the citizens and firefighters of our community are worthy of public acclaim.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFF CARROLL’S 20 YEARS OF SERVICE ON MY STAFF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor my longtime Chief of Staff and the current Staff Director for the Energy & Commerce Committee Democrats. Jeff Carroll, on 20 outstanding years serving on my staff.

My office, the Energy & Commerce Committee, the Congress, and the entire state of New Jersey have benefited enormously from Jeff’s steady leadership, strategic guidance, and commitment to achieving meaningful progress.

Jeff is known on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol for his candor, negotiating skills, and boisterous laugh. He is a diehard fan of the Mets, Giants, Bryce Springsteen, and the vaunted pork roll. He’s a Jersey guy, through and through.

A native of Lyndhurst, N.J., Jeff joined my office as an Executive Assistant in 1997 after graduating from George Washington University and briefly serving as a Staff Assistant to Senator Robert Torricelli. Within six years, he became my Chief of Staff, serving with distinction the people New Jersey’s sixth Congressional District for 12 years. In 2015, when I was elected the Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Jeff became the Democratic Staff Director.

Jeff has been by my side through my greatest triumphs and acrimonious debates. He is relentlessly pushing forward and always holding himself and my staff to the highest standards. He is my most trusted advisor, and I thank him for his unwavering commitment and immeasurable contributions over the years.

I also want to acknowledge the support provided to Jeff by his wife Shannon, daughter Lizzie and son Ryan, who share this dedicated husband and father with the House.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have benefited from Jeff Carroll’s 20 years here in the House. I look forward to our continued work together in the future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MOTHER GENEVA GREEN RUSSELL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Geneva Green Russell of Boynton Beach, Florida, who passed away at the age of 100 on May 6, 2017. Georgia-born and Florida educated, Mother Russell received her primary education in Delray Beach public schools.

Mother Russell spiritual life began at the young age of twelve. She was one of the charter members of the then, newly established Church of God in Boynton Beach and served over the years in numerous capacities, including church secretary, musician, and the Women’s Ministries President. On June 21, 1936, Mother Russell married Bishop Milton Russell of Abacoa, Bahamas, and alongside him ministered to the needs of her church, family, and community.

She was also a passionate philanthropist, serving as past president of the Parent Teacher Association and distinct member of the Senior Citizens Community Help Club. During this time, she provided medical transportation for sick and elderly citizens and amongst her friends and neighbors, became the “Designated Driver” for her group known as the “Golden Girls.”

Mother Russell led her family by example as a strong Christian loving mother, and end- lessly server of her community. Fond memories of her will forever remain with her seven children: Milton Jr., Jean, Joyce, Marjorie, Bernard, Evelyn and Stanley; fifteen grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and twelve great-great-grandchildren, along with many relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Geneva Green Russell will be remembered by the many people she touched in her 100 years of life. She was truly a shining star of the Boynton Beach community. I am so pleased to honor her life and legacy. She will be dearly missed.

HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY FORT STOCKTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. WILL HURD
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Fort Stockton Independent School District, a premiere public school district dedicated to the education of students in West Texas.
Congressional Record (October 12, 2017)

HON. STEVE COHEN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Horse Transportation Safety Act, a bill I introduced earlier today along with my esteemed colleague, Rep. JONES from North Carolina, to ensure the humane and safe transportation of horses.

The Horse Transportation Safety Act seeks to end the exploitation of a regulatory loophole designed to ban the transport of horses in double-deck trailers, whereby drivers have an incentive to inhumanely transport horses to assembly points, then reload them into single level trailers just outside their final destination. The practice is dangerous and inhumane not only to the horses, it poses a threat to the travelling public.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, “double-deck trailers do not provide adequate headroom for equines, with the possible exception of foals and yearlings. We do not believe that trailers that have two or more permanent levels that are not collapsible can be adequately altered to accommodate adult equines, especially tall equines.”

The legislation is strongly supported by agricultural interests and animal protection groups alike. Among the organizations endorsing the bill are the Humane Society of the United States, the Animal Welfare Institute, the National Black Farmers Association, and Return to Freedom Wild Horse Conservation.

Moreover, in 2010 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure unanimously adopted this bipartisan legislation. This is common sense legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the swift passage of the Horse Transportation Safety Act.

HON. MAXINE WATERS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Harriet Tubman Press on the occasion of its first publication.

The Harriet Tubman Press, an imprint of Tsehai Publishers, is an important new publishing platform based in Los Angeles, California. It is named after one of the great icons of American history, and it is one of the only imprints in the country dedicated to providing a platform for the voices of today’s African-American scholars and writers.

The Harriet Tubman Press is housed in the Marymount Institute for Faith, Culture, and the Arts at Loyola Marymount University, which is one of the centers of higher learning in my congressional district—the 43rd District in California.

The first publication of the Harriet Tubman Press will be Voices from Leimert Park Redux, a diverse collection of poetry that beautifully captures the heartbeat of the Leimert Park community. For decades, this Los Angeles neighborhood has been a thriving beacon of African-American activism, culture, and the arts. At a time when gentrification and displacement threaten neighborhoods across the country, the preservation of African-American cultural heritage in Leimert Park could not be more important.

I congratulate Loyola Marymount University, Tsehai Publishing, the Harriet Tubman Press, and all the members of the South Central Los Angeles community that worked so hard to make this first publication possible. Your dedication and fortitude is necessary to the preservation of the African-American voice. I’d like to further thank the authors, artists, and poets who stand up and propel that voice into our community’s consciousness. Your voices are the only currency that can never be taken from you.

May the first publication of the Harriet Tubman Press signal the birth of a new force devoted to propelling, celebrating, and highlighting African-American culture through literature.

HON. ERIC Swalwell
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the grand opening of the Hall County Correction Institute’s welding shop—a new addition to Hall County’s Reentry Accountability Court Transition program—which will equip inmates with skills that they can take with them as they re-enter society.

Since 2014, the local accountability court program has assisted offenders by providing vocational resources that can help deter recidivism and restore these individuals as productive members of the community. By allowing program participants to obtain state certifications in welding, the program will help people who will soon be released to find job security upon their departure.

Criminal justice reform is a priority for northeast Georgia as it is for me in Washington, which is why I introduced the Prison Reform and Redemption Act to help lower recidivism rates among federal prisoners through vocational training and other evidence-based programs.

Mr. Speaker, every person has value, and efforts like the Hall County Correction Institute’s welding shop recognize and seek to magnify that value and potential. Investing in all of our neighbors—even those who have broken the law—can pave the way for stronger, safer communities for every man, woman, and child.

I thank Sheriff Couch and the Hall County Sheriff’s Department for their commitment to improving the lives of inmates, and look forward to seeing the impact that the welding initiative will make on northeast Georgia.

HONORING THE CARDOZA FAMILY
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, family reunions are a great way of staying connected, strengthening bonds and recognizing heritage.
As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I take this opportunity to commend and congratulate the Cardoza Family on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary and Family Reunion which was held at the Bird Ranch in Gustine, California on Saturday, September 9, 2017.

There is nothing quite like a family reunion. Family from far and wide gather and share in the joy of fellowship, love and precious memories that reunions generate. Therefore, I commend the Cardoza Family and the 200 of whom attended a reception for her yesterday.

Davida Dreier receives Order of the Aztec Eagle Award

Hon. David E. Price

In the House of Representatives

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend, former colleague, and leader in promoting international cooperation and understanding, who was recently recognized by a key U.S. ally for his outstanding work. Last month, David Dreier received the Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest honor bestowed by a foreign national by the Government of Mexico.

Those of us who served with Representative Dreier know him as the former chairman of the House Rules Committee, as a faithful representative of his Southern California district for more than three decades, and as a forceful champion of democracy, free trade, and the rule of law. A proud Reagan Republican, Dreier was instrumental in crafting many of our nation's trade policies, including the North American Free Trade Agreement.

What some may not realize is that Representative Dreier was also a leader in cultivating closer ties and cooperation between the United States Congress and its partner legislatures around the world. Through our work on the House Democracy Partnership (HDP)—which he served as the founding chairman and I as chairman during the years of Democratic leadership—we had the opportunity to work together to advance the cause of parliamentary democracy traveling widely and memorably to parliaments from Peru to Pakistan and hosting dozens of delegations of visiting legislators and staff in Washington. During these engagements, Representative Dreier was a consummate diplomat and a skilled mentor, navigating sometimes-difficult bilateral issues but also the practical questions of how parliamentary institutions could be more effective. Our work together epitomized the maxim that partisanship should end at the water's edge—a spirit that persists today under the leadership of current HDP chairman Peter Roskam.

While our work with HDP focused on less developed democracies, Representative Dreier always had a special interest in—and fondness for—the parliamentary democracy on our southern border, Mexico. He was an active member of the U.S.-Mexico Binaural Commission, a leader of the U.S.-Mexico Inter-parliamentary Group, a co-chair of the U.S.-Mexico Congressional Caucus, and a frequent participant in congressional delegations to Mexico. During our work with HDP, he often invoked Mexico as an example of democratic development and spoke fondly of his work as an election observer in the country.

It is fitting that Representative Dreier has been acknowledged for this work by receiving the Order of the Aztec Eagle, joining leaders such as President Eisenhower, Nelson Mandela, and Queen Elizabeth II as well as cultural icons such as Walt Disney, Plácido Domingo, and Bono. I know he speaks for many in extending him my warmest congratulations, and in wishing him well in his continued post-congressional service.

Science Committee Cos Jennifer Y. Brown to Retire

Hon. Lamar Smith

In the House of Representatives

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Jennifer Young Brown’s last day as Chief of Staff of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. For more than 28 years she has helped me represent the residents of the 21st District of Texas and, more recently, helped the Science Committee enact numerous policies that benefit the American people.

Jennifer started working in my personal office after she graduated from the University of Colorado. She has held five different positions, including Chief of Staff. For several years, she served as COS both in the personal office and on the Science Committee, a rare double COS, before becoming the full-time Science Committee Chief of Staff in 2016. Her talents and skills are many. She has mastered the difficult art of multi-tasking—no one does it better.

Jennifer is simply a remarkable woman. She manages to balance well the demands of husband, children, school activities, Science Committee work, and friends. Almost 200 of whom attended a reception for her yesterday.

If Jennifer is going to leave us, at least it is for a worthy cause—Texas Tech University. Over the years Texas Tech has supplied our office with impressive interns and graduates and even made me an honorary alumus. Jobs may end but friendships continue. Jennifer and her family—husband Barry, son Leon, and daughter Gipson—will always be special friends and I know I will continue to see them often.

So Jennifer, I thank you for all you have done for me. Her family is fortunate to have her as a role model. And I am fortunate to have had her influence on my life for over 28 years.

As I’ve learned to say, “Go Raiders.”

Hon. Debbie Wasserman Schultz

In the House of Representatives

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Vice Mayor Diane Glasser of Tamarac, Florida, who passed away Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at the age of 89.

Diane was a woman who wore many hats in her time. She served as a Commissioner and Mayor Diane Glasser of Tamarac, Florida, who passed away Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at the age of 89.

Honor Diane Glasser (1928–2017)

Honor Diane Glasser (1928–2017)

Honor Diane Glasser (1928–2017)
you did so only with Diane's blessing. She was an indomitable civic force in our community and built a get-out-the-vote operation in the condos that brought thousands of seniors to the polls for each and every election.

If Diane stumbled on a wrong, she was determined to make it right. She was a passionate advocate for the underserved, a defender of civil rights and someone who helped make Broward County a kinder, more compassionate community. She was a problem-solver and a leader, and brought people along where she saw a chance to make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Her passing brings with it the end of an era in South Florida politics. Diane is survived by her two sons, Craig and Lloyd Glasser, and one granddaughter, Dara.

RECOGNIZING RABBI JONATHAN BIATCH OF TEMPLE BETH EL

HON. MARK POCAN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Temple Beth El was founded in 1939 as Madison, Wisconsin's first and only Reform Jewish congregation; and

Whereas, Rabbi Jonathan Biatch has been the spiritual leader supporting the vision and mission of Temple Beth El since 2004; and

Whereas, boys celebrate Bar Mitzvah when turning 13; and

Whereas the Temple Beth El community proclaims Rabbi Jonathan Biatch a “Bar Mitzvah” celebrating his 13th year of service.

Now, therefore, I congratulate Rabbi Jonathan Biatch on his 13 years of leadership at Temple Beth El.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL MIYAKO SCHANELY ON HER PROMOTION TO COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE 416TH THEATER ENGINEER COMMAND

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General Miyako Schanely on her assignment as the Commanding General of the 416th Theater Engineer Command.

MG Schanely will lead the 416th Theater Engineer Command in conducting theater-level engineer operations supporting a joint force, and execute unified land operations while providing a training and ready combat-capable force to support mission requirements.

MG Schanely has had a long history of serving her country. Since she received her commission as a Second Lieutenant in 1986, she has served in both active and reserve units of the U.S. Army for over 31 years. MG Schanely is a graduate of the Army War College and holds several civilian master degrees. Previously assigned as the Commander of the 102nd Training Division, MG Schanely has become the first female Japanese American to become commander of the Theater Engineer Command as a two-star and is ready to take on the challenges associated with this rapidly evolving role.

On behalf of the 21st District of New York, I would like to congratulate MG Schanely on her well-deserved promotion, and wish her luck in her new role. I want to thank MG Schanely for her service to our country and for the sacrifices she will make in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THOSE AFFECTED BY INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to Breast Cancer including one of the rarest, but most lethal forms, Inflammatory Breast Cancer.

One in eight women in the United States are diagnosed with Breast Cancer every year, and too many women die because of late diagnosis. Any opportunity to raise awareness is an opportunity to save lives.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Although IBC is not the most common form of breast cancer, it is one of the most aggressive. It is critical that we recognize the severity of IBC and the importance of education and prevention efforts.

IBC is not commonly known as it accounts for only 1 to 5 percent of all breast cancer cases. However, it is one of the most aggressive and deadliest forms of the disease. This form of cancer does not display the early symptoms ordinarily looked for by medical professionals. Since it is one of the rarest forms of Breast Cancer, many nursing and medical programs do not train students on IBC screening, leading to misdiagnosis and increased fatalities. The patients who start to show symptoms of this disease tend to be correctly diagnosed at stage 3, leaving little to no time to seek treatment.

The courage of women battling Breast Cancer and IBC should not go unnoticed and they deserve our continued support for continued research efforts to seek for prevention and treatment for this deadly disease.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. William Henderson of East Lyme, upon his retirement, for his outstanding 47-year career with the Connecticut Union of Telephone Workers/CWA and a lifetime of service to his community, country, and family.

Mr. Henderson has dedicated himself to the Connecticut Union of Telephone Workers/CWA as a steward and eventually as CWA Local 1298 president. Throughout his distinguished career, Bill has fought for justice and an even playing field in the workplace for men, women, and minorities. As a member of the CWA’s Family Care Committee, he has worked diligently to assist employees in balancing work and family life.

Additionally, Bill has served his local communities of Waterford and East Lyme in countless roles, including as a member of the East Lyme Board of Education and the Waterford Board of Selectman, and as chairman of the Waterford Democratic Town Committee. He has coached little league, basketball, and lacrosse, and taught Sunday school. He is currently a deacon at Flanders Baptist Church and a justice of the peace. Bill has served not only his local community but also his country in the submarine force as a Navy sonar technician, achieving the rank of Second Class Petty Officer. He is the loving husband of Brenda and a father to four children and six grandchildren.

On a personal note, Bill was a tireless supporter of mine in every campaign I’ve run—even when it wasn’t so easy during my first two races as a challenger. I will be forever grateful to him for his loyalty, amazing energy, and friendship over the years.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Henderson on an impressive career of service with the Connecticut Union of Telephone Workers and Communications Workers of America. We thank him for his unrelenting dedication to his community and wish him a wonderful retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 560 through 563 because I was traveling to Pennsylvania with President Trump.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on roll call No. 560, YEA on roll call No. 561, YEA on roll call No. 562, and YEA on roll call No. 563.
HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because nearly 9 million children are in danger of losing health insurance.

The Children’s Health Insurance Program has reduced the uninsured rate among children from 14 percent in 1997 to 5 percent, today.

Nearly 30,000 children from my state, California, stand to lose their healthcare coverage this winter because of Congress’s failure to reauthorize this vital program.

Healthcare is a human right, and working-class families need affordable doctors for their kids. This is especially true for Latinos. More than half of Latino children have Medicaid or CHIP coverage.

Congress must act immediately to pass a five-year extension for CHIP funding.

Every day we delay, we give families another reason to worry—that their son or daughter will fall sick and they won’t be able to afford a doctor. That ongoing care for a chronically ill child will become too expensive.

Many hospitals will close their doors to them. It’s time to stop playing politics and get to work on a bipartisan reauthorization for CHIP.

HONORING DIANE GLASSER
HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Diane Glasser, a committed public servant in South Florida who passed away on October 10th at 89 years of age. Diane served for over 40 years as an activist, Broward School Board member, City Commissioner, and Vice Mayor of the City of Tamarac.

From her childhood and career in Brooklyn to her many years in South Florida, her passion for activism made an impact on everyone she met. She was never shy about urging others to fulfill their civic duty by voting, even when she wasn’t on the ballot. And she was always encouraging of my efforts, working with me on many initiatives to strengthen the community.

In addition to holding elected office, Diane served on several boards, including the Senior Advisory Task Force and the Broward Human Rights Board. She selflessly used her voice to advocate for those whose voices she felt weren’t adequately heard.

Diane also had unique experiences representing the State of Florida as a delegate to the past six Democratic National Conventions and as an elector in the 1996 and 2000 Electoral Colleges.

Our community has lost a leader whose service will always be appreciated and remembered. I am honored to have called Diane Glasser my friend.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LOU PARDINI
HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legendary career of Mr. Lou Pardini. Lou is a Grammy nominated keyboardist, vocalist, composer and Fresno, California native. For the last 8 years he has been a member of the legendary rock band Chicago. Lou has successfully worked alongside various high profile musicians throughout his career. He is a distinguished composer that has base fans all over the world.

Lou Pardini was born in Omaha, Nebraska and raised in Fresno. He attended local schools including my alma mater San Joaquin Memorial High School. Lou would go on to attend Fresno City College and California State University, Fresno. Eventually he enrolled at the renowned Berklee School of Music in Boston to follow in his favorite musician’s footsteps. Lou met and married the love of his life Betsey and the two would eventually move to Los Angeles, where Lou could fully pursue his music career.

Lou’s natural talent was apparent early on in his childhood. He could easily perform songs on the piano by ear. His parents took notice and enrolled him in private guitar and piano lessons when he was just five years old. As he grew older his taste in music progressed.

Lou is a remarkable multi-talented artist. He is known for his work with Stevie Wonder, The Doobie Brothers, The Temptations, Elton John, Smokey Robinson, Earth, Wind and Fire, Patti Austin, Larry Carlton and many more. He has worked with artists in Rock/Pop, R&B, Jazz, Blues and Gospel genres.

Lou’s biggest break came when his song “Just To See Her” was recorded by the legendary Smokey Robinson. The song won Smokey his first and only Grammy for “Best Rhythm and Blues Vocal”. Lou has also recorded two solo albums which are fan favorites to this day.

In 2009, he got a call that would truly change his life. Following the departure of longtime member Bill Champlin, Lou was asked to join Chicago on a permanent basis. This was the culmination of a career marked by hard work and a true passion for his craft.

He continues to build his fan base around the world. As a member of Chicago, Lou tours the world drawing sell-out crowds wherever they go. On April 8, 2016, Chicago was inducted into the 31st Rock and Roll Hall of Fame cementing their place in history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask that you join me in celebrating the career of Lou Pardini as he makes his homecoming to the city of Fresno. We are honored to have Chicago performing today at the Big Fresno Fair. I ask you to join me in wishing Lou and his family continued success and prosperity.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LESTER MANDELL
HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Lester Mandell, who transformed countless communities in central Florida through his work as a builder and transformed countless lives through his generosity as a philanthropist. Lester passed away recently at the age of 96, leaving behind a large and loving family, but his legacy will live on.

Born in a hardscrabble Brooklyn neighborhood, and a veteran of World War II, Lester did not graduate from college. However, neither his lack of formal education nor the anti-Semitism he frequently faced could stop Lester from achieving his professional goals, because they were no match for his talent, tenacity and toughness. Lester’s life was a quintessentially American story of success earned through hard, disciplined, joyful work.

As one of Lester’s grandsons said about his grandfather: “He believed that, if you worked the right way, you would get the right result.” This is the essence of character.

Lester was a master builder, in both the literal and figurative sense. The homes, neighborhoods, and public parks he developed throughout central Florida over the course of many decades are his most visible legacy.

Lester also built bonds of a more intangible nature. He donated generously to many causes he cared about, from scholarships for inner-city children to support for the Jewish community he loved so much. Lester often donated anonymously and rarely spoke about his donations, even to his own family.

As his grandson recounts, Lester was a serious man who did serious work, but he did not take himself too seriously. He had a sense of humor and light-heartedness that disarmed friend and stranger alike.

Lester’s greatest legacy, of course, is his family. He leaves behind his wife and partner for life, Sonia. They were married for 70 years.

Lester had four children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

I know they miss Lester. But I hope their loss is eased by the knowledge that Lester was a great man and, even more importantly, a good man.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOCAL SOUTH FLORIDA ARTIST, XAVER CORTADA
HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a constituent and local South Florida artist, Xavier Cortada, and congratulate him on his inaugural art exhibition titled “Florida Is” at the Hibiscus Gallery at Pinecrest Gardens.

Throughout the years, Xavier’s passion has been to generate awareness for our environment and global climate change through his artwork and installations.

His work is included at my alma mater, Florida International University, where he serves as Artist-in-Residence.
I strongly support the Taiwan Travel Act (H.R. 535) and commend Chairman Chabot for introducing this legislation, of which I am a cosponsor.

The Communist Party leadership in China has tried to isolate democratic Taiwan, pressuring countries to break diplomatic relations and bully the UN and multi-lateral agencies, such as the World Health Organization and INTERPOL, to exclude Taiwan from membership.

China's actions have created needless blind spots in global anti-terrorism cooperation and hampered coordination on key global health issues.

Just this March, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) confirmed the first human fatality from the H7N9 avian flu in Taiwan. This is a pressing global concern, as we know that SARS virus spread from Mainland China and Taiwan in past.

The U.S. and Taiwan are cooperating in containing H7N9 virus, as we did 14 years ago to contain SARS. As such, China's actions to exclude Taiwan from the WHO and other international bodies is dangerous and unacceptable. Taiwan should be allowed to join the WHO. It is not only an interest of Taiwan, it is in the interest of global public health.

Restrictions on the travel of Taiwanese officials to the U.S. and on high-level U.S. officials to Taiwan are self-imposed rules intended to placate Mainland China. In the current strategic climate, these rules are now counterproductive and the policy should be changed.

We should be expanding cooperation with Taiwan on a number of fronts, particularly now that Communist China has stepped up efforts to isolate and bully democratic Taiwan. If China persists in its efforts to exclude Taiwan from international bodies like Interpol and WHO and the International Civilian Aviation Organization, the U.S. should be sending cabinet-level officials from HHS, Transportation, and the Justice Department to consult with Taiwanese officials to host their counterparts in the United States.

Under Xi Jinping's leadership, China has become more repressive domestically, more protectionist in its trade policies, and more assertive globally. As documented by the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC), which I cochair with Senator Marco Rubio, China's domestic repression is the fuel for its international aggression, threatening American jobs and security, including in the South China Sea, in the Taiwan Straits, and in Hong Kong, where the "one country, two system" model is fast eroding. China has also imprisoned Taiwanese citizen and democracy advocate Lee Ching-yu, sat in this very room in July at a hearing I chaired and asked the international community to work for his husband's release.

China will never be happy with U.S.-Taiwan policy or the Taiwan Relations Act. Communist China will never be placated by our self-imposed restrictions on travel and consultations. We should not try. As China squeezes Taiwan's international space and openly threatens it militarily, the U.S. must have more direct consultations with democratic Taiwan, not less.

Hon. Kevin McCarthy
Of California
In the House of Representatives

Mr. McCarthy. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an integral component of California's 23rd Congressional District and the U.S. Air Force—Edward Air Force Base—and the life and legacy of Captain Charles E. Yeager, who played an essential role in achieving a critical milestone in U.S. aviation history.

This year, the United States Air Force observes its 70th birthday. Edwards Air Force Base, the second largest base in the Air Force, has long played an important role in the success and development of this branch and its weaponry. From the 412th Test Wing to the NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, Edwards has always been a leader in developing and testing new technologies to ensure that our warfighters operate with the most advanced weapons systems and platforms.

Coincidentally, the Air Force also celebrates the 70th anniversary of the very first supersonic flight, which occurred at Edwards Air Force Base, this year. Captain Charles E. Yeager became the fastest man in the sky on October 14, 1947, when he flew faster than the speed of sound in the rocket-powered Bell X-1, high above Edwards and over Southern California's famed Mojave Desert. Captain Yeager paved the way for a new era of air and space travel on that day and ushered in an advancement that has greatly benefited NASA and the U.S. Air Force. I want to recognize Captain Yeager's fearlessness and desire for adventure, which was pivotal in advancing American aviation.

Throughout its history, Edwards Air Force Base has always remained on the forefront of various scientific initiatives and discoveries. After Captain Yeager broke the sound barrier, pilots at Edwards were eventually able to fly at more than six times the speed of sound. Additionally, and among many other accomplishments, the very first space shuttle mission landed at Edwards on April 12, 1981. As we celebrate the Air Force's 70th year, it is important to take a moment to recognize the rich legacy and history of installations like Edwards, which, having been established in 1933, predates the creation of the Air Force itself. Prior to the establishment of the United States Air Force in 1947, Edwards was the Muroc Army Airfield.

I am reminded of Edwards Air Force Base every time I get the opportunity to visit the Smithsonian's Air and Space museum here in Washington, D.C. The very Bell X-1, in which Captain Yeager broke the sound barrier, is displayed in the main hall on the first floor of the museum. It serves as a reminder of the critical importance that Edwards has played and continues to play in advancing the greater mission of the Air Force.

I am incredibly grateful for the many men and women who have served and currently serve at Edwards Air Force Base. Their creativity, dedication, and spirit of excellence are the same qualities that Captain Charles Yeager exemplified 70 years ago. Edwards plays an important role in California's 23rd Congressional District, and this is due to my constituents who...
work tirelessly to innovate and to further its mission. I wish Edwards, and the United States Air Force, many more years of innovation and success.

CELEBRATING ALL PEOPLES COMMUNITY CENTER’S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate All Peoples Community Center, a community-based organization in my 40th Congressional District, on the celebration of its 75th Anniversary.

The center was originally founded as All Peoples Christian Center in the 1920s, in the historic area of South Los Angeles. During World War II, the center was vacated due to the tragic relocation of its Japanese American members to internment camps.

In 1942, Pastor Dan Genung and his wife Frances moved from Chicago to Los Angeles with the primary goal of establishing a church, and founded the All Peoples Christian Church. Pastor Genung was hired to minister to the remaining Japanese American families and other community members who were African American, Latino, Armenian, and Chinese, and this multicultural community made an impact on Pastor Genung’s vision to turn the church into a “home for all people.” Over time, Pastor Genung saw the need to minister not only to the spiritual needs of the people in the community, but to their social needs as well.

In the early history of the church, the minister served both as the pastor to the church and the executive director of the community center. Until 1964, the church and center worked as a single entity, which allowed both of them to pursue their separate but united goals.

Over its 75-year history, All Peoples has survived numerous changes in demography and culture while continuing to serve thousands of clients. The center is—and has always been—a safe haven, a beacon of hope and help, and a problem solving resource for the community of South Los Angeles.

In the 1960s, All Peoples responded to the civil rights movement by opening its doors to social activists for dialogue and discussion. Cesar Chavez and farm workers were hosted on-site during their campaign to defend immigrants’ rights. During the 1965 Watts Riots, All Peoples received and distributed food to community members due to local markets being burned to the ground or closed.

As the community transitioned from African American to Latino in the 1970s, the center responded to its new neighbors by hiring staff who were bilingual, for all peoples.” Both English and Spanish. In addition, multicultural activities were held at All Peoples to build a sense of community that was inclusive of the changing demographics in South Los Angeles.

All Peoples has become, and continues to be, one of Los Angeles’ most senior and trusted places-based community organizations. It helps diverse, economically challenged residents measurably improve and transform their own lives by providing a comprehensive range of vital services, leadership, and hands-on care.

Through hard work, perseverance, and dedication to the community, Saundra Bryant has been the Executive Director of All Peoples for the past 34 years. Her first experience with All Peoples was as a two-year-old in the center’s day care facility. She continued to participate in the center’s programs throughout her adolescence, and served as a summer employee during college. Her commitment and passion for her community is demonstrated by her lifelong tenure of serving others.

In 2016, All Peoples was designated by the City of Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department to operate as the new FamilySource Center for the Southeast area of Los Angeles. The center’s philosophy has an emphasis on education as the tool for successful community building. Thus, all of its programs have an educational component that integrates entire families and individuals. All Peoples is also committed to providing employment opportunities and leadership development to all community members.

All Peoples offers its neighbors a comprehensive after-school program, parenting and leadership classes, community micro-farming, financial literacy and health education workshops, case management, food distribution, a VITA Center, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). It also offers YouthSource, FamilySource, and WorkSource services that provide training to new employees, and retraining to those whose traditional skills have become obsolete; immigration services, which provide residency establishment, legal services, and education about basic rights and obligations; English as a Second Language classes; domestic violence support groups and counseling; and extended day care.

All Peoples Community Center is proudly celebrating its 75th Anniversary of continuous service to the community, and will hold its annual gala on October 19, 2017.

The 75th Anniversary gala will feature awards for three special honorees. First, actress, model, and recording star Meredith Whitney, Candice and Kelsey, his son Nolan, the extended Day family, as well as his friends and colleagues. Tom may be gone, I know that the joy and happiness he brought to those around him will endure.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS DAY, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Thomas Day, Jr., who was tragically killed during the massacre at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada on Sunday, October 1, 2017. Tom was born and raised in my hometown of Corona, California. He will be greatly missed.

After graduating from Corona High School, Tom attended Riverside Community College and later went to work for the home building company, Portrait Construction, that was founded by his father. Those who worked with Tom knew him as someone who was easy to talk to and get along with. Tom Sr., Tom Jr. and the entire Day family have been active members of the Corona community for many years and made a number of contributions to many organizations in and around the city.

Tom Jr. had many passions in life. He loved sports and rooting for the Los Angeles Angels and Pittsburgh Steelers. He especially loved playing and coaching baseball. Attending concerts and music festivals with his children when he was senselessly taken from us, along with so many others. Our hearts ache for all of those whose lives were cut short and forever impacted by the evil acts of that evening.

I had the distinct privilege of knowing Tom and the Day family for many years, and there are simply no words that soften the heartbreaking loss of Tom’s kind and caring soul. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his daughters Whitney, Candice and Kelsey, his son Nolan, the extended Day family, as well as his friends and colleagues. Tom may be gone, I know that the joy and happiness he brought to those around him will endure.

HONORING DEPUTY CORONER G O S S

HON. DOUG COLLINS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lumpkin County’s Deputy Coroner Frank Goss. Recently, the Georgia Coroner’s Association honored him with the title of Deputy Coroner of the Year—a hard-earned honor given to only one nominee each year.

When Deputy Coroner Goss first assumed leadership in the Lumpkin County Coroner’s office, he had a difficult job ahead of him. Fortunately for my friends in Lumpkin County, he wasn’t afraid to rise to the occasion—to put in the extra hours, to make the tough decisions, and to offer support to families as they grieve the loss of a loved one.

Deputy Goss’s empathy for his community, along with his professional experience, made him the obvious choice for Deputy Coroner of the Year.
Mr. Speaker, adversity cultivates strength in leadership—as exemplified by Deputy Goss. I thank him for his service to our friends and neighbors back home, and applaud him for his new title and the continued impact that he will make on northeast Georgia.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARTE AMÉRICAS

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Arte Américas on the occasion of their 30th anniversary. Arte Américas is the largest Latino Cultural Arts Center in the San Joaquin Valley, located in the heart of my district in downtown Fresno, California. Since its creation 30 years ago, Arte Américas has made a significant impact on the Valley by making the arts accessible to the local community.

Beginning in rented space in downtown Fresno in 1987, Arte Américas has developed into a significant center on Van Ness Avenue, housing the Valley’s Latino arts culture. Arte Américas serves the important role of both preserving Latino culture and introducing it to the Valley. The museum not only showcases Arts in Mexico, Latin America, the Southwest, and California, but an array of cultures from throughout the Central Valley. Arte Américas has become a hub of activity for the Latino and arts communities, frequently hosting receptions, meetings and special presentations.

They frequently collaborate with local groups furthering their mission “To make Central California a flourishing place for Latino arts.”

Over the years Arte Américas has been fortunate to have the support of a truly dedicated and vibrant staff, board members, and devoted volunteers. Their hard work has been the key to their years of successful events, installations and exhibits. Over the years poets, musicians, playwrights, novelists, sculptors, writers, dancers, and painters both local and from across the world have been featured at Arte Américas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating Arte Américas’ 30th anniversary. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work together to further the arts in the Central Valley. Once again, congratulations on this special milestone.
**Daily Digest**

**Senate**

**Chamber Action**

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 8:30 a.m., on Friday, October 13, 2017.

**Committee Meetings**

No committee meetings were held.

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**House of Representatives**

**Chamber Action**

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 4028–4069; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 118; H. Con. Res. 85; and H. Res. 569–573 were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 3669, to improve and streamline security procedures related to general aviation and commercial charter air carrier utilizing risk-based security standards, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–346).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Byrne to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Joshua Leu, First Christian Church, Great Bend, Kansas.

Recess: The House recessed at 1:48 p.m. and reconvened at 1:55 p.m.

Recess: The House recessed at 2:37 p.m. and reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018—Motion to go to Conference: The House agreed by unanimous consent to disagree to the Senate amendment and request a conference on 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, and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year.

Rejected the Langevin motion to instruct conferees by a yea-and-nay vote of 184 yeas to 237 nays, Roll No. 564.

Agreed to the Thornberry motion to close portions of the conference by a yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 565.

Later, the Chair appointed the following conferees:

- From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Thornberry, Wilson of South Carolina, LoBiondo, Bishop of Utah, Turner, Rogers of Alabama, Franks of Arizona, Shuster, Conaway, Lamborn, Wittman, Coffman, Hartzler, Austin Scott of Georgia, Cook, Stefanik, Knight, Bacon, Smith of Washington, Brady of Pennsylvania, Davis of California, Langevin, Larsen of Washington, Cooper, Bordallo, Courtney, Tsongas, Garamendi, Speier, Veasey, and Gabbard.

- From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Representatives Nunes, Stewart, and Schiff.

From the Committee on the Budget, for consideration of sec. 1262 of the House bill, and sec. 4 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Johnson of Ohio, Bergman, and Yarmuth.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of secs. 221, 551, 555, and...
3509 of the House bill, and secs. 236, 551–53, 3116, 5508, and 6001 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Foxx, Byrne, and Scott of Virginia.


From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of sec. 862 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Barr, Williams, and Maxine Waters of California.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of secs. 864, 1032, 1039, 1040, 1058, 1201, 1203–05, 1211, 1222, 1223, 1231, 1232, 1234, 1243, 1246, 1247, 1265, 1270A, 1272, 1276, 1278, 1280, 1301, 1302, 1521, 1522, 1687, 2841, and 3117 of the House bill, and secs. 111, 861, 867, 1011, 1203–05, 1212, 1213, 1231–33, 1241–45, 1250, 1261–63, 12708, 1270C, 1282, 1283, 1301, 1302, 1531, and 1651 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Royce of California, Donovan, and Engel.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 515, 1062, 1063, 1067, 1080, 1695, 2843, and 3510 of the House bill, and secs. 520A, 529, 1035, 1081, 1083, 1217, 1264, and 14013 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Goodlatte, Issa, and Conyers.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 601, 1062, 1265, 2827, 2828, 2831, 2832, 2844, 2863, subtitle F of title XXVIII, and sec. 2863 of the House bill, and secs. 311, 338, 601, 1263, 1264, 2850, and 12801 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Westerman, Cheney, and Grijalva.


From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sec. 223 of the House bill and secs. 897, 898, 1662–64, and 6002 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Smith of Texas, Lucas, and Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of secs. 801, 860B, 867, 1701–04, 1711–13, 1721–23, 1731–37, and 1741 of the House bill, and secs. 854, 862, 897, 898, 899C, 10801, and 10802 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Chabot, Kelly of Mississippi, and Velázquez.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of secs. 122, 311, 546, 601, 1082, 1617, 1695, 3501, 3502, 3505, and 3507–10 of the House bill, and secs. 331, 601, 1048, 6002, 13501, 13502, 13508, 13513, 13607, and 14013 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Graves of Missouri, Hunter, and Bustos.

From the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, for consideration of secs. 572, 573, 576, 578, 1077, and 2841 of the House bill, and secs. 731, 1084, 1088, 1264, 11001, 11008, and 14004 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Roe of Tennessee, Bilirakis, and Walz.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of sec. 701 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Representatives Tiberi, Walorski, and Neal.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measure:

Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2266, with an amendment: H. Res. 569, providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2266, with an amendment, by a 3/5 yea-and-nay vote of 353 yeas to 59 nays, Roll No. 566.

Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017: The House passed S. 585, to provide greater whistleblower protections for Federal employees, increased awareness of Federal whistleblower protections, and increased accountability and required discipline for Federal supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers, by a recorded vote of 420 ayes with none voting “no”, Roll No. 568.

Rejected the O’Halleran motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 190 yeas to 232 nays, Roll No. 567.
H. Res. 562, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (S. 585) was agreed to yesterday, October 11th.

Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act of 2017: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1616, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute.

Providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2266: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 85, providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2266.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. Monday, October 16.

Senate Referral: S. 1595 was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Financial Services.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8008–09, H8009–10, H8010, H8010–11, and H8011–12. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY MISSIONS AND MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Department of Energy Missions and Management Priorities”. Testimony was heard from Rick Perry, Secretary, Department of Energy.

21ST CENTURY TRADE BARRIERS: PROTECTIONIST CROSS BORDER DATA FLOW POLICIES IMPACT ON U.S. JOBS


THE FUTURE OF HOUSING IN AMERICA: OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Future of Housing in America: Oversight of the Department of Housing and Urban Development”. Testimony was heard from Dr. Ben Carson, M.D., Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES


MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 535, the “Taiwan Travel Act”; and H.R. 1698, the “Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act”. H.R. 1698 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 535 was ordered reported, without amendment.
ASSESSING FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNICATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a hearing entitled “Assessing First Responder Communications”. Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral Ronald Hewitt, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.), Director, Office of Emergency Communications, Department of Homeland Security; Mark Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

EMPTY THREAT OR SERIOUS DANGER: ASSESSING NORTH KOREA’S RISK TO THE HOMELAND

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency held a hearing entitled “Empty Threat or Serious Danger: Assessing North Korea’s Risk to the Homeland”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4010, the “Congressional Subpoena Compliance and Enforcement Act of 2017”; H.R. 2228, the “Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017”; and H.R. 3996, to amend title 28, United States Code, to permit other courts to transfer certain cases to United States Tax Court. H.R. 4010 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 2228 and H.R. 3996 were ordered reported, without amendment.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing on H.R. 3144, to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes; and H.R. 3916, the “FISH Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives McMorris Rodgers and Calvert; Alan Mikkelsen, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation; and public witnesses.

HEARING ON THE 2020 CENSUS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Hearing on the 2020 Census”. Testimony was heard from Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., Secretary, Department of Commerce; Robert Goldenkoff, Director of Strategic Issues, Census Issues, Government Accountability Office; David A. Powner, Director of Information Technology Management Issues, Government Accountability Office; Carol N. Rice, Assistant Inspector General, Office of the Economic and Statistical Program Assessment, Department of Commerce; and a public witness.

FOSTERING WOMEN’S ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Health and Technology held a hearing entitled “Fostering Women’s Entrepreneurial Success”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED: SBA OIG’S REVIEW OF THE MICROLOAN PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations; and Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access held a joint hearing entitled “Oversight Improvements Needed: SBA OIG’s Review of the Microloan Program”. Testimony was heard from Hannibal “Mike” Ware, Acting Inspector General, Small Business Administration; and William Manger, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access, Small Business Administration.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1066, the “VA Management Alignment Act of 2017”; H.R. 3122, the “Veterans Care Financial Protection Act of 2017”; H.R. 3561, to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit appraisers approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make appraisals for purposes of chapter 37 of such title based on inspections performed by third parties; H.R. 3562, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes; H.R. 3565, 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; and H.R. 3657, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to sell Pershing
Hall. Testimony was heard from Representative Coffman; Dave Wise, Director, Physical Infrastructure Team, Government Accountability Office; Regan L. Crump, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Policy and Planning, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

**Joint Meetings**

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

**House**

*Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on legislation to achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to manage the development and production of oil and gas on available Federal land, and for other purposes, 9 a.m., 1334 Longworth.*
Next Meeting of the SENATE
8:30 a.m., Friday, October 13

Senate Chamber
Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Monday, October 16

House Chamber
Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

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